

Holmes Meadow Project

Since mid-December people may have noticed work in Holmes Meadow, the area along the Lamoille River between the end of River Road West and Old Mill Park, and wondered what is being done there. Large equipment and trucks have been removing trees and moving large quantities of soil.

The Holmes Meadow project was identified as a part of the 2019 Lamoille River Flood Hydraulic Modeling. The Town, working with the Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC), essentially serving as the project manager, secured two state grants for a flood mitigation project. By lowering the grade of the Meadow, the project is reconnecting the Lamoille River with floodplain at the Meadow. Expansion of the floodplain will help reduce the velocity of the Lamoille at the confluence of the Gihon River. The expanded floodplain creates space for the Lamoille to slow down and store ice, sediment, and other river debris, which could reduce risk and severity of ice jams and small flood eventsing. This project is one of several flood mitigation projects designed to lower flood levels in the Village of Johnson.

Excavation and re-grading of the Meadow is substantially (roughly 90%) complete. After January 30 there will be limited work this winter. Some soil needs to be hauled away yet. In the spring the contractor, Boulder Excavation, will return to perform final grading, planting riparian trees, shrubs, wetland vegetation and ground cover. The completed project and new vegetation will provide attractive cover for birds. Some money from one of the grants will provide establish a mowed path and a few benches around the Meadow. The river access point will be re-established.

Both grants are 100% grants through the State of Vermont; no local match was required.