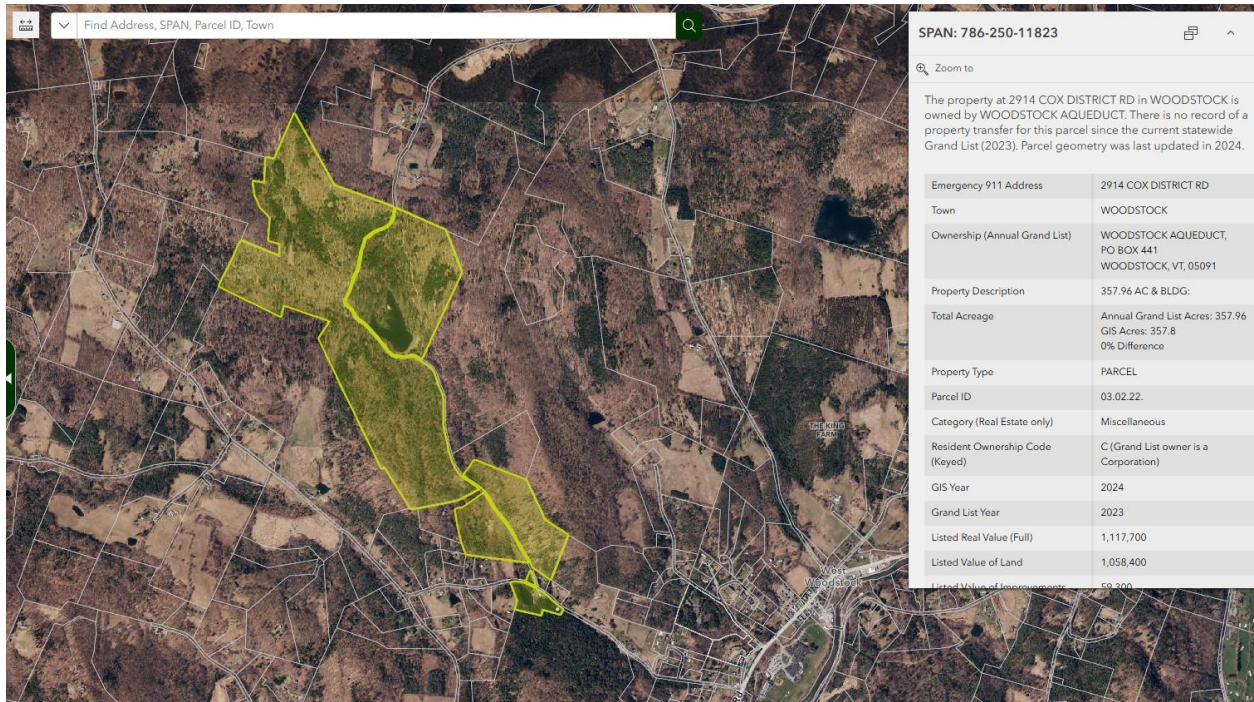


## Woodstock Aqueduct Company & Vondell Reservoir, Rum Street

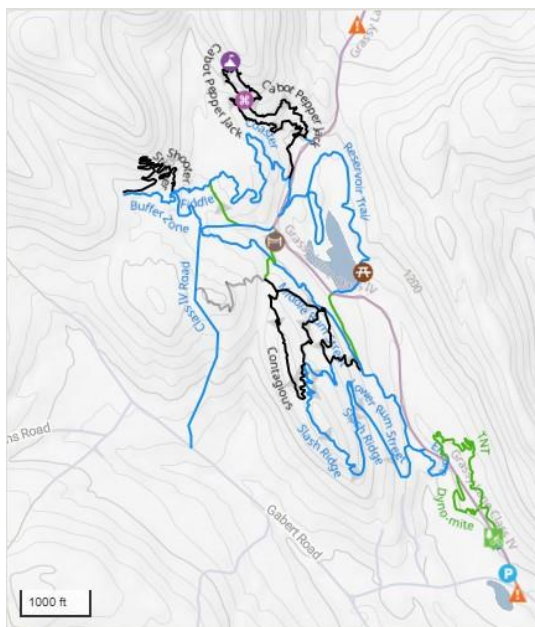
Compiled by Matthew Powers. Woodstock History Center

- In 1880, an act was passed by the Legislature incorporating the Woodstock Aqueduct Company. The company was incorporated in the summer of 1886.
- In early June 1887, work commenced on the Cox District reservoir which was built about two and a half miles westerly of the village on Thomas Brook. It held 2.8 million gallons and was 90' wide with 8' top with a stone and concrete base and earth embankment. Water started flowing into homes and businesses in late November 1887.
- The hardscrabble hill farm community of the Cobb & Raymond families on Vondell Road or "Rum Street" had pretty much disappeared by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Houses and mills in this area had run to ruin and only cellar holes remained.
- In 1903, the company buys three pieces of land near the reservoir at the auction for Charles Morris Cobb's property. They included the Vondell Farm of 86 acres (bought for \$485), the Gillingham lot, mostly pasture, of 33 acres (bought from Frank H. and Nancy Gillingham, prior to them Laurel Gillingham had bought it from Henry Vondell), and the "Beehouse" corner, of one-fourth acre and beehouse.
- In 1909, the Carleton Hill reservoir was built. By 1929, the Carleton Reservoir was experiencing concrete problems and the company started talking about developing a reservoir in the Vondell valley. They discussed getting rid of the Carleton Hill reservoir and developing a system out of The Pogue which never happened.
- In 1930, about 60 acres was purchased for "\$1 and other good and valuable considerations" by the WAC from Franklin S. Billings. This lot was known as the "Sylvia Raymond Farm" consisted in part of the "Grow Lot" and properties from the estate of Ada S. Cobb.
- In 1943, the chlorination building is built below the Cox Reservoir. In 1953, Cox Reservoir was dredged and enlarged.
- By 1961 the company looks for new water sources in wells and further develops the Vondell Reservoir in 1962. By 1963, Vondell Reservoir is 95% completed adding 28 million gallons of surface water to the system.
- In 1989, the holding tank on Cox District Road is built. The Cox District and Vondell Reservoirs have become backup water for the system.

- The Vondell Reservoir is currently at 357.96 acres.



- Founded in 2016, the Woodstock Area Mountain Bike Association (WAMBA) began to develop a trail system for recreational use at the Vondell Reservoir/Woodstock Aqueduct property. It has currently developed 13 miles of trails, a pump track, and parking at the trailhead.



Surrounding properties:

SPAN: 786-250-10069

Zoom to

The property at 1511 BARBERRY HILL RD in WOODSTOCK is owned by BARBERRY HILL CORP and C/O FRANKLIN S BILLINGS. There is no record of a property transfer for this parcel since the current statewide Grand List (2023). Parcel geometry was last updated in 2024.

Emergency 911 Address	1511 BARBERRY HILL RD
Town	WOODSTOCK
Ownership (Annual Grand List)	BARBERRY HILL CORP, C/O FRANKLIN S BILLINGS PO BOX 598 WOODSTOCK, VT, 05091
Property Description	372.2 CAMP & BLDG:
Total Acreage	Annual Grand List Acres: 372.20 GIS Acres: 332.07 11.4% Difference
Property Type	PARCEL
Parcel ID	03.02.23.
Category (Real Estate only)	Residential 2
Resident Ownership Code (Keyed)	T (Grand List owner is a Town Resident)
GIS Year	2024
Grand List Year	2023
Listed Real Value (Full)	2,052,200

372.2 acres. Might have transferred to Anne Suokko. Formally Barberry Hill Corp., Frank Billings

SPAN: 786-250-11901

Zoom to

The property at COX DISTRICT RD in WOODSTOCK is owned by WOODSTOCK TOWN OF. There is no record of a property transfer for this parcel since the current statewide Grand List (2023). Parcel geometry was last updated in 2024.

Emergency 911 Address	COX DISTRICT RD
Town	WOODSTOCK
Ownership (Annual Grand List)	WOODSTOCK TOWN OF, PO BOX 488 WOODSTOCK, VT, 05091
Property Description	23.02 AC FOREST (EXEMPT):
Total Acreage	Annual Grand List Acres: 23.02 GIS Acres: 23.02 0% Difference
Property Type	PARCEL
Parcel ID	03.02.31.
Category (Real Estate only)	Miscellaneous
Resident Ownership Code (Keyed)	T (Grand List owner is a Town Resident)
GIS Year	2024
Grand List Year	2023
Listed Real Value (Full)	42,000
Listed Value of Land	42,000
Listed Value of Improvements	0

Town of Woodstock, 23.02 acres

## Rum Street

- The original parcels that make up the Vondell Reservoir were composed of several homesteads belonging to the Cobb and Raymond families.
  1. Issac Hartwell House: This site was a house owned by Issac Hartwell where Gaius and Lucia Cobb lived with their son, Charles. 28' square.
  2. Ed Whitney/Hiram Cobb House: This site is probably the location of Hiram and Sarah Cobb's farm and that of their five children until three died of an outbreak of scarlet fever in 1851. The Cobbs shared the house with Jo and Hannah Dodge and their three children, two of whom also died in the same outbreak.
  3. The foundation at the edge of the Vondell Reservoir was probably part of the Raymond farm and the mill. Elisha (Lish) Raymond and his son, Lucius (Lute) Raymond ran it as a sawmill and the neighbors used it for grinding their apples into cider. The reservoir that ran the mill was located up on the hill. Elisha's mother (Priscilla), his sister (also named Priscilla), and his nieces (Susan, Sylvia, and Sarah) were called "The Old Maids) by the neighborhood. They lived on a farm adjacent to Elisha's and ran it themselves. It appears that much of the farm was flooded when the Vondell Reservoir was created.
  4. This site shows the remains of the farm of Elijah and Ruth Grow and their son George.
  5. This house was built by Gershom Cobb in 1787. Charles Cobb lived at this house site in the 1850s until it was disassembled and parts of it were used at other locations.
  6. Benney and Azubah Cobb started this homestead in 1791. By 1798 they had 75 acres, a 544 square foot house and a 500 square foot barn. Gaius and Betsey Cobb lived at this homestead until the mid-1840s and raised Merino sheep. They raised seven children here. By this time, the farm consisted of about 120 acres and included the house, barn, and many outbuildings. Later known as Vondell farm.

