

Women's Correctional And Re-entry Center

(Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility
Replacement)

*Vermont Department Of Buildings
And General Services
Wanda L. Minoli, Commissioner*

And

*Vermont Department Of Corrections
Nicholas J. Deml, Commissioner*

February 2025



EXISTING CONDITIONS

It is estimated to need over \$5 million dollars in deferred maintenance. In addition, it is estimated to need \$5.5 million in scheduled capital maintenance over the next 10 years.


Inadequate program space for all services

No reentry facility or vocational training space

Lack of staff support spaces

Traditional institutional feel does not support the vision and mission of gender/trauma informed care

Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility (CRCF)



Est.	AREA	POPULATION	COMMUNITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">BUILT 1974ADDITION IN 1983 TO PHYSICAL PLANT, LIVING UNITS, AND OFFICE SPACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">51,211 GSF6.02 ACRES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">177 BED CAPACITYALL FEMALE FACILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">SOUTH BURLINGTON POPULATION 19,162 PEOPLECHITTENDEN COUNTY POPULATION 162,646 PEOPLE



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility







EXISTING CONDITIONS

- 1 Poor quality of lighting, does not respond to occupants' circadian rhythm
- 2 Poor natural daylight with typical institutional bars on windows
- 3 Mildly therapeutic color scheme
- 4 Rooms are not fully ligature resistant
- 5 Hard institutional furnishings
- 6 Blind corners and inefficient use of space
- 7 Upper bunks are dangerous and difficult to get up to
- 8 Inability to maintain thermal comfort



APPROPRIATIONS

FY '22: 500,000

FY '23: 1,000,000

FY '24: 1,500,000

FY '25: \$13,000,000

Total: \$16,000,000

Vision is to create a facility that enhances individuals well being through evidence-based design. *CRCF was built over 50 years ago and designed as a short-term detention center for men. It reflects an outdated ideology, was not built to serve women, and cannot adequately meet the needs of those who live and work there.*

A replacement women's facility will create a more dignified and supportive environment for incarcerated women in Vermont to heal and prepare to re-enter society. It will support better outcomes for justice-involved women and, in turn, Vermont's communities.



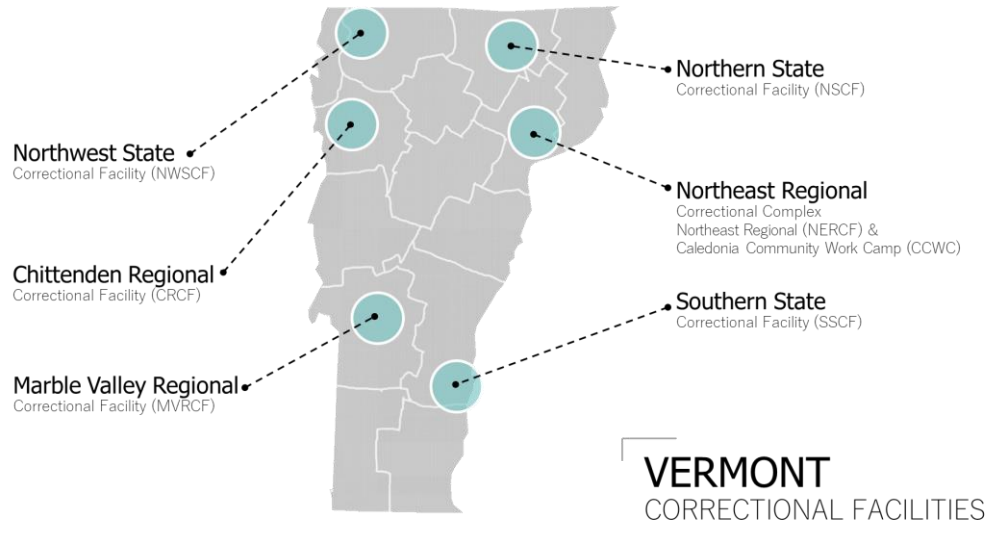
TIMELINE

2020- 2021: Developed Correctional Facility Feasibility Study

2021-2022: Programming and Conceptual Design of the Women's Facility

2023-2024: Site Selection

2025: Site Selection continues



JUSTICE REINVESTMENT II INITIATIVE

HOUSE ALL VERMONT INMATES WITHIN VERMONT FACILITIES AND ADDRESSING GROWING OFFENDER POPULATIONS

RESTRUCTURE THE SYSTEM TO BRING VERMONT'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN LINE WITH NATIONAL STANDARDS

RESTRUCTURE THE SYSTEM IN PROMOTION OF REDUCING PRISON POPULATIONS AND RECIDIVISM

INTRODUCE RE-ENTRY FACILITY AND IMPROVE OFFENDER OUTCOMES



EVIDENCE-BASED DESIGN

Act 69 of 2023, Section 28: It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Corrections, shall incorporate into the design of any women's replacement facility the use of evidence-based principles for wellness environments for supporting trauma-informed practices.



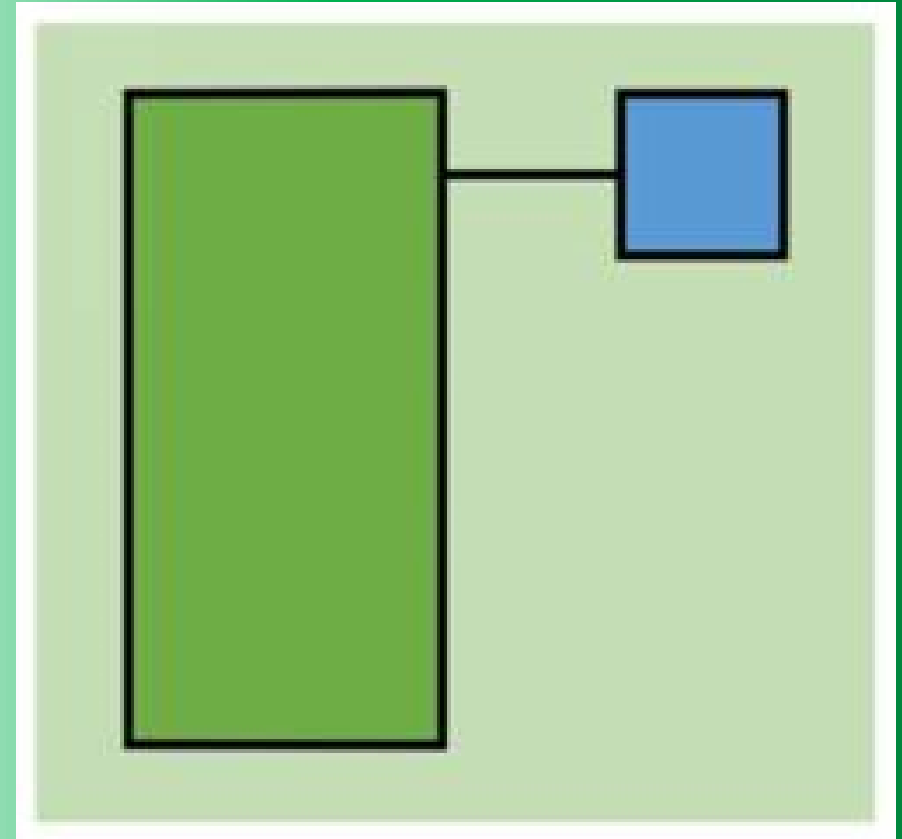
BENEFITS OF CO-LOCATING THE CORRECTIONAL AND RE-ENTRY FACILITIES

This will enhance visual connection between facilities can reinforce positive goal-setting for individuals.

Provides better continuity of care and access to support released individuals.

A single campus would allow for opportunities to share expensive infrastructure such as:

- Clinical space Food service Laundry
- Administrative space
- BGS maintenance space
- IT/security systems
- Sewage treatment facility Backup generators
- Potential to share central utility plant and fuel storage system



SITE CRITERIA

DOC prioritized locating the facility in the greater Chittenden County area to:

- **Preserve critical partnerships** with community organizations located in the Burlington area
- **Be located near employment** options for women in the reentry program
- **Support connection to family and loved ones** for people who are incarcerated
- **Be conveniently located near public transportation**
- **Limit the burden of relocation** on current CRCF staff, retain staff trained in trauma informed and gender responsive practices, and help ensure access to future workforce



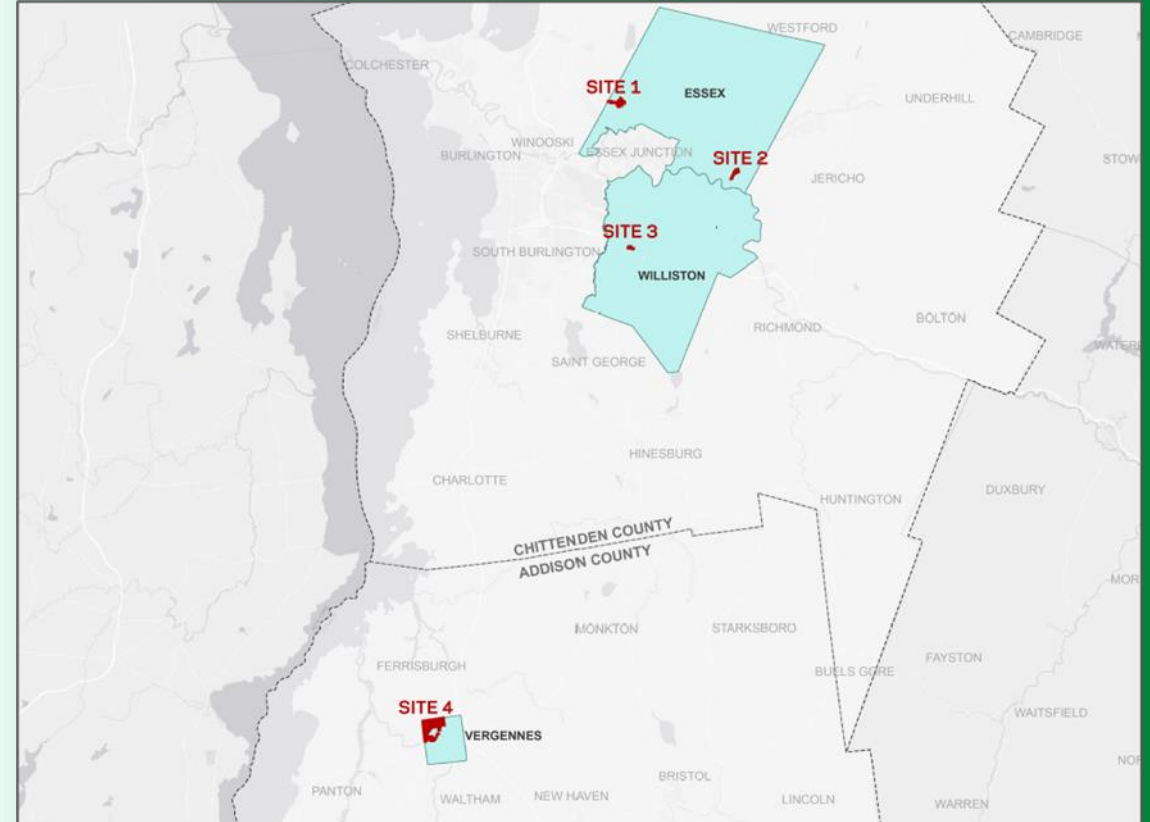
STATEWIDE SITE SEARCH: 165 SITES

Conducted a statewide search in 2022:

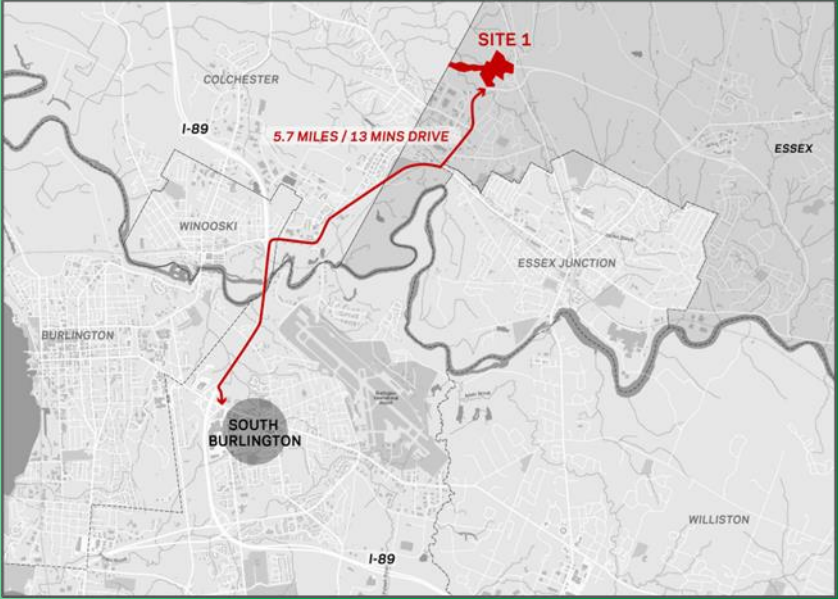
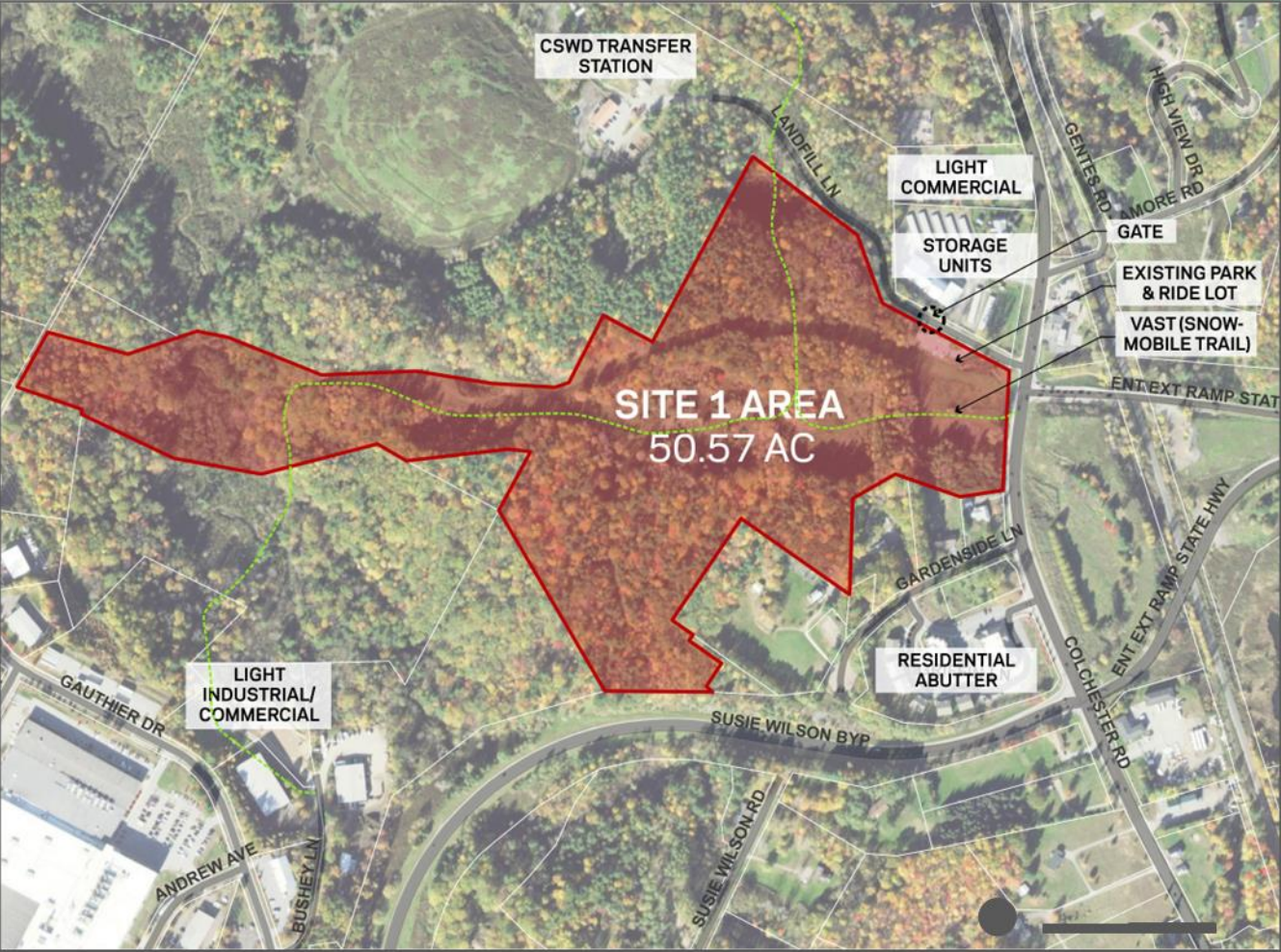
- Vetted properties owned by any State agency (140 sites)
- Utilized BGS-contracted real estate consultants which provided 5 potential sites
- Conducted a statewide search using multiple means of media (20 sites)

Through the site selection process, four sites were selected that best align with the outlined site criteria.

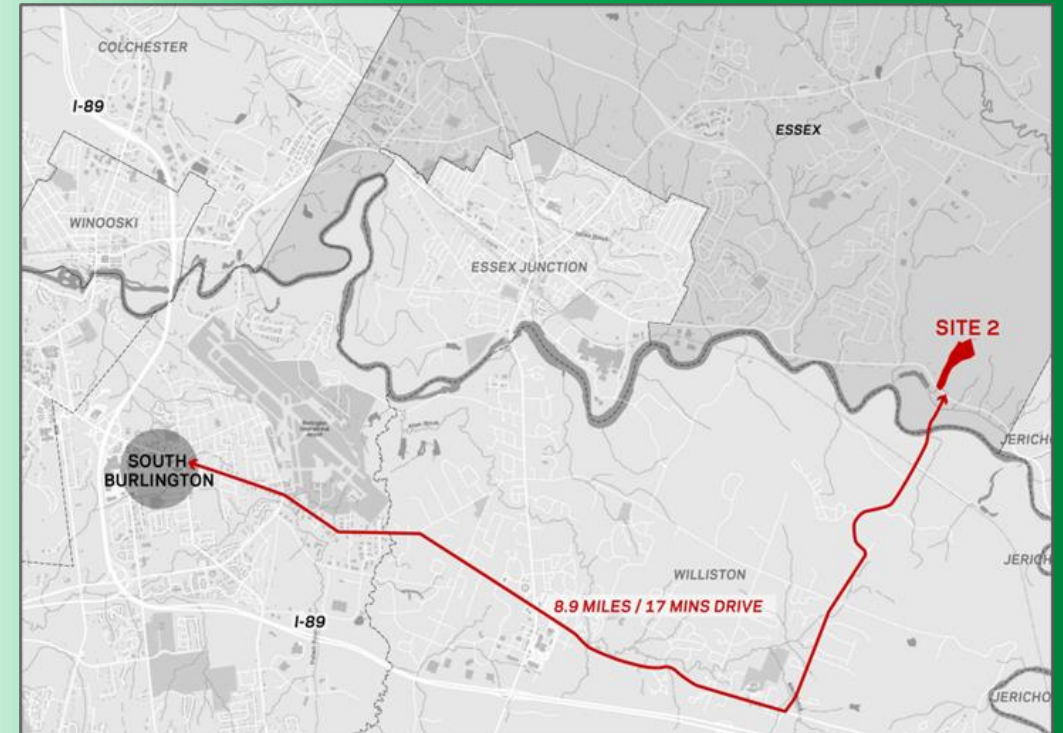
Upon further review, BGS and DOC eliminated sites 3 & 4



SITE 1 – Susie Wilson Road, owned by AOT



SITE 2 – River Road, owned by AOT



ZONING CHANGE REQUEST

- Filed request for review in July 2024
- Essex has realigned their development review board and has reached out for clarification on the State's request
- BGS has finalized our response and have submitted it to the town



NEXT STEPS

- Continue engagement with Essex Town and stakeholders
- Detailed site analysis, cost estimating, and schematic design
- With approval of design and all required permits, as well as funding, we're 3-5 years out for completed construction



Questions?

