

Dam Removal Projects

2014-2023



Total Impact:



2023

Dams: 1
Culverts: 1
Miles: 2

Beaver Brook Dam



Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) worked with a private dam owner, the Town of Wilmington, the State of Vermont, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to remove an old mill dam and upgrade a town owned culvert to a new bridge. This project will restore water quality, reconnect native Brook trout habitat, and improve flood resiliency in Beaver Brook (a tributary to the Deerfield River in the town of Wilmington).

2022

Dams: 3
Miles: 19

Montague Dam

In 2022, we removed 3 dams, including two remnant dams on the mainstem of the Connecticut in Guildhall, VT and Colebrook, NH and one obsolete dam on the Ompompanoosuc River in Post Mills/Thetford, VT.



2021

Broad Brook Dam

Dams: 3

Miles: 27



In 2021 we removed three dams — on Broad Brook in Guilford, VT; on Turkey Hollow Brook in Windham, VT; and on the Sutton River in West Burke, VT. These projects opened 27 miles of aquatic habitat to fish passage for native Brook trout and other organisms. Thanks to all of our project partners and funders including CRC donors, deCoizart Foundation, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

2020

Magic Mountain Dam

Dams: 2

Culverts: 1

Miles: 32



In 2020 we removed two old dams and one perched culvert that were blocking brook trout and other critters from getting upstream to spawn and find much needed cold water during what was a rather hot and dry summer. These restoration projects in Londonderry and Weathersfield (VT), were funded by several sources including the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Partners Program & Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation), the State of Vermont (Watershed grant & Ecosystem Restoration Program), and funding CRC received from individual donors and foundations.

2019



Pine Mill Dam

Dams: 3

Miles: 90



CRC worked with the dam owner, Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, and local contractors to remove the dam off Kidder Hill Rd. in Grafton, VT. The concrete dam, built in 1960, was heavily damaged by Tropical Storm Irene and identified by the State as a priority river restoration project eligible for State of Vermont Clean Water Block Grant funding. The same year, Windham Regional Commission and CRC worked with landowners in Dummerston, VT to remove a dam on private property on Crosby Brook. The Pine Mill Dam in Haverhill, NH was CRC's final dam removal in 2019.

2018



Norwich Dam

Dams: 4

Miles: 75



CRC worked with the Norwich Fire District to remove the old Norwich Reservoir dam on Charles Brown Brook in Norwich, VT. The concrete dam was built in 1928 as a water source but became obsolete in 1981. The project – which included removing the concrete dam, 758 truckloads of accumulated sediment, and in-stream habitat reconstruction – was funded by the Vermont Ecosystem Restoration Grant, the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Vermont Fish & Wildlife, Patagonia, Trout Unlimited, American Rivers, and the Norwich Conservation Commission. CRC partnered with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Connecticut River Coordinator's Office to

remove a small, privately owned dam on Cold Brook in Wilmington, VT.

CRC also helped the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission remove a dam on Mill Brook in West Windsor, VT. Removing the dam opened 26 miles of habitat to fish, improved water quality, and reduced water temperatures.

CRC's dam removal and river restoration work wrapped up with a dam on Clark Brook in Haverhill, NH. Crews worked through the snowy, cold fall to remove this privately owned dam.

2017



East Burke Dam

Dams: 3

Miles: 99



The Connecticut River Conservancy partnered with the Passumpsic Valley Land Trust to remove the East Burke dam on the East Branch of the Passumpsic River in East Burke, VT. The concrete dam was built in 1931 at the same location as previous timber crib dams (the first was built in 1825). A total of 623 truckloads (or nearly 9,500 cubic yards) of sediment were removed from upstream of the dam, which lowered the flood elevation level in town by four feet. With the dam gone, native brook trout and other aquatic organisms can freely move throughout the entire river system (99 miles). CRC and our project partners returned to East Burke in spring 2018 to

plant 2,500 trees and shrubs along the newly shaped riverbank to add additional wildlife habitat and reduce erosion.

CRC worked with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to remove a small, privately owned dam located on an unnamed tributary to the West River in Dummerston, VT.

CRC worked with another private landowner to remove a former small hydro dam on the Ompompanoosuc River in West Fairlee, VT. This dam was originally built in 1983 to generate hydro-electric power for the farm, but only produced electricity for 10 years.

2016



Oliverian Brook

Culverts: 2

Miles: 20



CRC worked with the Town of Haverhill and other partners in 2016 to replace two aging, undersized and perched culverts that were blocking fish passage. The projects on Page Rd. and Stonecrest Dr. open more than twenty miles of stream habitat, benefiting brook trout and other aquatic species. Replacing these culverts has also reduced the risk of flooding and infrastructure damage.

2015

Dams: 1
Culverts: 1
Miles: 39

Groton Dam



CRC and our partners removed this deadbeat dam in summer 2015. This dam was built in the early 1900's for hydro power, but was wiped out by the 1927 flood and never used again. So, for nearly 90 years, this old dam was blocking fish passage and sediment transfer, as well as being a safety hazard for river users (fishers, paddlers and swimmers). This project opened up 34 miles of river habitat for fish.



In 2015 CRC also replaced a culvert on Abbott Brook in Strafford, VT which will improve flood resiliency and allow for fish passage into the Podunk State Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

2014

Dams: 1
Miles: 8

Franconia Paper Mill Dam



Removing the partially breached Franconia Paper Mill dam restored the natural river habitat to free-flowing conditions, improved water quality and sediment transport, restored the river channel, increased and improved fish and wildlife access to spawning habitat and cold water refuge for resident Eastern brook trout. Removal of this dam in 2014 has opened roughly 8 miles of stream. Our partners included the State of Vermont, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Town of Groton. Funding was provided by grants from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, the State of Vermont, USFWS, Patagonia, Trout Unlimited, and American Rivers/Keurig Green Mountain Coffee.



Learn more at ctriver.org

Connecticut River Conservancy is a voice for the Connecticut River watershed, from source to sea. We collaborate with partners across four states to protect and advocate for your rivers, and educate and engage communities. We bring people together to prevent pollution, improve habitat, and promote enjoyment of the river and its tributary streams.

