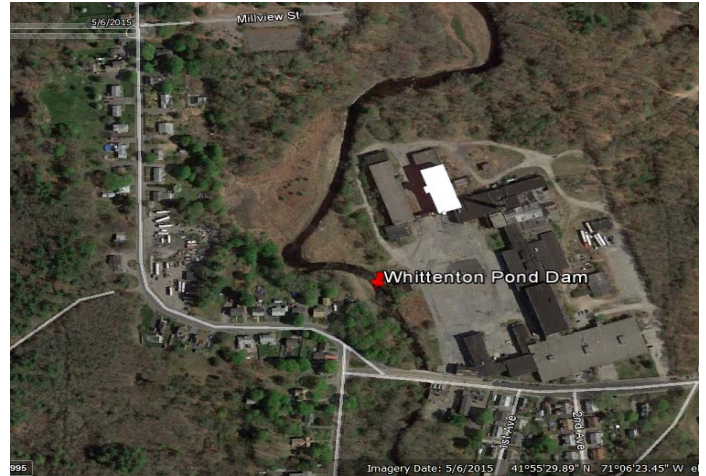


Whittenton Mill Dam Removal, Taunton, MA



The Mill River at the Whittenton Mill Dam before (above left) and after (above right) dam removal.

Who: A partnership consisting of The Nature Conservancy, NOAA, American Rivers, and the Coastal America Foundation, and the private owner of the Whittenton Mill Dam.

What: Removed a failing dam that threatened to flood Taunton, MA

When: The dam was removed in 2013.

Why: The dam was built in 1832. It was not able to safely impound flood waters in 1968 and 2005. In both storms parts of downtown Taunton, MA were evacuated. The 2005 evacuation cost the City \$1.5 million dollars.

Where: On the Mill River, on the site of the former Whittenton Mill campus, north of Whittenton St., Taunton, MA.

How: Funding of \$440,000 was provided by The Nature Conservancy, NOAA, American Rivers, and Coastal America Foundation to remove the failing dam. The removal was helped by “An Act Further Regulating Dam Safety, Repair, and Removal” passed by Former Governor Deval in 2010.

Benefits:

- *Removing* the Whittenton Dam cost \$440,000. *Repairing* the Whittenton Dam could have cost \$1.9 million. Evacuating Taunton during near dam failure cost \$1.5 million. Owner savings for the Whittenton Dam removal were \$2.2 million.
- The Whittenton Dam property value increased after removal.
- On average it is 60% less expensive to remove dams rather than repair them over a 30-year time period.
- Restored diadromous fish passage, increasing recreational and fishing opportunities.
- Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration estimated on average, each \$1 million spent on restoration projects supports 10 – 13 jobs and \$1.5 - \$1.8 million in regional economic output.
- The area of the former reservoir adds flood storage capacity and reduces flood risks.
- Water quality improves without the reservoir, and there are fewer algal blooms and associated fish kills.

Workers stabilize the channel and replant the riverbank area at the former Whittenton Dam site

