

Heminway Dam Removal



Steele Brook Restoration

Watertown has been working on this project for over ten years to solve serious environmental and public safety concerns. The project will deliver significant town benefits funded primarily by federal and state sources.

Extensive professional studies were conducted. These all concluded that the full removal of the spillway was the best solution for the environment and the community. This plan will remove town liability in the event of dam failure resulting in costly damage to private and public property. By removing a major fish barrier, we can transform an underused backwater to a community asset with many benefits. Removal will NOT adversely impact property downstream.

This project is now close to becoming a reality. The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Dam Safety Division has issued a Dam Safety Permit & Water Quality Certification. The Army Corps of Engineers has approved the work. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2018.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- Restore a natural riverine corridor with expanded bird and wildlife habitat.
- Create a stable channel and functioning floodplain/wetland system.
- Improve water quality in Steele Brook substantially so it can be removed from the CT DEEP list of impaired Water Bodies
- Remove a major fish barrier to provide free, natural migration for a full range of fish species and size classes.
- Expand passive recreational opportunities with a healthy, scenic asset.
- Extend our popular Steele Brook Greenway for walkers and cyclists.
- Enhance our future by removing an industrial structure representing past environmental damage.

Learn more about this WIN-WIN opportunity for our town at
www.watertownct.org.

The Heminway Pond Dam Removal Study is available for review on the Town website.

This study with photographs shown was completed by the
United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service.
Approved Dam Removal Plans entitled "Heminway Dam Removal and Steele Brook
Restoration" prepared by Princeton Hydro, South Glastonbury, CT are available for review in the
Public Works/Engineering Office located at 61 Echo Lake Road.

A draft of the Steele Brook Watershed Plan is available at
http://www.watertownct.org/filestorage/10298/4286/13402/steel_brook.pdf



**Funded in part by the CT DEEP through a US EPA Clean Water Act Section 319 Grant
and the Town of Watertown in partnership with Northwest Conservation District.**