

Removing Warren Mill Dam at Warren Glen, New Jersey

The Warren Mill Dam is a 37.5-foot High Hazard Class I Dam vulnerable to a “Sunny Day” breach, has four known leaks, is a hazard to downstream residents and property, and is the lowest remaining barrier to migratory fish passage on the Musconetcong River, New Jersey’s largest tributary to the Delaware River watershed at 157.6 sq. miles.

Removal Improves Public Safety. Since 1981, it been classed as a significant hazard by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who identified heavy siltation, a leak at the base of the dam, and the likelihood of a breach affecting 200 people, downstream properties of 275,000 square feet, and a County road bridge.

Supportive Owners. It is owned by International Process Plants and Equipment (IPPE), a dam removal partner on their Hughesville Dam, and the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, which acquired part of the dam when purchasing adjacent properties for recreational access. Both owners are supportive of removal.

Increased Recreational Access. The dam is located in scenic natural gorge, with public land on both sides of the Musconetcong River. It is adjacent to the Warren Gorge County Park and the Musconetcong Wildlife Management Area. Removal will increase recreational access for boating, fishing, and hiking.

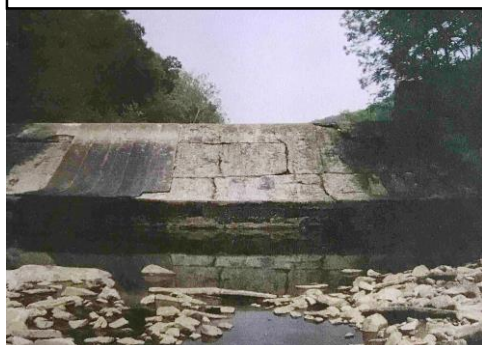
Wild and Scenic River. Once removed, this section of the Musconetcong River could be designated part of the Wild and Scenic River system, adding 3 new miles to the 24.2 mile Musconetcong Partnership Wild & Scenic River.

Migratory Fish Habitat Increased. In 2017, American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) were observed at the base of the Warren Mill Dam following the removal of the downstream Hughesville Dam in 2016. With the Warren Mill Dam removed, the NJ Field Office of the US Fish & Wildlife Service indicates that a total of 8 stream miles and 100 acres of migratory fish habitat will have been restored in the Lower Musconetcong River watershed, and resiliency to extreme weather events will improve for downstream residents and employers by eliminating the risk of flooding and property damage from failure of a High Hazard dam.

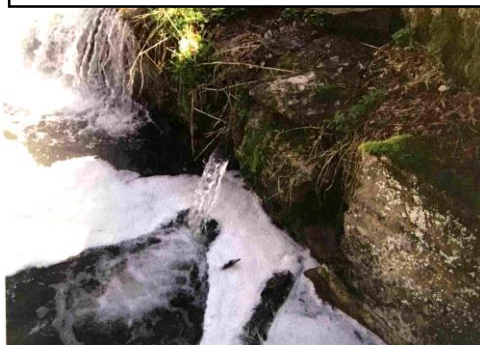
Partnerships in Place. The Musconetcong Watershed Association coordinates with American Rivers, the Musconetcong River Restoration Partnership, a collaboration of non-governmental organizations, state and federal agencies, engineers, and private property owners to facilitate dam removals. This partnership has removed 5 dams on the Musconetcong River and is widely considered a national model.

Monitoring Outcomes. The US Fish & Wildlife Service has funded a 5-year fish and habitat assessment downstream of the Warren Mill dam, which will provide baseline conditions to assess outcomes.

Warren Mill Dam, 2012. Parello Assoc.



Warren Mill Dam Leak, 2012. Parello Assoc.



Shad at base of Warren Mill Dam, 2017. NJDEP

