



RESTORING THE TOWN BROOK SYSTEM

Since 2006, the Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) has partnered with the Town of Plymouth and others to restore fish passage and other important ecological functions of Town Brook. DER has assisted with project design, regulatory permitting, and providing matching funds to leverage federal grant support. In addition to our work on Town Brook, DER has partnered with the Town and others on dam removal and retired cranberry bog restoration projects at Wellingsley Brook, Eel River and Tidmarsh Farms.

RESTORING ECOSYSTEMS FOR FISH, WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE

The Division of Ecological Restoration was created in 2009 through the merger of the Riverways and Wetlands Restoration Programs. The Division works with partners in three core program areas:

- Restoring natural flow patterns to the Commonwealth's waterways;
- Restoring rivers and wetlands through dam removals, culvert upgrades, and wetland fill removal; and
- Providing technical assistance to citizens and communities working to protect and improve watershed health.



DER Staff celebrate the removal of the Off Billington Street Dam.



A DER staff member explains the benefits of the Town Brook Restoration Project.

Ecological restoration is an important component of the Commonwealth's efforts to enhance habitat resiliency that helps fish and wildlife adapt to the effects of climate change - including sea level rise, elevated water temperatures and increased floods and periods of drought.

The Division and partners implement capital-based projects with the goal of restoring aquatic ecosystems across the state. These projects support commercial and recreational fisheries and provide many other benefits, such as reduced flooding, improved water quality and the replacement of aging infrastructure. Restoration projects also bolster the Commonwealth's growing green economy by supporting jobs and generating significant economic output.

DER promotes a comprehensive, holistic approach to restoration that focuses on:

- Restoring ecological processes, not just specific habitats or species,
- Incorporating a long-term, watershed-scale view of problems and solutions, and
- Building the capacity of community partners to advance restoration and protection projects.

DER's mission:

To restore and protect the Commonwealth's rivers, wetlands and watersheds for the benefit of people and the environment.

For More Information: www.mass.gov/der



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