Lake Champlain Basin Aquatic Habitat Connectivity: Indian Brook Watershed

Mill Pond Dam Removal, Indian Brook, Colchester, VT

Longitude: -73.152614 Latitude: 44.541943

Top Left: *A view of dam prior to removal (Milone and MacBroom).* ***Bottom Right:*** *Dam site post-removal (USFWS).*

Site description: Mill Pond Dam, a privately owned structure, in Colchester, Vermont is located on Indian Brook. The dam has existed at this site since the early nineteenth century, but the current dam is deteriorated, partially breached at the spillway, and is listed as a significant hazard by the Vermont DEC.

Problems / history: The unstable Mill Pond Dam was blocking upstream aquatic organism passage and natural stream function in a direct tributary to Lake Champlain. There was approximately 35,000 cubic yards of mobile sediment in the impoundment behind that dam representing an estimated 50 years of sediment accumulation.

Objective and Method: To restore natural stream function and AOP to ten miles of upstream habitat, the project involved removing the dam structure, excavating and removing 30,000 CY of sediment, building a new stream channel and floodplains and seeding the project area.

Partners and Funding: Funding and support for this project came from the Vermont Natural Resources Council (project management, permits), The Nature Conservancy (funding), Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (funding), Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (funding), Lake Champlain Basin Program (funding), and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (technical assistance, funding-GLFC).

Budget:

TNC	VDEC	VFWD	LCBP	USFWS	TOTAL
$60,000	$215,000	$10,000	$202,640	$165,800	**$653,440**