

Virginia Field Office and Virginia Fisheries Coordinator's Office

Wiley Drive Bridge Replacement An ARRA Project Roanoke, VA

The Virginia Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and the National Fish Passage Program replaced a 120-foot long bridge over the Roanoke River that had blocked fish passage for over 50 years. Completed on May 20, 2010, the new bridge in Roanoke, Virginia connects two public parks and is a vital link in the new Roanoke River Greenway. The project removes an obstruction for recreational boaters, reduces local flooding, and aids in recovery of native fish like the federally listed endangered Roanoke logperch (*Percina rex*). Funding for the \$852,500 project was provided by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FishAmerica Foundation, and City of Roanoke. A portion of the project was also funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Construction was performed by Hammond-Mitchell, Inc. of Covington, Virginia and involved replacing the existing bridge and culverts with precast concrete spans placed on two instream piers. A large concrete scour pad downstream of the bridge was also removed and 3000 square feet of river bed, once covered in concrete, were exposed. The existing approach and

excessive cost prevented the entire 120 feet of river channel from being crossed by a single span. The work required over one year of planning and permitting; and six months to complete construction. This project, in conjunction with the Wasena Dam removal completed last year, restored fish passage in over 35 miles of the Roanoke River.

Project Goals

- Recover endangered Roanoke logperch
- Restore passage for native fishes
- Alleviate flooding issues
- Improve recreational boating



Wiley Drive Bridge Before Demolition



New Wiley Drive Bridge

USFWS

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