



Environmental Permitting for the Eel River Headwaters Wetlands Restoration and Dam Removal Project

Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management and Wetlands Restoration Program and the Town of Plymouth

The Town of Plymouth, through a collaborative effort with federal and state governmental partners and private consultants, has completed the permitting and construction of an award-winning restoration effort within the headwaters of the Eel River in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Restoration efforts include conversion of approximately 40 acres of retired commercial cranberry bogs to a natural riparian wetland system, and the removal of a portion of a historic stone sawmill dam. The project converted these areas into critical wetland and cold-water stream habitat, thus restoring a more natural hydraulic gradient and improved fish passage within the Eel River and improving water quality in downstream waters including Plymouth Harbor. The river channel itself is restored to a natural meandering stream and the bogs restored to Atlantic White Cedar Swamp and Red Maple Swamp wetland habitats. This restoration ecosystem is envisioned to be similar to what may have existed for the headwaters area in pre-colonial times.

The Horsley Witten Group, Inc. (HW) provided pro-bono services through the Massachusetts Corporate Wetlands Restoration Program (CRWP) to assist the project partners with the creation of a sediment sampling plan and an Environmental Notification Form as part of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) review process, for which a Certificate was issued by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. HW has also prepared a federal Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a Notice of Intent application with the local Conservation Commission, an Individual Permit with the Army Corps of Engineers, and addressing Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management (CZM) consistency. The Project Team was honored with the Coastal Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) Award in June 2011 for their collective efforts to this restoration success.

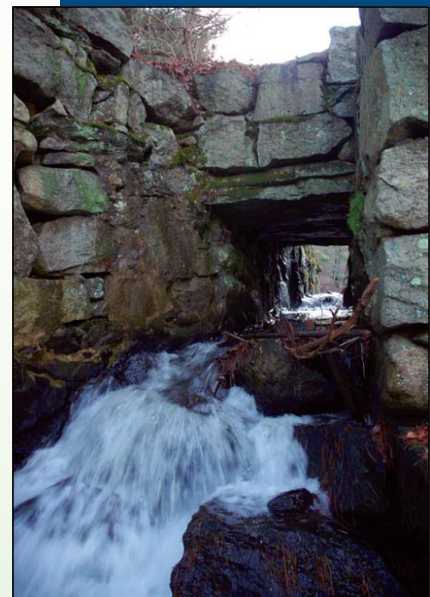
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