



# On-the-Ground Projects

## Spotlight on The Columbia Dam Removal, Knowlton Township, New Jersey

Historical accounts document that the Paulins Kill in Knowlton Township, New Jersey, once had annual migrations of shad each spring. Now, the Columbia Dam, which is located less than 0.25 miles upstream of the confluence with the Delaware River, is a complete barrier to fish passage.

The Nature Conservancy is working with partners to remove the dam and open approximately 20 miles of streams (11 miles of mainstem and nine miles of tributaries) to migratory fish. In-stream habitat and 32 acres of floodplain will also be revegetated and restored.

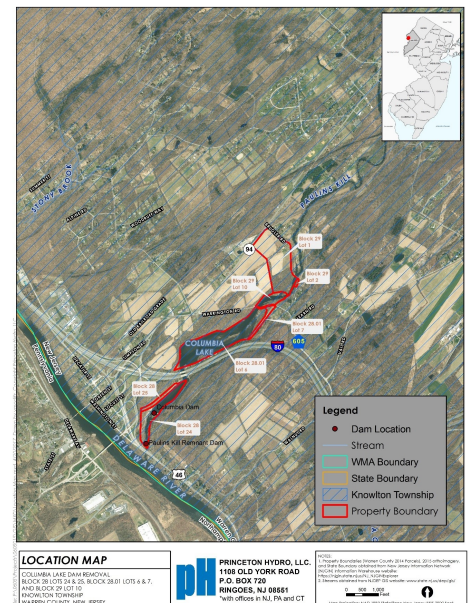
This project will result in healthier populations of migratory species such as American shad, river herring, sea lamprey, and American eel. It will also improve in-stream habitat for resident fishes and macroinvertebrates (including freshwater mussels), and improve water quality in the former impoundment. Specifically, the dam removal will decrease water temperatures and increase dissolved oxygen concentrations.

Once the project is complete, the public will be able to enjoy the lower Paulins Kill in a variety of ways, including fly fishing and paddling. The dam removal also eliminates the public safety risk posed by the presence of the dam to people using the river for recreational angling and paddling.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership with conservation dollars to partially fund the construction portion of the project. Pre-project monitoring began in 2015, and will continue after completion to quantify success. Increases in fish abundance, species diversity, recreational fishing and boating, and water quality improvements are some of the metrics that will be measured.

Project text and photos provided by The Nature Conservancy.

**For more information on the Partnership visit us at: [www.atlanticfishhabitat.org](http://www.atlanticfishhabitat.org)**



- Project Partners**
- The Nature Conservancy
  - Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership
  - New Jersey DEP Office of Natural Resource Restoration
  - NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program
  - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
  - US Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership

