EEA Environment & Climate One Stop (ECO One Stop) Topic Webinar #4:

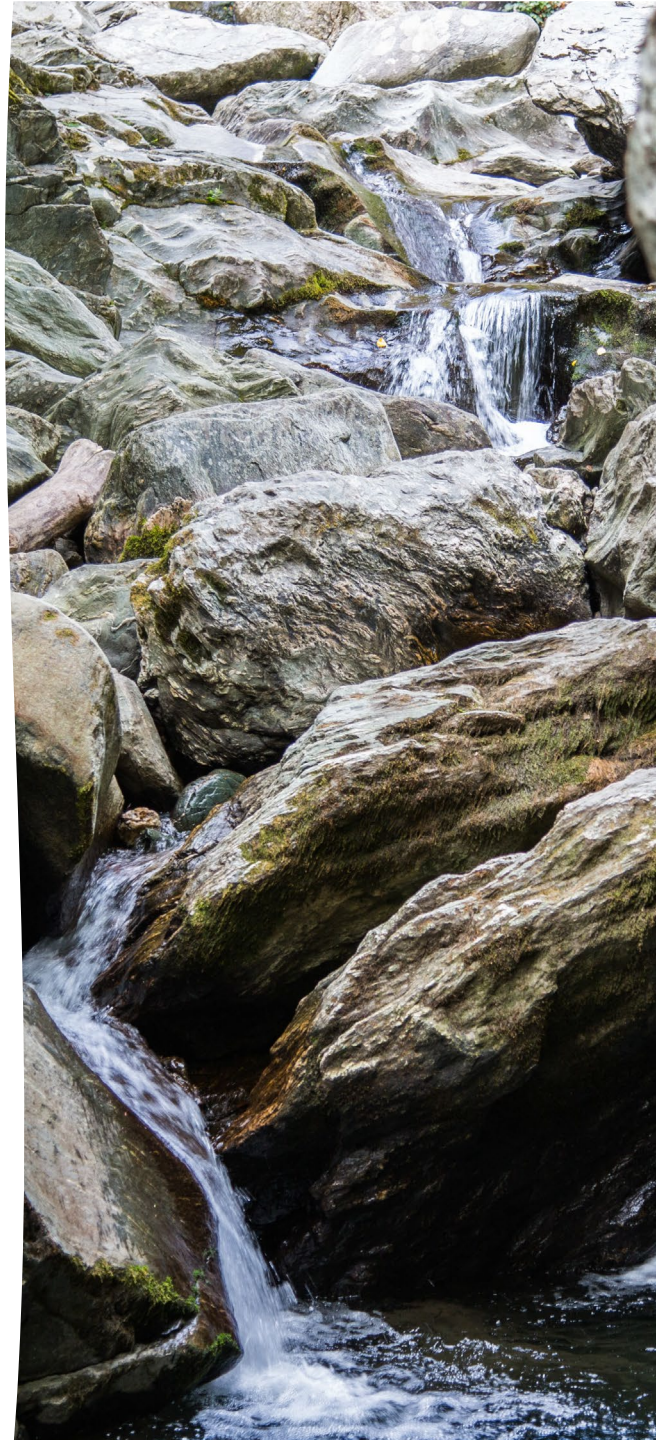
Dam/Levee Repair, Upgrade, or Removal

November 17, 2026

Environment & Climate One Stop

2026 - 2027 Timeline

- **September 2026**
  - Launch of the voluntary Expression of Interest (EOI) for potential applicants to submit project ideas for feedback from grant managers prior to the formal application round
  - Host informational webinar
- **October 16, 2026 @ 11:59PM**
  - Close EOI form
- **Late October 2026 – December 2026**
  - Schedule and conduct EOI feedback calls with potential applicants
  - Host 4 topic-specific webinars on land use planning, stormwater management, culverts, and dams
- **Early January 2027**
  - Host informational webinar before the formal application is released
- **January 2027**
  - Post RFR and accept applications
- **Late February 2027**
  - Close applications and start review
- **June 2027**
  - Announce awards; funding allocated and projects underway in July 2027



Quick Note



- This presentation focuses on EEA's Dam and Seawall Repair or Removal Grant Program
- Funding for repairs or upgrades to dams and levees is available only through the Dam and Seawall Grant Program
- Funding for dam removals is also available through EEA's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grant Program, including removal of non-jurisdictional dams (not eligible under the Dam and Seawall Grant Program)
- Evaluation criteria, funding duration, and project requirements vary between the programs. Review the RFR for information once available.

Dam and Seawall Repair or Removal Grant Program

Grants for planning, design, permitting, construction, and construction management of repair or removal of dams, levees, seawalls, and other inland flood control and coastal protection infrastructure.



Barret Park/Colburn Pond Dam rehabilitation, Leominster, MA (2026).

- **Eligible Applicants**
  - Local Government Bodies
  - Certified 501(c)(3) Nonprofits
- **Funding Duration**
  - Two Fiscal Years (FYs)
- **Maximum Award Amounts (Dams & Levees)**
  - Planning, Design, and/or Permitting = $250,000
  - Construction and/or Construction Management = $1 Million
- **Key Program Priorities**
  - Public Health & Safety, Climate Resilience, and Ecological Restoration

Dam and Seawall Repair or Removal Grant Program – Eligibility Requirements

Jurisdiction, Ownership, and Legal Access Requirements

- Dams must be under the regulatory jurisdiction of the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). **Non-jurisdictional dams are ineligible for Dam and Seawall Grant funding.**
- Dams may be municipally owned or privately owned with a municipal or 501(c)(3) nonprofit sponsor, but levees and other inland flood control structures must be publicly owned
- Prior to contracting a grant award, an applicant must demonstrate that they have the legal authority to allow third parties access to the land and structure subject to the grant award for all purposes necessary to conduct the project
- Other legal access or property interest requirements may apply. Carefully review the RFR for information once available.

Dam and Seawall Repair or Removal Grant Program – Non-Allowable Costs

Non-Allowable Costs



- Costs incurred from police details
- Costs to acquire real property interests
- Ongoing operations and maintenance costs
- Costs incurred prior to the execution of a grant contract
- Cost funded by any other state or federal grant or loan

Key Priority: Public Health & Safety

- Bring dams into compliance with dam-safety regulations through upgrade, repair, or removal
- Reduce or eliminate risks to people, infrastructure, and/or property, particularly…
  - Public drinking or firefighting water supply sources
  - Public infrastructure, utilities, and/or buildings
  - Arterial and collector roadways and/or evacuation routes
  - Critical facilities for emergency services
  - Densely developed neighborhoods or centers
  - Tax-revenue generating structures

Check out your dam's Emergency Action Plan (EAP) or levee information on the National Levee Database



Sinkhole behind Barret Park/Colburn Pond Dam following 2023 storm event, Leominster, MA.

Key Priority: Climate Resilience

- Increase resilience to the potential impacts of climate change, particularly through…
  - Upgrading structures above and beyond minimum regulatory requirements
  - Integrating best-available climate change projections or upper-bound intervals from historical or modeled data into engineering values
  - Employing sustainable, nature-based solutions or green infrastructure



McTaggart's Pond Dam in Fitchburg, MA. To be removed in 2027.

Key Priority: Ecological Restoration

- Restore, improve, or expand the functions of naturally occurring systems, such as streams or rivers or freshwater wetlands
- Reduce or eliminate threats to and/or otherwise improve conditions for…
  - Fish or wildlife passage
  - Core habitats
  - Critical natural landscapes
  - Similar natural resources

Resource areas can be found on MassMapper



Armstrong Dam removal along Monatiquot River in 2023, Braintree, MA.



Monatiquot River in 2025 after Armstrong Dam removal, Braintree, MA.

Additional Priorities

- Dams classified as Significant or High Hazard Potential
- Dams rated in Poor or Unsafe overall condition



- Levee systems classified as Moderate Risk, High Risk, or Very High Risk under the federal Levee Safety Action Classification (LSAC) system
- Public access and enjoyment of the impoundment or leveed area
- Shovel readiness for construction and/or construction-management projects…
  - All permits, legal authority, and financing should be secured or imminent
  - Construction should commence no later than June 2028
  - At minimum, construction applicants are expected to have already submitted their project to the MEPA Office for review prior to applying

A Strong Application…

- Clearly explains the deficiencies of the dam or levee
- Clearly details the outcomes and benefits of the project across the program's key priorities. *(Be specific!)*
- Includes a well broken-down scope/budget spreadsheet with detailed tasks and subtasks, start and end dates, and cost estimates
- Any financing required above and beyond the grant award should be secured or imminent
- For construction and/or construction management applications…
  - An opinion of probable cost from a qualified engineer is required
  - Permitting should be advanced with all permits secured or imminent

Gloucester Haskell Pond Dam Improvements Phase III (Underway)

- High hazard potential dam rated in poor condition in Gloucester, MA
- Impounds +/-340M gallons of public drinking water
- Upstream of state highway, secondary roadways, and scores of residential properties
- Cannot pass the required spillway design flood without overtopping
- Upstream and downstream slopes do not meet minimum factors of safety for stability
- Seepage discharge from former low-level outlet
- Improvements will restore compliance with dam-safety regulations



Whitney Pond Dam Removal & Whitman River Restoration (2025-2026)

- Former significant hazard dam rated in poor condition in Ashburnham, MA
- Impounded Whitney Pond along the Whitman River, a tributary of the Nashua River and coldwater fisheries resource
- Removed the dam, stabilized the riverbanks, and planted native wetland and riparian grasses, shrubs, and trees
- Removed contaminated sediment
- Restored wetlands for flood storage
- Reconnected about 10.5 miles of upstream and downstream river habitat for fish and wildlife





Additional Resources

- **Main Website:** Environment & Climate One Stop | Mass.gov
- **Grants Catalogue:** Environment & Climate One Stop (ECO One Stop) Grants Catalogue | Mass.gov
- **FAQs:** Environment & Climate One Stop FAQ | Mass.gov
- **Contact:** ecoonestop@mass.gov
- **Question Guidance Spreadsheet** (currently being updated for this round)

