



Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to rehabilitate the poor condition, high hazard Mill Pond Dam by replacing the spillway, replacing the fish ladder to increase connectivity between the river and pond, and accommodating vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian users of the bridge.

Existing Conditions

- Mill Pond Dam is an earth fill embankment structure carrying U.S. Route 6 westbound and State Route 28 northbound, over the Agawam River.
- The dam consists of five major elements: a fish way, a primary spillway, secondary spillway, an outlet pipe, and the earth embankment.
- Recent inspections of the dam found it to be in Poor condition with numerous deficiencies.
- The existing fish passage has a high mortality rate.
- Cranberry Highway is a two lane, one way only, arterial road that runs through the Wareham and carries approximately 11,300 vehicles per day.
- There are currently two sidewalks with areas that do not meet ADA standards.
- There are no dedicated bicycle accommodations.

Proposed Improvements

- Remove existing primary and auxiliary spillway and replace with an arch sharp crested weir spillway that meets State of Massachusetts dam regulations.
- The spillway will direct flow under an approximately 53-foot span bridge carrying Cranberry Highway to the Agawam River downstream.
- A low level outlet is to provide a means to regulate the level of the pond for large storm events, maintenance, and irrigation of cranberry bogs.
- Construct a fish ladder that includes:
 - Pools in the downstream area, under the bridge, and upstream of the dam for herring and eel passage.
 - An entrance at the Agawam River capable of maintaining flow during tide changes in the river.
 - A harvesting pad in the downstream area to allow access for harvesting herring.
- ADA compliant sidewalks on both the north and south sides of the roadway.
- A striped buffered bike lane on the north side of the roadway to allow safer bicycle access.
- Panels with information about the ecology and cultural importance of the herring run. These will be placed in the downstream area near the fish ladder and on the dike.
- The downstream area and dike will be reconstructed to allow access to pedestrians and provide seating areas.

Anticipated Milestones

- Public Information Meeting – November 2024
- Project Advertisement Anticipated – Spring 2025