

Eagle Dam Removal Town of Wrentham & CRWA



June 2021

Social Media, River Current and Press

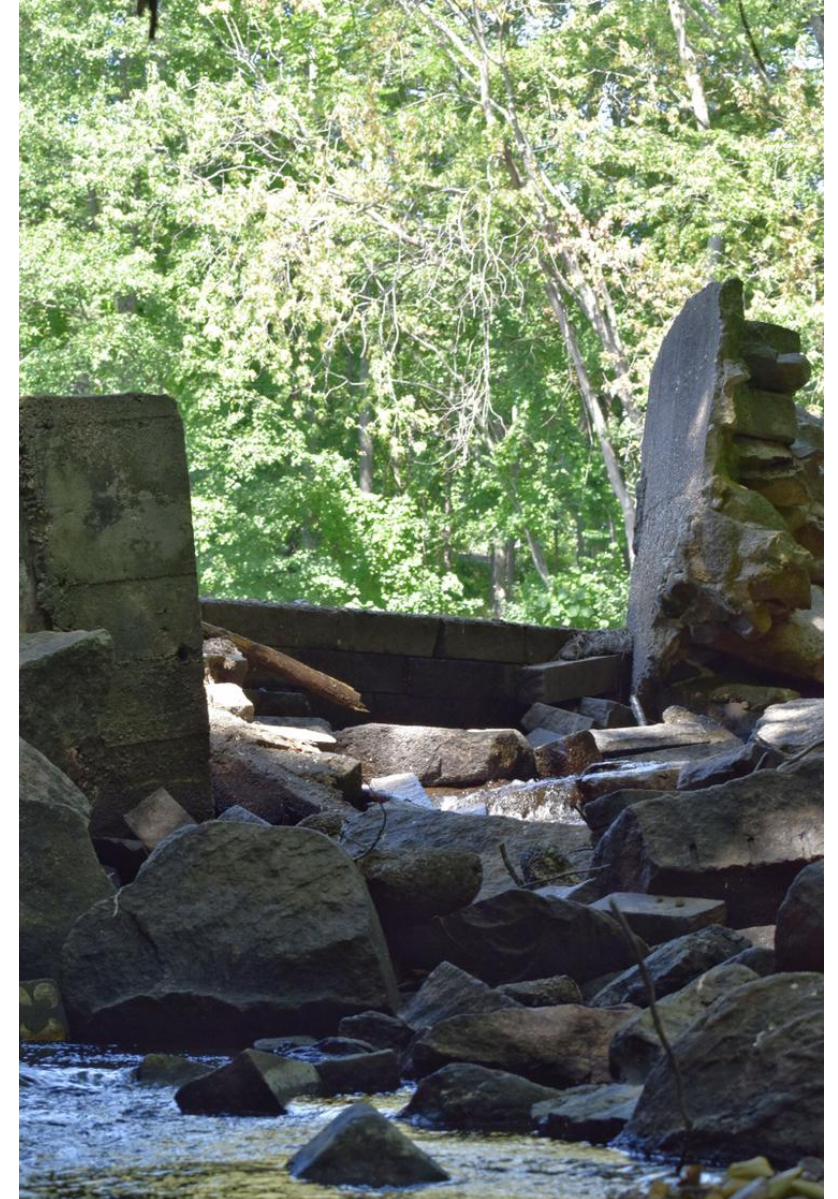


Charles River Watershed Association

- January 5, 2021, [Wrentham To Hold Virtual Eagle Dam Project Meeting](#) Wrentham Patch
- January 8, 2021 [Replace Eagle Dam, or remove it?](#) Wicked Local
- January 13, 2021 [Future of Wrentham Eagle Dam discussed, more input and study needed](#) Country Gazette



- Facebook
 - [CRWA September 2020](#)
 - [Town of Wrentham September 2020](#)
 - [Woodside Montessori Academy December 2020](#)
 - [CRWA December 2020](#)
 - [CRWA January 2021](#)
 - [Woodside Montessori Academy January 2021](#)
- Twitter
 - [CRWA August 2019](#)
 - [CRWA September 2020](#)
 - [Sierra Club Massachusetts September 2020](#)
 - [CRWA December 2020](#)



[July 2019](#)

Awarding Climate Action Grants

The Baker-Polito Administration continues to lead the region in climate action with its recent bestowment of [\\$12 million to municipalities](#) for climate change adaptation. CRWA is excited to partner with the Town of Wrentham on its Eagle Dam removal project, which received funding from a Baker-Polito Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program grant! This project will investigate the feasibility of removing this dam which, like many dams built in previous centuries, is no longer serving its intended function and presents a potential vulnerability.

Is your town one of the 71% of Massachusetts communities enrolled in the MVP Program? [Find out here!](#)

[May 2020](#)

Eagle Dam, Wrentham: Next Steps

Of the 100 dams located in the Charles River Watershed, many are relic structures that no longer provide any benefits. Eagle Dam in Wrentham is in failing condition and poses a flooding hazard for Route 140 and other critical downstream infrastructure. This small dam has been identified as a risk in the Town of Wrentham's climate planning process, and has a history of 3 breaches and repairs since it was built as a mill dam in the 1800s.

Since 2019, CRWA has partnered with the Town to assess the removal of Eagle Dam, rather than another repair. A removal would restore floodplain around Eagle Brook, further building climate resilience in the Charles River watershed by protecting homes, infrastructure, and transportation from flooding. We look forward to taking the next step in this process: bringing together MassDOT, Wrentham taxpayers, and downstream communities to discuss feasibility.

[August 2020](#)

News At a Glance

CRWA is working with the Town of Wrentham to assess the feasibility of removing Eagle Dam, an outdated structure in poor condition that presents a hazard to downstream residents and infrastructure, and is detrimental to local wildlife. [Read more](#) about the history, current conditions, and feasibility assessment.

[October 2020](#)

News At a Glance

In [May's newsletter](#), we introduced our Eagle Dam removal project in Wrentham. Since then, we presented information on our dam removal [feasibility assessment project](#) to the Town's [Board of Selectmen](#). Many old dams across the watershed present a risk in the age of climate change, and we commend the Town of Wrentham for taking on this project to address this potential hazard that also degrades the Eagle Brook. You can learn more about the project and next steps [online](#).

Additional River Current & Changing the Current



Charles River Watershed Association

[January 2021](#)

News At a Glance

Dam removal is one of the best things you can do for a river, and we're excited to be working with the Town of Wrentham to assess the feasibility of removing the Eagle Dam, an old mill dam that is in poor condition and is directly upstream of Rt. 140. . We held a virtual information session with the community this month and were excited to draw an engaged crowd. [Learn more.](#)



[January 2021](#)

Changing the Current

News At a Glance

Wrentham's Eagle Dam removal project was covered in the Wicked Local. The article discusses site conditions, opposition in opinions, funding, and next steps. [Read more.](#)



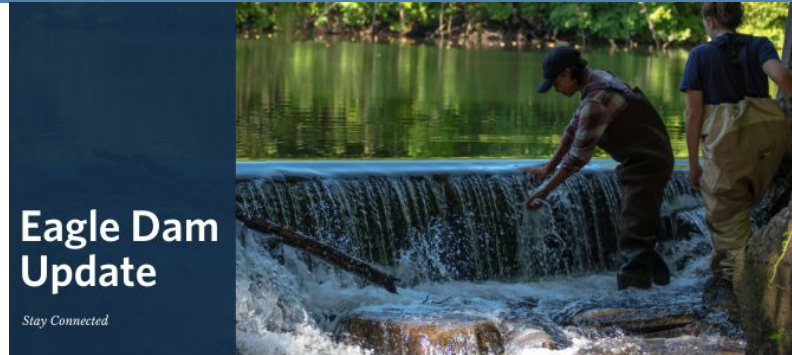
- [Eagle Dam Meeting Action Alert](#) September 14, 2020

Eagle Dam Update



Charles River Watershed Association

[November 22, 2020](#)



CRWA is working with the Town of Wrentham to [assess the feasibility](#) of removing Eagle Dam, an outdated structure in poor condition that presents a hazard to downstream residents and infrastructure, and is detrimental to the Eagle Brook habitat. CRWA, Wrentham DPW, and a technical consultant partnered to conduct an initial feasibility study of options for the dam including dam removal.

To date, no major technical barriers to dam removal have been identified, but additional community conversations are necessary before any decisions can be made. **We plan to host a webinar in January and hope you will join us—save the date: Tuesday, January 12, 2021.**

We last wrote to you in September to let you know about the Wrentham Board of Selectmen's meeting, where the project was discussed. If you missed it, you can now [view the recording](#) and access [our presentation](#).

This is just one of several dams CRWA is investigating for removal; others include [South Natick Dam](#) and [Watertown Dam](#). In 2016, Bellingham removed [Old Mill Dam](#). **Dam removals increase safety, build climate resilience, improve water quality, benefit wildlife, and decrease costs to taxpayers and towns.**

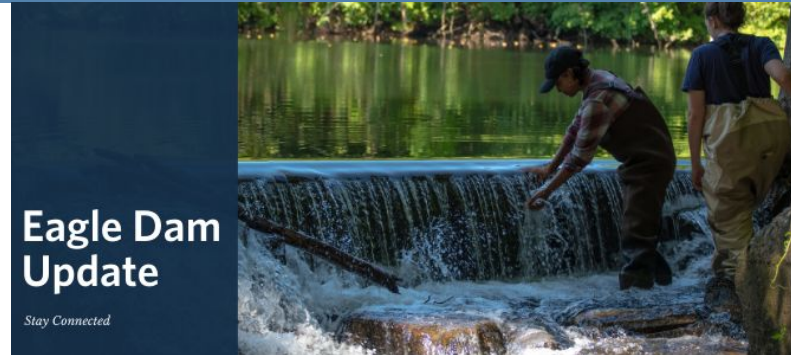
Most local dams were built hundreds of years ago and are not designed to withstand the types of weather events climate change is bringing to our region. Eagle Dam has a history of breaching and the status quo is no longer an option. [The dam is in "poor condition"](#); and due to its close proximity to State Route 140, and the increased frequency of extreme rain events, the Town has undertaken this investigation to address this hazard head on and ultimately build climate resilience.

We hope you will join us to hear more about [this important project](#) to restore and protect the Charles River. Please feel free to forward this update to those you think may be interested. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,
Julie Dyer Wood
Deputy Director

Eagle Dam Update

[January 5, 2021](#)



CRWA has been working with the Town of Wrentham to [assess the feasibility](#) of removing Eagle Dam, an outdated structure in poor condition that presents a hazard to downstream residents and infrastructure, and is detrimental to the Eagle Brook habitat. CRWA, Wrentham DPW, and a technical consultant partnered to conduct an initial feasibility study of options for the dam including dam removal.

To date, no major technical barriers to dam removal have been identified, but additional community conversations are necessary before any decisions can be made. [We are holding an informative meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 7:00 pm and hope you will join us. Register now.](#)

Last year, the Wrentham Board of Selectmen held a meeting to discuss the project. If you missed it, you can now [view the recording](#) and access [our presentation](#).

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Sincerely,
Julie Dyer Wood
Deputy Director

Eagle Dam Update



Charles River Watershed Association

[January 10, 2021](#)



It's not too late join us if you haven't registered yet!

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Please feel free to forward this invitation to those you think may be interested. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,
Julie Dyer Wood
Deputy Director

Stay in touch!



Charles River Watershed Association



@charlesriverwatershed



@charlesriverwatershed



@charlesriver

email: charles@crwa.org

newsletter:

<https://www.crwa.org/river-current.html>