

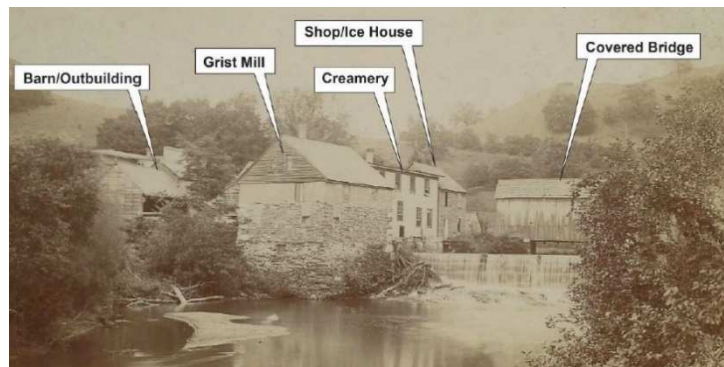


UPPER CONNECTICUT RIVER  
MITIGATION AND ENHANCEMENT  
FUND



## Hyde Dam Removal Project: Second Branch of the White River

**Project overview:** The White River Partnership worked with partners (see page 2) to remove the Hyde Dam in 2021. Located on the Second Branch of the White River in East Bethel, the dam prevented fish from migrating upstream and sediment from moving downstream. Removal improves water quality and restores fish passage to over 60 miles of the White River.



Hyde Dam c. 1889-1901 (From the collection of Charles S. Paine)

**Site history:** According to the historic resources assessment completed by UVM, “The Hyde Mill Dam Complex, situated in downtown East Bethel, is a former manufacturing center which first featured a dam c.1790 to power a sawmill. A dam continued to be used for waterpower at the site through the 1970s. Historically, the dam supported sawmills, a grist mill and fulling mill, a machine shop, a woolen mill, blacksmith shops, a tub shop, a carding shop, a carriage shop, a creamery, and ice houses. The dam and its associated industries were important to the settlement and development of the village of East Bethel from the late-eighteenth century through the twentieth century.”



Hyde Dam site before removal (WRP)

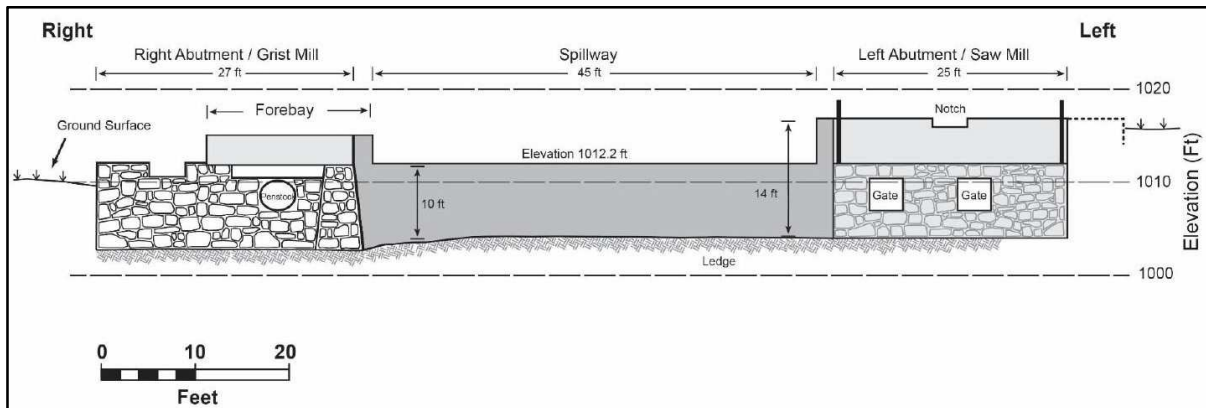
**Hyde Dam:** The Hyde Dam operated through the 1970s and “...is the last of a series of dams that have been at this site since c.1790. The first dam was built here to power John Kinney’s sawmill. The earliest dams were log crib dams; this type of dam was in place through at least 1921. Sometime after 1921...the in-channel section of the dam was rebuilt as a concrete dam, and at that time, realigned to its current position” (UVM).



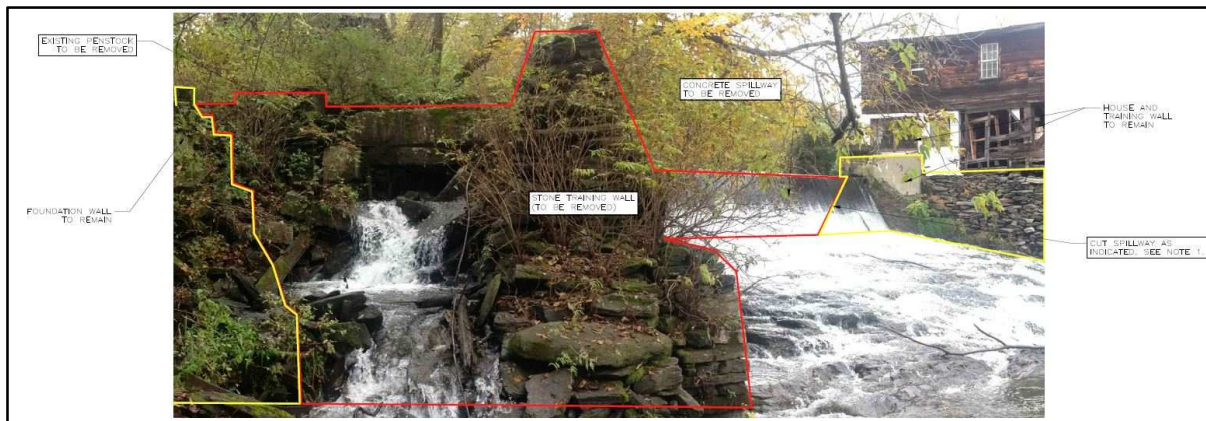
Hyde Dam site after removal (WRP)

**For more information:** [www.whiteriverpartnership.org](http://www.whiteriverpartnership.org)

**Hyde Dam Removal Project:** In 2016 the Hyde Dam owner reached out to the White River Partnership (WRP) to express interest in selling the dam property – the southern half of the Hyde Mill Complex, including 0.3 acres, the dam, and water rights. The WRP secured grant funding and private donations to work with the Vermont River Conservancy to purchase the dam property in 2018; with Ripple Natural Resources to develop a removal design in 2019; and with Canonica Landworks to remove the dam in 2021.



Hyde Dam elevation drawing (UVM)



Hyde Dam removal concept photo (Ripple Natural Resources)

The removal project included: 1) putting fabric and gravel on the site to protect in-ground archaeological resources; 2) removing sediment upstream of the dam; 3) cutting the spillway to separate the portion that would be removed from the part that abuts the Mill Building foundation; 4) removing the concrete spillway and forebay; 5) removing the stacked-stone grist mill foundation; and 6) stabilizing the banks upstream. Following the removal, the WRP worked with Trout Unlimited volunteers to restore riverside habitat by planting a 50-foot-wide buffer of native trees. To wrap-up the project, the WRP worked with partners to design and produce a historical interpretive sign, which was installed in 2022.

**Project partners & funders:** Canonica Landworks, Greater Upper Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited/Embrace A Stream & TU/Orvis Challenge, Ripple Natural Resources, Upper CT River Mitigation & Enhancement Fund, US Fish & Wildlife Service/National Fish Passage Program, VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation, VT Division for Historic Preservation, VT Fish & Wildlife, VT River Conservancy, UVM Consulting Archaeology, VHB, WRP

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