

Rawson Hill Brook Dam Rehabilitation Project Worcester County, Massachusetts

History of the Dam:

The Rawson Hill Brook Dam is one of nine floodwater retarding dams in the SuAsCo watershed constructed between 1962 and 1987. The dams were constructed by local watershed project sponsors with the assistance of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Program

Although the Rawson Hill Brook Floodwater Retarding Dam provides the original flood damage reduction benefits up to the 100-year 24-hour rainfall event, the dam does not meet the current State or Natural Resources Conservation Service safety and performance standards for a high hazard dam.

Runoff from current and build-out development is greater than the dam was originally designed to accommodate. The local project sponsors have chosen to rehabilitate the dam to address the identified safety deficiencies.



Dam in 2021 before rehabilitation

Why Rehabilitate the Dam?

Rehabilitation will bring the dam up to current dam safety standards and extend the life and benefits of the dam for another 100 years.

Rehabilitation Details

Installation of a new roller compacted concrete auxiliary spillway over the existing dam and placement of a dam embankment to block the existing auxiliary spillway was chosen as the best rehabilitation alternative.

Construction is scheduled to start in the Fall of 2021 and be completed in 2022.

The NRCS is providing technical assistance and 65 percent of the design and construction cost. Project sponsors are providing easements and land rights for the project and 35 percent of the cost.

Benefits:

Rehabilitation of the dam will provide increased protection from flood breach damages to 1,205 residences, 164 non-residential properties, 1 interstate road, 18 major roads, 1 school and 8 bridges.

Partners:

- Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Worcester County Conservation District
- USDA NRCS

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