

Emergency Watershed Protection Program – Floodplain Easement Project Showcase

Madawaska Water District Floodplain Easement and Restoration Project Madawaska (Aroostook County) Maine

Easement Cost - \$592 Restoration Cost - \$119,500

Basic Easement Information

- This project acquired 2 acres of conservation easement.
- Restoration activities that were performed on this easement include: removal of the Martin Brook upper dam that was previously flooding 2 acres of floodplain, and reestablishing native riparian vegetation on the newly reopen floodplain.
- This project established/enhanced approximately 600 feet of improved riparian buffer along Martin Brook.
- The restoration work associated with this project reduced erosion and sedimentation that was occurring at the discontinued and unmaintained dam. Erosion and sedimentation was threatening downstream infrastructure, such as roads and culverts, and degraded instream habitat.
- This project opened several miles of stream habitat along Martin Brook that was a barrier to fish and other aquatic organism passage.

Additional Information

- The land enrolled had 1.5 acres that was permanently submerged under the permanent pool of the Martin Brook upper dam. An additional 0.5 acres of floodplain was enrolled downstream from the dam that was being eroded by flows around the dam.
- When the riparian vegetation was reestablished, little, if any, maintenance of the easement was needed.
- The dam that was removed had little, if any, beneficial use for supplying water or flood protection at the time of removal.
- The dam was a low hazard dam.

This funding restored frequently-flooded land to its natural state; created jobs in rural communities where landowners established the floodplain easements, and opened several miles of stream habitat that was previously a barrier to fish passage for local and non-local fishermen.



Before



After