



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New England District

Project Information Sheet

Blackstone River Watershed Restoration
Massachusetts & Rhode Island

May 15, 2010

696 Virginia Road, Concord Massachusetts, 01742-2751

1. Project: Blackstone River Watershed Restoration, General Investigation, Feasibility Study.
2. Location of Project: The study area includes the entire Blackstone River Watershed, which originates in Worcester, Massachusetts and flows southward to the National Estuary of Narragansett Bay in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. The watershed is approximately 540 square miles and encompasses 30 cities and towns in south central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island.
3. Project Description: The feasibility study, begun in May 1999, has been evaluating alternatives that help to reduce the impact of contaminated sediments throughout the watershed by reducing resuspension of the most problematic sediments, while restoring and creating fish and wildlife habitat. The study team has been pursuing separate tracks for the project, completing the comprehensive inventory and screening of potential restoration projects (to be implemented by others) parallel to more detailed formulation, design, and evaluation of a previously identified project at Fisherville Pond in Grafton, Massachusetts.
4. Sponsor: The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (MAEEA) is the project sponsor.
5. Important Effects: Restoration of Fisherville Pond will increase scarce migratory waterfowl/water bird deepwater marsh nesting and fledging habitat. By controlling contaminated sediment resuspension at Fisherville, water quality will be improved throughout the watershed. Other smaller efforts, that involve the removal of contaminated and erodeable sediments, stabilizing streambanks, promote sedimentation, or restore wetlands that moderate flows will help to reduce contaminated sediment resuspension and improve water quality on a watershed scale as well.
6. Other: The Blackstone River makes up a significant portion of the Narragansett Bay watershed and its restoration will contribute to the goals of the Narragansett Bay National Estuary Program. The Blackstone Valley National Heritage Corridor surrounds the Blackstone River.
7. Schedule: The Corps of Engineers has developed an interim draft feasibility report for the Fisherville site, which has undergone sponsor and limited Corps review. A final draft of the report is currently being prepared and will be ready for full Corps review in the spring of 2010. The comprehensive restoration project inventory information was turned over to the state for its use back in February 2007.

8. Costs: The feasibility study is equally cost shared between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the MAEOA. The total study cost is \$2,040,300.
9. Other agencies involved in the project: The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
10. CONTACT: For additional information on this project, please contact the Project Manager, Mr. Christopher Hatfield, at the New England District at 978-318-8520 or at Christopher.Hatfield@usace.army.mil



Fisherville Pond (circa early 1980's) showing heavy sedimentation



Contamination and erosion in Fisherville Pond