

Fact Sheet

Ecosystem Restoration Measures

- Option:** **Restore Wetland and Stream Habitat Structure and Function**
- Description:** Enhance degraded wetlands by restoring altered hydrology, removal of invasive species and planting of native species; creation of wetlands in former upland areas; exposing streams buried in culverts (known as “daylighting”); restoring natural stream channel morphology; stabilizing eroded streambanks; removing low dams to restore natural flow.
- Example(s):** In Westchester County, NY a utility company is seeking to remove a low dam which has been classified as a high hazard dam and could result in threats to life and property upon failure. Sediment accumulation behind the dam, as well as the flow restriction, has caused poor water quality in the ponded area behind the dam and in the stream below the dam. Removal of the dam will improve dissolved oxygen, lower water temperature and allow passage of aquatic species between upstream and downstream areas. The former ponded area will be planted with native upland and wetland vegetation, providing wildlife habitat. The restored area will be used as a public park.
- Benefits:** Increased flood storage capacity; new or improved wildlife habitat; improved water quality; aesthetic improvements; can incorporate opportunities for passive recreation.
- Challenges:** Expensive to implement, requires pre-design studies, detailed design, post construction monitoring and maintenance; long-term control of invasive species can be difficult; may involve land acquisition costs; funding sources are limited.

