

Fact Sheet

Ecosystem Restoration Measures

- Option:** **Connect or Enlarge Wetlands and Critical Habitat Areas**
- Description:** Existing structures can be removed or modified to connect habitats, including wetlands, streams and uplands. This measure can be a component of other non-structural measures, such as purchase of property or easements/deed restrictions.
- Example(s):** Tide gates can be removed to connect wetlands to adjoining tidal rivers; if removal of tide gates is not feasible, fish ladders can be installed to facilitate fish passage and use of upstream habitat; new channels can be created or culverts installed or enlarged to improve connectivity between wetlands on either side of a road or railroad; dikes or berms can be breached to restore water flow and enlarge wetland habitat and improve habitat connectivity.
- Benefits:** New or improved wildlife habitat; improved water quality; increased groundwater infiltration; increased flood storage capacity; can incorporate opportunities for passive recreation.
- Challenges:** Existing development limits opportunities; can be expensive to implement, particularly if structure removal or modification is required; 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.

