

Lenape Cabin Club Dam (D15-388) Removal Project Fact Sheet



Project Description and Need:

Lenape Dam (D15-388) was a 280 foot long, rock-fill, low-head structure on Brandywine Creek located in Pocopson Township, Chester County, PA. It was originally constructed in the early 1900s to create an impoundment of water for boating and recreational purposes for the Lenape Picnic Park. Several years ago, the dam was breached leaving an 18 ft. gap in the dam, lowering the impoundment water levels and adding to the boating hazard created by the dam. The Pennsylvania DEP Division of Dam Safety notified the Lenape Cabin Club, Inc, the owner of the dam, that it no longer met current dam safety standards and needed to be either replaced or removed. The owner elected to remove the dam as it was not economically or practically feasible to replace the dam to meet current standards and, in its current condition, posed a safety concern to boaters, anglers and recreational visitors on Brandywine Creek. In 2019 the owners received approval from PADEP Dam Safety in accordance with 25 Pa Code 105.12(a)16)-Restoration Activities to remove the dam and it was removed in February 2021 with project oversight and support from Brandywine Red Clay Alliance.

This dam is one of 11 dams on the Brandywine Creek identified by the nonprofit organization Brandywine Shad 2020, as obstructions to the migration of anadromous fish from the Delaware Bay as well as recreational activities for residents.



Lenape Dam Before Removal



Free flowing Brandywine Creek After dam removal

Benefits:

The dam removal restored a 3,300 foot section of the stream to free-flowing condition.

- **SAFETY-** Low head dams are safety hazards for boaters, anglers and others recreating on streams. Fatalities have occurred at this site and removing the dam eliminated this hazard.
- **ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS-** The creek has returned to free-flowing condition allowing for:
 - Natural stream channel flow with faster flowing shallow riffles and runs replacing slower moving water
 - Improved fish and aquatic habitat with cooler waters and greater oxygen levels supporting more diverse aquatic life
 - Access for migrating local and anadromous fish, such as Shad from the Delaware Bay
- **RECREATIONAL BENEFITS:**
 - Improved canoe and kayak access for the public and commercial canoe liveries
 - Safe fishing and recreational water access

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"The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions or policies of the U.S. Government, or the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and its funding sources."