

Dam Funding Programs

GRANTS

For Removal:

VT DEC Clean Water/Ecosystem Restoration Grants: <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/grants/opportunities>

- Grants and contracts to support projects that reduce sediment and nutrient pollution, including phosphorus, from runoff and soil erosion that discharge into the state's rivers, streams, lakes, ponds and wetlands.

VT DEC Water Infrastructure Sponsorship Program (WISPr):

<https://dec.vermont.gov/tags/water-infrastructure-financing>

- Natural resource restoration and protection projects that are sponsored by a municipal water infrastructure project funded through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program.

VT F&W Watershed Grant: <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/grants/co-opportunities#Watershed>

- Funding to protect and restore watersheds throughout Vermont including to protect or restore fish and wildlife habitats; protect or restore water quality, and shorelines; reduce phosphorus loading and/or sedimentation and enhance recreational use and enjoyment.

Upper Connecticut River Mitigation and Enhancement Fund:

<https://www.nhcf.org/how-can-we-help-you/apply-for-a-grant/upper-connecticut-river-mitigation-and-enhancement-fund/>

- Supports restoration, protection, and enhancement of the river, wetlands, and shore lands within the Connecticut River watershed upstream of the confluence of the White River and the Connecticut River at White River Junction, VT.

New England Forests and Rivers Fund: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/new-england-forests-and-rivers-fund>

- Supports restoring and sustaining healthy forests and rivers that provide habitat for diverse native bird and freshwater fish populations in New England.

NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/tags/community-based-restoration-program>

- Habitat restoration projects that support sustainable fisheries, protected species, and resilient ecosystems and communities.

EPA Watershed Initiative Grants: <https://www.epa.gov/hwp/healthy-watersheds-consortium-grants-hwcg>

- Supports a wide variety of techniques and approaches to support watershed protection via a healthy watersheds.

US Fish & Wildlife: <https://www.fws.gov/northeast/restoring-our-rivers/work-with-us/index.html>

- **National Fish Passage Program:** <https://www.fws.gov/fisheries/fish-passage.html>
 - Funding and technical assistance for projects that remove barriers to fish passage, such as dam removal, culvert replacement, or fishway construction projects, with the goal of restoring native fish and other aquatic species to self-sustaining levels.
- **Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture:** <https://easternbrooktrout.org/funding-opportunities>
 - Support is focused on conserving and restoring habitat that will support healthy and productive populations of wild Brook Trout.

For Rehabilitation:

FEMA High Hazard Potential Dam Grant: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/dam-safety/grants>

- Provides technical, planning, design, and construction assistance in the form of grants for rehabilitation of eligible high hazard potential dams.
 - VT DEC Dam Safety Program received funding to conduct risk assessments on 10 dams to determine eligibility. This assessment must be done prior to qualifying for a grant.
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LOANS

For Rehabilitation:

VT Unsafe Dam Revolving Fund: <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/dam-safety/unsafe-dam-srf>

- A special fund, to provide funding to municipalities, nonprofit entities, and private individuals, for the reconstruction, repair, removal, breaching, draining, or other action necessary to reduce the threat of a dam or portion of a dam determined to be unsafe.
- Emergency assistance for dams determined to be unsafe following an unsafe dam proceeding.

Dam Removal Non-Government Organizations Partners:

- **American Rivers:** <https://www.americanrivers.org/threats-solutions/restoring-damaged-rivers/>
- **Connecticut River Conservancy:** <https://www.ctriver.org/our-work/reconnecting-habitat-for-fish/>
- **The Nature Conservancy:** <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/vermont/>
- **Trout Unlimited:** <https://www.tu.org/conservation/conservation-areas/watershed-restoration/barrier-removal/>

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