Green Innovation Grant Program

Project Title: Chubb River Dam Removal and Restoration

Grant Recipient: Lake Placid Village

Location: Essex County, NY

Green Infrastructure Practice: Dam Removal, Riparian Buffer Restoration, Wetland Construction

EFC Grant Amount: $1,012,006

Total Project Amount: $1,455,000

GIGP ROUND 4

Project in Construction -- to be completed 10/2014

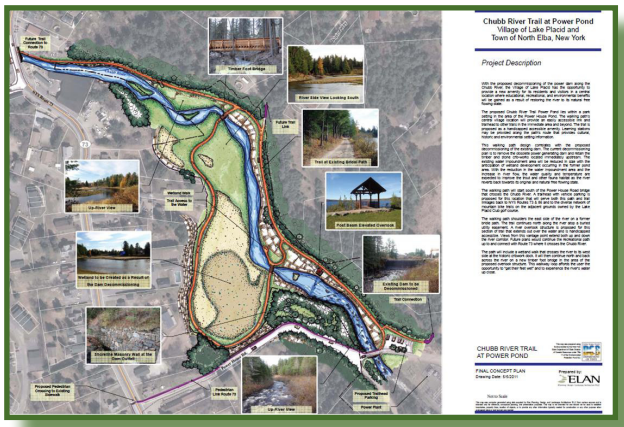
Project Description:

In the central Adirondack Mountains, the Village of Lake Placid is in the process of removing a dam from the Chubb River, which runs through the center of town. Once the dam is removed, the Village will begin to restore the natural stream bed along approximately 1,200 linear feet of the river, and will construct nearly an acre of new wetland.

The removal of the dam and river restoration is part of a larger project which will replace an aging trunk sewer line — some sections of which are over a hundred years old — located under the impoundment created by the dam. The project will help improve water quality in the Chubb River and the west branch of the Ausable River.

Removing dams helps to restore seasonal flow variations and creates a more natural riverine habitat, benefiting fish and wildlife and leading to greater biodiversity. Water clarity is often improved. Restored wetlands will intercept storm run-off and remove pollutants from overland flows before they enter local waterways. Planted riparian buffers along the river help protect the streambanks from erosion, further reducing sediment from being transported downstream.

In April 2014, the project received a Local Government Achievement Award from the NY Common Council, which recognizes innovative projects that help to improve the quality of life in cities and villages throughout the state.



This project's conceptual plan (right) shows the restored river and new wetlands along its floodplain. As part of this GIGP-funded project, an existing dam (left) was removed and a segment of the river restored to a more natural condition.

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