

Project Description - American Rivers restored aquatic connectivity and stream, floodplain, and riparian function through the removal of the structurally deficient Kehm Dam in York County, Pennsylvania. The dam removal project, conducted in three phases, aimed to restore the natural function of the flowing system and improve resilience by allowing natural processing of sediment and nutrients. The project was managed with partners including PA DEP, PA Fish and Boat Commission, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, and York County Planning Commission. The first two phases focused on dam removal, sediment management, and stabilization, while Phase 3 will enhance wetlands, riparian buffers, and install stormwater BMPs.

Project Timeframe – July 12, 2017 through December 31, 2020

Pictures –



Project Results - Phase 1 included complete drawdown of the impoundment, removal and burial of the concrete dam spillway, and stabilization of the breach zone, although construction was temporarily halted due to sediment volume concerns. A survey-grade GPS investigation in early 2020 identified a plotting error which led to a revised Phase 2 design approved by PA DEP, reducing the volume of sediment transported downstream. Phase 2 included completion of the dam breach, stabilization around the breach, removal of the upstream weir, partial pipe removal, and re-introduction of stream flow. Phase 3 will restore wetlands and riparian buffers, and install stormwater BMPs to reduce erosion and sediment inputs, with plans to complete within approximately two years after Phase 2.

Project Costs - \$218,693.73 of Growing Greener, \$180,109.44 of match