

Project Description - The Glenburn Dam was located on Ackerly Creek in Glenburn Township, Lackawanna County on property owned and maintained by Natural Lands. The dam was originally 16 feet high but was partially breached in 2007 for safety reasons. The dam was 140 feet wide and with the partial breach, formerly stood 8' high. The dam consisted of a large rock fill embankment with a clay core. Rock filled gabion baskets lined both sides of the spillway. Removing Glenburn Preserve's dam was essential because it was listed as a "high hazard potential" dam by PA DEP. "High hazard potential" describes a dam whose failure or mis-operation—which could happen in case of a storm or big weather event—would cause loss of human life and significant property destruction downstream.

Project Timeframe – December 28, 2022 through May 25, 2026

Pictures –



Project Results - The design included a partial vertical breach (~6 feet) and the construction of a fortified rock riffle downstream of the former dam. The rock riffle was located 100 feet downstream of the dam. A large rock grade control structure was installed at the downstream end of the riffle. Rock removed from the dam was used to create the riffle. Rock fill began at the grade control structure and consisted of large rock mixed with smaller cobbles (salvaged from the gabion baskets) and gravel on-site to choke any voids in the rock fill. The channel in the rock fill was shaped using data obtained from USGS StreamStats. A bankfull bench was established on the west side of the channel and with a slope consistent with the constructed channel in the riffle. The project was built as designed; no modifications were needed.

Project Costs - \$98,295.00 Growing Greener plus an additional \$21,780.00 in match funds.

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