



Randolph Dam Removal Project: Third Branch of the White River



Photo 1: *Randolph Dam BEFORE removal*



Photo 2: *Randolph Dam AFTER removal*

Project summary: The Randolph Dam Removal project was implemented in September 2016. The Randolph Dam was a complete barrier for spawning trout; removal has restored fish passage to 98 miles of cold-water habitat. Removal also opens the Third Branch main stem to paddling, and improves flood resilience for the businesses located at the old Foundry on Prince Street.

Project background: The Randolph Dam was located on the Third Branch of the White River, just downstream of the Route 12 bridge in Randolph village. This site has had a dam since the late 1800's, supporting first a mill that produced spruce butter tubs, then later a foundry that produced farm equipment. The original dam and a gristmill dam immediately upstream were destroyed in the flood of 1925. Two years later the rebuilt gristmill dam and the bridge were destroyed in the 1927 flood. The bridge was rebuilt; the dams were not.

The Randolph Dam, located at the approximate site of the original foundry dam, was a 5-foot-high sheet pile dam with a partial concrete cap along the left bank. Research shows that the dam was built sometime in the 1940's to provide scour protection for the post-1927 bridge pier. That bridge was replaced in 2007, so the scour protection provided by the dam was no longer needed.

Project partners: The White River Partnership worked with American Rivers, Canonica Farm & Forest, Greater Upper Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited (GUVTU), Ripple Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, and US Fish & Wildlife Service to implement the project.

Project funders: Upper Connecticut River Mitigation and Enhancement Fund, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Davis Conservation Foundation, Trout Unlimited/Embrace-A-Stream, Vermont Watershed Grant, Greater Upper Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited/White River Open

View videos of the Randolph Dam removal project: www.youtube.com/WhiteRiverPartnership

Project design: Ripple Natural Resources, a Randolph-based engineering firm, designed the removal project. Design elements completed in September 2016 included: 1) Removing the dam; 2) Building 4 rock steps upstream to stabilize the river bed elevation; and 3) Constructing 3 pool complexes to restore in-stream habitat.

To wrap-up the project local students, White River Partnership members, and Greater Upper Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited volunteers planted willow fascines and native trees along the Third Branch in fall 2016 and spring 2017 to restore riverside habitat.

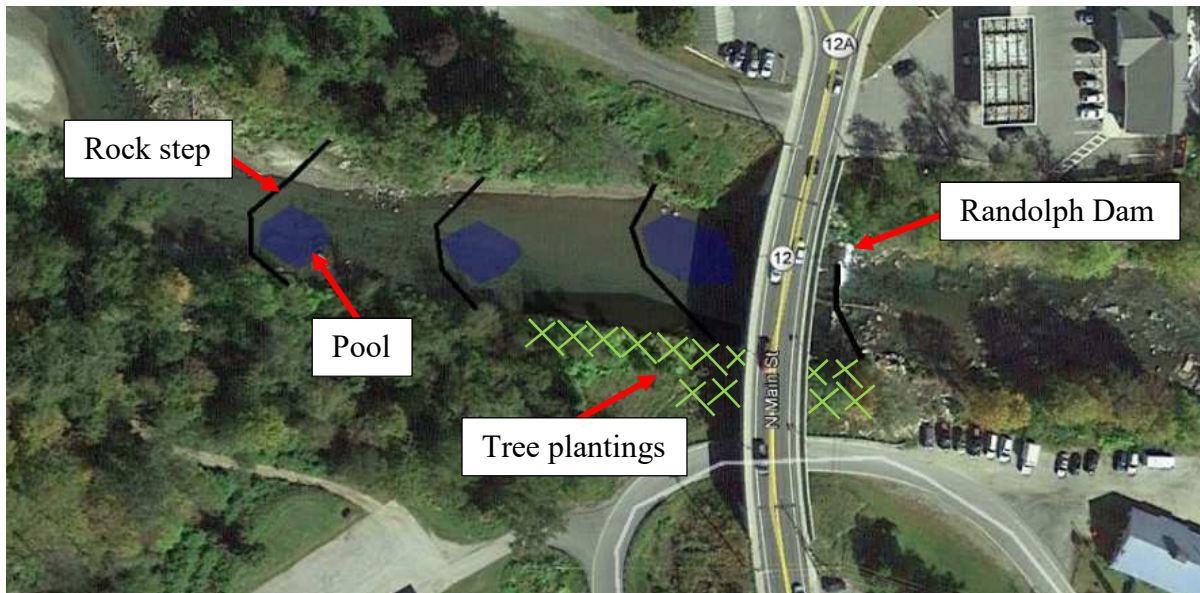


Figure 1: *Randolph Dam removal project design*



Photo 3: *Contractor Ben Canonica removed the sheet pile dam with an excavator*



Photo 4: *Looking upstream at 3 new pool complexes*

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