

MEMORANDUM



To: Natick Select Board
CC: James Errickson, Town Administrator
Jon Marshall, Deputy Town Administrator, Operations
Jillian Wilson-Martin, Director of Sustainability
Claire Rundelli, Environmental Planner, Conservation Agent
From: William Spratt, Executive Director of Public Works and Facilities
Date: November 18, 2024
Subject: Update on Charles River Dam Removal Project

Dear Select Board,

The Department of Public Works, in collaboration with the Sustainability and Conservation offices, continues to make progress on the Charles River dam removal and river restoration project. This memo provides updates on permitting, costs and funding opportunities. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.

MEPA & Permitting

On November 15, Natick received its Massachusetts Environmental Protection Act (MEPA) certificate to proceed and confirmation that we have completed the MEPA process. As of writing this memo, the certificate is not yet posted on the [MEPA website](#), but we expect it will be available soon.

With the MEPA review complete, Natick can now move into permitting. Below is our tentative schedule:

Review/Permit	Dates	Notes
MEPA	11/15/2024	Secretary Certificate Issued
401 Water Quality Certification (DEP)	12/11/2024	Submit application and start 21 day comment period
	1/9/2025	End of comment period
Chapter 253, Dam Safety Permit (DCR, Office of Dam Safety)	12/11/2024	Submit application
Army Corps	12/22/2024	Submit application (cannot be filed until after 401)
Notice of Intent (Natick Conservation Commission)	1/14/2025*	Submit application *(must be after 401 comment period is complete)
Chapter 91, Waterways License (MassDEP)	1/14/2025	Submit application

Costs

In September, Natick received an updated cost estimate for dam removal from GZA (below).

ENGINEER'S OPINION OF FINAL DESIGN, PERMITTING, AND CONSTRUCTION COSTS

- 75 PERCENT DESIGN LEVEL -

CHARLES RIVER DAM REMOVAL AND CHARLES RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT SOUTH NATICK, MA

Item	Description	Unit	Estimated Quantity	Estimated Unit Cost	Estimated Total	
Construction Planning	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan	LS	1	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Construction Planning	Construction - Phase Flood Emergency Plan	LS	1	\$15,000	\$15,000	
Construction	Mobilization and Demobilization	LS	1	\$75,000	\$75,000	
Construction	Temporary Project Signage	LS	1	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Construction	Temporary Facilities and Controls	Month	2	\$10,000	\$20,000	
Construction	Temporary Erosion and Sediment General Controls	LS	1	\$25,000	\$25,000	
Construction	Compost Sock	LF	450	\$30	\$13,500	
Construction	Plastic Mesh Access Control Fencing	LF	300	\$10	\$3,000	
Construction	Temporary Surface Water and Groundwater Control	LS	1	\$100,000	\$100,000	
Construction	Temporary Access Road	LS	1	\$100,000	\$100,000	
Construction	As-Built Drawings	LS	1	\$20,000	\$20,000	
Earthwork	Demolition and Disposal of Spillway, Apron and Fish Ladder	Tons	400	\$300	\$120,000	
Earthwork	Tree Removal, Grubbing, and Brush Removal	LS	1	\$20,000	\$20,000	
Earthwork	Rock Excavation	CY	100	\$300	\$30,000	
Earthwork	Common Excavation	CY	100	\$50	\$5,000	
Earthwork	Provision and Placement of Loam	CY	300	\$50	\$15,000	
Restoration	Sediment Monitoring	LS	1	\$50,000	\$50,000	
Restoration	Site Restoration	LS	1	\$50,000	\$50,000	
Restoration	Upland Seeding	SY	1,000	\$10	\$10,000	
Restoration	Mulching	SY	1,000	\$5	\$5,000	
Restoration	Landscaping, Planting and Maintenance	LS	1	\$25,000	\$25,000	
SUBTOTAL					\$716,500	
			CONSTRUCTION CONTINGENCY (20%±)	LS	20%	\$143,000
CONSTRUCTION TOTAL =					\$859,500	
Bidding and Construction-Phase Services		LS			\$275,000	
ENGINEERING BIDDING AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES TOTAL =					\$275,000	
GRAND TOTAL =					\$1,134,500	

The above estimate does not include design and permitting, which cost approximately \$275,000. This work is currently underway, with \$250,000 of the \$275,000 (90%) funded by a 2023 Dam & Seawall grant.

In total, these costs are consistent with the 2022 opinion of probable costs.

Funding

The Town is actively working to secure grant funding to complete this project and has identified the following upcoming opportunities:

- FEMA, High Hazard Dam Program (federal)
- Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program, Action Grants (state)
- Office of Dam Safety, Construction Program (state)

Natick has been in contact with grant program managers from each of these organizations and expects to submit applications in spring 2025.