



Collaboratively Restoring the Hardest Working River in America

Advancing ecological restoration and improving community resilience through capacity building and technical assistance

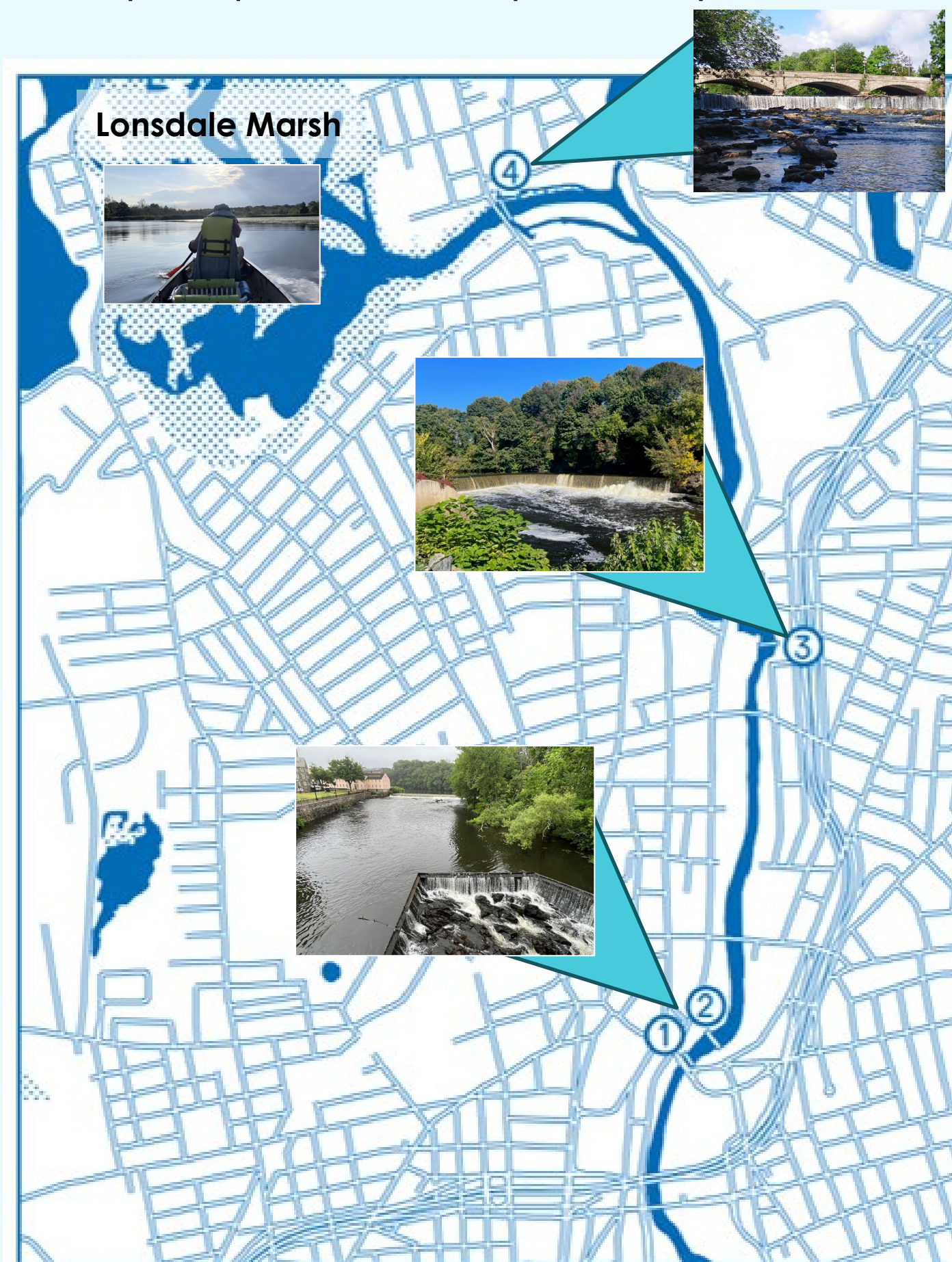


Bringing Migratory Fish Back to the Blackstone

The Collaborative is supporting coordination and public involvement of Phase I to restore anadromous species such as American Shad, Herring, and Eel to the Blackstone River by creating fish passage around the lowest four dams in order to reach spawning grounds at Lonsdale Marsh- a goal for state and federal organizations for decades.

In November 2023, we helped RIDEM launch an advisory committee of nonprofits, municipalities, tribes, dam owners and state officials to help improve transparency, public involvement and coordination of information.

We have supported RIDEM in their NOAA application for \$20M to finalize designs and construct a vertical slot fishway over the lowest two dams, and are helping to prioritize hiring a project manager to push this project forward toward implementation.



1 Main St Dam 2 Slater Mill Dam 3 Elizabeth Webbing Dam 4 Valley Falls Dam

Map of the lowest four dams to reach Lonsdale Marsh

Highlighting Indigenous Voices as River Stewards

Kittacuck is the Nipmuc name for the Blackstone River meaning "great tidal river." Indigenous communities have had a deep relationship with the river for millennia and historically depended on the river for transportation and fishing.



The Collaborative seeks to highlight indigenous voices as the river's original and ongoing stewards. We continue to build from our existing relationships with the Narragansett Indian

Tribe and the Hassanamisco Band of Nipmuc by supporting tribal-led events. The 2023 Fall Intertribal Gathering on 10/26/23 was a successful community event that showcased indigenous culture.



The 2024 Spring Migration Parade on 5/19/24 aimed to gain support for fish passage over the lowest four dams and highlight the importance of connecting cultural value to the restoration of the river and migratory species, not just ecological.



Supporting Dam Removal & Ecological Restoration



Dams are complicated and so are decisions around them. This free training on 10/26/23 supported existing and new dam removal practitioners to learn about

funding, permitting, public support, and more. Clark University hosted ~125 participants from diverse groups including municipal, state, and federal positions, consultants, nonprofits, citizens, and volunteers.

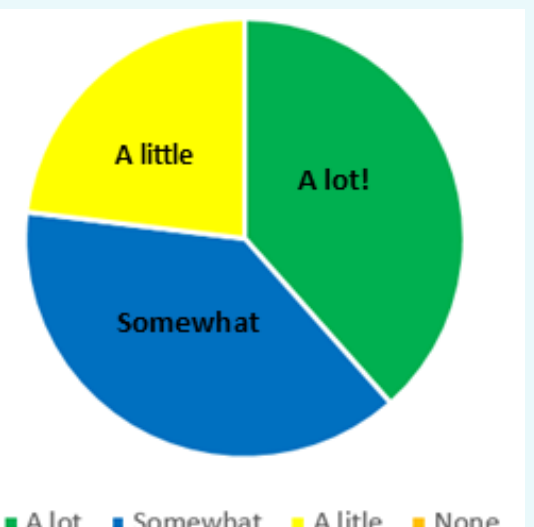
Speakers included experts from the Division of Ecological Restoration, NOAA, USFWS, watershed groups and others. The afternoon was dedicated to a charrette directed by Emily Vogler, author of The Dam Atlas.



We followed up with attendees to provide resources, best practices, and opportunities for peer-to-peer learning.

"This was one of the most productive and effective workshops/ conferences I've attended in recent memory. The presentations were focused and to the point, and the afternoon charette was engaging and insightful." - Participant

How much did this conference increase your capacity to accomplish your work on dam removal?



A lot Somewhat A little None