

WALTON'S MILL

POND DAM

www.mainmemory.net/item/27508
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Aerial photograph of
the Walton's Mill Pond
and Walton's Mill.

Circa 1930

On Temple Stream

www.maine-memory.net/item/27511
Collections of Farmington Historical Society



Circa 1914-1917 Walton's Mill, the Bridge, and Walton's Pond

The Pond:

- 19 Acres
- Head towards Temple
Route. 43, W. Farmington
- Fishing
- Local park
- Field for play



Old Photo of the Walton's Mill Pond Dam.
The Dam dates back to Circa 1820.

Current photo of Walton's Mill Pond Dam





Walton's Mill Pond Park

- Sept. 17, 1976 Petition State Soil & Water Conservation to establish water levels on the Pond.
- Dec. 14, 1976 Public Hearing Very Controversial
- 80% Turn out for the Hearing
- Nov. 4, 1980 Walton's Mill Pond Park officially opened

Fish Passage at Walton's Mill Pond Dam

- June 7, 2017 informative meeting regarding a proposed 6-month study on the Sandy River and Temple Stream.
- The Study will be conducted by the Engineering firm, Wright-Pierce and landscape architecture firm, Richardson & Associates.
- Dam prevents Adult Atlantic Salmon, an endangered species, from accessing a large area for spawning and rearing habitat – per Atlantic Salmon Federation.
- Richard Davis, Town Manager stated the Town has built 2 major erosion control & drainage improvement projects that are sensitive to the critical salmon habitat in the Sandy River.
- Temple Stream has the largest contiguous amount of habitat for endangered Atlantic Salmon in Maine that is currently inaccessible to the adult salmon due to lack of fish passage at the Walton's Mill Pond Dam.



FISH FACTS / OPTIONS

- Sandy River & Temple Stream have a vast area of cold water habitats for the salmon.
- There are 1,400 habitat areas in Temple that are inaccessible due to lack of the fish passage at the Dam.
- Option - Removal of the Dam
- Option – Fish Ladders
- Option – Hydropower Redevelopment
- Study to include alternative ways to improve the park & Town land adjacent to Walton’s Mill Pond Dam.
- Town liable for failure to act under the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 to protect and restore endangered species of plants and animals.
- US Fish & Wildlife & NOAA expressed concerns in 2016.

(NOAA - National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration)



L- Joseph McLean Senior Project Manager for the Engineering firm, Wright-Pierce.

R- John Burrows, Director of New England Programs for the Atlantic Salmon Federation

Rough Cost Estimates for Fish Passage Options at Walton's Mill Pond Dam

Fish Passage Alternative:

▪ Dam Repairs	\$350,000
▪ <u>Fishway Construction</u>	<u>\$200,000 - \$380,000</u>
TOTAL	\$550,000 - \$720,000 * **

Dam Removal Alternative:

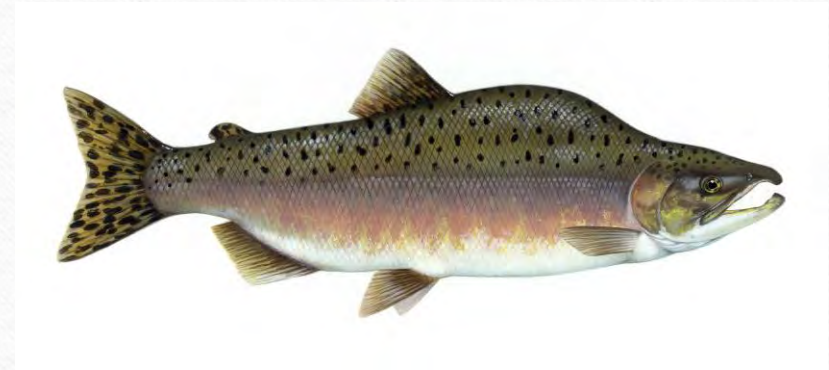
▪ Dam Removal	\$400,000**
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Walton's Mill Park:

Final Design & Construction	\$455,000
<u>Park Maint. Endowment</u>	<u>\$ 20,000</u>
TOTAL	\$475,000

Culvert Replacements on Cummings Hill Rd & Clover Mill Rd:

Clover Mill Rd Culvert	\$110,000
<u>Cummings Hill Rd</u>	<u>\$220,000</u>
TOTAL	\$330,000



**Grand Total for Dam Removal, Park, and
Culverts \$1,205,000**

*Does not include Annual O & M Costs

**Does not include Engineering, Design, Permitting,
Project Management, etc.

RESULTS FROM JANUARY 23, 2018 MEETING

At the end of the study – Dam Feasibility Report Draft, and a Conceptual Master Plan for the Park will be presented to the Town for a vote.

OPTION#1

Atlantic Salmon Federation is willing to commit to securing the funding through the Maine Headwaters Program to pay for the following:

- 1) Dam Removal
- 2) Park Improvements
- 3) Some upgrades to the undersized culverts on nearby cold-water tributaries that flow into the Temple Stream

OPTION#2

- 1) Possibly some money to help with a fishway construction, but not for the other construction costs
(This option would leave the burden on the Town for most of, if not all the expense)

