



City of Huntsville Dam Removal: Fact Sheet

The Huntsville Dam is a derelict structure, no longer needed. The dam once served as a source for Huntsville's drinking water supply, until it went on Madison County Regional Water District in the 1990's.

The Problem:

The 12' tall dam is a safety hazard and causes extreme vortices below it. The dam overflow structure has failed causing extreme erosion. The upstream concrete low water crossing is a vented ford with undersized box culverts that have increased flow velocity, causing habitat loss and streambank erosion. War Eagle Creek is listed on the U.S. EPA 303D list for dissolved oxygen, or "D.O." and has some of the highest phosphorus and nitrogen levels in the Upper White River Watershed. The sedimentation from the project site is also detrimental to downstream and to Beaver Lake, our drinking water source for 550,000 people in Arkansas.

The Solution:

The 12'x 180' dam will be removed, along with an overflow structure and a low water crossing upstream (3 barriers total). Approximately 11,023 linear feet of streambank will be restored, 9 acres of riparian replanted, 4 acres of wetlands created, 22 in-stream structures to correct channel function, and a low water crossing will be replaced for improved farm access.

The Benefits:

In-stream grade control structures will establish a more historic stream function, as well as improve aquatic habitat. By removing the Huntsville dam, overflow structure and low water crossing, approximately 329+ miles of perennial and main stem reaches will be reconnected. Federally-listed and at-risk mussels and fish that will benefit in War Eagle Creek: rabbitsfoot (T), and western fanshell (ARS) mussels, Ozark shiner (ARS), and longnose darter (ARS). Mussel species will be removed during construction and reintroduced after restoration. In addition, this project will reduce farm land loss occurring from streambank erosion and restore passage to additional hay lands. Sediment and phosphorus load reductions will be achieved through restoration practices, reducing loads to Beaver Lake, our drinking water source.

Partners

Committed Partners: Beaver Watershed Alliance, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Landowners, Madison County, City of Huntsville, Beaver Water District, SARP and others.



War Eagle Creek Watershed Site Map & Photos



*Left: War Eagle Watershed Map and Site Location
Above: War Eagle Creek (3 barriers at this location)
Right: City of Huntsville dam structure*



War Eagle Watershed
12 Digit HUC 110100010605
LAT/LON= 36.085785, -93.707700

Where Does Northwest Arkansas' drinking water come from?

Northwest Arkansas' drinking water primarily comes from Beaver Lake. Our regional drinking water supply serves one in five Arkansans. Water is collected and treated from four water treatment facilities, including Beaver Water District, Benton-Washington Regional Water Authority, Carroll-Boone Water District and Madison County Regional Water District and is distributed to 550,000 residents in the NWA area.

Sediment and nutrient loads are the number one threat to this watershed and our drinking water supply. By working together, we can reduce impacts of these challenges and help sustain our natural resources for a healthy, resilient watershed and regional drinking water supply.