

TOP REASONS WHY ITS IMPORTANT TO REMOVE LOWHEAD DAMS

- * Dozens of lives are lost across the United States each year at dams by pinning victims in the recirculating currents on the downstream side of the dam.
- * Removal of the dam will insure that recreational opportunities for swimming, fishing, tubing, canoeing, and kayaking are safer.
- * Improves Bass spawning sites by 30%.
- * Over 85% of fish species in Sugar Creek need to migrate up stream and downstream as part of their life cycle.
- * There have been 74 fish species documented in Sugar Creek.
- * Stream habitat and fish community indices are expected to improve by 35% after the dam is removed.

- * The pools behind dams tend to reduce water quality and harbor undesirable fish like common carp.
- * Removal of this low-head dam is the simplest way to restore the Sugar Creek ecosystem.
- * Once the Sugar Creek dam has been decommissioned and removed, 1,123 stream miles of the Sugar Creek watershed will be reconnected.

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SUGAR CREEK LOWHEAD DAM

CRAWFORDSVILLE
INDIANA



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WHY REMOVE THE LOWHEAD DAM?

- RECREATIONAL SAFETY
- BETTER FISHING
- IMPROVED WATER QUALITY
- AQUATIC LIFE QUALITY

LOW HEAD DAM REMOVAL

CRAWFORDSVILLE LOW- HEAD DAM

The Crawfordsville low head dam was built in 1927 and is the last of 11 dams that spanned Sugar Creek. Its purpose was to cool water for the Crawfordsville Electric Light and Power plant. In the early 1980's it became more cost effective to purchase electricity from the grid and so the power plant and the dam became obsolete. The Power plant sold in 2014 to a private company that has recently agreed that the City can remove the dam.

Friends of Sugar Creek became interested in removing the dam around 10 years ago when the State of Indiana began to encourage the removal of obsolescent low head dams in the state. Low head dams are dangerous obstacles for recreational activities on the creek. Additionally, these man-made barriers alter the natural flow of the water and the movement of the aquatic life.

In March of 2017, FSC sponsored a public viewing of the video "OVER, UNDER, GONE". A documentary highlighting the dangers of low head dams. This short video is currently available on You-tube. The board invited Dr. Jerry Sweeten to discuss the importance of dam removal and what to expect after the dam was gone.

Dr. Sweeten, serves as the consultant on the removal project. He is regarded as an authority on low head dam removal within the State through his work on removing several low head dams on the Eel River. His company, Ecosystems Connections Institute, works closely with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to ensure that all actions are sanctioned.

The first concern Dr. Sweeten's team addressed was the possible sediment contamination immediately up stream of the dam. Laboratory analyses found no contamination. Other agencies endorsing the removal plan include the Indiana DNR and the US Army Corp of Engineers. Necessary permitting by the DNR and the Army Corp of Engineers and the submission of grant proposals has been ongoing for the last two years.

Dr. Sweeten will survey and monitor Sugar Creek activity after removal of the dam to assess the improvement of the biology and ecology of the creek.

You may ask... Why is the City of Crawfordsville involved?

Mayor Barton believes public safety is the paramount reason to remove the dam. Several emergency calls are made yearly to rescue boaters and fisherman that are injured at the dam site.



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The major cost of the dam removal will be supported by grants. The City of Crawfordsville has committed an in-kind donation to the project by hauling and disposing of the concrete from the dam. No local property tax money will be used on the project.

Removal of the Crawfordsville low head dam is scheduled for Fall 2021

Interesting fact:

The power generated at our new Solar fields in Crawfordsville is equal to the power that CEL&P was producing when closed.



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