

**2021 Wild and Scenic Community Grant  
Final Report  
Adams Dam, Townsend, MA  
March 2022**

The intent of the first phase of the Adams Dam project was to minimize erosion caused by the slope of the path along the river between the parking areas at Jefts Street and behind the Farmers Exchange in Townsend. Work began in spring 2021 to prepare and submit applications for state and town permits for work along the river bank. Construction began as soon as approvals were in place, continued through the fall and spring, and is now successfully completed.

The project team plans for additional work on the Adams Dam project over the coming years. Our longer-term plan is to further restore and protect this scenic riverfront area along the Squannacook River and to develop the resource as a public park in the center of our town.

**Project Status**

The Townsend Cemetery and Parks Department, led by Superintendent Roger Rapoza, re-worked the path along the section of the river from the Jefts Street parking lot, near the railroad trestle over the Squannacook River, down to the parking area behind the Farmers Exchange. Steps were built using white cedar and rebar to stabilize the sandy footpath and redirect runoff. At the request of the Conservation Commission, GroSoxx "living walls" were purchased and installed in the steepest areas to stabilize the soil.

The Cemetery and Parks Department also installed a gate and boulders behind the Farmer's Exchange near the dam to prevent vehicles from causing erosion by driving along the river bank. Signage was purchased for the entrance to the path in the Jefts Street parking lot and near the gate behind Farmer's Exchange. Sign installation was the final task completed this spring, once the ground was sufficiently clear of frost.

The following photos show project progress.



Townsend Cemetery and Parks Department installed a gate to prevent vehicle access to the riverfront at Adams Dam.



White cedar timbers were installed to stabilize the steepest section of path and prevent further erosion.



The locked gate will prevent vehicles from approaching the riverbank near Adams Dam. Large boulders along the top of the steep bank will keep vehicles away from the riverfront area.



GroSoxx "living walls" along the path in the steepest areas will stabilize the soil and promote vegetative growth.



Barriers at the Jefts Street end of the trail will deter motor vehicles. The final task was to install signs that list rules and regulations for park users.

## Accomplishments

Adams Dam was once a popular swimming hole for Townsend residents. The small parcel of town-owned property along the Squannacook River is still a favorite destination for fishing, wading in the shallows, or just enjoying the outdoors. However, erosion along the river bank has long been a concern.

With completion of this project, the most sensitive areas have been stabilized to prevent further damage. This beautiful riverfront and surrounding forest is now designated as a town park. Plans are already in the works to re-vegetate the steep banks and explore additional ways to improve and protect Adams Dam Park.

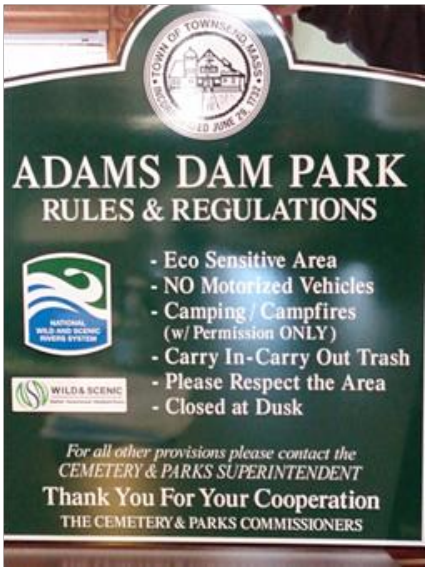
Our success with this project supports a larger vision to make Townsend a more walkable and bikeable town. Within just a mile from the center of town, we have several beautiful natural destinations. In addition to Adams Dam, protected open spaces along the Squannacook River include Howard Park and the Squannacook River Rail Trail.

In 2021, Townsend made significant strides forward toward this vision. In addition to the Wild & Scenic Community Grant, we received a Shared Streets and Spaces grant from MADOT. This project "reimagines" our streets to show people where to park and help them get safely to trailheads and other destinations by providing bike lanes, crosswalks, and signs that point out parks and trails near the center of town. The Jefts Street parking lot connected to the Adams Dam Park will soon have a bench and bike rack.



**Publicity**

The Townsend Select Board is planning an Adams Dam day and Shared Streets and Spaces unveiling for the summer of 2022. The town recently hired a webmaster; one of his first assignments will be to announce the event and publicize the Adams Dam project on the town web site.



Two new signs officially designate Adams Dam as a town-owned public park and acknowledge support from the Stewardship Council and the National Park Service.



Additional signs purchased through the MA DOT Shared Streets program are currently being installed. The new signs will guide residents and visitors to outdoor destinations and places to park.

**Budget and Receipts**

The following table is the budget submitted for this project and the amount expended (blue text). Receipts are attached at the end of this report.

Category	Details	Total Amt (funds requested + match)	Grant Funds Awarded	Grant Funds Expended	Match	Match Source	Receipts
Personnel	Cemetery & Parks Superintendent , Foreman \$80/hr for 12 hrs	\$ 960.00	N/A	N/A	\$ 960.00	Town of Townsend in-kind	N/A
Supplies	Construction materials	\$ 3,360.00					
	Gate, installed		\$ 1,850.00	\$ 800.00			Comeau's Welding
	Knox lock box		\$ 150.00	\$ 139.00			Knox Company
	Boulders		\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00			Powell Stone & Gravel
	Landscape timbers		\$ 420.00	\$ 167.88			Home Depot
	Landscape timbers			\$ 239.52			Home Depot
	Landscape timbers			\$ 83.94			Home Depot
	Rebar		\$ 140.00	\$ 35.82			Home Depot
	Gro Soxx, delivered			\$ 605.00			Filtrex North Systems
	Gro Soxx, additional			\$ 86.18	\$ 35.82	Town of Townsend in-kind	Filtrex North Systems
Signage	Signs and hardware	\$ 190.00	\$ 190.00	\$ 150.00			D&G Custom Graphics
Other	Permitting fees	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00				
	NOI			\$ 122.50	\$ 97.50	State fee waived	NOI Transmittal Form
	Legal ad			\$ 215.16			Media News Group
	MESA filing			\$ 300.00			Townsend check to DFW
	OOB filing Registry of Deeds			\$ 105.00			Townsend check to DEP
TOTALS		\$ 4,810.00	\$ 3,850.00	\$ 3,850.00	\$ 1,093.32		