

HARPETH RIVER

TENNESSEE

Project Name: Harpeth River Restoration and Fish Passage Project

Project Type:

- Restoration (Fish Passage)

Project Description: The Harpeth River drains nearly 900 square miles in middle Tennessee and flows through one of the fastest growing regions in the country. It is a State designated Scenic River within 30 minutes of downtown Nashville. The River is one of the most archeologically and historically significant rivers in the State. The Harpeth River State Park has tracked at least 250,000 visitors annually. New access points have been established as part of the Harpeth River blueway, a joint effort to create a river trail for the entire 125 mile main stem.



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The State park lies is identified as a high priority in the Tennessee State Wildlife Action Plan with a number of aquatic species of concern. By removing the low head dam, the entire river system will become free-flowing. The Harpeth and its tributaries are known for Smallmouth bass and other sport fish that will benefit from restored habitat connectivity. By reconnecting fragmented habitat and providing additional recreational opportunities, this project will serve as a model for balancing water use with wildlife conservation.

Lead Federal Agencies:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Geological Survey

Non-Federal Partners:

- Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
- Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
- National Fish Habitat Partnership and Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership
- City of Franklin
- Harpeth River Watershed Association
- Vulcan Materials and non-profit partners
- Beaver Creek Hydrology

Outcomes for 2012:

- Complete fish passage project
- Restore stream segment
- Improve river access points