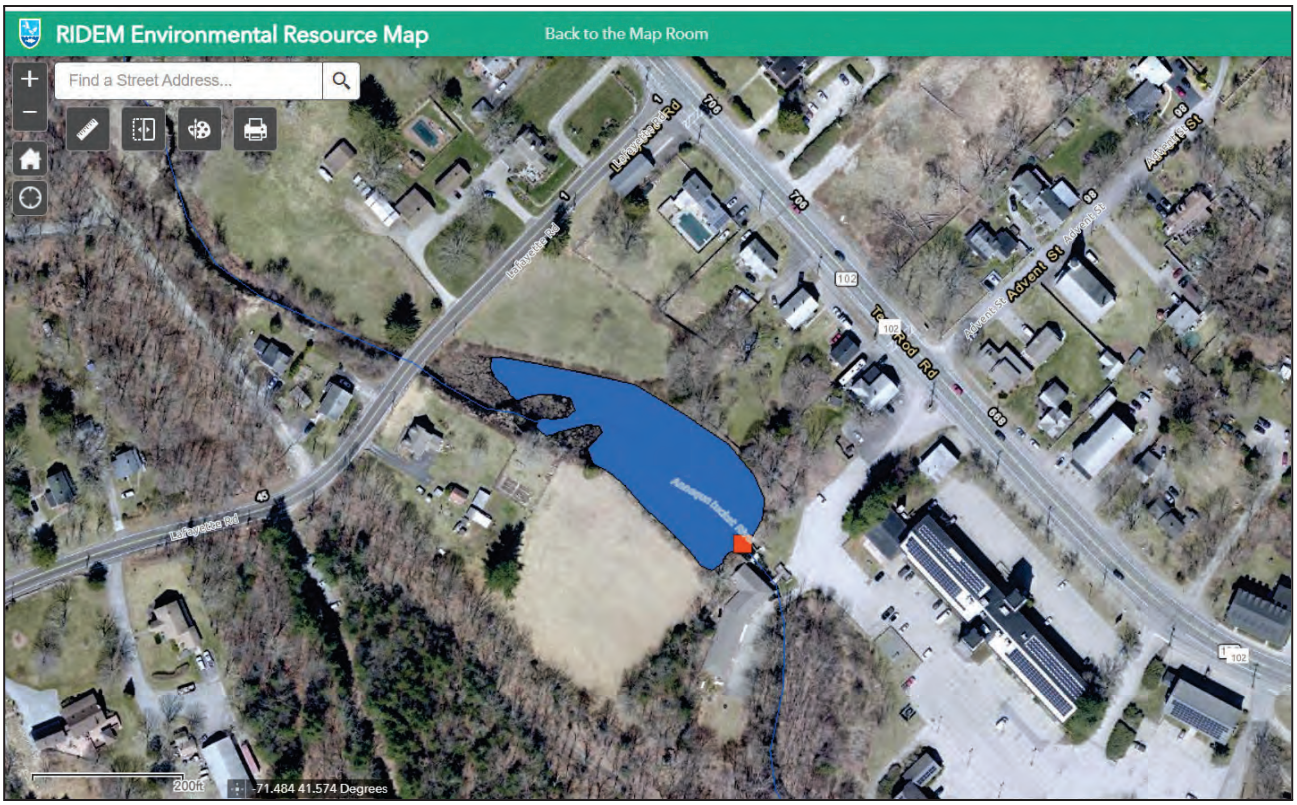
Full Proposal Form 2023/2024

****for planning projects please use Full Proposal Form for Planning Projects**

I. PROJECT SUMMARY

1. **Project Title:** Removal of the Rodman Mill Dam, and Associated Site Improvements to Enhance Climate Resiliency on the Annaquatucket River in North Kingstown, Rhode Island

2. **Project Location and coordinates** *(include map)*: The Rodman Mill Dam is located west of the Lafayette Mill Complex located at 650 Ten Rod Road in North Kingstown, Rhode Island.



3. **Project type** *(Design, Construction or Other)*: Planning, Feasibility Study

4. **If other, please specify:** Not applicable

5. **Habitat type** *(River System, Salt Marsh, Seagrass, Shellfish Bed, other)*: River System

6. **If other, please specify**: Not applicable

7. **Restoration technique** *(e.g. re-vegetation, tidal restoration, etc.)***:** Dam Removal

8. **Total acreage or miles(river systems) of habitat to be restored, or project area planning unit size:** Removal of the dam would restore a 1 acre millpond to a riverine system, and open up approximately 2.7 miles of stream habitat for fish passage.

9. **Project benefits:** Increased river connectivity for aquatic organisms including river herring, improved water quality by removing impoundment and revegetation of forested wetland along the riverbanks.

10. **Project partners** *(organizations providing financial or other support to the project)***:** Bakeford Properties LLC (property owner), Town of North Kingstown, EA Engineering, Save The Bay

11. **Is this is an ongoing project that has previously received funds from the CRMC Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Fund?** Yes **If yes, year(s) funding was awarded:** 2023

II. PROJECT MANAGER CONTACT INFORMATION

1. **Name:** Kate McPherson

2. **Organization:** Save The Bay

3. **Address:** 100 Save The Bay Drive

4. **City:** Providence **5. State:** RI **6. Zip:** 02905

7. **Phone:** 401-272-3540 **8. Email:** kmcpherson@savebay.org

9. **Property Owner:** Michael Baker (Bakeford Properties LLC). The Rodman Mill Dam is owned by the Condo at Lafayette Mill (previously called the Lafayette Mill Complex Associates). The Condo at Lafayette Mill is also responsible for the operation and maintenance of the dam, and downstream areas included in this project. Mr. Michael Baker is the owner and primary point of contact for the Condo at Lafayette Mill. Applicant must document ownership of project site or permission to perform all proposed restoration, maintenance and monitoring activities *(see attached letter from Mr. Baker on pg 18).*

III. BUDGET SUMMARY

(List individuals or organizations providing financial or in-kind support to the project under Project Partners)

Amount Requested from Trust Fund		**$49,000**
Matching Funds	**Project Partner(s)**	**Amount of Match**
In Kind	Save The Bay	$3,400
In Kind	EA Engineering	$1,000
In Kind	Town of North Kingstown	$1,300
Cash	Bakeford Properties LLC	$5,375
	TOTAL PROJECT COST	**$60,075**

IV. PROPOSAL NARRATIVE (five pages maximum)

1. Justification and Purpose

Describe the human impacts and previous restoration activities at the proposed project site. If multiple sites, please describe the impacts and previous restoration activities at each). Briefly describe the proposed project, its restoration goals, long-term and short-term outcomes.

Save The Bay seeks to reconnect anadromous fish habitat to the upper Annaquatucket River in North Kingstown, Rhode Island. The section of river proposed for restoration was dammed and channelized over 150 years ago when the Rodman Mill Dam was built to support mill operations at the Rodman Mill Complex that processed cotton and wool from the 1840s to mid-1900s. The proposed anadromous restoration will be accomplished by removing the Rodman Mill Dam and restoring the artificially straightened channel downstream of the dam. The dam removal will restore fish passage to 2.7 miles (approximately 44%) of the upper Annaquatucket River. This project will be a model of a comprehensive site approach at a mill site, balancing the current uses of the site with current regional and state conservation goals and objectives. There are thousands of mills across New England, and this project approach will serve as a template for projects at other privately owned dams sites to restore riverine migratory corridors, treat stormwater, and enhance resiliency while protecting their features and character. The goal in 2023 was to better understand restoration options onsite through conducting a dam removal reconnaissance study at Rodman Mill Dam. The property owner wishes to proceed with a dam removal, and so the feasibility study advances the long-term goal to provide upstream fish passage to the Annaquatucket River, increase the resilience of this river system by restoring a free-flowing river and improve the water and habitat quality in the impoundment.

2. Project Activities, Schedule and Work Plan

Describe the planned on-the-ground project activities, and explain how each activity will help to restore ecosystem functions. List specific project activities and when they will occur (month and year). Indicate when annual and final project reports will be submitted.

Project Activities To Date:
EA Science Engineering and Technology had identified this dam as a priority for removal given downstream restoration efforts and contacted the owner Michael Baker, who was interested in a removal project. In 2020 Mr. Baker partnered with EA Engineering and the RI Chapter of Trout Unlimited to submit grant applications for full reconnaissance, design, permitting, and dam removal, however the project was not fully funded and did not move forward at that time.

Permission from the landowner, Michael Baker to proceed with the feasibility study has been secured. Mr. Baker purchased the Rodman Mill and associated buildings (now referred to as the Lafayette Mill Complex) in 1987. After the mill's purchase, Mr. Baker oversaw years of construction and contractors on site as he orchestrated the complex redevelopment of the mill. The mill is now fully restored and provides over 50,000 square feet of office space for renters. Mr. Baker has significant experience coordinating and managing construction projects at the project site. As the property owner/manager, Mr. Baker will work closely with Save The Bay throughout the project.

In June 2023 the RI Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Trust Fund awarded the project team $25,000 to fund a reconnaissance study to address some of the challenges of the site which included stormwater inputs from town and state roads, upstream road and culvert infrastructure, driveway access across the Annaquatucket, and buildings owned by Michael Baker immediately downstream of the dam. Save The Bay hired EA Science Engineering and Technology to assist with the reconnaissance study, which included a structural assessment of the spillway and structures tied into the spillway, collection of three sediment samples for physical and chemical analysis (two upstream and one downstream of the spillway), an estimate

of sediment volume using sediment probes and depth-to-refusal information, assessment of water uses including potential water withdrawals from within the impoundment, review of stormwater inputs to the river from state and local roads, assessment of potential effects of a lower water level on upstream infrastructure, review of endangered species habitat records, and a meeting with project partners.

Now that the reconnaissance study is complete, and Mr. Baker still wishes to proceed with dam removal, the project team will develop a scope of work for a dam removal feasibility study, which will include the following tasks:

- Conduct a topographic and bathymetric survey of the river, dam, and associated relevant structures
- Delineate wetland edge
- Complete dye test of the stormwater pipe under parking lot to confirm discharge locations
- Complete existing conditions hydrologic and hydraulic modeling
- Prepare a basis of design memorandum for fish passage including construction option of cost and scour analysis of crossing upstream of the dam.
- Prepare 35% design plans for discussion purposes
- Prepare an artistic rendering to help community understand what a dam removal might look like
- Conduct outreach to abutters and stakeholders

Project Timeline:

Summer 2024: Develop a scope of work for the dam removal feasibility study. Engineering firm conducts dye study within the catch basins on Ten Rod Road, to confirm stormwater drainage outlet.

Fall 2024: Save The Bay to flag wetland edges in coordination with the survey crew.

Winter 2025: Engineering firm conducts topographic and bathymetric survey. Engineering firm conducts H&H modeling and drafts a memo describing the inputs and outputs. Existing conditions plan developed from the survey work. Partners review and share with the dam owner, RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Town of North Kingstown.

Spring 2025: Basis of Design & Feasibility study finalized. Artistic rendering created. 35% design plans created. Conduct public outreach meeting with information for abutters and community members. Decide next steps for engineering and permitting phase of the project.

3. Minimization of Adverse Impacts

What are the potential impacts resulting from project activities (e.g. the disturbance of sensitive species by construction activities), and how will these impacts be minimized (e.g. scheduling construction to avoid disturbance of sensitive species).

Since this phase of the project is purely information gathering, it is anticipated that minimal impacts to the wetland system will occur. Access to the river and pond will be from property owned by Bakeford Properties, east and north of Rodman Mill Pond.

Dam removal construction activity is not part of this grant application, but when it occurs, permitting agencies may restrict in-river construction to July 1st to October 31st to minimize disturbances to river species. The time of year restriction is to ensure that construction within the River will occur when flows are generally at their lowest. Later in the planning process, a potential construction sequencing scenario to minimize adverse impacts from the dam removal that addresses dewatering, sediment management, potential stormwater management to address outfalls and site stabilization measures will be developed.

4. Public Support

Demonstrate public support for the project by providing evidence of communication with adjacent landowners, community members and other stakeholders. Describe planned or completed community / stakeholder education and outreach efforts.

The project team has discussed the potential restoration project with the Town of North Kingstown and Trout Unlimited. We will share the final report and the concept design for dam removal with RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife, RIDEM Office of Dam Safety, and involve members of the Lafayette Mill community. This project is still in the beginning stages of planning and so no outreach to the public has started, however once we have an existing conditions plan and a conceptual proposed conditions plan we will be ready to have a community meeting. A meeting with stakeholders, abutters, and interested members of the public is planned in this next phase of the project. Save The Bay will share updates with members and supporters through Save The Bay publications and social media. The Town of North Kingstown will provide meeting space and support for outreach meetings.

5. Economic and Educational Benefits

How will the proposed project provide direct economic and/or educational benefits to a community and/or the state?

Removal of this high hazard dam will reduce long term inspection and maintenance costs of the dam for the property owner, as well as reduce the workload for RIDEM Office of Dam Safety.

Rodman Mill Dam is 1.5 miles away from the Wickford Middle School. The property is also adjacent to Ryan Park, a popular place for open space recreation. As such, a future river restoration here can highlight to the public specific adaptation strategies that can be implemented to restore riverine habitats. There may be future opportunities to install interpretive signage about the benefits of riverine restoration for water quality, increased river connectivity for anadromous and riverine species and improved habitat conditions for spawning. As an educational tool, the dam removal will show habitat restoration in action. Fishing for riverine species will likely improve as well.

Many mill sites in Rhode Island are privately held and face the same challenges that the Lafayette Mill Complex does, and this project can be a showcase for other dam owners and redevelopers to emulate and ultimately better understand how green infrastructure improvements, resiliency, and ecological restoration can come together at their mill sites while maintaining the aesthetic attributes of old mills.

6. Climate Change and Coastal Resiliency

How have the present and future impacts of climate change been considered during the project planning and design phases? What impact will the project have on resilience of coastal or estuarine habitat to climate change?

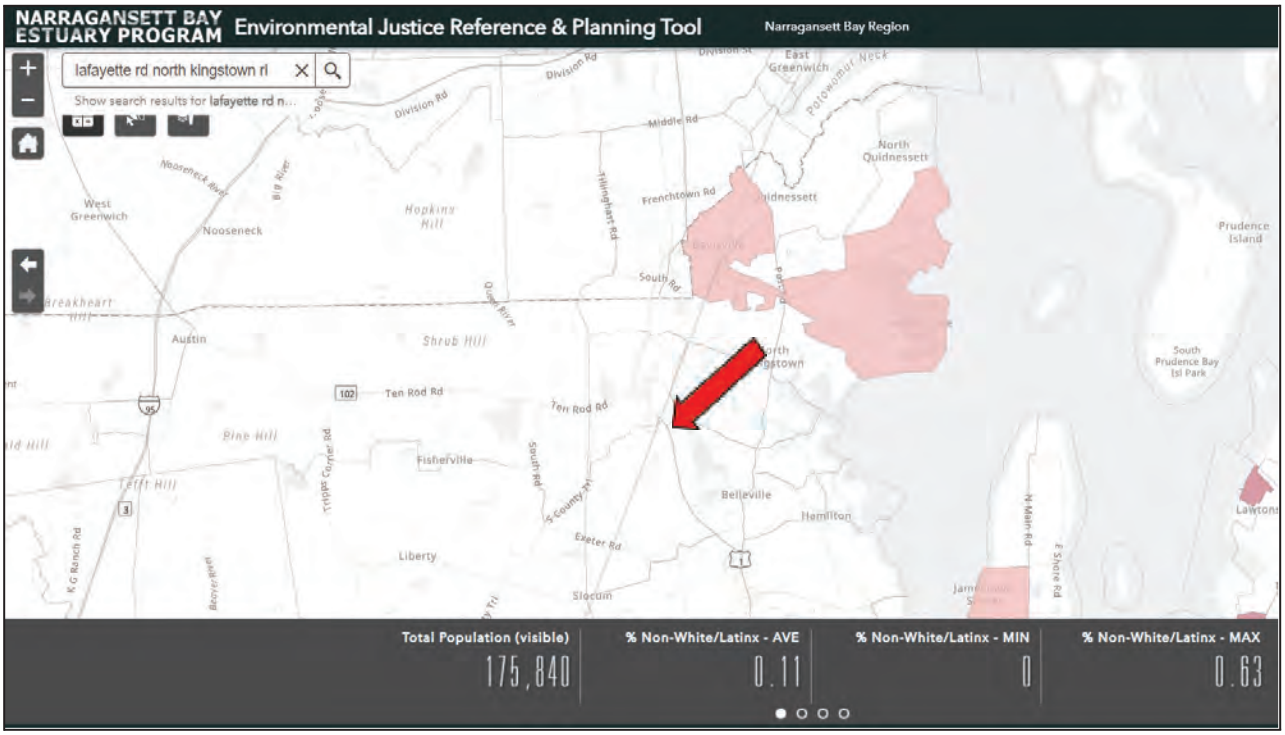
The Rodman Mill Dam is in poor condition. The Rodman Mill Dam was constructed over 150 years ago, and as a result was not built to meet today's design/construction standards or stream flows. One of the many trends of climate change is the increased intensity and recurrence of severe storm events. As such, this dam is at an increased risk of failure. The Rodman Mill Dam is a High Hazard Dam, and was assessed by a RIDEM contracted consultant in 2018. That consultant identified several deficiencies with the dam embankments, structural components, and downstream channel. Some of these issues included deterioration, undermining and cracking. Several of these dam issues have proved difficult for the Dam owner to mitigate, and repeated storm events continue to exacerbate these issues. Thus, the primary resilience issue this project addresses is that of human safety and protection of existing infrastructure by removing the Rodman Mill Dam and restoring the river and downstream areas to a natural stream channel by mimicking the natural channel once in place at the site prior to the construction of the dam.

This project will improve ecosystem and community resiliency by providing the dam owner with a better picture of what a dam removal here will look like. This site is complex, and a future dam removal would remove a piece of hazardous infrastructure from the community. The removal of the Rodman Mill Dam would eliminate the risk of loss of life related to a dam failure. In addition, the approximately 2.7 miles of

stream that are restored once the dam is removed will allow for the reproduction of hundreds of millions of blueback herring and alewives of the next 25 years. These species are critical to the health of Narragansett Bay and the public use of the Bay resources.

7. Environmental Justice

Will the proposed project take place within or otherwise benefit environmental justice "priority areas" as defined by the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program's analysis of Environmental Justice in the Narragansett Bay Region? Does the proposed project incorporate Environmental Justice concerns as defined by the US EPA's Guidance on Environmental Justice and Equitable Development?



The project takes place in North Kingstown, RI and is not within any environmental justice priority areas. The Annaquatucket is a relatively small watershed that flows directly into Narragansett Bay, and there are no known EJ areas within the watershed. The concerns outlined in EPA's Guidance on Environmental Justice include equitable development. Equitable development is a place-based approach for encouraging environmental justice. In the context of environmental justice and planning, equitable development improves public involvement; supports collaborative problem solving; and makes a visible difference in communities that are underserved, under-resourced, and overburdened. Lower-income community members and people of color are successfully guiding the changes that occur within their communities rather than reacting to them. The project team will seek to work with members of the community when planning any eventual river restoration.

8. Planning Consistency and Restoration Priority

Is the proposed project consistent with the goals of a local, state or regional planning initiative? Please specify initiative and explain (see CRMC website for guidance). Does the proposed project involve a state, regional or federal priority habitat restoration need or special consideration? Please specify and explain (see CRMC website for guidance).

The Annaquatucket River has been the focus of anadromous fish restoration projects by RIDEM and TNC including fish ladders at the Bellville Pond Dam and Hamilton Reservoir Dam. This dam remains the last obstruction to fish passage in this system, and removal would restore river connectivity and provide access to approximately 2.7 river miles of spawning habitat in the Annaquatucket River up to the Lafayette Trout Hatchery.

9. Species of Concern

Will the project result in benefits to wildlife species listed as federally or state endangered, threatened, or species of concern within Rhode Island? Please specify which species will benefit and how.

The section of the Annaquatucket River that is impeded by the Rodman Mill Dam is within a Natural Heritage Area (data updated July 2020, see Figure 6). As part of the reconnaissance study, STB contacted the Rhode Island Natural Heritage Society to understand what species have been documented in the area. *Aureolaria pedicularia* and *Tephosia virginiana* have been observed in the area, however not in the mill complex itself, and neither are aquatic species likely to be affected by a dam removal. In general, the inclusion of land within a Natural Heritage Area is an indicator of high quality habitat and the potential benefit for many species, not just rare ones. River restoration can and does benefit species including freshwater mussels, and anadromous fish, which are negatively impacted by dams within their ranges.

10. Permitting

List any federal, state or local permits required to complete the project and the permit application status for each.

At this stage of the project no federal, state, or local permits are required to complete the feasibility study. However, once a project has been selected we anticipate the following permit applications:

- State: RIDEM Wetlands Application to Alter Freshwater Wetlands
- Federal: Army Corps of Engineers General Permit
- State: Review by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission

11. Capacity of Lead Organization (attach additional materials if necessary)

Demonstrate the capacity of the lead and/or partner organizations to successfully complete the proposed project by providing any or all of the following: a) a description of the organization(s) b) resume(s) or summary of qualifications of involved personnel c) evidence of successfully completed habitat restoration or conservation projects.

Save The Bay has a long track record of successful restoration projects funded through the Trust Fund. We have been project proponents as well as supporting partners. We have been partners on dam removal and fish passage projects on the Pawcatuck, Pawtuxet, Ten Mile, Kickemuit and Blackstone Rivers. We have also successfully completed salt marsh restoration and riparian restoration projects throughout the watershed. Kate McPherson, Save The Bay's Narragansett Bay Riverkeeper and Professional Wetland Scientist will be the project lead on the completion of this project.

V. SUSTAINABILITY (one page maximum)

1. Maintenance

What is the estimated "lifespan" of each planned restoration activity? What are the anticipated short-term and long-term (beyond the funding period) operation and maintenance requirements of the project? Specify who will be responsible for funding and carrying out each O & M activity. Indicate when and with what frequency activities will occur.

This phase of the project does not have maintenance associated with it. An ultimate dam removal restoration would be designed to provide fish passage into the future with little maintenance required. At

this stage in the project it is not clear what sort of design elements or associated required maintenance would be incorporated into a dam removal proposal.

2. External Factors

Identify existing external (off-site) factors that could reduce the chances of achieving the project goals (e.g. stormwater inputs to the site from the surrounding drainage area). Explain how these external factors will be addressed. Describe any additional measures taken to help ensure long-term success of the project (e.g. installation of stormwater management practices or securing of conservation easements).What are the likely future effects of climate change and future sea level rise on the proposed project and how will these be addressed?

This site is somewhat impacted by stormwater runoff. For the potential future design of dam removal here the project team intends to explore a conceptual design that includes stormwater management and green infrastructure. Stormwater inputs include at least a stormwater outfall from Ten Rod Road owned by RIDOT, outfalls from Lafayette Road owned by the Town of North Kingstown, as well as runoff from the impervious surfaces of the mill complex. The typical contaminants in stormwater runoff from developed areas and roadways are expected to be present in the river. There are some pipes discharging flow to the river downstream of the dam or near the dam from other adjacent land uses, and part of the feasibility study will include determining ownership, source of water, and plans to address existing stormwater and flooding impacts. We are not aware of any buried infrastructure along the edge of the Pond/River, or beneath the Pond/River. The Town of North Kingstown will be made aware of the results of the feasibility study, and may provide data, as well as representatives from RIDOT if required.

VI. EVALUATING PROJECT SUCCESS (one page maximum)

1. Performance Measures

How will the success of the project be measured in relation to the restoration goals set forth in this proposal? List performance measures and how they will be recorded. Include a detailed monitoring plan; if applicable (see below).

This stage of the project will be evaluated as a success when the survey and wetland edge flagging have been completed, an existing conditions plan created,and the H&H study done with memo completed.. We will share this with stakeholders and members of the Lafayette Mill Village community and solicit feedback. It is the project team's experience that it is often easier to find funding sources for construction projects, and we will seek diverse funding sources for engineering, permitting and construction in the future.

2. Monitoring Plan

Describe any planned or completed pre- and post-project monitoring activities. For each monitoring activity list the frequency and month/year of start and end date and the parameters measured. List the entity or entities responsible for funding and carrying out each monitoring activity, and describe how results will be made available to CRMC and the public. If using an established monitoring protocol, please provide references (see CRMC website for information on established monitoring protocols).

Since this project is still in initial development a monitoring plan of the impoundment area is not required at this time, however, in other dam removal projects factors STB has monitored for include wildlife use, monitoring for nonnative invasive species, sediment accumulation that may block aquatic organisms, and fish migration monitoring, if appropriate.

VII. PROJECT BUDGET TEMPLATE

BUDGET CATEGORY	CRMC REQUEST	MATCH	MATCH PENDING OR SECURED?	SOURCE OF MATCH	TOTAL
Site Survey: EA Engineering & Save The Bay	$27,000	$1,100	Secured	In- Kind, Save The Bay	$28,100
Hydrologic and Hydraulic Modeling: EA Engineering	$16,000	$0		Not Applicable	$16,000
Basis of Design Memorandum: EA Engineering	$6,000	$6,000	Secured	EA (In Kind), Bakeford LLC (Cash)	$12,000
Public Outreach: meeting space, advertising, artistic rendering, mileage, overhead: Sate The Bay, Town of N. Kingstown Bakeford LLC	$0	$3,975	Secured	In- Kind, NK Staff Time In- Kind, Save The Bay Bakeford LLC (Cash)	$3,975
TOTAL	**$49,000**	**$11,075**		**TOTAL PROJECT COST**	**$60,075**

VIII. BUDGET NARRATIVE (one page maximum)

Please provide a description and justification for each line item included in the project budget form (e.g. for personnel costs, provide hourly and fringe rates, for travel specify rate and estimated number of miles). Please specify any match requirements for each source of funding. Please include costs associated with required annual and final reports to CRMC. Be sure to detail how CRMC funds will be used.

Engineering: Site Survey and Existing Conditions $27,000 CRMC Ask |$1,100 Match | $28,100 Total Cost
EA Engineering will be hired to complete a dye test within the drainage system on Ten Rod and Lafayette Roads, complete a topographic survey of the river, dam, and associated relevant structures including drainage structures, and to prepare an existing conditions plan.

Kate McPherson, Save The Bay's Riverkeeper and Professional Wetland Scientist and Ben Gaspar, Save The Bay's Restoration Ecologist will flag the wetland edge. Kate and Ben will support this portion of the project for 16 hours of in-kind match. Charges calculated using Kate's hourly billable rate of $50 and Ben's hourly billable rate of $48 which includes the organization's 27% fringe benefit rate for all staff and a 31% overhead and administration rate as a match towards this grant. Total staff cost is $1,100 and will be in kind match. Save The Bay's staff time is funded by a Capacity Building Grant from the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program. Having STB complete this task saves the project $4900 since EA quoted $6000 for wetland edge delineation. The project work includes time for all necessary labor, mileage, and direct costs for the survey work. Mileage estimated at 84 miles for 2 round trips at the federal rate of 0.66 per mile.

Engineering: Hydrologic and Hydraulic Modeling $16,000 CRMC Ask | $0 Match | $16,000 Total Cost

EA Engineering will be hired to complete the existing conditions hydrologic and hydraulic (H&H) modeling and summarize the findings of the H&H model in a technical memo. The project work includes time for all necessary labor and direct costs for the H&H work.

Engineering: Basis of Design Memorandum $6,000 CRMC Ask | $6,000 Match | $12,000 Total Cost

EA Engineering will be hired to complete a basis of design memorandum. This task will summarize the existing conditions, summarize the findings from the H&H modeling, describe required permits for dam removal, include proposed restoration approach and order of magnitude costs estimates, scour analysis within the area upstream that would be affected by lowered water surface elevation post dam removal, conceptual design plan for discussion purposes, and assistance with outreach to abutters and stakeholders. The Basis of Design Memo is the written documentation of the feasibility analysis. EA Engineering will provide staff time match of $1000, and Bakeford LLC will provide $5000 cash match to complete this task.

Public Outreach and Project Coordination: $0 CRMC Ask | $3,600 Match | $3,600 Total Costs

Save The Bay Match

Save The Bay's Kate McPherson, Narragansett Bay Riverkeeper and Professional Wetland Scientist, will support this project through communication with the property owner, project management, meetings with RIDEM and partners, assist with outreach to abutters and community members and other tasks as necessary to complete the project. Ben Gaspar, Save The Bay's Restoration Ecologist will assist with outreach presentation. Kate and Ben will support this portion of the project for 34 hours of in-kind match. Charges calculated using Kate's hourly billable rate of $50 and Ben's hourly billable rate of $48 which includes the organization's 27% fringe benefit rate for all staff Save The Bay and a 31% overhead and administration rate as a match towards this grant. Mileage estimated at 84 miles for 2 round trips at the federal rate of 0.66 per mile. The value of STB's staff time and mileage is $2,300. Save The Bay's staff time is funded by a Capacity Building Grant from the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program.

Bakeford Match

An artist will be hired to provide a graphic to be used during outreach which might better illustrate what a dam removal will look like. Bakeford Properties will provide a cash match to cover the cost of the rendering at $375.

Town of North Kingstown Staff Match

Jenna McCauley, Principal Planner with the Town of North Kingstown will support this project for 20 hours writing ads, posting them, sending to the paper, confirming room/space/ads, and other miscellaneous tasks related to public outreach. Her salary is $49.29 per hour. Nicole LaFontaine, Director of Planning and Development with the Town of North Kingstown, will provide 5 hours of oversight. Her salary is $87.30 per hour. The value of the Town of North Kingstown's match is $1,422.

IX. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

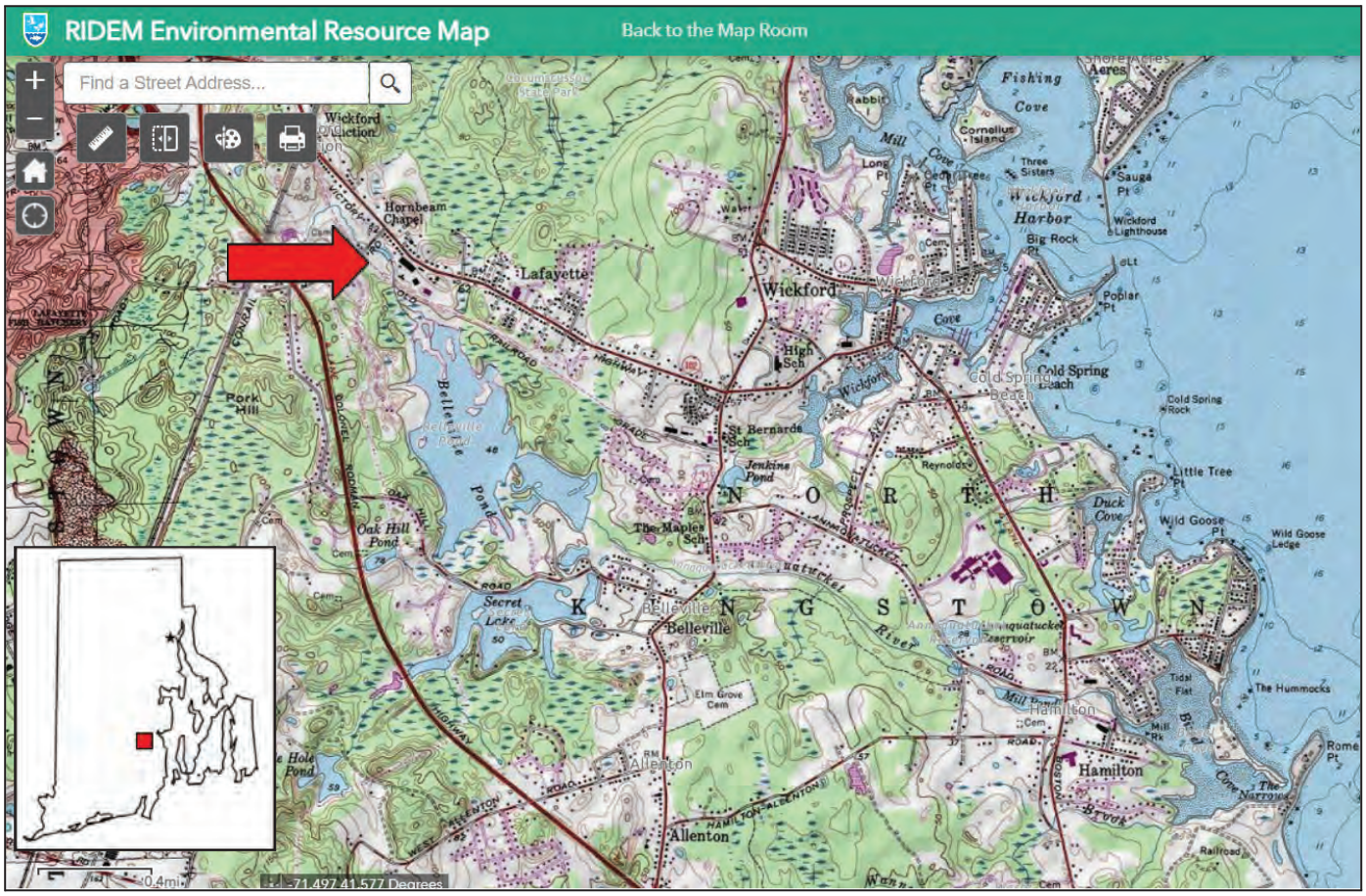


Figure 1: Locus Map featuring a USGS Topographic Map Wickford Quadrangle depicting the Annaquatucket River and the project's proximity to Narragansett Bay. Red arrow points to Rodman Mill Pond and the dam location.

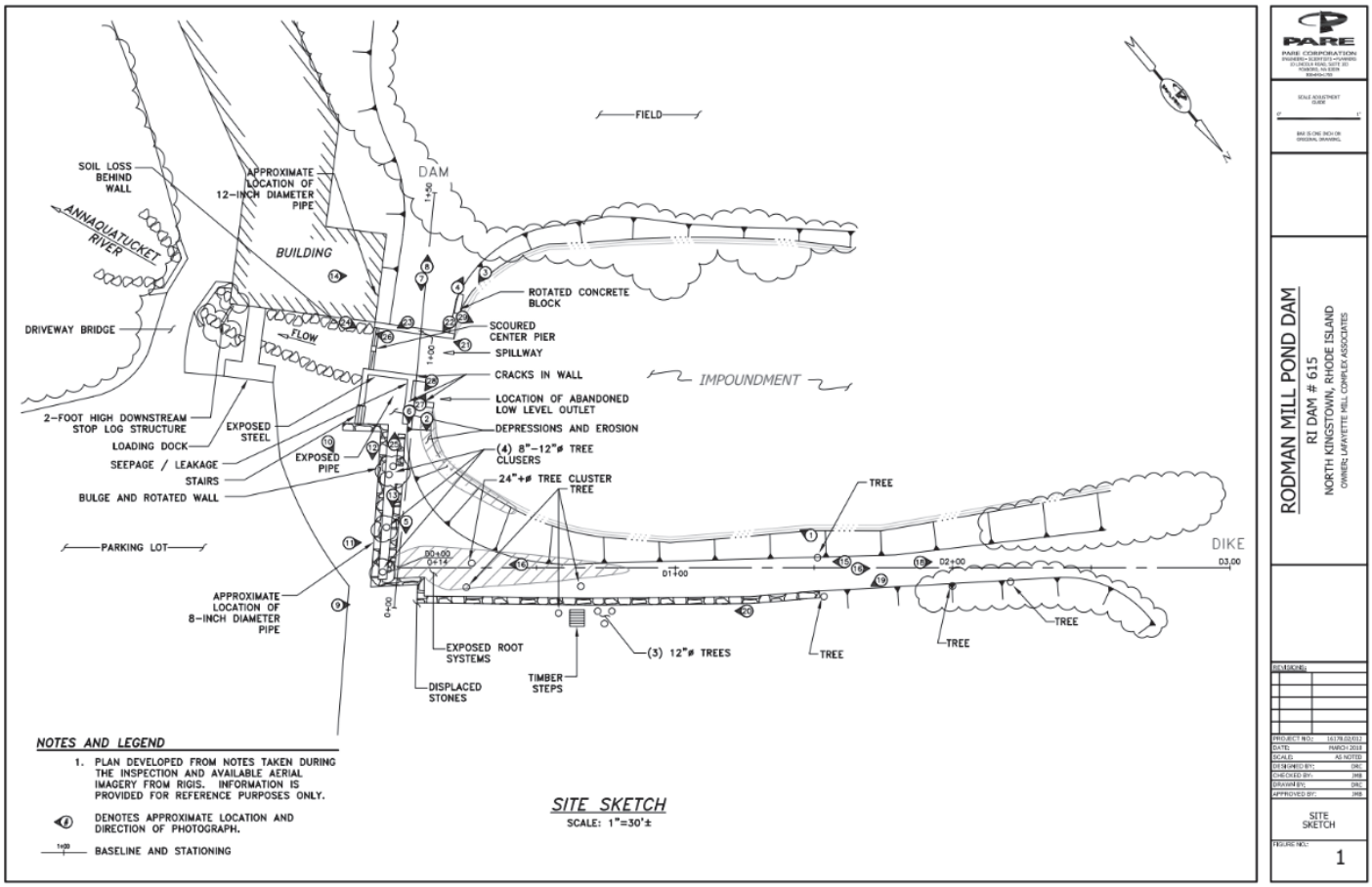


Figure 2: Site Sketch taken from "Rodman Mill Dam Visual Inspection/Evaluation Report" prepared by Pare Corporation following a March 20, 2018 dam safety site inspection. Sketch depicts the impoundment, dam and spillway structures, and infrastructure owned by Mr. Baker including a building in close proximity to the spillway and a driveway bridge that crosses the river downstream of the dam.

Figure 3: Photo taken during November 8, 2022 site meeting of the Rodman Mill Dam spillway, within the Annaquatucket River in North Kingstown. Property owner Michael Baker is located in the top right corner of the photograph describing site conditions.

Figure 4: View northwest of the impoundment looking upstream from dam structure. Photo taken November 8, 2022.

Figure 5: Spring aerial photograph (spring 2021) depicting the property owned by Condo at Lafayette Mill/Michael Baker (outlined in green). Imagery provided by Town of North Kingstown MapGeo. Red arrow points to the dam.

Figure 6: Consultation with the RI Natural Heritage Survey confirmed that the project will not impact any rare species, despite its location within a Natural Heritage Area (updated December 2022). Red arrow points to the Rodman Mill Pond impoundment.

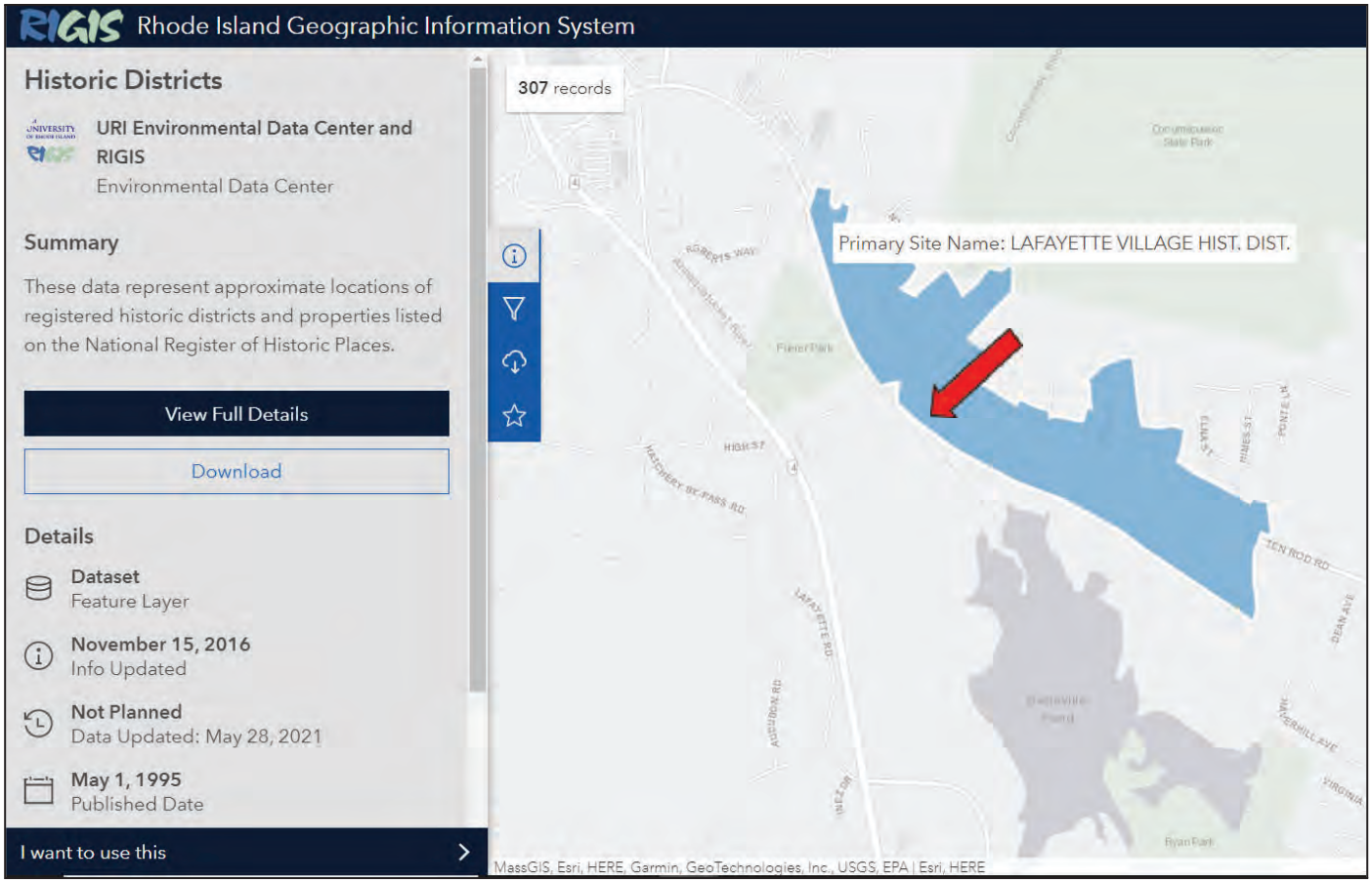


Figure 7: The property is within the Lafayette Village Historic District. Save The Bay has consulted with the state Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission and intends to facilitate coordination during permitting phases of the project.

Figure 8: Floodplain and floodways as mapped by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the Annaquatucket River. Red arrow points to the dam. Rodman Mill Dam is categorized as a high hazard dam by RIDEM's Office of Dam Safety.

Letters of Support

January 4, 2023

Dear Caitlin Chafee,

I am Michael Baker, owner of Bakeford Properties LLC and the Mill at Lafayette (Assessor's Plat 7, Lot 11 in North Kingstown), and I have given permission to Save The Bay to apply for Rhode Island Coastal and Estuary Habitat Restoration Funds to to better understand restoration options onsite, including conducting a dam removal reconnaissance study at Rodman Mill Dam. The long-term goal for this project is to provide upstream fish passage to the Annaquatucket River, increase the resilience of this river system by restoring the river and improve the water and habitat quality in the impoundment.

Sincerely,

Mike Baker
Bakeford Properties LLC
Mill at Lafayette
Owner/Manager

Save The Bay
Attn: Kate McPherson, Riverkeeper
100 Save The Bay Drive
Providence, RI 02905

March 30, 2024

Subject: Letter supporting the request for funding for a feasibility study of the removal of the Rodman Mill Dam to Enhance Climate Resiliency on the Annaquatucket River in North Kingstown, Rhode Island.

Dear Ms. McPherson,

With this letter the Land Conservancy of North Kingstown (LCNK) would like to indicate that it fully supports the Save The Bay's application for funding from the CRMC Habitat Trust Fund to conduct a feasibility study of the removal of the Rodman Mill Dam. The dam is on the Annaquatucket River, a critical part of the ecosystem in North Kingstown. The mission of the LCNK is to protect open space and natural habitat in North Kingstown, and to educate the citizens of North Kingstown about the importance of that preservation. The removal of the Rodman Mill Dam would support that mission in at least two ways.

A number of species will benefit from the enhanced habitat resulting from removal of the dam, but probably none more than our two species of river herring, the Alewife and the Blueback Herring. According to NOAA Fisheries the numbers of both species are way down in recent years. This is due in part to the fact that so much of their spawning habitat is unavailable to them because of dams like the Rodman Mill Dam. These fish are critical as forage to several local fisheries, including those of Striped Bass and Bluefish. The decline of river herring has gotten lots of public attention, as evidenced by a recent prominent article in the Providence Journal. The importance of the removal of the dam to provide access to the river herrings former spawning grounds is something which could be easily explained by signage at the former dam site.

The dam is located in an area adjacent to a major mill restoration which is easily accessible to the public. The combination of the name recognition of the herring, and the publicly available location of the dam makes this a great educational opportunity, as well as an opportunity for ecological restoration of riparian land.

The LCNK is very excited about this project, and we are happy to do whatever we can do to help it come to fruition. Thank you for all that you do to benefit North Kingstown, and the entire Narragansett Bay Watershed.

Sincerely,

Walter Berry

Walter Berry
Stewardship Co-chair
Land Conservancy of North Kingstown

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

AUTHORIZED AGENT OF LEAD ORGANIZATION

Signature **Date** **3/29/2024**

Return your completed proposal by 4:00 p.m. on **April 1, 2024** to:

Caitlin Chaffee
NBNERR
RI Dept. of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

caitlin.chaffee@dem.ri.gov

Applicants are required to submit one (1) signed hard copy of the proposal form and one (1) electronic copy in Adobe PDF format. **Please submit electronic copy as a **SINGLE PDF FILE** containing all application materials.**

Contact Caitlin Chaffee at **401-222-4700 xt. 277-4417** with any questions.

Rhode Island TU
203 Arcadia Road
Hope Valley, Rhode Island 02832

March 28, 2024

Caitlin Chaffee, Reserve Manager
Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
RI Dept. of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

Dear Ms. Chaffee

The Rhode Island Chapter of Trout Unlimited is in full support of Save The Bay's application for the Rhode Island Coastal and Estuary Habitat Restoration Fund grant to conduct a reconnaissance and dam removal assessment at the Rodman Mill Dam, and the Annaquatucket River in North Kingston, at the Lafayette Mill Complex to restore ecological resilience and enhance community resilience.

This applications, and the resulting deliverables, are in direct parallel to our **Vision:** *To ensure that the habitats for cold water and estuary fish thrive in Rhode Island for future generations,* and accomplish our **Mission**: *To bring together diverse interests to conserve, protect, restore, and sustain the cold water fisheries and their watersheds in Rhode Island through collaborative, educational, and environmental activities so our children can experience the joy of wild and native trout .*

The first step to any complex river restoration project is reconnaissance and assessment. Our chapter is very familiar with the site and has worked with property owner Michael Baker to apply for grant funding in the past to get this project started. We support Save the Bay's efforts to move this project forward.

Removal of this high hazard dam, which is considered to be in poor condition, will remove a probable threat to human health and property. Restoration of natural floodplain areas above the spillway will create a more resilient river corridor. Removal of this dam will also restore over 2 miles of fish habitat to the Annaquatucket River for both native cold-water species as well as anadromous fish. With existing fish ladders positioned on dams downstream, this project has the potential to open the watershed to full restoration for anadromous fish.

The Rhode Island Chapter of Trout Unlimited fully supports Save The Bay's proposal for funding from the Rhode Island Coastal and Estuary Habitat Restoration Fund grant to explore restoring river continuity and improve resiliency of the Annaquatucket River Watershed. We look forward to continuing our work with them on restoration and resiliency efforts.

Thank you for the generosity of your time,

Glenn

Glenn Place
President
Rhode Island Chapter TU225
1-401-225-7712
TU225President@gmail.com

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