

*Free-Flowing Pennsylvania I: Project Number 4100021075
American Rivers, Final Report March 2007*

Project Title: Alameda Park dam removal

Project Location Sullivan Run, Butler PA, Butler Co.

Latitude 40.878320 Longitude -79.925591

Dam removed Alameda Park dam, DEP No. 10-007

Date of removal Expected in 2007

Linear feet restored 528 feet riparian habitat, 264 feet instream habitat

Stream miles opened 2.2 miles

Species to benefit warmwater species

Project Costs:

Growing Greener contribution \$13,460

Federal contribution \$0

State contribution \$131,800 from PA DCNR

Private contribution \$0

Project Overview:

The dam was originally built to provide water to a swimming pool in Alameda Park in 1900. The dam has deteriorated and is no longer used for its original purpose. It is a liability to the Butler County Parks and Recreation Department, who owns the dam. American Rivers provided Growing Greener funding to the design/engineering phase of this project. Butler County received an award from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to remove the dam & swimming pool infrastructure and stabilize the streambanks. The removal will restore parkland, remove a safety hazard, improve water quality and open fish passage on Sullivan Run.



Photo 1. Alameda Park dam (10-007) prior to removal, winter 2005.



Photo 2. Sullivan Run, reference reach for Alameda Park dam removal. Winter 2005.



Alameda park dam to be removed next year

Sunday, December 24, 2006

By Karen Kane, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Faced with a state edict to either fix it or tear it down, Butler County commissioners have hired a local engineering firm to plan the demolition of a 100-year-old dam in Alameda Park.

Also primed for the wrecking ball are the last vestiges of the old swimming pool, one of the major attractions of Alameda Park when it was an amusement park many decades ago.

The pool hasn't been used for decades, and the dam is deteriorating and nonfunctional.

The commissioners voted unanimously Wednesday to hire Beran & Associates, of Marion, to draw up the engineering specifications for the project, which also will include Sullivan Run stream bank restoration below the dam.

The work is to begin in late 2007, said county Parks and Recreation Director Gary Pinkerton.

The dam was built about a century ago on Sullivan Run in the lower end of the Butler Township park, as a way to divert water to a park swimming pool.

The banks of the 8-foot-wide Sullivan Creek are deteriorating, which concerns county officials. "We're losing park property every year," Mr. Pinkerton said.

The county secured a \$131,800 grant from the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to stabilize the banks with a variety of techniques, including plantings, and to remove the dam and the crumbling remains of the swimming pool walls.

Mr. Pinkerton asked commissioners this month for approval to proceed with the project, but commissioners delayed action, asking Mr. Pinkerton and Solicitor Julie Graham to meet with the state Department of Environmental Resources to discuss the safety of removing the dam.

Ms. Graham told commissioners at last week's public meeting that the DEP has no concerns about removing the dam but is concerned about leaving it as it is.

"It comes down to this, we either need to fix it or remove it," Ms. Graham explained.

As part of the engineering for the project, the stream will be assessed for what mechanisms could be employed to slow water flow during a big storm.

The grant is expected to fully cover the costs of the project, Mr. Pinkerton said.

Beran was hired for \$17,890 to do the engineering work. Construction work will be put out for bid next year.

(Karen Kane can be reached at kkane@post-gazette.com or 724-772-9180.)

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