



The City of Westfield

Engineering Department

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Public Comment Period Open for the Powdermill Brook Dam Draft Rehabilitation Plan.

Westfield - The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) invites comments from local residents and other interested individuals to review the draft rehabilitation plan for the **Powdermill Brook Dam**. This is an earthen embankment located in Westfield, Massachusetts. The dam was designed by NRCS and constructed in 1965 as a high hazard class dam. The dam has provided flood protection for over 58 years for downstream property and infrastructure. However, the dam does not meet current safety and performance criteria.

Hard copies of the plan are available at Westfield City Hall, Room 311 at 59 Court Street in Westfield. The electronic version of the plan is available for download from the NRCS website at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/watershed-rehabilitation/massachusetts/dam-rehabilitation-massachusetts> through 11/20/2023.

NRCS built the original structure in cooperation with City of Westfield and the Hampden Hampshire Conservation District (referred to as sponsors). The agency then worked with these sponsors to develop the plan for the rehabilitation project.

NRCS Small Watershed Rehabilitation funds will cover \$5,599,800 of the estimated \$7,734,800 in total project installation costs. The remaining \$2,135,000 will come from non-federal funds.

Current levels of flood protection downstream will be retained and the rehabilitated structure will have a new life expectancy of 75 years from the construction completion date.

Public comments should be sent to Daniel Wright, State Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, 451 West Street, Amherst, MA 01002 by November 20, 2023. Specific inquiries about this rehabilitation plan can be referred to Joe Higgins, NRCS Civil Engineer, by phone at (774) 345-7027 or by email at Joseph.Higgins@usda.gov.

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