

West Branch Farmington River Habitat Restoration Project

Location: West River Road,
Barkhamsted, Public property

Implemented: September 2002

Partners:

CT DEP Inland Fisheries Division
CT DEP Water Management Bureau
Farmington River Coordinating Committee
Town of Barkhamsted

Cost: \$20,000

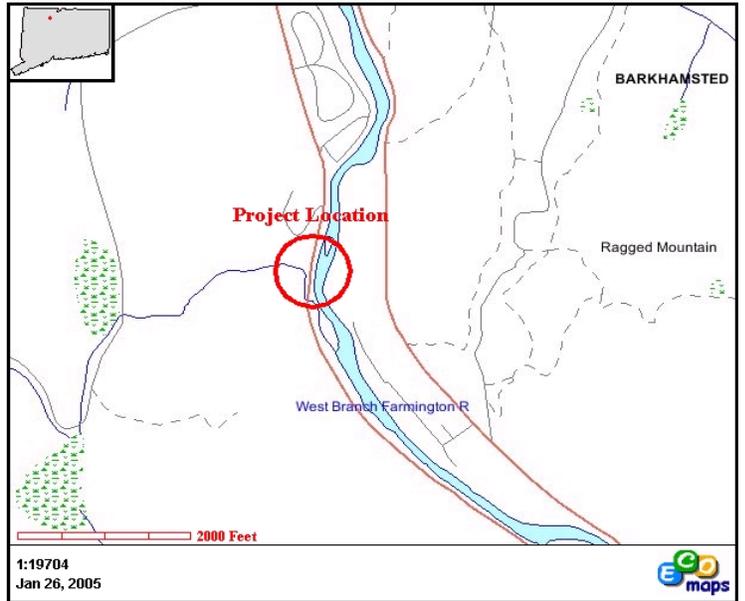
Engineering and Design:

Milone & MacBroom, Inc.

Project Manager/Contact Information:

Don Mysling, DEP Inland Fisheries Division: 860-567-8998

Email: donald.mysling@po.state.ct.us



Problem/Need

West River Road runs parallel to the West Branch Farmington River over a distance of approximately 5 miles and provides ready access to the river for a variety of recreational activities. Considerable pedestrian use combined with stormwater runoff from the roadway have accelerated streambank instability, erosion and sedimentation in a number of areas along the river. Of particular concern was a 450-ft.length of bank immediately north of the DEP Pleasant Valley Field Office where streambank collapse was compromising the integrity of West River Road. The project was designed to stabilize the streambank, stem the introduction of sediment into the river and restore and enhance instream fish habitats.

Restoration Actions

The project site is within a section of the West Branch Farmington River that has received Wild and Scenic status from the National Park Service. The stabilization project relied heavily on soil bioengineering practices in accordance with National Park Service guidelines that required the work to blend in with the natural setting along the river. The streambank was stabilized with a large boulder toe, backfilled with organic soil, and then seeded with a quick growing grass mix. Biodegradable erosion control fabric protected the fill slope until the seed germinated. Live stake plantings were later installed. Three root wads, several randomly placed boulders, and a hinge-felled tree were installed to enhance instream fish habitats.



Bank instability prior to restoration efforts.

Stabilization of streambank toe using boulders.



Stabilization of top of bank adjacent to West River Road.



**Hinge-felled tree
placed in Farmington
River to provide
overhead fish cover.**



**View of
streambank
stabilization
post restoration.**