

A Joint Resolution on behalf of the river renewal and restoration of native fisheries.

The joint Councils of Gorham, Windham, Westbrook hereby confer that:

1. The Presumpscot River is a joint and valued regional resource of the people of the State of Maine and the citizenry of the abutting towns and cities of Falmouth, Gorham, Portland, Westbrook and Windham in the County of Cumberland.
2. The five-mile section between Mallison Falls and Saccarappa Falls is unique and remarkable in the Greater Portland metropolitan area, due to being nearly entirely undeveloped. With few structures visible and little road noise it bears a tranquility of wildness all the while being in the most populated section of the state.
3. There is pronounced historic value in this five-mile stretch, including the unique attributes of remnants of the Cumberland and Oxford canal running along the Gorham Side and the Mountain Division rail and trail on the Windham side, as well as historic stone arched culverts.
4. Historical records demonstrate that the Presumpscot River had an abundant native fishery of American shad, Atlantic salmon, alewives, blue back herring, striped bass, brook trout as well as both landlocked and sea run Atlantic salmon.
5. The removal of the dams at Saccarappa and establishment of effective and robust fish passage will enhance the rivers fishery and thus entire ecosystem, allowing the river to be far better habitat for, and resulting in a growth of the population of river mammals and birds of prey such as eagles osprey, hawks and herons.
6. With the removal of the impoundments there will be a return to a river condition not seen for 250 years, allowing for enhanced recreational paddling, fishing and birding, and a far greater scenic value with long stretches of flat water, enhanced rapids and falls, and the return of cliffs along sections of the river corridor.
7. Where the river had a history of flooding this will be greatly mitigated by the lowering of the water level from its artificially high levels due to the dams.
8. The towns of Gorham and Windham and the City of Westbrook will benefit from the enhanced recreational use and the accompanying potential for economic growth to the villages of South Windham and Little Falls and downtown Westbrook.
9. The agreement between Sappi, the Maine Department of Marine Resources, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Friends of the Presumpscot River and Conservation Law Foundation is an historic and crucial step toward the on-going restoration of Presumpscot River and it's native fishery.

We hereby resolve that:

The continued restoration of the Presumpscot River and it's native fishery warrant this section of the river be officially designated a ***Presumpscot Historic and Natural River Corridor***.