

Beaver Creek, Washington County, MD (East of Hagerstown)



An old gristmill dam had caused the water to become flat. Sediment had accumulated up stream of the gristmill dam. Stream flow was slow with minimal fish habitat. The design consisted of rock vanes and "J" hooks to establish a natural stream channel.

What was done and why?

The section of stream to be restored was 900 feet, from the influence of Black Rock Creek to the remains of the gristmill dam. The design was to create pools and riffles and also provide fish habitat by installing large rocks and woody debris. Six rock vanes and two "J" hooks were installed. This design also provided sediment transport, which was not occurring due to the gristmill dam. Trees, shrubs and live stakes were planted after construction.

Who was involved?

This project was initiated by the Beaver Creek Watershed Association and coordinated by Washington County Soil Conservation District. Dr. Steve Jones of Environmental Services, Inc. was the project designer. Meadville Land Services, Inc. installed all structures and applied final grading. Antietam Fly Anglers, Federation of Fly Fishers, Trout Unlimited and local citizens and students were all involved in the planting of trees and shrubs.

Where can I see the results of this project?

Take exit 35, Route 66 South off Interstate 70. Travel approximately 1/2 mile, turn right onto Beaver Creek Road and drive about 1/4 mile. Turn right onto Beaver Creek Church Road and drive 1/2 mile. The project is upstream of bridge.

To see pictures of project go to the websites of [Antietam Fly Anglers](#) or [Beaver Creek Watershed Association](#)

Why is this a model project?

This project provides natural stream channel design, fish habitat and sediment transport. The planting of vegetation to stabilize stream banks used volunteers of all ages including high schools, local fishing clubs and watershed organizations and was an educational tool, which brought people together to achieve a common goal.

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