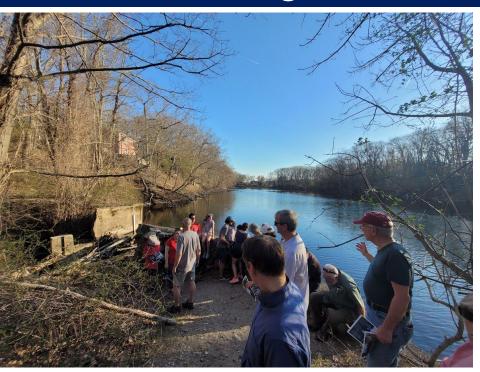
Eagle Dam Survey Results





Lisa Kumpf, River Science and Restoration Program Manager Robert Kearns, Climate Resilience Specialist

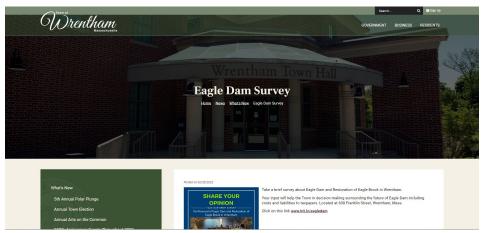


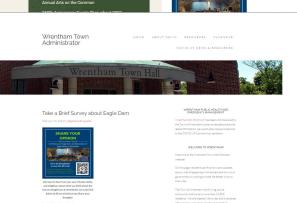


















Wrentham Town Administrator

ABOUT KEVIN

RESOURCES CALENDAR

COVID-19 NEWS & RESOURCES



Take a Brief Survey about Eagle Dam

February 23, 2023 by Stephanie Duquette



We want to hear from you, your friends, family, and neighbors about what you think about the future of Eagle Dam in Wrentham. Go to the link below to fill out a brief survey. Share your thoughts!

bit.ly/eagledam

WRENTHAM PUBLIC HEALTH AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

WrenthamCOVID19.com has been commissioned by the Town of Wrentham to ensure residents have the latest information, news and resources as it pertains to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

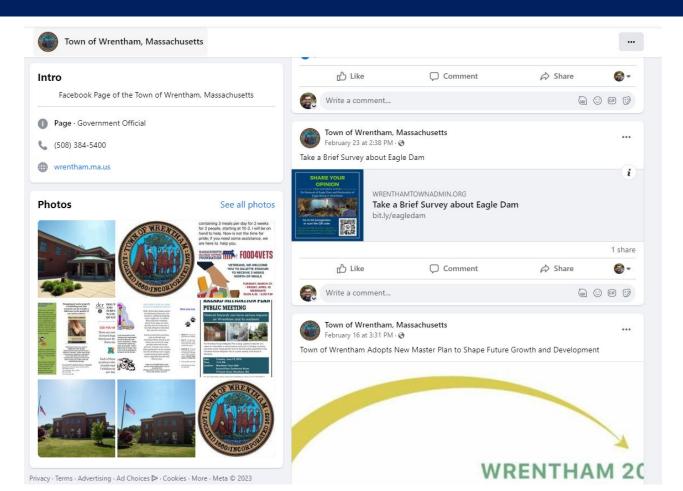
WELCOME TO WRENTHAM!

Welcome to the Wrentham Town Administrator website!

On this page, residents can find news and updates about what's happening in Wrentham and how town government is working to make life better in town, every day.

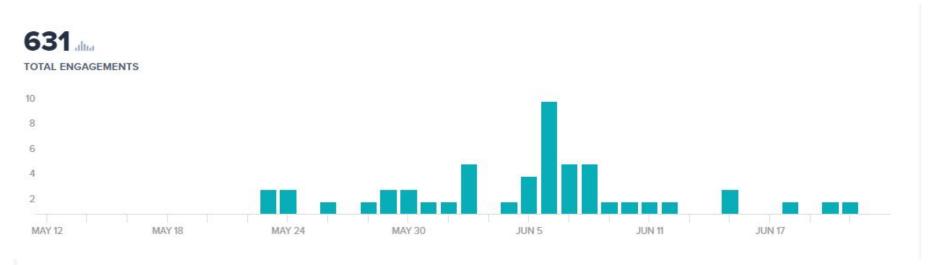
The Town of Wrentham is a thriving, active community and home to more than 11,500 residents. We are blessed with a vast and diverse set of businesses, including Lake Pearl Wrentham





Bit.ly Link Results over 630 clicks





bit.ly/eagledam

631 clicks

Survey Distribution



- Main webpage News section
- News & Announcements newsletter
- Town social media (FB & Twitter)
- CRWA Social Media
- CRWA Newsletters
- Boards and committees
- Library
- Postal Service
- Crosby's (Coffee Shop)
- Electric Signboard Town Hall and 1 W. Wrentham Fire Station
- CRWA Wrentham List
- Community Access TV
- Wrentham Lakes Associations
- May Town Meeting Announcement and Flyers
- Abutters posted survey link on tree at dam
- Add additional outreach via high school teacher and individuals

Survey Responses



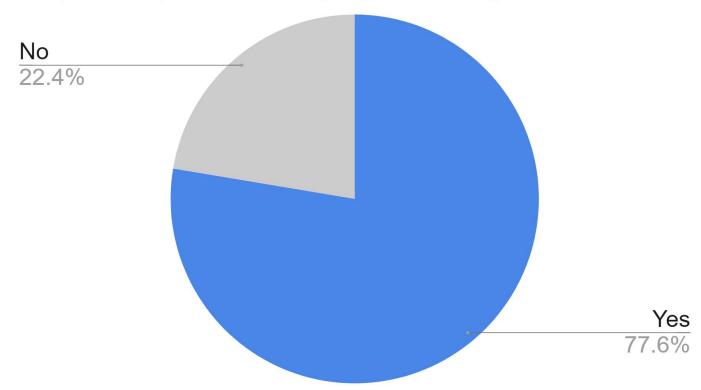
- 76 Wrentham Residents Responded
- 3 repeat people were filtered to one response per person
- 85 total respondents
- 3 Franklin Residents
- 5 Norfolk Residents
- 1 other resident (South Carolina)
- 5 respondents were direct abutters (~6%)



Wrentham Residents



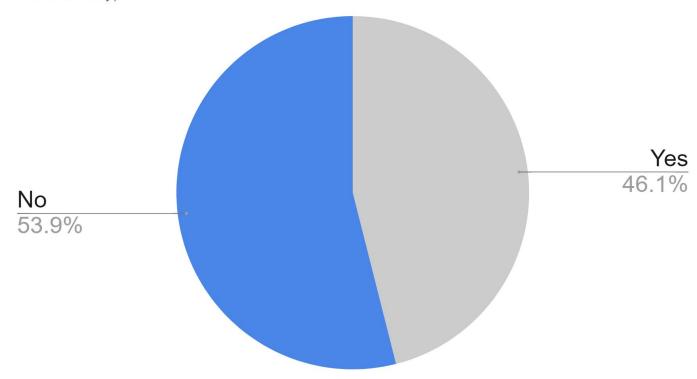
Have you visited Eagle Dam in Wrentham? (Wrentham residents only)



Wrentham Residents



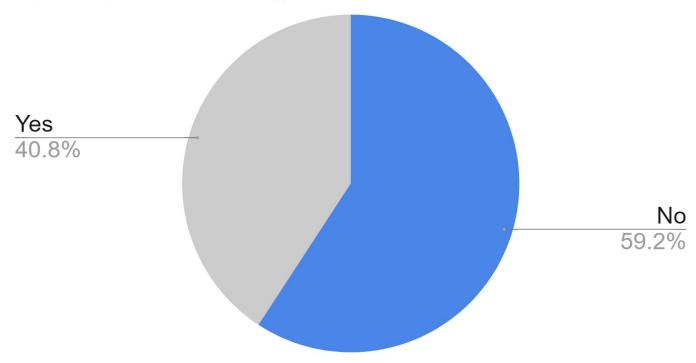
Have you recreated at Eagle Dam or Old Mill Pond behind it? (Not Lake Pearl) (Wrentham residents only)



Wrentham Residents



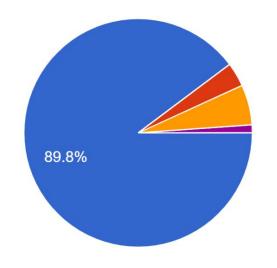
The Town does not currently have the funds to reconstruct, operate and maintain Eagle Dam. Would you be willing to raise taxes or fees in the Town of Wrentham to pay for reconstruction of Eagle Dam? (Wrentham residents only)





What town do you live in?

88 responses

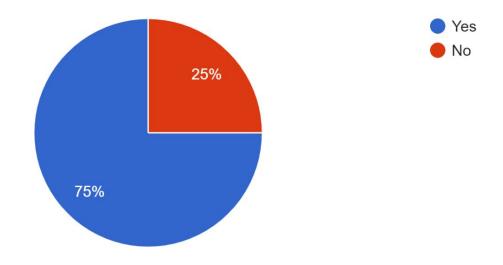






Have you visited Eagle Dam in Wrentham?

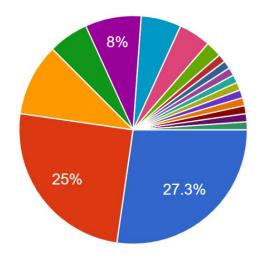
88 responses





How often do you visit Eagle Dam?

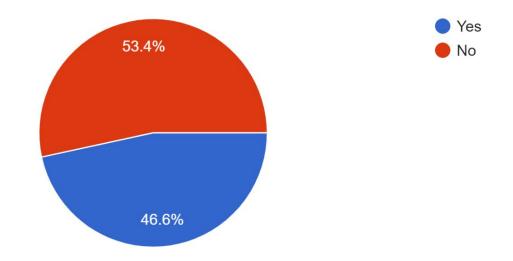
88 responses



- Never have visted
- Less than once a year
- Annually
- More than once per month
- Monthly
- Weekly
- More than once a week
- Daily
- ▲ 1/3 **▼**

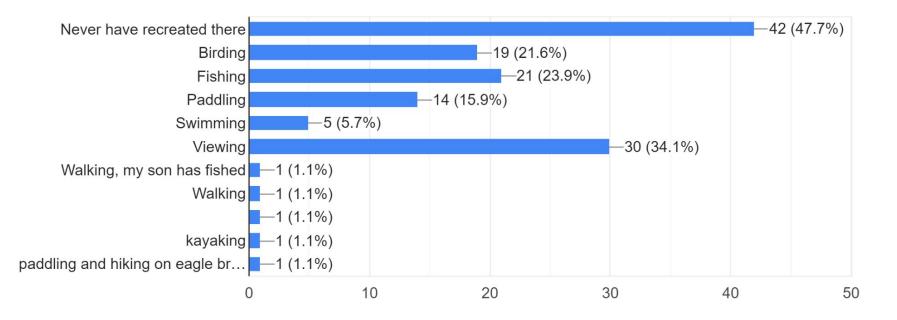


Have you recreated at Eagle Dam or Old Mill Pond behind it? (Not Lake Pearl) 88 responses





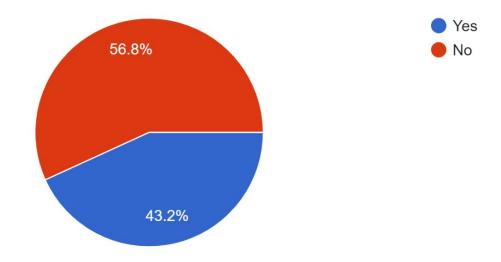
If so what types of recreation have you done at Eagle Dam/Old Mill Pond?
88 responses





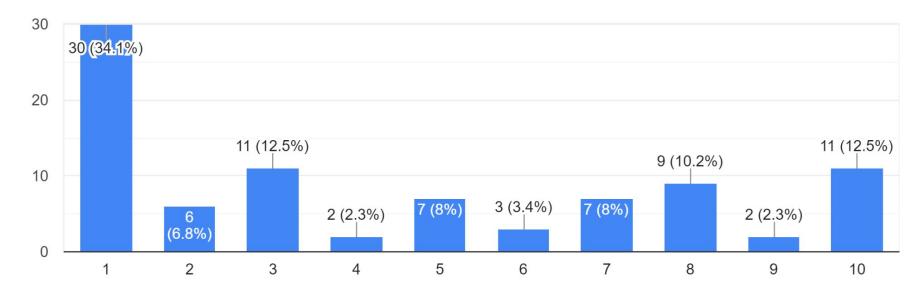
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88 responses





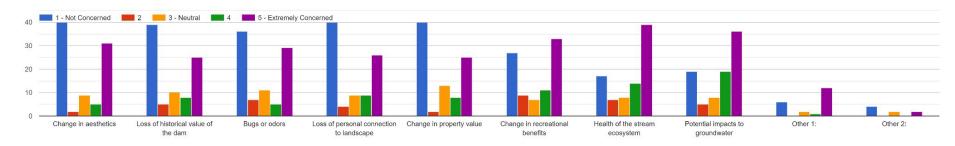
How concerned are you about flooding impacts to state Route 140? 88 responses



1 not concerned to 10 very concerned



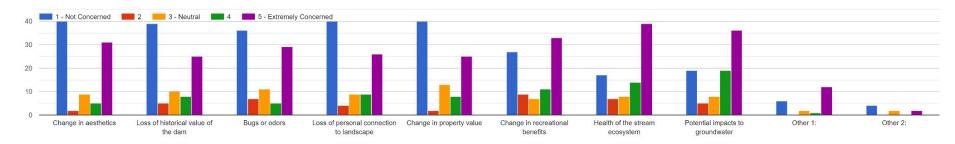
Listed below are some of the common concerns around dam removal. If dam removal were to happen, the size of the Eagle Brook impoundment would likely be reduced, and a more natural stream channel and/or wetland floodplain would likely be established. Please rank your concern about the following on a scale of 1 - 5.



- Topics ranked from most concerned to least concerned
 - Change in aesthetics
 - Loss of historical value of the dam
 - Health of the stream ecosystem
 - Potential impacts to groundwater
 - Change in recreational benefits
 - Change in property value
 - Loss of personal connection to landscape
 - Bugs or odors



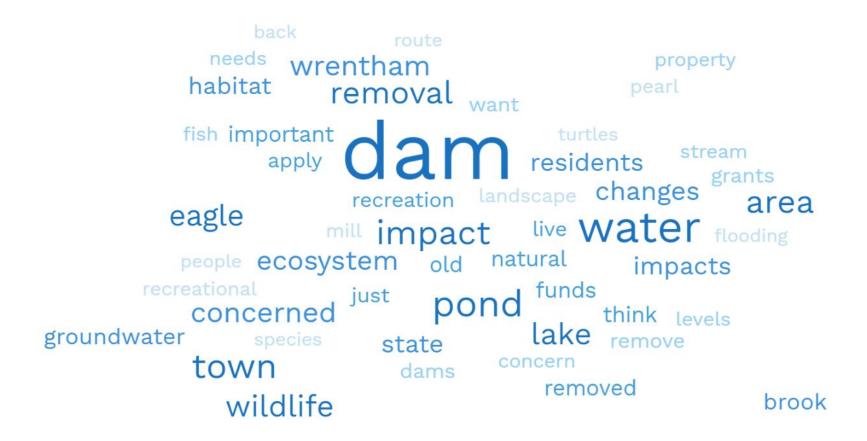
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 Overall, these findings highlight the utmost concern for the aesthetics, historical value, and environmental impacts.
 Recreational benefits are also of notable concern, while personal connection, property value, bugs, and odors are considered to be of relatively lower concern to the respondents.

Word Cloud from Text Responses





Full Results Summarized Community Concerns Ranked By Prevalence in "other" comments



- 1. Environmental Impact and Habitat Preservation:
 - a. Removal of habitat for existing animals and plants.
 - b. Natural ecology and habitat.
 - c. Improvement for fish passage and ecological benefits such as reduced runoff.
 - d. Impact on the sensitive ecosystem of the pond and the need for preservation.
 - e. Concern about negative impacts on wildlife, including species like eagles, blue herons, fish, salamanders, and turtles.
 - f. The significance of the habitat and the need to preserve it.
- 2. Financial Concerns and Subsidization:
 - a. Concern that only a few residents benefit from the replacement or rehabilitation of the Eagle dam and the rest of the town should not have to subsidize the cost.
- 3. Infrastructure and Roadway Impacts:
 - a. Concerns about the potential impacts on water levels, marine life, and recreational activities in Mirror Lake if the dam is removed.
 - b. Concerns about potential impacts on the roadway, specifically Route 140.
- 4. Red Dam and Back Pressure:
 - a. Concern about the impact of the Eagle pond removal on the red dam and the back pressure it creates.
- 5. Bugs, Smell, and Negative Impacts:
 - a. Concerns about bugs and smells that may occur as a result of the dam removal.
 - b. Concerns about negative impacts associated with beavers moving in.
- 6. Water Supply:
 - a. Concerns about the loss of well water.
 - b. Concerns about the future water supply in 2030, 2040, and 2050.

Full Results: Summary of explanation of concerns ranked as a 4 or 5



- 1. Environmental Impact and Wildlife Concerns:
 - a. Negative impact on wildlife, including various species like turtles, blue herons, eagles, muskrats, and fish.
 - b. Potential negative effects on the fragile ecosystem and habitat.
 - c. Concerns about odors, mosquitoes, and insects resulting from changes to the landscape.
 - d. Impact on groundwater quality and preservation.
 - e. Preservation of natural ecosystems and restoration efforts.
- 2. Recreational and Aesthetic Value:
 - a. Importance of recreational spaces for well-being, health, and community aesthetics.
 - b. Excitement about the potential for new recreation opportunities.
 - c. Desire to maintain access for activities like kayaking, canoeing, fishing, and enjoying water views.
- 3. Property Values and Financial Considerations:
 - a. Concerns about potential impacts on property values.
 - b. Questions about the use of taxes for improving canoe/kayak trails and recreational amenities.
 - c. Need for grants and funding for dam repairs or replacements.
 - Historical and Cultural Significance:

4.

- a. Recognition of the dam's historical value and its role in the landscape for over 200 years.
- b. Desire to preserve the dam as a unique feature and part of the town's heritage.
- 5. Concerns about Changes and Unknown Consequences:
 - a. Uncertainty about the potential impacts on the ecosystem, groundwater, and property values.
 - b. Desire for more information and extensive study before making any decisions.
 - c. Concerns about the impact on wells, water supply, and the overall landscape.
- 6. Personal Experiences and Sentimental Value:
 - a. Personal attachment to the dam and its significance in growing up or as a resident who values the outdoors.
 - b. Appreciation for the beauty, tranquility, and wildlife sightings associated with the pond.

Full Results: Additional Comments summarized



Dam Removal and Restoration:

- a. Concerns about the dam's practical purpose and high cost of restoration.
- b. Support for dam removal and restoring the area to a more natural state.
- c. Potential risks of dam failure and the impact on residents and infrastructure.
- d. Suggestions for creating recreational spaces and benefits.
- e. Concerns about trespassing on town water property.

2. Funding and Grants:

1.

- a. Suggestions to explore funding options, apply for grants, or seek state/federal assistance.
- b. Questions about the availability of grants or funding opportunities.
- c. Reference to successful grant-funded dam projects in other towns.

3. Ecological Impact and Wildlife:

- a. Concerns about the impact on wildlife, biodiversity, and local water quality.
- b. Support for dam removal to enhance the ecosystem and water supply.
- c. Suggestions for taking sediment samples and ensuring no harmful chemicals are transmitted downstream.
- d. Mention of the partnership with CRWA (Charles River Watershed Association) and their expertise in river health.

4. Tax and Financial Considerations:

- a. Opposition to raising taxes or fees for dam repair or maintenance.
- b. Requests to secure funding and subsidies for dam repair.
- c. Concerns about the cost of repairing and maintaining the dam only benefiting specific residents.

5. Alternative Options and Hydroelectricity:

- a. Suggestions for alternative options, such as small hydroelectric wheels to generate electricity.
- b. References to other fishing spots or ponds as alternatives to the impoundment area.

6. Community Engagement and Information:

- a. Requests for advance notice of work and water release dates if the dam is removed.
- b. Suggestions for community involvement, volunteering, or fundraising.

7. Criticism and Skepticism:

- a. Doubts about the objectivity of the survey and concerns about a biased outcome.
- b. Skepticism towards the CRWA and their intentions.
- c. Request for honest and unbiased assessment.