

FREE THE ROYAL

Project Budget

ROYAL RIVER, MAINE (JERRY MONKMAN, ECOPHOTOGRAPHY)

We are raising funds for the following comprehensive project budget, which includes the Bridge St. and East Elm St. dam removals as well as recreation and public safety enhancements adjacent to the Royal River. Gifts to the **Free the Royal River: Once and For All** campaign will support all aspects of this project.

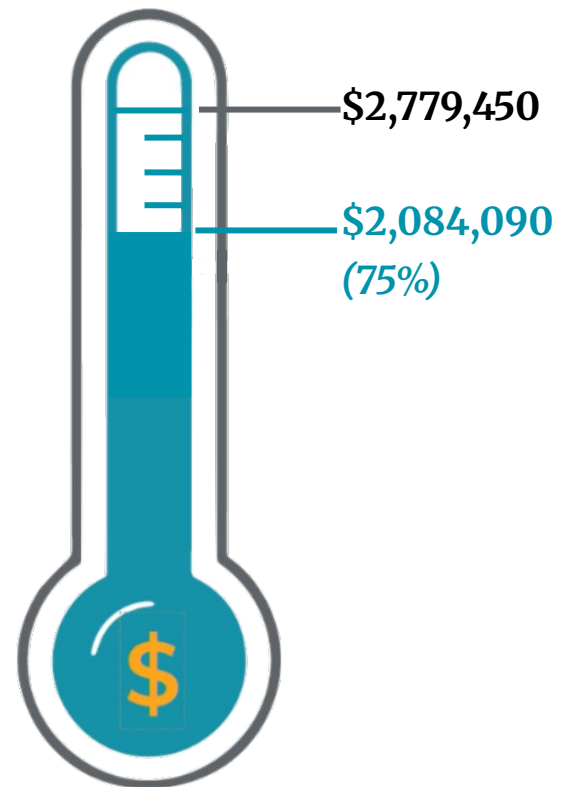
Expenses

Bridge Street Dam Removed (fully funded)	\$ 1,501,000
East Elm Street Dam Removal	\$ 999,100
Recreation & public safety enhancements	\$ 279,350
Total Expenses	\$ 2,779,450

Funding

American Rivers	\$ 280,000
ME Natural Resource Conservation Program	\$ 1,000,000
Anonymous Private Foundation	\$ 200,000
The Nature Conservancy	\$ 23,000
Individual Contributions	\$ 161,090
<i>Pending (Grants)</i>	\$ 120,000
<i>Pending (Local Donor Match)</i>	\$ 300,000
Total Funding	\$ 2,084,090

Amount left to raise	\$ 695,360
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Support the vision

Through generous public and private support, the Bridge Street Dam will be removed this year – but we still need your help.

To give, please contact:

Liz Goldberg, Director of Philanthropy
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Debbie Landry, Royal River Alliance, Chair
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ROYAL RIVER, MAINE (JERRY MONKMAN, ECOPHOTOGRAPHY)

FREE THE ROYAL – once and for all.

Local and national partners working together to restore the Royal River

The health and resilience of the **Royal River** is critical to the health and resilience of Casco Bay, the ecological and economic heart of southern Maine. The Royal River flows from Sabbathday Lake in New Gloucester to Casco Bay in Yarmouth and provides vital spawning habitat for sea-run fish, including alewife, sea lamprey, shad, brook trout, and Atlantic and Shortnose Sturgeon. Its headwaters sustain cold-water habitat critical to native brook trout populations.

Today, a remarkable transformation of the Royal River is underway. After more than 20 years of determined work by residents and conservation partners, the Yarmouth Town Council voted unanimously in January 2025 to remove the Town-owned Bridge Street and East Elm Street dams. State and federal agencies, conservation organizations, and Yarmouth residents are united in support of this project.

Removal of the Bridge Street Dam is now underway and planning, engineering, permitting, and fundraising are also moving forward for the removal of the East Elm Street Dam.

Imagine a free-flowing river in the heart of Yarmouth for the first time in over 200 years...

The removal of these two dams will not only restore the river through Yarmouth—it will unlock opportunities for restoration throughout the watershed. With these dams removed, a future priority will be establishing fish passage at Runaround Pond in Durham, reconnecting native brook trout and alewife spawning habitat and supporting tens of thousands of fish.

Together, we can eliminate costly and unnecessary dams, improve climate resiliency, restore migratory fish passage, enhance cold-water habitat, and maintain and improve recreation throughout the seven Maine towns within this 141-square-mile watershed.

Why dam removal matters

→ Restores fish habitat

Removing the dams restores fish migration from Casco Bay and supports wildlife that need fish for food.

→ Improves water quality

A free-flowing river lowers water temperatures and increases dissolved oxygen – key for aquatic health.

→ Boosts the economy

Dam removal enhances sport fishing, supports recovery of commercial fisheries, and eliminates dam maintenance costs for the town.

→ Expands public access

New boat launches throughout the watershed will provide access for kayaking, canoeing, and paddleboarding.

→ Supports climate resilience

Dam removal strengthens the ecosystem's resilience to extreme flooding and removes the long-term risk of flooding caused by dam failure.

→ Minimal environmental risk

Sediment testing shows very little accumulation behind the dams and negligible levels of pollutants.

Support the vision

Our coalition is in the process of securing key funding for this project. We invite you to join us as we raise \$500,000 in 2026 to match a commitment from a private funder.

Your investment in the Royal River watershed is an investment in the wellbeing of our communities today and for generations to come.

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