



U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE · DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Joint News Release



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SEWER LINE RELOCATION REMOVES RIVER OBSTRUCTION AND IMPROVES HABITAT FOR ENDANGERED FISH

Roanoke, VA: The City of Roanoke, Western Virginia Water Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers jointly announced today that construction has begun in Roanoke, Va., on a \$900,000 project to replace a sewer line crossing on the Roanoke River between Wasena Park and the old Hannah Court trailer park. When completed later this spring, the project will help to expand the habitat for an endangered fish and open the river to recreational boaters while maintaining sanitary sewer line capacity during peak wet weather events.

“Our Federal agencies and local partners have worked very hard together to accomplish an environmentally positive action,” said Phil Payonk with the US Army Corps of Engineers. “The removal is a fine example of our agencies working together as stewards of public resources. The removal benefits the Roanoke River Flood Reduction Project and the Roanoke River.”

“This project contributes tremendously toward our recovery efforts for the endangered Roanoke logperch,” said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Northeast Regional Director Marvin E. Moriarty. “The dam removal opens new habitat to the logperch and other fish species that is unavailable.”

“This will open 185 miles of river and stream habitat for fish and wildlife.” said Moriarty.

The ability to remove the Wasena sewer line crossing is the result of the replacement and renovation of the old sewer line interceptor line that ran along the Roanoke River, crossing it at several locations. During peak wet weather events, flow can be diverted to this line to reduce the chance of sewer

overflows. However, this piece of sewer line pipe, which has been in place since the 1940s, created a virtual dam that became an impediment for fish and recreation. The relocation of this line below the river bed removes the current river obstruction while providing necessary capacity during peak wet weather events.

Before this project began, fish could not swim upstream and rarely made it downstream due to the pipe crossing. In addition, boaters had to pull over to the side of the river and do a portage around the dam.

The project is collaboratively funded by the Western Virginia Water Authority, City of Roanoke, US Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FishAmerica Foundation, and Orvis. Haren Construction Company of Etowah, Tenn., will demolish the old crossing and install a new crossing below the river bed beginning this week.

The Western Virginia Water Authority protects and manages essential water resources through the delivery of quality water and wastewater service to our customers. For more information, visit www.westernvawater.org.

The Wilmington District of the US Army Corps of Engineers serves the Armed Forces and the nation by providing engineering and planning services to the South Atlantic Region, particularly in North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina, and Georgia. Visit <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/>.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.

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