

Dam interesting? See removal online

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MERRIMACK – Enough with the Facebook thing: Go watch the dam!

Thanks to a camera installed Tuesday by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, anyone on the Internet can watch the removal of the Merrimack Village Dam, just behind the town's central fire station. The so-called "dam cam" captures live photos of the project every 10 minutes with time-lapse film. Using technology provided by [EarthCam, Inc.](#), the photos can then be viewed on NOAA's river restoration center Web site.

Viewers will be able to check out the process from now until the estimated wrap-up date of Aug. 30. The camera and its Internet feed will stay on for five months after that, so people can monitor the river's recovery.

Preparations for the dam's removal began last week. This week's activity includes building a ramp and platform for heavy equipment to be hauled in.

Demolition of the dam's apron is scheduled to start Thursday, but heavy rains in the forecast may delay some of those actions. The dam, owned by Pennichuck Corp., is being removed because it has not been in use for years and because of the cost to repair and maintain the historic structure.

Supporters say its removal will open 14 miles of the Souhegan River, from the Merrimack River to a pair of dams in Milford, to improve river ecology, help migrating fish and encourage recreational opportunities.

History buffs, however, have argued the dam's heritage should have carried more weight in the decision about its future.

It was built as a stone dam in the early 1900s, according to state dam bureau records, and covered in concrete in the 1930s.

