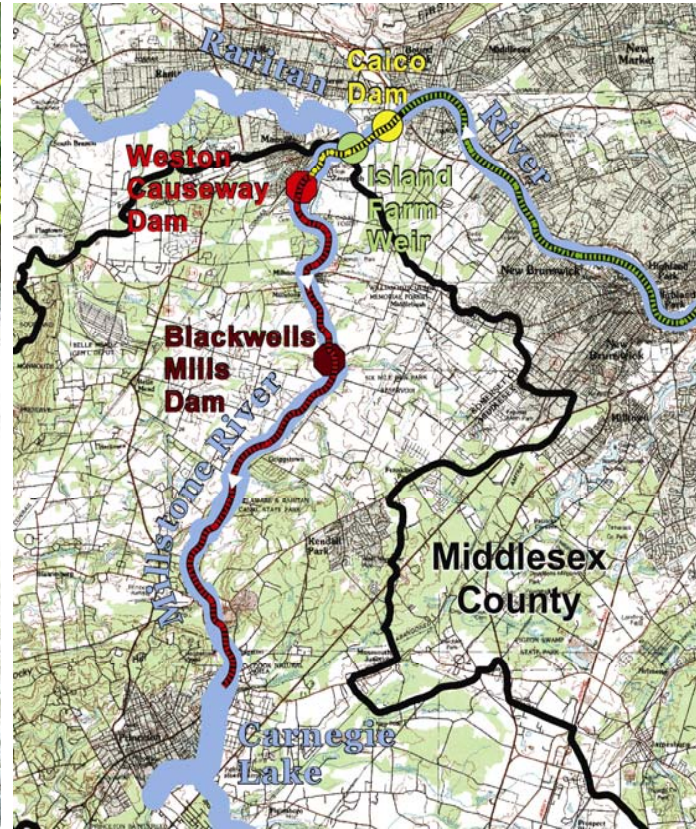


**R**estore Your Millstone  
 Renew Your 'Shed  
 Return the Shad

## Map of Dams on the Millstone River



The two most downstream dams, the Calco (yellow) and the Island Farm Weir (green) have a notch or fish ladder to allow the fish to pass the dam. The Weston Causeway (red) and the Blackwells Mills Dam (maroon) completely block migratory fish from swimming upstream. By removing both dams, 14 more miles of river will be opened for migratory fish, as well as allowing for restoration of stream corridors and wetlands.

## The Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association

The Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association is the first environmental group in Central Jersey. Founded in 1949, we work to protect and preserve your water through conservation, advocacy, science and education. We protect and restore clean water and natural habitats.

Through support from American Rivers, NOAA, the NJDEP, CRI, and the Dodge Foundation we plan to remove the Blackwells Mills Dam and the Weston Causeway Dam to help reestablish the migratory fish population within your Millstone.



Benefits of removing the Blackwells Mills Dam



Your water.  
 Your environment.  
 Your voice.

## The Benefits of removing the Blackwells Mills Dam:

- 🐟 14 miles of river are opened to migratory fish.
- 🐟 A public safety hazard is eliminated.
- 🐟 An obstacle for recreational groups including Kayakers and Canoers is removed.
- 🐟 Fish populations and opportunities to fish are improved.
- 🐟 Healthy habitats for streamside animals and native plants are restored.

## History of the Blackwells Mills Dam



Blackwells Mills, originally known as Schenk's Mill, was built in 1747 by Peter Schenck. Ownership had transferred to the Blackwell Family by 1828. Blackwells Mills was a flour and feed mill.

The Blackwells Village grew around the Mill and consisted of mills, a store and several dwellings; it expanded to include land near the Delaware and Raritan Canal when the canal was built in 1833-1834.

In 1870 Blackwells Mills changed ownership to Augustus Van Zandt. It later switched hands to John Oakley, finally ending with E.B. Cook. The Mill burned in 1905 with a recorded loss of \$12,000 (around \$307,000 in today's dollars.)

The original dam was a stone and timber dam, likely built at the time of the Mill's construction. Remains of this dam were found in the river and reported by the NJ Dept. of Conservation and Development in 1921.

The existing dam, composed of cast-in-place concrete, was built in 1933.



## American Shad



One of the migratory fish that will benefit from the removal of the dam is the American Shad. These fish live in salt water but spawn in freshwater. In 1783, Johann Schoepf wrote of the large number of schools of shad that swam up the Millstone River until "dams of which may have been built in recent years keep back the shad." Due to dams blocking their migratory paths to ancestral spawning grounds and over fishing, the Shad population has significantly declined. Efforts are now focused on restoring the Shad to your 'Shed.