



TOWN OF VERNON

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Valley Falls Dam Reconstruction and Improvement Project Completed



VERNON, CT – Mayor Daniel A. Champagne announced that the reconstruction and improvements to the Valley Falls Dam, located within the Valley Falls Park are now complete.

“In August 2018, the Town of Vernon began reconstruction of the Valley Falls Dam to address the size and capacity of the spillway,” said Mayor Champagne. “During the design phase, we also saw the opportunity to make aesthetic and recreational improvements to the area. Now that the project is complete, park visitors will enjoy uniform pedestrian bridges, the installation of fencing to enhance public safety, improved access to our trails, and an ADA accessible fishing platform.”

Dam reconstruction and improvements costs were approximately \$700,000; with two-thirds of the funding provided by the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the remaining one-third paid by the Town.

“I am very pleased with the final product,” said David Smith, Town Engineer. “Not only did we address the structural aspects of the dam that required attention, but the work was done in a way that enhanced the natural beauty of the park with the added benefit of increased accessibility for visitors.”

“The timing of this project coincided perfectly for park visitors and the Town,” said Marty Sitler, Director of Vernon Parks and Recreation. “Dam reconstruction began at the conclusion of the 2018 summer camp program. Our contractor worked through the winter to keep the project on schedule, and limited the water drawn-down in order to have the least impact on the aquatic resources in the vicinity.”

“The new improvements to the Valley Falls Dam provide another reason for visitors to experience the beautiful parks and waterways we are fortunate to have in Vernon,” said Mike Purcaro, Town Administrator. “The reconstruction project improved the functionality of the dam and the aesthetic enhancements provide a captivating view from any vantage point in Valley Falls Park.”

A ribbon cutting ceremony for the Valley Falls Dam is being planned and will be announced at a later date.

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