

EPISODE
CLOSED CAPTION
SCRIPT



RIVER REBORN
DAM REMOVAL AND RIVER RESTORATION

Emma - When we see a dam like this few of us imagine what the river and the ecosystem used to look like before all this happened. Today, with thousands of outdated dams across the country facing possible removal, communities are faced with two huge questions. What's the worth of restoring a river? And how can dammed rivers like this be restored?

Devyn - So who determines the worth of a river?

Waskwane - It depends on who you ask.

Rick Westerhoff - Depending on your perspective.

Frank Dituri - you'll get ten different answers

Norb Tutlis - What entity? What Source? What person? What divine spirit?

Brett Fessel - Depends on who you talk to

Heather Hettinger - I think people collectively have to make that decision

Frank Dituri - If you're asking a question to a human being, the worth of a river is whatever relationship you have to it.

Bob Garvey - Cold water fishing here is really my thing. I fish for trout, I fish for steelhead.

Ed Flees - And I think that's why a lot of fly fisherman fly fish, because it really, the water running around your legs will really remove the stress from your body.

Hank Bailey - And you don't hear anything but water maybe you'll hear birds, a little bit of birds in the trees. You'll never find that in the confines of a city so it's priceless, there's no price you can put on something like that.

Brett Fessel - As a biologist or ecologist I might determine the worth of a river based on its ability to produce high quality fisheries, good water quality

Todd Kalish - The Boardman River is a world class fishery. And there's a reason that it supports a world class fishery because it has really really cold water. And cold-water streams are relatively rare throughout Michigan. But cold-water streams support fish species that are really sensitive to environmental degradation. Species like trout, and grayling, and sculpin and things like that.

Frank Dituri - the ecologist looks at a river and sees all the connections to everything. As we move up and away from the river by parrying corridor. It absolutely is hundreds of micro ecosystems connected together. You would have to convince me that a river is not a living thing. And I don't think you could do that.

Marty Colburn - Upstream there may be a very passive, quiet area. Possibly people just enjoying nature sitting there or kayaking down silently. Downtown we have the social impacts. Where we have a different type of use of the water. You have the activity of the bridges going over, people looking at the water, people playing in the water, again kayaking. A lot more interaction and development around the water. So, it's a social aspect of the health of a community to utilize its best assets. And let's face it the water is the best asset there.

Heather Hettinger - When you look at this river at a community standpoint it flows right through the center of town. This river is the heartbeat of Traverse City. Even though its urbanized it's still a gem.