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PRESS RELEASE

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Talking about the Neponset

Looking for something to do on a Thursday night? Come learn about the Neponset River! Join river enthusiasts for a presentation and discussion on Thursday, June 24, from 7-8PM, at the Milton Yacht Club, 25 Wharf Street, Milton.

The Neponset River Watershed Association (NepRWA) will lead a conversation about the natural and cultural history of the River. Learn how river uses have determined the quality of the water as well as the species of wildlife in the Neponset River, and gain a better understanding of the effects of damming and restructuring of the River. Opportunities for improving water quality and bringing back a variety of fish to the Neponset River will also be discussed.

This meeting precedes public distribution of an Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) report several years in the making. The report contains results of the ACOEs examination of options for improving fish passage in the Neponset River. One of the methods examined is the removal of the Walter Baker Dam in Milton and the Tileston & Hollingsworth Dam in Hyde Park. The removal of these dams would open up 17 miles of water to migrating fish and restore natural water flow to much of the Neponset River.

Naturally flowing rivers contain better quality water and wildlife habitat than do dammed rivers. Thus, a wider array of fish and other wildlife can live in naturally flowing waters, as compared to in a dammed river.

If the Milton and Hyde Park dams are removed, many species of fish could return to the River and to its contributing streams, including *anadromous* fish that use both saltwater and fresh water during their life cycles. Currently, the Milton and Hyde Park dams block these fish from using much of the River system.

The Neponset River is remarkably cleaner than it was in the past. Many people spend time on and around the River, canoeing and kayaking, as well as walking and biking along riverfront paths. Bringing back the Neponset's fish and restoring its naturally flowing water will make this local natural resource and our communities considerably more enjoyable.

Please contact Carly at the Neponset River Watershed Association with any questions: 781-575-0354, rocklen@neponset.org.

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