

## What is a rock ramp?

As opposed to a traditional low-head dam that blocks the river, vertically forcing it to flow over the top of the dam, large stone weirs (which look like arches) are constructed on top of the ramp to form a stepped structure that holds back the water to form an upstream pool.

## What purpose does this new rock ramp serve?

The rock ramp is critical to ensuring the resiliency of the water supply for the Indianapolis area and specifically Citizens' water intake structure located just north of 33rd Street. The 33rd Street Intake is now unusable due to the 2018 failure of the City's Emrichsville Dam located south of 16th Street. The intake is necessary to ensure adequate water supply for the city. The Central Canal conveys more than 60 percent of the water supply for the Indianapolis area.

## Is the rock ramp safe for floaters, boaters, fishermen, etc.?

The rock ramp will be much safer than a low-head dam such as the previous Emrichsville Dam. Citizens will advise people in water craft not to try to navigate through the rock ramp. Citizens will post signage along the river to direct people to exit the river via a path around the ramp known as a portage.

## Why was the location in Riverside Park selected?

With the help of the community, multiple sites between the Emrichsville Dam and north of 30th Street were evaluated. Based on our analysis, we have selected the location in Riverside Park just north of Burdsal Parkway. The location in Riverside Park would restore much of Lake Indy and the use of the boat ramp in Riverside Park.



A typical rock ramp on a river.

Constructing the ramp at the Emrichsville Dam site has been ruled out because it is not a technically feasible site. For example, due to the increased depth of the river at the Emrichsville site, the ramp would need to be up to 1,500 feet long. Instead, the rock ramp at the Riverside Park site would be approximately one third the length at the Emrichsville site. Furthermore, the Riverside Park site will provide safety and environmental advantages compared to the previous Emrichsville Dam, which formed a 10-foot highwall across the river.

## What are the advantages of a rock ramp compared to a conventional structure like the Emrichsville Dam?

The proposed rock ramp would be the best alternative to minimize the impact to the riverbeds, river banks, aquatic life, and public safety. Traditional low head dams, such as with the old Emrichsville dam, are very dangerous structures to

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the public, do not allow aquatic life to travel up or down stream of the dam, and they cause erosion to the riverbed and banks.

#### **Who is responsible for/owns the rock ramp?**

Citizens Energy Group will construct, own and maintain the rock ramp. The stones in the ramp are designed and selected to not wash away by high water, but as a natural structure, they may shift over time. Citizens will make repairs as necessary.

#### **What can we expect during construction?**

Citizens anticipates beginning construction of the rock ramp during the summer of 2021. We anticipate the construction will result in minimal disruption to the area. We will coordinate efforts with the community to ensure awareness of the construction logistics.

#### **Why did the Emrichsville Dam collapse?**

The Emrichsville Dam was about 120 years old when it failed. The dam failed due to erosion of foundation and the dam structure itself. The dam was inspected in 2017 prior to construction of the White River Intake (located north of 30th St. on Riverside Drive). The inspection did not find any areas of concern at that time, although the inspector was only able to see the structure from above while it is covered in flowing water and the foundation is buried.

#### **How has Citizens sought input regarding the proposed rock ramp?**

Citizens sought community input from a wide range of community stakeholders in 12 meetings held from November 2019 to February 2020. Our team met with multiple groups including the Riverside Civic League, Reconnecting to our Waterways, Friends of the White River and the Marion County Alliance of Neighborhood Associations, the City of Indianapolis, and others. Based on the feedback we received in these meetings, we were able to select the site located at Riverside Park.

#### **How will the rock ramp correspond with the Riverside Masterplan?**

Rock ramps were shown in the masterplan for the Riverside area, the proposed structure type will fit well with the proposed plan.

#### **What recreational activities/areas will be affected or halted altogether with the Riverside Park option?**

The proposed rock ramp will allow recreational users to navigate the river from Broad Ripple to 16th Street via a portage around the rock ramp. The rock ramp location in Riverside Park will restore use of the boat ramp and restore much of Lake Indy.

#### **Where can I get more information about the rock ramp project?**

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