

GEHR Watershed Minute #5

Lake Lenape Fish Ladder: (171 words)

In May 2006, a fish ladder was opened at the Lake Lenape dam. This *Great Egg Harbor River Fishway Restoration Project* provides access to over 15 miles of spawning and foraging habitat for migratory fish above the dam. Species that will benefit from this restoration project include American shad, alewife herring, blueback herring, white perch, American eel, striped bass, osprey, the federally threatened bald eagle, great blue heron, and a variety of other fish eating birds.

Improving migratory fish access into Lake Lenape and the headwaters of the Great Egg Harbor River will enhance the riverine ecosystem, improving recreational fishing and outdoor tourism in Atlantic County.

It took an active partnership of agencies and groups committed to fish and wildlife conservation to plan and complete this important project. The project was developed and funded by cooperating agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlantic County, Hamilton Township, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the Fish America Foundation, and the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association.