

# Aldermen vote to remove Black Brook Dam

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**WMANCHESTER** — Aldermen voted last night to remove sagging Black Brook Dam on Maxwell Pond, ending a several year impasse on its fate.

The removal will cost \$115,000, part of which may be covered by state or federal funding. It will allow the West Side brook to return to its original flow, a move envi-

ronmentalists say could mean the return of fish to the stream.

Neighbors have long fought the removal, instead asking that the dam be repaired. Recently, the state ordered Manchester to do one or the other, after five years of city inaction.

The vote was 8-3 with opposition from neighborhood Alderman Armand Forest of Ward 12, Pat Long of Ward 3 and Alder-

man At-large Mike Lopez.

"Once it's torn down, there will be a lot of people looking to put condominiums there," Lopez charged.

Alderman Jerome Duval of Ward 4 said he grew up in the neighborhood with the dam. But he said it makes sense to remove it now and return the stream to a "bubbling brook."

"It's not serving the purpose that it

once had," Duval said.

Also last night:

- The board killed a \$3 hike in the cost of registering a car in Manchester. Last month, Mayor Frank Guinta was able to uphold his veto of the fee, which was included in this year's budget.

Democrats reiterated their charges that

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