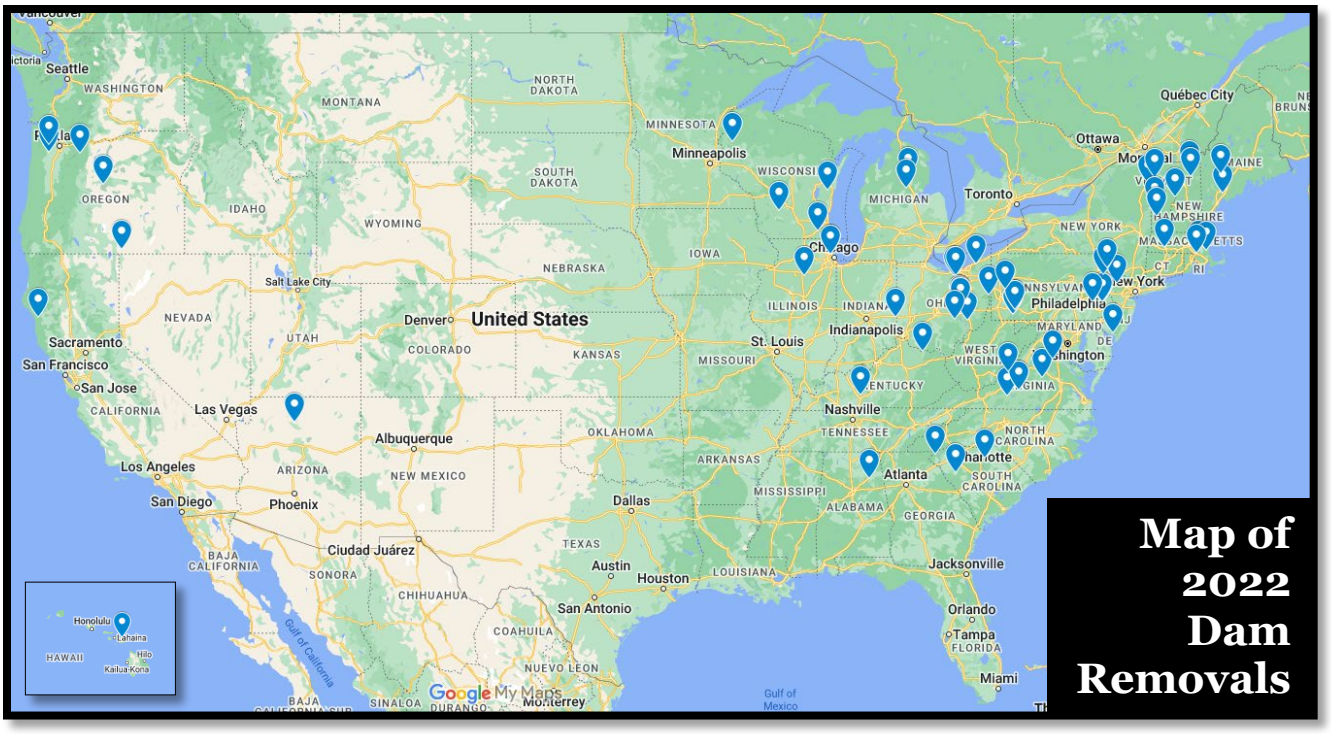
Summary: 2022 U.S. Dam Removals

Timberland Dam, West Branch Tittabawassee River, Michigan
Credit: Huron Pines

2022 Dam Removal Summary Statistics

- Number of dams removed in 2022: 65 removals
- Number of upstream river miles reconnected in 2022: More than 430 miles
- Top states for dam removals in 2022:
  - Ohio (11 removals)
  - Pennsylvania (10 removals)
  - Virginia (6 removals)

- 20 states removed dams in 2022: Alabama, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, Vermont, and Wisconsin



Historical Dam Removal Summary Statistics

- Total number of dam removals from 1912-2022: 2,025 removals
- Years with the highest numbers of dam removals:
  - 2018 (110 removals)
  - 2019 (104 removals)
  - 2017 (100 removals)

The following are highlights of 2022 dam removals (see Table 1 for the full list).

1. Walton's Mill Dam Removal, Temple Stream, Maine
2. Barren River Lock and Dam No. 1, Barren River, Kentucky
3. Burrells Place Dam, Unnamed tributary to Pigpen Branch, South Carolina

Note: This list includes all dam removals reported to American Rivers (as of February 7, 2022) that occurred in 2022, regardless of the level of American Rivers' involvement. Inclusion on this list does not indicate endorsement by American Rivers.

Contact information is provided for dam removals, if available. For further information about the list, please contact Jessie Thomas-Blate, American Rivers, Director of River Restoration at 202.347.7550 or jthomas@americanrivers.org.

Walton's Mill Dam Removal, Temple Stream, Maine

Photo Credit: Maranda Nemeth

QUICK FACTS

- Dam Height: 16 feet
- Dam Length: 200 feet
- Year Built: 1873
- Dam Use: Mill power
- Upstream Miles Reconnected: 54 miles

The Atlantic Salmon Federation and Town of Farmington collaborated with partners and local residents on the decision to remove Walton's Mill Dam. The plan included rebuilding the adjacent community park and replacing several upstream undersized road stream crossings. The watershed-wide effort will restore more than 54 miles of productive cold-water habitat for wild Atlantic salmon and other native fish. The project is part of a broader effort over the past several decades to restore endangered Atlantic salmon and other sea-run fish to the Kennebec River, an effort ignited by the successful removal of Edwards Dam in 1999.

This dam was located in a public park in the Town of Farmington, Maine. The voters approved the plans for the dam removal and park revitalization project. Working together, the project partners made the park and river safer and more accessible for the community while improving the health of the river. Amenities such as a picnic pavilion, play area, and lighted walkways were included as part of the re-envisioning of the park space. This project illustrates that dam removals can be a win all around for local communities who can see a new future for their public spaces.

The total cost of the project was around $2.7 million. Project partners included the town, the Atlantic Salmon Federation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maine Department of Marine Resources, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Maine Natural Areas Program, and Land and Water Conservation Fund. Funding was also provided by Trout & Salmon Foundation, Fisher Foundation, Cascade Foundation, and several other private foundations.

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Barren River Lock and Dam No. 1, Barren River, Kentucky

Photo Credit: Mike Wilkinson

QUICK FACTS

- Dam Height: 25 feet
- Dam Length: 451 feet
- Year Built: 1841
- Dam Use: Navigation

This project is part of a broader effort to remove dams along the Green and Barren rivers in Kentucky. A dam was originally built at this site in 1841 and expanded in 1933 for commercial navigation purposes. It ceased operation in 1965 after Green River Lock and Dam 4 failed and navigation on the Barren River was no longer possible. Since then, the structure sat unused and deteriorated, creating a pooled condition in the river with lower oxygen levels, more sediment, and higher temperatures— conditions that are detrimental for aquatic life and the overall health of the river. The dam was also a barrier to boat traffic and a potential public safety hazard. All of these issues were addressed when the dam was removed by a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service construction team in 2022.

Nearby, Lock and Dam #6 was removed on the Green River in 2017, and Green River Lock and Dam #5 is in the process of being removed. Collectively, these projects are a part of one of the largest watershed-scale restoration efforts in Kentucky.

The Barren River is the Green River's largest tributary and home to many fish species, including smallmouth bass, spotted bass, rock bass, bluegill, and muskellunge. The Green River watershed is home to three species of federally threatened and endangered mussels as well. The Barren River is also a treasured location for paddlers.

Project partners included the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and The Nature Conservancy.

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Burrell Place Dam, Pigpen Branch, South Carolina

Photo Credit: Mac Stone

QUICK FACTS

- Dam Height: 15 feet
- Dam Length: 165 feet
- Year Built: 1935
- Miles Reconnected: 3 miles

This headwater dam impounded an unnamed branch of Pigpen Creek, a tributary of the Chattooga River which is a federally designated Wild and Scenic River. The dam was removed on March 2, 2022, by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's aquatic habitat restoration team. With the dam removed and sedimentation and temperature impacts eliminated, three miles of stream are once again expected to support native brook trout.

Pigpen Creek is considered impaired brook trout habitat by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. Historic data indicate that brook trout was the only fish species that occurred naturally in this stream. A downstream waterfall blocks aquatic organism access to the headwaters of the Pigpen Creek watershed making this reach a viable candidate for brook trout restoration. The Department of Natural Resources renovated the impoundment and stream prior dam removal to eliminate all fish species. The agency will reestablish a unique genetic strain of brook trout native to the creek now that the dam has been removed. A multiyear aquatic resource study is planned to evaluate brook trout restoration and other dam removal benefits.

The dam and land purchased are surrounded by the Sumter National Forest. All of the Pigpen Creek watershed is now protected following the acquisition of the dam, impoundment and surrounding land by Naturaland Trust. The land will be transferred to the U.S. Forest Service after removal of the dam and four buildings, and site remediation. In addition to the land trust and aforementioned agencies, the Mountain Bridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited and American Rivers were collaborators on this project.

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Table 1. Reported Dam Removals from 2022

Dam Name	City/County	River	State
Unnamed Dam	Etowah	Big Wills Creek	AL
Bright Angel Creek Fish Weir	North Rim	Bright Angel Creek	AZ
Cedar Creek Hatchery Dam	Leggett	Cedar Creek	CA
Kaupakalua Reservoir Dam	Maui	Opaepilau Gulch	HI
Buzzi Unicem Dam	Oglesby/Lasalle	Vermilion River	IL
Des Plaines River Dam #4	Park Ridge/Cook	Des Plaines River	IL
Touhy Avenue Reservoir Dam	Park Ridge/Cook	Des Plaines River	IL
Richmond Dam	Richmond	Whitewater River	IN
Barren River Lock and Dam 1	Warren County	Barren River	KY
Lyman Pond Dam	Southampton	Manhan River	MA
Traphole Brook Dam	Norwood	Traphole Brook	MA
Unnamed Low Head Dams	Hanover	Third Herring Brook	MA
West Street Dam	Foxborough	Cocasset River	MA
Upper River Dam (Upper Town Dam)	Lisbon/Androscoggin	Sabattus River	ME
Walton's Mill Dam	Farmington	Temple Stream	ME
Murray Dam	Luzerne	Hunt Creek	MI
Timberland Dam	Roscommon County	West Branch Tittabawassee River	MI
Lyman Falls Dam Remnant Removal	Columbia/Coos County	Connecticut River	NH
County Line Dam	Stillwater/Sussex and Hardwick/Warren	Paulins Kill	NJ
New Jersey No Name # 119 Dam (Lore's Mill Dam)	Commercial/Cumberland	Dividing Creek	NJ
Cold Brook Dam	Willsboro/Essex County	Cold Brook	NY
Brightwood Lake Dam	Painesville/Lake	Kellogg Creek	OH
Broken Aro Sediment Pond No. 46 Dam	Warsaw Junction/Coshocton	Tributary to Simmons Run	OH
Broken Aro Sediment Pond No. 47 Dam	Warsaw Junction/Coshocton	Tributary to Simmons Run	OH
Catfish Li Dam	Dresden/Coshocton	Tributary to Mill Fork	OH
JM Stuart Station Ash Pond No. 10 Dam	Manchester/Adams	Unnamed Tributary to Three Mile Creek	OH
Oberlin Waterworks Old Upground Reservoir Dam	Oberlin/Lorain	Offstream of Plum Creek	OH
Oberlin Waterworks Upground Reservoir Dam	Oberlin/Lorain	Offstream of Plum Creek	OH
Ohio Power Company Pond MM-62 Dam	Unionville/Morgan	Tributary to Dyes Fork	OH
Peabody Coal Company Pond Dam	Dresden/Coshocton	Tributary to Mill Fork	OH
Perry Reclamation Dam No. 3	Redfield/Perry	Tributary to Buckeye Fork	OH
Wellsville Reservoir Dam	Wellsville/Columbiana	Little Yellow Creek	OH
Bailey Nursery Dam	Yamhill County	Salt Creek	OR

Dam Name	City/County	River	State
Balm Grove Dam	Washington County	Gales Creek	OR
Deep Creek Middle Diversion Dam	Lake County	Deep Creek	OR
Prineville Country Club Diversion Dam (Lower Ochoco Creek Dam)	Crook County	Ochoco Creek	OR
Lady Creek Dam	Clackamas County	Lady Creek	OR
Dunbar Creek Lower Jack Dam	Dunbar/Fayette	Dunbar Creek	PA
Dunbar Creek Upper Jack Dam	Dunbar/Fayette	Dunbar Creek	PA
East Greenville Dam (Perkiomen Creek Gage Dam)	Montgomery	Perkiomen Creek	PA
Greenlick Run Lower Dam	Mt. Pleasant/Fayette	Greenlick Run	PA
Greenlick Run Upper Dam	Mt. Pleasant/Fayette	Greenlick Run	PA
Hillegas Dam	Montgomery	West Branch Perkiomen Creek	PA
Hollister Dam (Dry Dam)	Lackwanna	Roaring Brook	PA
Renfrew Dam (Glass Factory Dam)	Renfrew/Butler	Connoquenessing Creek	PA
Ridge Dam	Wayne	Pond Brook	PA
Van Reed Paper Mill Dam	Reading	Cacoosing Creek	PA
Burrell's Place Dam	Oconee County	Unnamed Tributary to Pigpen Branch	SC
Upper Northlake Dam	Greenwood/Greenwood	Unnamed Tributary to Rocky Creek	SC
Wrenn Farms Pond Dam	Lancaster	Tributary to Catawba River	SC
Altice Mill Dam	Rocky Mount/Franklin	Blackwater	VA
McIver Dam	Fluvanna County	Bear Garden Creek	VA
New London Dam #1	Bedford County	Orrix Creek	VA
New London Dam #2	Bedford County	Orrix Creek	VA
Spotswood Drive Dam	Orange County	Fields Run	VA
Wilson Creek Dam	Bath	Wilson Creek	VA
Crooked Creek Button Farm Dam (Colchester Dam)	Colchester/Chittenden	Crooked Creek	VT
Montague Dam	Post Mills/Orange County	Ompompanoosuc River	VT
Pelletier Dam	Castleton/Rutland	Breton Brook	VT
Reynolds Dam	Dorset	Mettawee River	VT
Wyoming Paper Co. Remnant Removal	Guildhall/Essex County	Connecticut River	VT
Chuck Irish Dam	Washington/Sauk County	Tributary to Smith Hollow Creek	WI
Collins Marsh Sub-Impoundment	Rockland/Manitowoc County	Tributary to Mud Creek	WI
East Troy Dam	East Troy/Walworth County	Honey Creek	WI
Jensen Dam	Clam Falls/Polk County	Maple Valley Creek	WI

County Line Dam Removal Site (After), Paulins Kill, NJ; Photo Credit: The Nature Conservancy

Learn More

Full Database of Dam Removals 1912-2022:
www.americanrivers.org/DamRemovalDatabase

Map of U.S. Dams Removed Since 1912:
www.americanrivers.org/DamRemovalMap

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