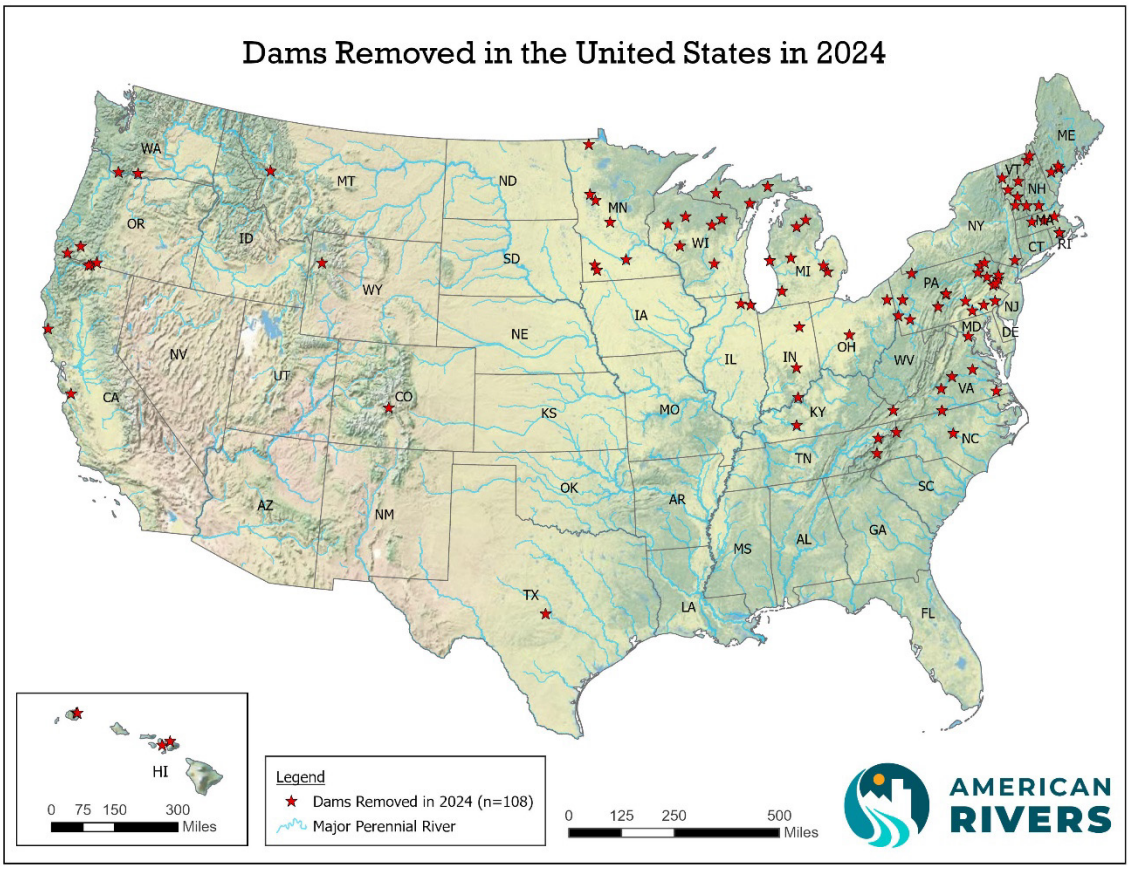
2024 U.S. DAM REMOVALS

2024 DAM REMOVAL SUMMARY STATISTICS

- Number of dams removed in 2024: 108 removals
- Number of upstream river miles reconnected in 2024: More than 2,528 miles
- Top states for dam removals in 2024:
  - Pennsylvania (27 removals)
  - Michigan (10 removals)
  - Minnesota and Virginia (7 removals each)
- 27 states removed dams in 2024: California, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming

Shull's Mill Dam, Watauga River, North Carolina
Erin McCombs, American Rivers



HISTORICAL DAM REMOVAL SUMMARY STATISTICS

- Total number of dam removals from 1912-2024: 2,240 removals
- Years with the highest numbers of dam removals:
  - 2024 (108 removals)
  - 2019 (108 removals)
  - 2018 (107 removals)

The following are highlights of 2024 dam removals (see Table 1 for the full list).

1. Carpentersville Dam, Fox River, Illinois
2. College Lake Dam, Blackwater Creek, Virginia
3. Dudleyville Pond Dam (Brown's Dam), unnamed tributary to Saw Mill River, Massachusetts
4. Green River Lock and Dam No. 5, Green River, Kentucky
5. Copco 1, Iron Gate, and John C. Boyle Dams, Klamath River, California

Note: This list includes all dam removals reported to American Rivers (as of February 21, 2025) that occurred in 2024, 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.

Carpentersville Dam, Fox River, Illinois

Kane County Forest Preserve District

QUICK FACTS

- Dam Height: 9 feet
- Dam Length: 378 feet
- Year Built: 1838
- Dam Use: Recreation
- Miles Reconnected: 10.2 miles

The Forest Preserve District of Kane County (KCFPD) and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources are working together to locally advance the state-wide dam removal initiative that focuses on removing the safety hazards created by low head dams and restoring Illinois' natural resources. After 5 years in the planning, the removal of the Carpentersville Dam is now a reality, and the Fox River is flowing freely from Algonquin to Elgin. This is part of a broader initiative to remove nine dams on the Fox River. Previous dam removals on the Fox River include South Batavia Dam (2005) and North Avenue Dam (2006).

Carpentersville Dam was first built in 1838 as a brush pile dam for milling flour and cutting lumber. Eventually those operations ceased, but the dam remained. Recreationalists are celebrating this project as it is providing improved access to the river and an unimpeded stretch of ten miles for paddlers. The project also improved habitat for mussels, fish, and amphibians, reduced sedimentation and algae blooms, and eliminated the risk of drowning as well as operations and maintenance costs.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has recommended the removal of nine Fox River dams by 2030—with Carpentersville being the first of the series. USACE intends to pay 65 percent of the removal costs, with the remaining 35 percent covered by Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

CONTACT

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See a timelapse and other videos on this project in this playlist. A history of the dams on the Fox River is highlighted in Silent Sports Magazine.

College Lake Dam, Blackwater Creek, Virginia

Brandon Alderman, AECOM

QUICK FACTS

- Dam Height: 35 feet
- Dam Length: 200 feet
- Year Built: 1934
- Dam Use: Recreation
- Upstream Miles Reconnected: 43 miles

The City of Lynchburg and the University of Lynchburg partnered on the College Lake Dam Removal Project. Their shared vision was to remove the high-hazard dam and restore the resulting lakebed to a thriving environment where Blackwater Creek can re-emerge after more than eight decades. The project transitioned the lakebed into a wetlands ecosystem and learning laboratory: a place where students, residents, and tourists can study urban wetland ecology and enjoy time in nature. In the process, they improved public safety and showcased water quality improvements in their urban environment.

As with many dams in the Mid-Atlantic, what started as a recreational lake quickly filled in with sediment. In 2018, the dam overtopped during a big storm event, which caused a significant public safety concern for the local community. The dam was a high hazard dam, meaning that its failure would be likely to cause loss of life and/or property downstream. That storm event triggered discussions that led to the removal of the dam.

The project partners developed a master plan for the project to enhance the community connection to the site with river access, an overlook, new educational opportunities, enhancement of wetland habitats, and perhaps most importantly, a stable site that is not a threat to the public.

Check out this video about the plans for this project, community revitalization, and university collaboration.

CONTACT

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Dudleyville Pond Dam (Brown's Dam), unnamed tributary to Saw Mill River, Massachusetts

Michael Chelminski, Stantec

QUICK FACTS

- Dam Height: 17 feet
- Dam Length: 80 feet
- Year Built: 1850
- Dam use: Mill
- Upstream Miles Reconnected: 1.1 miles

Dating back to the mid-1800s, Dudleyville Pond Dam was a significant hazard class dam in unsafe condition. Known locally as Brown's Dam, it had been a family fixture since 1951. The dam's removal, expedited by an emergency order for public safety concerns, transformed the pond into a stream, benefiting local wildlife and improving safety. Partners for this project included Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration, SumCo Eco-Contracting, Stantec Engineering, Shutesbury Conservation Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Trout Unlimited, American Rivers, Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Association, and Connecticut River Conservancy.

As is all too common, the owners of this dam that was no longer serving the purpose for which it was built struggled to keep up with the demands of maintenance of the aging structure. Eventually, the dam became an imminent safety risk to the local community. An emergency order allowed the project to be done efficiently (six months from design through construction) and at a significantly reduced cost ($118,000).

This innovative strategy quickly eliminated the risk of dam failure and associated flooding while providing additional benefits, including improved habitat and connectivity for a coldwater resource.

You can learn more about the project in this brief video from the Connecticut River Conservancy.

CONTACT

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Green River Lock and Dam No. 5, Green River, Kentucky

Mike Wilkinson, The Nature Conservancy

QUICK FACTS

- Dam Height: 32 feet
- Dam Length: 357 feet
- Year Built: 1933
- Dam use: Navigation
- Upstream Miles Reconnected: 78 miles

Kentucky's Green River is a biodiversity hotspot with more than 150 types of fish and 70 mussel species, including 43 species not found anywhere else in the world. The removal of Lock and Dam #5 restored free-flowing conditions to 73 miles of the Green, providing a healthier river for nine endangered mussel species, endangered Kentucky cave shrimp, and beloved game fish, such as smallmouth bass, rock bass, and muskellunge. It is the largest dam removal in Kentucky history.

Construction on the removal of Green River Lock and Dam No. 5 was initiated in 2021. The project was temporarily stalled in order to support coordination with Edmonson County Water District to ensure sustainable community water supply. It was completed in 2024 by a crew from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This critical project also improved community safety—eliminating a barrier to paddlers and other recreationalists. This Lock and Dam had ceased operation in 1951. Now its removal will benefit efforts to expand the Green River Blueway and Trail Town initiatives embraced by many small towns along the Green and Barren rivers.

This project exemplifies the need to find creative solutions to improve river health and eliminate outdated infrastructure, while supporting the needs of local communities. You can hear more about how the water supply issue was resolved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in this video.

CONTACT

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Copco 1, Iron Gate, and John C. Boyle Dams, Klamath River, California

Swiftwater Films

QUICK FACTS

- # Dams Removed in Project: 4 (3 in 2024, 1 in 2023)
- Dam use: Hydropower
- Upstream Miles Reconnected: 400 total miles

Four dams have been deconstructed on the Klamath River, which traverses the California-Oregon border — Copco 1 Dam, Copco 2 Dam, Iron Gate Dam, and John C. Boyle Dam. Benefits of dam removal include reintroducing salmon to more than 400 miles of historical habitat, eliminating reservoirs that hosted massive blooms of toxic blue green algae each summer, and eliminating conditions that enabled fish diseases to thrive. These benefits are expected to support the rebound of what was once the third-largest salmon fishery in the lower 48 states.

Discussions about the potential for Klamath River dam removal began in earnest more than 20 years ago, shortly after an estimated 70,000 adult salmon died in the lower river before they could spawn. Although the construction phase is complete, restoration of the land along the river and in key tributaries that were previously covered by the reservoirs will continue for several years. Resource Environmental Solutions (RES), the company contracted to oversee the restoration, is committed to remaining active in the basin until vegetation is successfully established and the newly restored habitat is on a positive ecological trajectory.

This tremendous milestone is thanks to the ongoing leadership of the river's Tribes and grassroots advocates, and holds important lessons for other rivers nationwide. More information about this historic dam removal and larger watershed-wide restoration effort is available at reconnectklamath.org and klamathrenewal.org.

CONTACT

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TABLE 1. REPORTED DAM REMOVALS FROM 2024

Dam Name	City/County	River	State
Copco No. 1 Dam	Siskiyou County	Klamath River	CA
Iron Gate Dam	Siskiyou County	Klamath River	CA
Neefus Gulch Earthen Berm Dam	Philo/Mendocino	Neefus Gulch	CA
Pickell's Dam	Gilroy/Santa Clara County	Little Arthur Creek	CA
Fooses Dam (Salida Hydro #1 Forebay)	Mayville	Fooses Creek	CO
Field 1 Kealia Reservoir Dam	Kauai Conty	Kaupaku Stream	HI
Kapalaalaea Reservoir Dam	Maui County	Piiloi Stream	HI
Ukumehame Reservoir Dam	Maui County	Ukumehame Gulch	HI
Upper Anahola Reservoir Dam	Kauai County	Kamalomaloo Stream	HI
Carpentersville Dam	Kane	Fox River	IL
Tam O'Shanter Dam	Cook	North Branch Chicago River	IL
Corydon North Bridge Dam (Gupta Dam)	Corydon/Harrison County	Big Indian Creek	IN
Huntington Dam	Huntington/Huntington County	Little River	IN
Thompson Mill Dam	Edinburgh	Blue River	IN
Green River Lock and Dam #5	Edmonson County	Green River	KY
Dudleyville Pond Dam (Brown's Dam)	Shutesbury	Unnamed Tributary of the Saw Mill River	MA
Lyman Pond Dam No. 2	Waltham	Chester Brook	MA
Quinapoxet Accretion Dam	West Boylston	Quinapoxet River	MA
Priddy Property Dam	North Potomac	Unnamed tributary to Muddy Branch	MD
Edes Falls Dam	Naples	Crooked River	ME

Dam Name	City/County	River	State
Mill Street Dam	Lisbon	Sabattus River	ME
Remnant Mill Dam	Sabattus/Androscoggin County	Sabattus River	ME
Altona Dam	Hinton Township/Mecosta County	Little Muskegon River	MI
Breedsville Dam	Van Buren County	South Branch Black River	MI
Davisburg Millpond Dam	Davisburg/Oakland County	Shiawassee River	MI
Grayling Fish Hatchery Dam	Grayling/Crawford County	East Branch au Sable River	MI
Hamilton Dam	Flint/Genesee County	Flint River	MI
Hunt Creek AB Line Dam	Lewiston/Montmorency	Hunt Creek/Thunder Bay River Watershed	MI
Kipling Pike Marsh Dam	Brampton Township/Delta	Tributary to Little Bay De Noc	MI
Lower Dam	Houghton County	East Branch Ontonagon River	MI
Marshville Dam	Benona Township/Oceana County	Stony Creek	MI
Spring Creek Trout Pond Dam	Luce	Spring Creek	MI
Big Pine Lake Outlet Dam	Perham	Otter Tail River	MN
Lake Sarah Dam	Murray	Unnamed Tributary to Lake Sarah	MN
Lime Lake Dam	Murray	Lime Creek	MN
Little Birch Dam	Stearns	Adley Creek	MN
Little Floyd Dam	Becker	Pelican River	MN
Malung Dam	Roseau	Roseau River	MN
Seven Mile Dam	Nicolett	Seven Mile Creek	MN
McKinley Lake Dam	Missoula	Rattlesnake Creek	MT
Beaverdam Creek Dam	Haywood County	Pigeon River	NC

Dam Name	City/County	River	State
Shulls Mill Dam	Vilas/Watauga County	Watauga River	NC
Unnamed Dam	Chatham	Unnamed Tributary to Deep River	NC
Brennan Brook Dam	Francestown/Hillsborough	Brennan Brook	NH
Kimball Brook Dam	North Stratford/Coos County	Kimball Brook	NH
Washburn Dam	Colebrook/Coos County	Mohawk River	NH
Cedar Grove Dam	White Township/Warren	Pequest River	NJ
Paulina Dam	Blairstown/Warren	Paulins Kill River	NJ
Sprout Brook Dam 1	Cortlandt	Sprout Brook	NY
Warren Water Works Summit Street Dam	City of Warren/Trumbull County	Mahoning River	OH
Timber Lake Liberty Dam	Delaware County	Tributary to the Olentangy River	OH
John C. Boyle Dam	Klamath County	Klamath River	OR
Pomeroy Dam	Cave Junction	Illinois River	OR
Williams-Whalen Dam	Jackson County	Evans Creek	OR
Archibald Johnston Conservation Area Dam 1	Bethlehem/Northampton County	Monocacy Creek	PA
Archibald Johnston Conservation Area Dam 2	Bethlehem/Northampton County	Monocacy Creek	PA
Archibald Johnston Conservation Area Dam 3	Bethlehem/Northampton County	Monocacy Creek	PA
Archibald Johnston Conservation Area Dam 4	Bethlehem/Northampton County	Monocacy Creek	PA
Archibald Johnston Conservation Area Dam 5	Bethlehem/Northampton County	Monocacy Creek	PA

Dam Name	City/County	River	State
Archibald Johnston Conservation Area Dam 6	Bethlehem/Northampton County	Monocacy Creek	PA
Bascule Gate Dam	York	Codorus Creek	PA
Beiler Farm Dam	Lancaster	Tributary to Muddy Run	PA
Benner Springs Dam	Bellefonte/Centre	Spring Creek	PA
Brown's Pond Dam	Warren/Warren	Mud Run	PA
Brush Mountain Dam	Hollidaysburg, Blair County	Brush Creek	PA
City of Easton Lower Dam (Recycling Center Dam)	Easton, Northampton County	Bushkill Creek	PA
Detweiler Park Dam	Dauphin	Tributary to Clark Creek	PA
Dilldown Creek Dam	Tunkhannock Twp, Monroe County	Dilldown Creek	PA
Founders Hall Bridge Dam	Butler	Tributary to Slippery Rock Creek	PA
Founders Hall Dam	Butler	Tributary to Slippery Rock Creek	PA
Gabion Dam	Butler	Tributary to Slippery Rock Creek	PA
Glenburn Pond Dam	Glenburn Township	Ackerly Creek	PA
Group Camp Dam	Frankfort Springs/Beaver County	Traverse Creek	PA
Hillside Farms Dam	Shavertown	Huntsville Creek	PA
Lorimer Reserve Upper Pond Dam	Chester	Unnamed Tributary to Valley Creek	PA
Monongahela Lock and Dam 3	Elizabeth	Monongahela River	PA
Rock Apartments Dam	Butler	Tributary to Slippery Rock Creek	PA
Slippery Rock Dam	Butler	Tributary to Slippery Rock Creek	PA
Stadium Drive Dam	Butler	Tributary to Slippery Rock Creek	PA

Dam Name	City/County	River	State
Upper Spring Creek Dam (Rock Dam)	Bellefonte/Centre	Spring Creek	PA
Waymart No. 7 Dam	Wayne	Tributary to Racket Brook	PA
Lower Kickemuit Dam (Warren Reservoir Lower Dam)	Warren	Upper Kickemuit River	RI
Upper Kickemuit Dam (Warren Reservoir Upper Dam)	Warren	Upper Kickemuit River	RI
Horse Creek Dam	Greene County	Horse Creek	TN
Rainbow Barrier Squibb Creek	Greene County	Squibb Creek	TN
Neusch Dam	Mason County	James River	TX
Ashland Mill Dam	Ashland/Hanover County	South Anna River	VA
Baber's Mill Dam	Buckingham County	Rock Island Creek	VA
Little River Dam (Bowen Mill Dam)	Maiden Spring/Tazewell County	Little River	VA
College Lake Dam	Lynchburg	Blackwater Creek	VA
Murphy's Mill East Pond	Suffolk	Cohoon Creek	VA
Murphy's Mill West Pond	Suffolk	Cohoon Creek	VA
White Mill Dam (Long Mill Dam)	Danville	Dan River	VA
Blake Higgins Dam	Bellows Falls/Windham County	Saxtons River	VT
Hands Mill Pond Dam	Washington	Jail Branch of the Winooski River	VT
Rockefeller Dam (Peggy's Pond Dam)	Plymouth/Windsor	Unnamed tributary to Woodward Reservoir	VT
Simpson Dam	Dorset	Unnamed Stream	VT
University of Vermont Hort Farm Dam	South Burlington	Bartlett Brook	VT

Dam Name	City/County	River	State
Wainwright Mill Dam (Halnon Pond Dam)	Salisbury	Tributary 10	VT
Snyder Creek AOP #1 Dam	Klickitat County	Synder Canyon Creek	WA
Kwoneesum Dam	Skamania	Wildboy Creek	WA
Behm Dam	Eau Claire	Unnamed Tributary to Diamond Valley Creek	WI
Graham Dam	Marquette	Unnamed Tributary to Buffalo Lake	WI
Hardscrabble Dam	Barron	Pokegama Creek	WI
Hunts End Dam	Price	Unnamed Tributary to the South Fork Flambeau River	WI
North Branch Oconto Dam (Rusch Dam)	Wabeno/Forest County	North Branch Oconto River	WI
Ormsby Dam	Langlade	West Branch Eau Claire R	WI
Lower Lava Creek Dam		Lava Creek	WY

Bascule Gate Dam, Codorus Creek, York, Pennsylvania; Silas Chamberlin, York County Economic Alliance

Beaverdam Creek Dam, Pigeon River, North Carolina; Erin McCombs, American Rivers

LEARN MORE

Full Database of Dam Removals 1912-2024:
AmericanRivers.org/DamRemovalDatabase

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

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