

Precedent Projects

River	City	Dam	Objective of Project	Hydro Facilities	FERC Role	Dam Condition	Reservoir Area	Date of Action	Dam Removal Strategy	Fishery	Riparian Property Impacts	Notes	Result
Prairie River	Merrill, WI	Prairie Dells Dam and Ward Dam	Return the river to it's original condition	Yes. No longer operable	No	Prairie Dells never produced electricity Ward Dam Flood Damaged	118 acres	1999	2 stage to reduce sediment migration downstream	Class I. Warm and cold water fishery	Significant	99 acre river front passive recreation "Prairie Trails" Park	30 fold increase in brook trout reproduction; public park/ recreation area
Baraboo River	Baraboo WI	Waterworks; Oak Street; LaValle; Linen Mill Dams	Restore free flowing river and improve fishery and economic benefit.	Yes. No longer considered viable	No	Condition deficiencies identified.	> 100 acres 500 miles of river total	Started in 1988 Final 2001	staged to reduce sediment release; started upstream	Poor diversity above and below dams	Significant	Increased paddling opportunities. Part of longest free flowing river restoration project in the country. Maintained an upstream mill pond (LaValle) for aesthetic and community reasons.	Fishery went from fair before to poor right afterwards to excellent several years after removal.
Willow River	Hudson, WI	Willow Dam; Mound Dam; Little Falls Dam	Willow and Mound - remove and return to natural flow; Little Falls maintain lake in Park	Yes, inoperable; private owner donated to State with Park	No	high hazard; risk of failure in flood/high water	330 acres total for all 3 dams; 172 Acre lake restored	1997-2020	Breach and release upper dams ; Multi-year reconstruct for Little Falls	cool/warm water fishery; trout stocked annually	Moderate impact	Impounded Sediment from 3 dams required mechanical removal; high water event during Little Falls reconstruction caused excessive sediment release and project delay	Enhanced trails and lake fishing/ recreation tourism; economic benefit to local biz.
18 Mile Creek (Red Cedar River watershed)	Colfax, WI	18 Mile Creek Dam	Dam removal, natural river flow restoration; sediment mgmt	Yes, inoperable; private owner sold to community	No	First built in 1800s; destroyed by flood in 1930s; rebuilt 1950s creating Mirror Lake	10 Acres	1998	Staged to reduce sediment release	Original cold water (brook and brown trout)	Very significant.	Created new public park space increased fishing and paddling recreation; tourism; reduced failure risk from flooding. Public controversy over cost resulted in decision to remove rather than rebuild	increase tourism, paddling, cold water fishery.
Kinnickinnic River	River Falls, WI	Junction Falls and Powell Falls. Kinni once had several other dams in the City.	Restoration of natural river flow, mitigation of thermal loading; sediment management; retain upper dam for hydro for a period of time	yes, combined average generate 1.2% of electric power for RF	yes	Junction Falls in good condition. Powell Falls needs significant maint needed on dam structure; high hazard rating.	16 acres (Lake George) 15 acres (Lake Louise)	Current	Mechanical removal; stage to manage sediment release; start downstream at Powell	Class I. Brown trout in the lower and brown and brook trout above the dams	Small number of riparian owners. Potential for significant impact w/ removal	Community & City decided to decommission Powell Falls and relicense Junction Falls. FERC application and review in process as of August 2018.	Implement as part of Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan projects

