

# Why Remove Dams from the Fox River?



Human activity in the Fox River Valley over the past two centuries has led to steady habitat loss and degradation, fragmentation, sedimentation, the influx of algae and invasive species, and the loss of native plants and animals.

However, there is overwhelming scientific research supporting a solution for reversing the Fox River's habitat loss, pollution, and the dominance of invasive species. **Removing dams along the Fox River restores it to its natural, free-flowing state and reverses centuries of environmental decline.**

The Corps' plan recommends the removal of dams in Carpentersville, Elgin, South Elgin, St. Charles, Geneva, Batavia, North Aurora, Aurora, and Montgomery.

## Removing dams along the Fox River:

- Restores a free-flowing current, reducing sedimentation and algae blooms while improving water quality;
- Connects the river, supporting mussel, fish, and amphibian habitats;
- Supports the restoration of habitat for native plants, birds, and small mammals along the riverbanks;
- Enhances the Fox River's ability to absorb and filter urban and agricultural runoff;
- Provides increased opportunities for fishing, kayaking, canoeing, and the use of small boats;
- Removes the danger of drowning at dams;
- Allows the Fox River to naturally solve many of the water quality problems we face without creating huge increases in utility bills\*; and
- Eliminates the annual operations and maintenance costs of dams.

Without dam removals, the Fox Valley community would need an estimated minimum \$150 million in new wastewater treatment infrastructure, 10x the cost of dam removal.\*

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