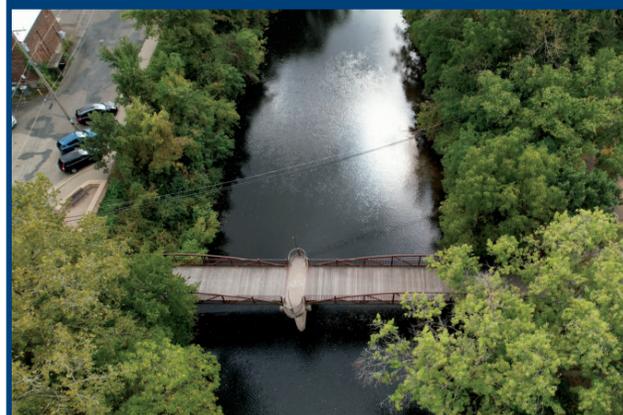
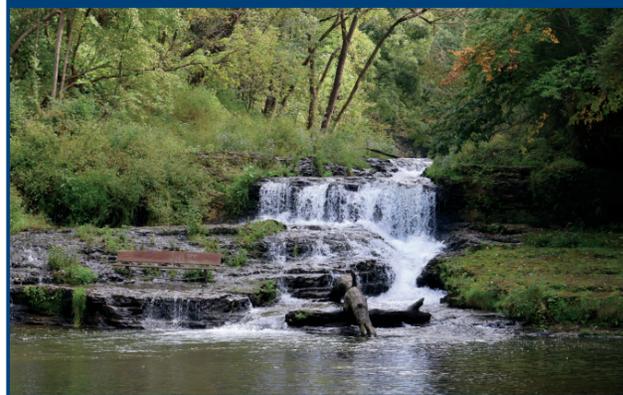


Kinnickinnic River Corridor Project



City of River Falls
222 Lewis Street
River Falls, WI 54022
www.rfcity.org



Amy Peterson
Community Development Director
apeterson@rfcity.org



Dan Toland
Mayor
dtoland@rfcity.org



Read the Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan



Scot Simpson
City Administrator
ssimpson@rfcity.org



Podcast on the Kinnickinnic Corridor Plan



City of River Falls, Wisconsin Kinnickinnic River Corridor



Project Implementation

The Kinnickinnic River is at the heart of River Falls — ecologically vital, culturally beloved, and a cornerstone of recreation. In 2016, the City began planning one of the most ambitious and far-reaching projects in its history. A long-term vision for the Kinnickinnic River Corridor was launched by the City Council that entails a bold plan to protect and restore it for generations to come.

Project Objectives

- Ecological Restoration: Revives habitat along a Class I trout stream.
- Recreation: Enhances kayaking, birding, hiking, and river access.
- Economic Boost: Draws tourism and supports downtown vitality.

Key Partners

- US Army Corps of Engineers: River restoration design and dam removal feasibility.
- National Park Service: Recreation planning and community engagement.
- WI DNR: Environmental oversight and permitting.
- University of Wisconsin-River Falls: Scientific and academic support.

About the Kinnickinnic River

- 22 miles
- 174 square mile watershed
- Flows southwesterly through downtown River Falls and empties into the St. Croix River
- Class I trout stream with over 8,000 trout per mile in some stretches
- Designated as an Outstanding Resource Water (ORW) by the State of Wisconsin
- Popular recreational activities include fishing, kayaking, birding, and hiking



River Restoration

Milestones

- 2016 – Long range planning process for the Kinni Corridor begins
- 2018 – City Council adopts Kinnickinnic Corridor Plan and passes resolution to remove both dams
- 2020 – Lake Louise floods in June and is drained, revealing damage to Powell dam
- 2021 – City begins decommissioning process for Powell dam
- 2022 – US Army Corps of Engineers and City begin discussions about river restoration grant opportunity



Future Path

Implementation of the Kinnickinnic Corridor Project is a multiple decade effort to improve river ecology and engagement. The river restoration and greenway plan will increase the already established draw for fishing and river recreation enthusiasts from across the nation. Residents and visitors will benefit from the increased tourism and positive impact on the overall economy of River Falls that the Kinnickinnic River Corridor Project promises to deliver.

Goals:

- Raise \$5+ million dollars to pay for the local match as part of the USACE CAP 206 Program (\$20+million dollar project estimate)
- Raise additional funding for river corridor greenway projects
- Raise statewide awareness and support of the river restoration and increased recreation opportunities
- Demonstrate pathways for other entities to accomplish large-scale river restoration

Projected Next Steps:

- 2025: Feasibility Study approved by USACE
- 2026: City enters into design contract with USACE
- 2026 and beyond: Greenway amenity implementation
- 2027: Design and then bidding completed
- 2028-2030: Dam removal and river restoration



Potential river access and launch example from the 2025 NPS river greenway recreation plan.

Sustainability Priorities



2025-2027 City Council Strategic Initiatives

Connected Community

Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan Phase I

- Safe Streets Action Plan
- Glen Park Phase II

Economic Vitality

- Downtown Project
- Continued Infill in Corporate Parks
- Innovation Center Expansion

Financial Sustainability

- Examine Impact Fees

Quality Municipal Services

- Fire Station Remodel
- Library Remodel and Capital Campaign
- Public Safety Communications Upgrade
- Public Utility Infrastructure Assessment

Conservation Efforts

- 100% renewable energy powering City buildings
- #1 in the state and #12 in the nation for green energy participation
- Committed to stormwater management planning and implementation of stormwater ordinances to protect the Kinnickinnic
- 284 trees planted in the City in 2025

Milestones continued

- 2023 – USACE and City sign contract to complete a project Feasibility Study
- 2024 – Work continues on the Feasibility Study; City engages with the National Park Service River, Trails and Conservation Program to complete a corridor greenway plan
- 2025 – Feasibility Study is projected to be completed; NPS Corridor Greenway Plan is complete

