



## KINNICKINNIC RIVER HISTORY

- 1847 Federal Land surveyors create Clifton, Kinnickinnic, and River Falls  
1848 Joel Foster, first settler in River Falls.  
1849 Charles Cox, first settler in Clifton Hollow, lived in cave for first year.  
1850 Flour mill and dam built at Clifton Hollow.  
1854 Prairie Mill built.  
1855 Grist mill built in Section 10, operated until 1898.  
1857 First Clifton Town meeting.  
1867 Junction Falls Mill built.  
1868 Lime kilns built near city.  
1898 Flood destroys Clifton Hollow. Dam rebuilt to 40' height.  
1900 City starts hydro facility at Junction Mill site.  
1918 Flood destroys Clifton Hollow again.  
1920-21 Clifton Falls Power Company operates dam near County F bridge.  
1920 Junction Falls dam rebuilt with concrete.  
1932 Cascade Falls (South Fork) dam removed.  
1935 Soil Conservation Service starts first agricultural erosion control projects.  
1938 First DNR fish survey: upper river warm and sluggish, few trout; lower river has rough fish.  
1938-1966 DNR stocks up to 17,000 trout per year in the upper river.  
1940's River Falls Rod and Gun Club help restore river.  
~1950 Prairie Mill dam destroyed.  
1951-1958 DNR hires watershed manager, starts bank stabilization and in-stream structures, cattle crossings, 30 miles of fencing.  
1955-1963 City upgrades sewage treatment facility.  
1960 DNR purchases first parcel and easements on upper river.  
1963 DNR fish shocking in lower river found one brown trout, one walleye in one mile of stream. Numerous rough fish.  
1970 No trout found in lower river by UW-RF survey.  
1970's Stream temperatures dropped about 10°F in past ten years.  
1972 State of Wisconsin orders City to upgrade sewage treatment again.  
1972 Kinnickinnic River State Park founded.  
1974 The last year the DNR stocked any fish in Kinni watershed.  
1975 DNR and FERC stop the city from storing and releasing water during peak demand times; change to "run of the river," or constant flow.  
1978 DNR survey finds excellent populations of brown trout in lower river.  
1987 Nature Conservancy visits with landowners.  
1989 Kinnickinnic Valley Landowners Association founded.  
1990 City starts removing chlorine from treated sewage water.  
1990-93 DNR fish surveys find 1700 to 6300 trout per mile in the lower river.  
1993 Clifton Twp. passes Kinnickinnic River Protection Ordinance.  
1993 River Falls Twp. passes Kinnickinnic River Protection Ordinance.  
1993 UW-RF begins major project to restore the South Fork.  
1993 Kinnickinnic River Land Trust founded.  
1994 City Council Adopts "205-J" Stormwater Control Plan.  
1995 Pierce and St. Croix Counties granted Priority Watershed Project.