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### **This Plan Has a Catch**

Having a hard time revitalizing your downtown? You may want to consider knocking the dam down.

At least that seems to be working for Augusta, Maine, whose downtown has been struggling for years. Life is finally beginning to stir there partly thanks to the removal of Edwards Dam, which for 162 years spanned the Kennebec River. Its dismantling last year was primarily intended to improve the water quality and restore a wide range of fish species to the upper Kennebec. But it also has created a running river and 17 acres of new public space where a stagnant mill used to be.

Real estate speculators already have begun to show up. Richard Goldrick, a Maine shopping center and office building developer, is spending about \$1 million to buy and fix up an 18,000 square foot building on the river that used to house JC Penney. He envisions an area one day full of trendy shops and restaurants filled with locals, tourists and anglers who have begun to follow the fish to the region. "You can catch striped bass off my back deck," he says.

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This article was based on an interview with the mayor of Augusta, Maine that appeared in the Green Fire video, "Taking a Second Look: Communities and Dam Removal."