



WORKING TOGETHER FOR
HEALTHY WATERS AND
FLOOD-RESILIENT
COMMUNITIES

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HISTORY

- ▶ Record flooding in late '60's led to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plan to erect a floodwall along the entire downtown Davenport riverfront.
- ▶ River Action organized opposition to the plan and convinced city to pursue passive long-term measures to mitigate damage from future flooding.
- ▶ Today, the riverfront is a vibrant public greenspace with commercial developments restricted to non-flood-prone areas away from riverfront.



FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT

- ▶ Recreation trails/public space designed with flooding in mind to reduce damages.
- ▶ Temporary “Hesco” barriers now used to prevent flooding of main streets/key facilities in the downtown.
- ▶ Gambling riverboats now off riverfront dock.
- ▶ Recurring efforts to “re-commercialize” the riverfront by private developers.



FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT

- ▶ Recreation and public gathering space encouraged.
- ▶ Maintaining public use and access a priority.
- ▶ New Centennial Park offers skatepark, water spray park and playground.
- ▶ Farmers' market in old rail freight house draws thousands every weekend.
- ▶ Riverfront park bandshell and park prime location for area festivals.



Amenities that draw on riverfront views/access



Riverfront is viewed as the city's front porch.



RETAIN THE RAIN

- ▶ Retain the Rain™ program developed to address storm water runoff issues.
- ▶ Emphasis on using native plants, bioswales, rain gardens, green roofs and porous paving.
- ▶ Rain barrel program has sold nearly 10,000 recycled/repurposed olive containers.
- ▶ Upper Mississippi River Conference agent of change.

IOWA NUTRIENT REDUCTION STRATEGY ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

- ▶ Approximately 526,000 tons of nitrates were "exported" into Iowa rivers and streams in 2016, eventually flowing down the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico and adding to the so-called "dead zone" where fish cannot survive.
- ▶ That's over 29 pounds of nitrates from each of the state's 36 million acres of crop land.

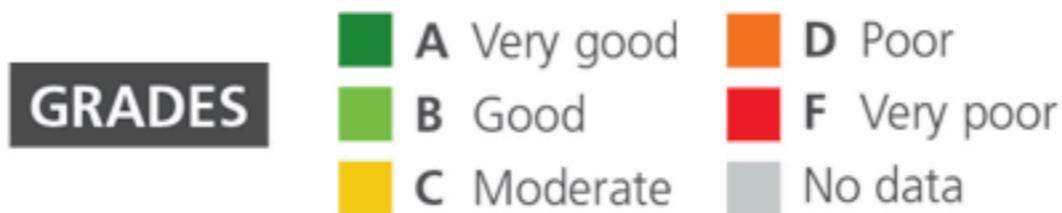
'RAISE THE GRADE' UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER RIVER CONFERENCE 2016



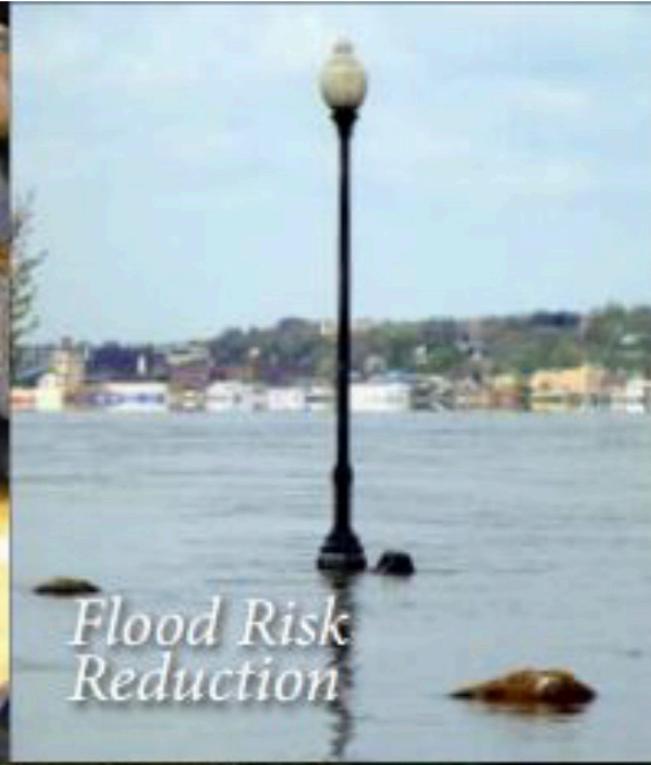
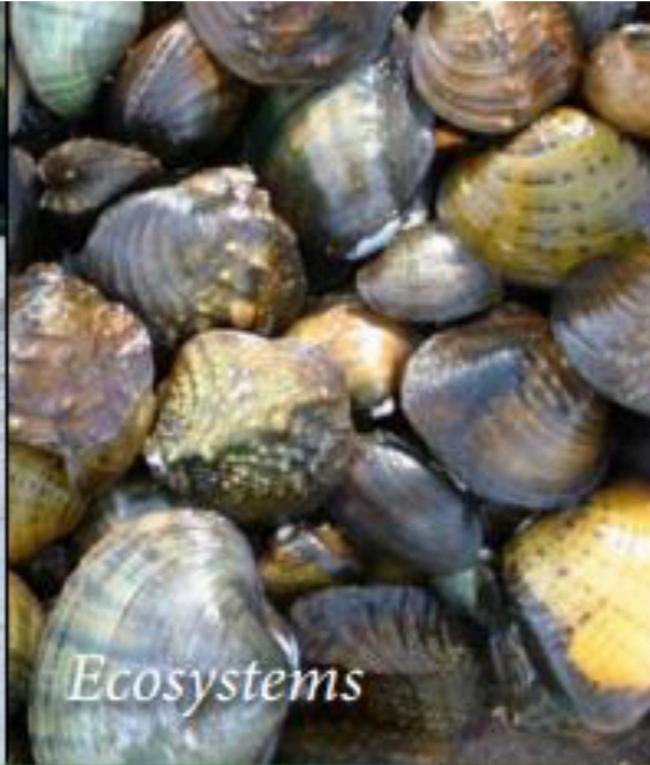
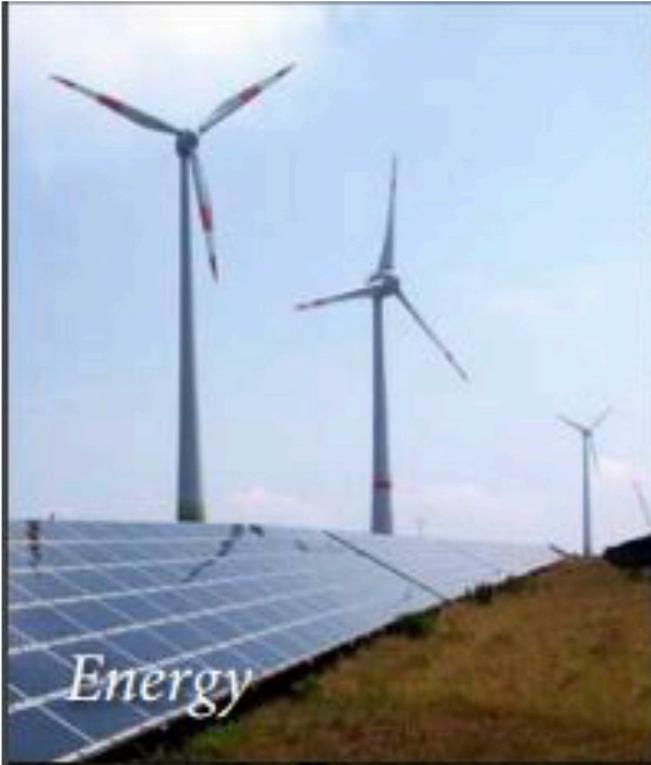
GRADES

- A** Very good
- D** Poor
- B** Good
- F** Very poor
- C** Moderate
- No data

'RAISE THE GRADE' UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER CONFERENCE 2016



'RAISE THE GRADE' UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER CONFERENCE 2016





DEFINING 'GOOD'

- ▶ Risk
- ▶ Mapping
- ▶ Management
- ▶ Restoration
- ▶ Learning from the field -
Best practices both urban
and rural
- ▶ Driving home the
message: Consequences
of bad watershed
management



ACTIONS WE WANT TO TAKE

- ▶ Begin a comprehensive watershed planning process for the basin
- ▶ Engage regional planners
- ▶ Link floodplain and watershed management for better infrastructure, economic development and natural floodplains
- ▶ Create integrated flood and flow model for Upper Mississippi River



ACTIONS WE WANT TO TAKE

- ▶ Support pro-active watershed management to reduce risk of flooding and better respond to future flood events