

FLOOD MITIGATION AND WATER TRAILS

The Partnership supports policies and funding that holistically restore and maintain rivers, streams and lakes that provide adventures and peaceful experiences, decrease the negative impacts of flooding, decrease streambank erosion and improve water quality for drinking and recreation.

Further, The Partnership supports the enactment of legislation and implementation of policy initiatives that will modernize the nation's critically important inland waterway lock and dam infrastructure, including programs within the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).

WATER TRAILS AND HEALTHY RIVERS, LAKES AND STREAMS

The Partnership supports:

- Building a regional connected system of natural resource areas and corridors, including a water trails network.
- Policy, funding and practices that help meet Iowa's Hypoxia Task Force goal of 45 percent reductions in nitrogen and phosphorus by 2030.
- Funding opportunities leveraging state investment for Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy.
- A "culture of measurement" of water quality, including the establishment of measuring and monitoring tools that assist in quantifying environmental benefits of practices and policies.
- Additional federal funding for the Raccoon River Watershed and the inclusion of the watershed as a specific line item in future appropriations bills to allow for dedicated funding.
- Funding and support of Watershed Management Authorities and the work executed to develop comprehensive watershed management plans across Iowa.

DES MOINES RIVER FLOOD PROTECTION

The Partnership will continue to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Congress, the City of Des Moines (the City) and other partners to identify and secure timely approvals required to address flood control and mitigation on the Des Moines River.

In response to the USACE Des Moines River Regulated Flow Frequency Study issued in January 2011, the City has pursued analysis and hydraulic modeling to propose improvements to the City's flood protection system that will address the increased flood risk communicated to the City and to

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provide reliable protection against a 100-year flood with a FEMA-accredited flood protection system. Since 2011, the City has taken significant steps in addressing critical infrastructure needs to address flood mitigation and protection.

To further enhance the City's efforts, The Partnership supports:

- Coordinated timely actions with USACE to obtain the necessary approvals, including Section 408 and actions related to the Federal Southeast Des Moines levee, to reduce flood risk in the City. This may include any agreements necessary to receive credit for future matching fund requirements once future federal funding is authorized.
- Resolution of outstanding issues related to the 1987 Consent to Easement Structure between the City and USACE that involve a portion of the Southeast Des Moines Levee that was relocated in the late 1980s to accommodate the construction of wastewater treatment facilities.
- Request of federal funding and determination of required actions to make improvements to the USACE Red Rock Remedial Levee in Southeast Des Moines Levee system to satisfy FEMA accreditation requirements.
- Continued demonstration of projects using green infrastructure techniques (restored wetlands, restored oxbows, etc.) installed upstream to slow the flow in the upper reaches of the watershed, resulting in lower peaks in flood events in the lower watershed near Des Moines.