



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Rock Island District

# DES MOINES AND RACCOON RIVERS FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY



May 2005

## OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, May 24, 2005  
2-9 p.m.

Iowa State Historical Museum  
Classrooms A and B  
600 East Locust Street, Des Moines

The City of Des Moines and the Rock Island District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have completed a draft feasibility report with an integrated environmental assessment. **You are invited to attend** an open house to discuss and comment on the study's findings.

Two sessions will be held. The first session will be an informal period from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., with City of Des Moines and Corps of Engineers representatives ready to discuss the study with attendees on a one-to-one basis. Copies of the draft report and drawings and maps of the study areas will be on display at the open house. The second session will begin at 6 p.m. with a short presentation explaining the draft report's findings and the recommended plan. The presentation will be followed by a question and answer period. City and Corps representatives will be available again after the question and answer period to meet informally with attendees until 9 p.m. If you have logistical questions about the open house, please contact Ms. Sue Simmons, Rock Island District, Corps of Engineers, at 309/794-5573.

Copies of the feasibility study's draft report will be furnished to the Des Moines Library, West Des Moines Library, and the Cowles Library at Drake University prior to the open house. The report also will be available for viewing and downloading on the study website at <http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/DesMoinesFP/Documents/Feasibility200505/>.

## STUDY FINDINGS

Initiated in September 1999, the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers Feasibility Study evaluated potential flood damage reduction alternatives for 11 areas, or reaches, throughout City of Des Moines. For alternatives to qualify for a federal cost sharing project they must be environmentally acceptable and benefits must exceed costs. The proposed recommendations are summarized below:

**Reach 1 – Birdland Park Levee** – The proposed plan recommends reconstructing 7,700 feet of levee to the 500-year flood protection level and bike trail on the levee connecting both Riverview and McHenry Parks with the Neal Smith Trail.

**Reach 2 – Central Place Levee** – The proposed plan recommends reconstructing 5,900 feet of levee to the 500-year flood protection level.

**Reaches 3, 4, and 5 – Downtown Levee System** – The proposed plan recommends elimination of 7 closures structures and improving 12 other closure structures in the existing levees. Closures structures are located where roads and railroads cut through a levee or floodwall.

**No federal projects were found to be justified at these locations:** Reach 6 – Raccoon River (Valley Drive area), Reach 7 – Des Moines Water Works Levee, Reach 8 – West Des Moines Levee, Reach 9 – Walnut Creek at Grand Avenue, Reach 10 – Fourmile Creek in the City of Des Moines, Reach 11 – Leetown Creekway South of University Avenue.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

After all public comments are addressed, a final report will be prepared and forwarded to the Corps of Engineers' higher headquarters for approval and submittal to Congress.

### COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

**We welcome your input.** If you have comments and/or questions regarding this study, please contact:

Mr. Steve Russell  
Study Manager  
Rock Island District, Corps of Engineers  
309/794-5634, fax: 309/794-5710  
E-mail: [stephen.s.russell@usace.army.mil](mailto:stephen.s.russell@usace.army.mil)

If you prefer, you may write to Mr. Russell at:

District Engineer  
U.S. Army Engineer District, Rock Island  
ATTN: CEMVR-PM-F (Russell)  
Clock Tower Building - P.O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

The point of contact for the City of Des Moines is:

Mr. Scott Ralston  
Storm Water Engineer  
City of Des Moines Public Works Department  
WRF, Bldg. 96  
3000 Vandalia Road  
Des Moines, Iowa 50317  
515/323-8171; fax: 515/323-8175  
E-mail: [SARalston@dmgov.org](mailto:SARalston@dmgov.org)

***We look forward to seeing you at the open house.***