

The Illinois River: Progress & Promise



2005
Tenth Biennial

Governor's Conference on the Management of the
Illinois River System

October 6, 2005
Holiday Inn City Centre
Peoria, Illinois

Presented By: Thomas D. Tincher

Governor's Conferences on the Management of the Illinois River System



1987



1989



1991



1993



1995



1997



1999



2001



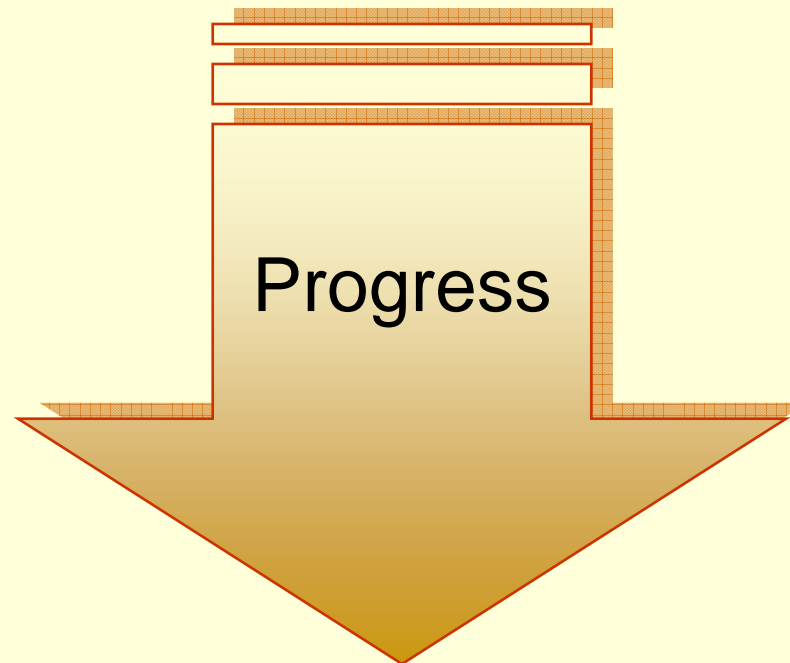
2003



2005

Governor's Conferences Contributions

- Increased Public Awareness
- Improved Interagency Communication, Coordination, & Cooperation



Managing The Illinois River Milestones

PROGRESS

(1987 to 2005)

POLICIES, PLANS & PROGRAMS



Managing the Illinois River Milestones

1986

Illinois Environmental
Management Program
(Commenced)

1997

Integrated Management Plan
for the Illinois River
(Drafted)

1999

Conservation 2000 Program
(Established)

1991

The Illinois River: Working for
Our State Report
(Published)

1998

Conservation Reserve
Enhancement Program
(Established)

2000

Illinois River 2020 Programs
(Established)

1996

Illinois River Ecosystem
Restoration Plan
(Commenced)

1998

Illinois River Coordinating
Council (Formed)

2005

Mississippi River / Illinois
River Navigation Study
(Completed)

Managing the Illinois River Milestones

1986

Illinois River Environmental
Management Plan
(Ongoing)

- ILLINOIS RIVER -

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM

(Ongoing)

- Invested more than \$250 million in Ecosystem Monitoring & Restoration
- Impacted almost 150,000 acres of Habitat
- Project Planning & Prioritization is an ongoing process
- Habitat Needs Assessment completed in 2000

Managing the Illinois River Milestones

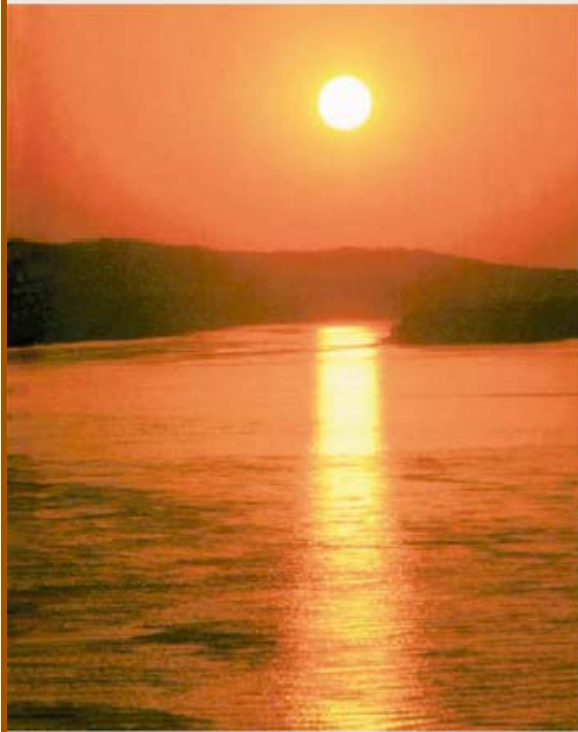
1991

The Illinois River: Working for
Our State Report
(Published)

Contents:

- Introduction of the Illinois River Valley
- The Many Roles of the Working River
- The Waters of the Illinois River
- Flooding and Flow Levels
- Sediment and Erosion
- Management of the Illinois River
- References and Reading

The Illinois River: Working for Our State



Laurie McCarthy
Talkington

Illinois State
Water Survey
A Division of
the Department
of Energy and Natural
Resources

Miscellaneous
Publication 128

Managing the Illinois River Milestones

1996
Illinois River Ecosystem
Restoration Plan
(Commenced)

Focus:

- Sediment Control
- Protection & Creation of Wetlands and Critical Habitats
- Stream Restoration
- Improved Water Level
- Floodplain Management

PEORIA RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT
(ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION) STUDY, ILLINOIS

FEASIBILITY REPORT
WITH INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

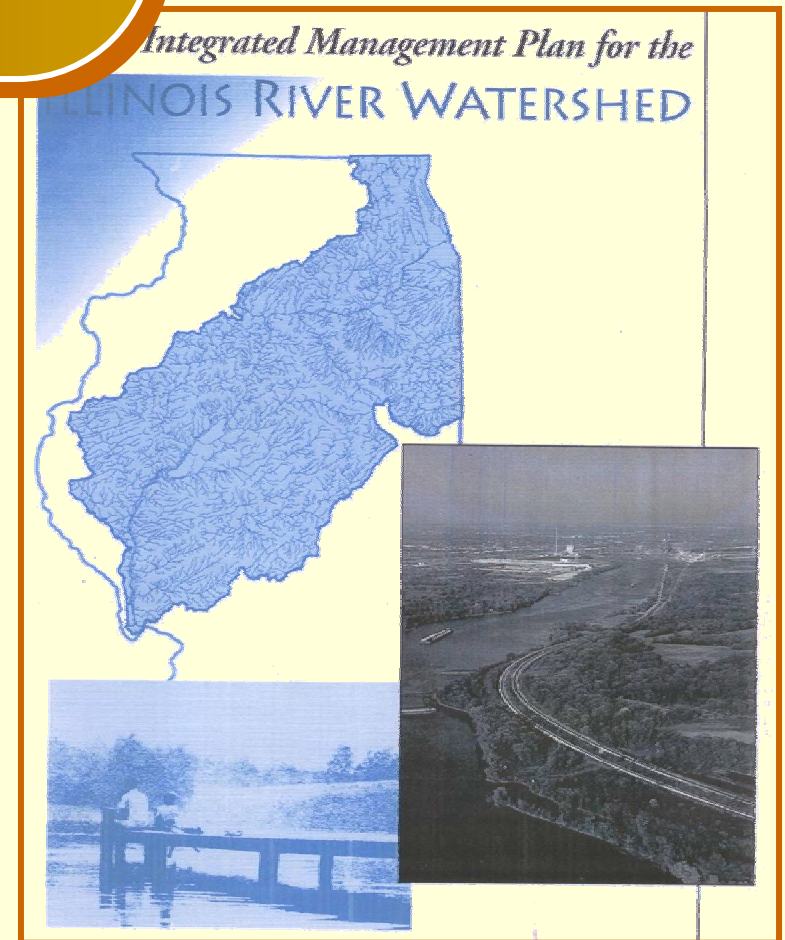
APRIL 2002

Managing the Illinois River Milestones

1997
Integrated Management Plan
for the Illinois River
(Drafted)

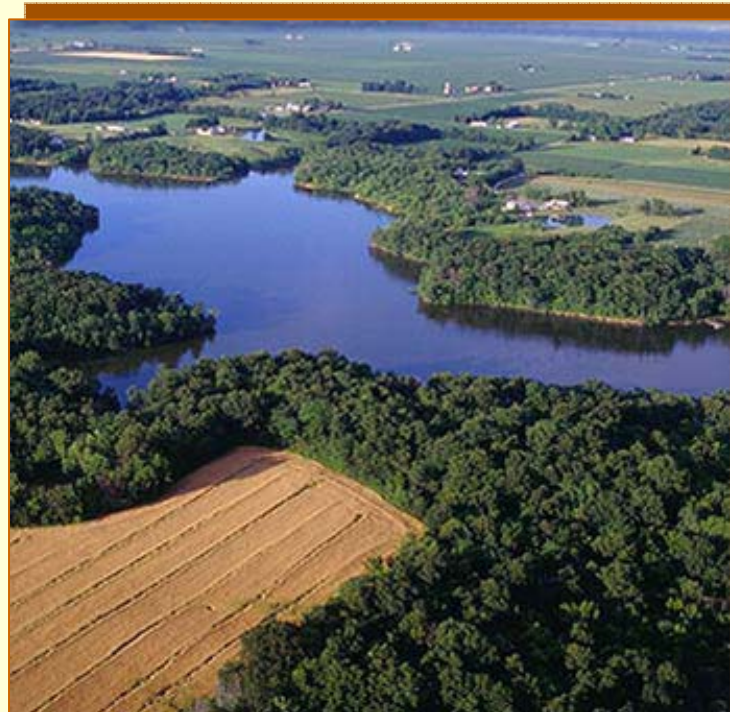
Contents:

- In The Corridor
- Soil & Water Movement
- Agricultural Practices
- Economic Development
- Local Action
- Education



Managing the Illinois River Milestones

1998
Conservation Reserve
Enhancement Program
(Established)



Illinois CREP Area



Participants:

- Federal, State, and Local Agencies Partnership
- Illinois River Basin is Targeted
- Reduces Sediment & Nutrient Flow Into The River
- Enhances Wildlife Habitat

Managing the Illinois River Milestones

1998

Illinois River Coordinating
Council (Formed)

Participants:

Illinois River Coordinating Council



RIVER

Office of Lieutenant Governor
Pat Quinn
100 W. Randolph, Chicago 60601
312-814-5220

State Capitol, Springfield, 62704
217-782-7884
www.CleanWater.il.gov

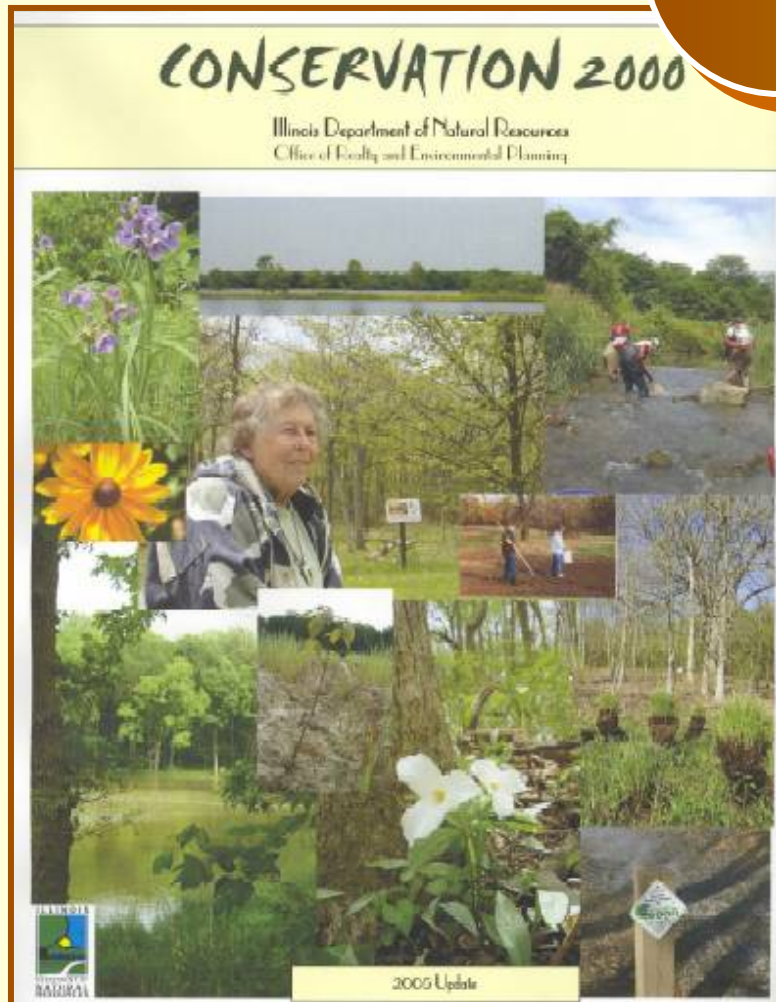
- Chaired by Lieutenant Governor
- 13 Member Appointed Board
- Federal Issues Working Group
- State Issues Working Group
- Community Action Working Group
- Strategic Planning/ Adaptive Management Working Group
- Science Adversary Committee

Managing the Illinois River Milestones

1999
Conservation 2000 Program
(Established)

Program Elements:

- Competitive Project Grants
- Vision Planning Grants
- Support Grants
- Ecosystem Program
 - Including the Illinois River Bluffs Ecosystem Partnership
- Critical Trends Assessment Program



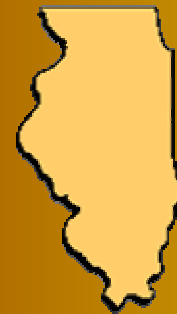
Managing the Illinois River Milestones

2000
Illinois River 2020
(Approved)

- \$2.5 Billion, 20-Year Program
- Federal & State Partnership
- Illinois River Ecosystem Study
- Section 519 of WRDA Act

ILLINOIS RIVER 2020 PROGRAM

(Approved)



Managing the Illinois River Milestones

2004
Illinois River Decision
Support System

Contents:

Illinois Rivers Decision Support System (ILRDSS)

by

Illinois State Water Survey, Illinois Natural History Survey,
Illinois State Geologic Survey, and Waste Management and Research Center
Illinois Department of Natural Resources



- Integrates & Expands Existing Databases & Numerical Models for Segments of the Illinois River Into and Integrated Discussion Support System for Entire Illinois River Watershed.
- Provides New Databases & Models
- Provides a Comprehensive Web Portal to All Available Illinois River Basin Information.

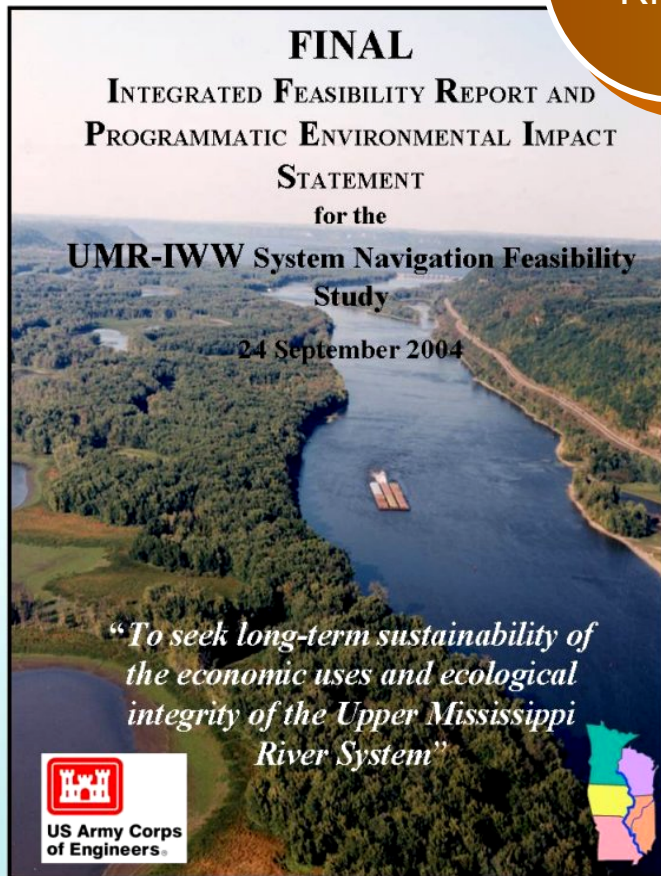
Managing the Illinois River Milestones

2005

Mississippi River/Illinois
River Navigation Study
(Completed)

Highlights:

- 50-Year Framework
- Integrated Plan
- Navigation Efficiency
- Environmental Sustainability
- Ecosystem Restoration



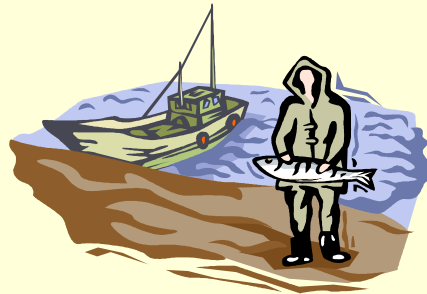
Final Integrated Feasibility Report and
Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Managing The Illinois River Milestones

PROGRESS & PROMISE

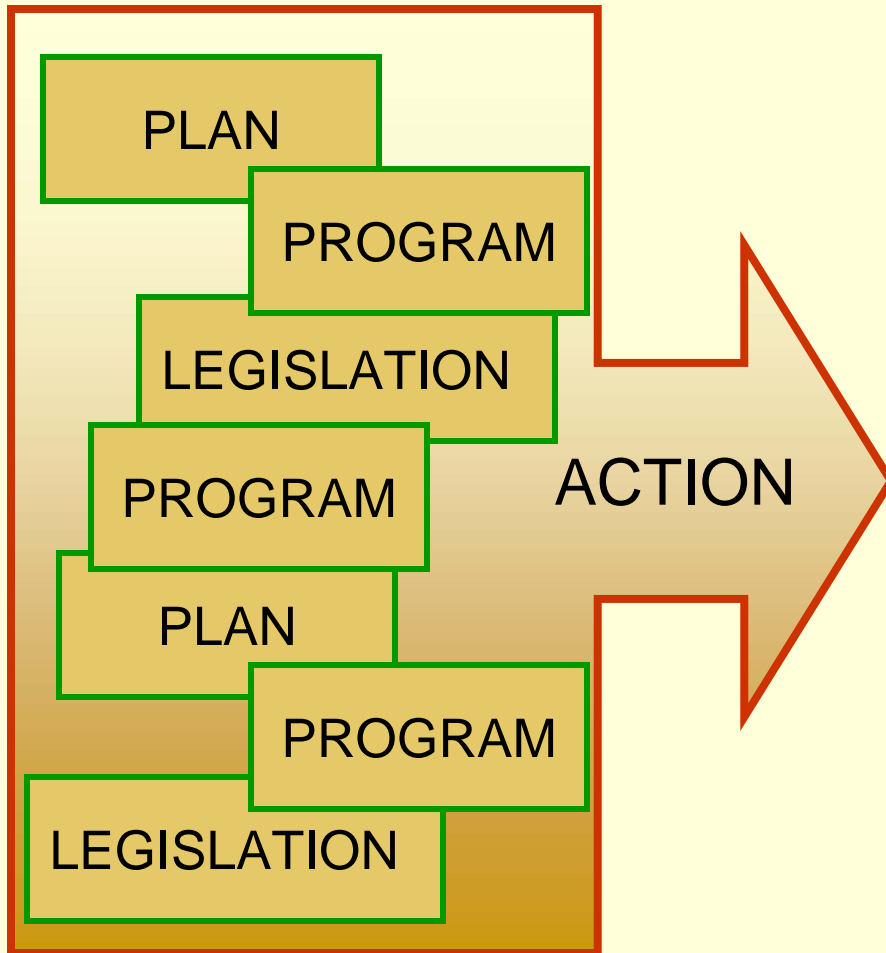
(1987 to 2020)

IMPACT & COMMITMENT



– Progress & Promise –

Turning Policies, Plans, & Programs Into Action



- 1) Ecological & Environmental Improvements
- 2) Habitat Restoration & Expansion
- 3) Sediment Flow Reduction
- 4) Sediment Removal & Placement
- 5) River Navigation & Economic Development
- 6) Recreation, Tourism Expansion & Community Revitalization

1

– Progress & Promise – Environmental & Ecological Improvements



*Return of
Eagles*



*Improved
Water Quality*



*Return of
Other Wildlife*



– Progress & Promise – Habitat Restoration & Expansion



- Emiquon
- Spunky Bottoms
- Meredosia

- Hennepin & Hoppers
- Banner Marsh
- Others



– Progress & Promise – Sediment Flow Reduction

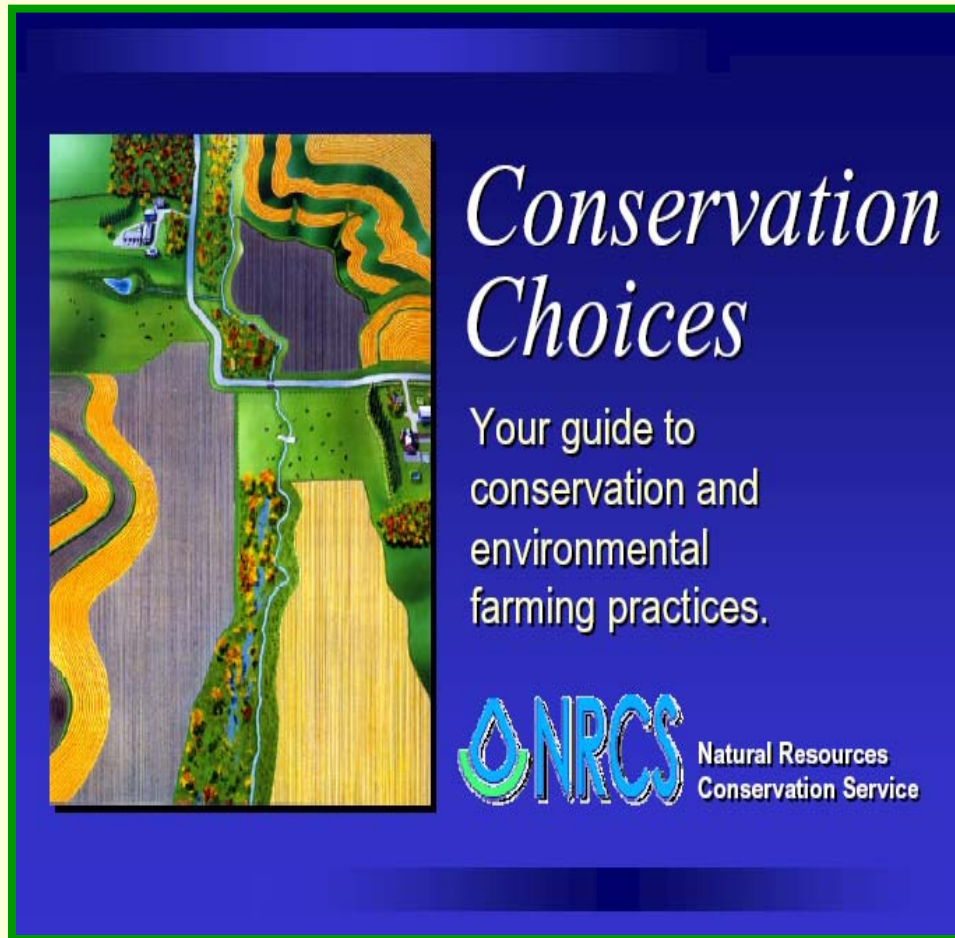
A
FARMING
PRACTICES

C
URBAN & HILLSIDE
RUNOFF
MANAGEMENT

B
STREAMBANK
STABILIZATION

D
COMPREHENSIVE
TRIBUTARY WATERSHED
PLANNING

– Progress & Promise – Sediment Flow Reduction



A Farming Practices

- Erosion Trends
- Tillage Trends
- Crop Residue Trends
- Gully Erosion Trends

– Progress & Promise – Streambank Stabilization



B Streambank Stabilization

- Illinois Dept. of Agriculture Adminstrating Streambank Stabilization & Restoration Program
- SSRP Funded Under C2000
- Terraces
- Grassed Waterways
- Water & Sediment Control Basins
- Grade Stabilization Structures

– Progress & Promise – Sediment Flow Reduction

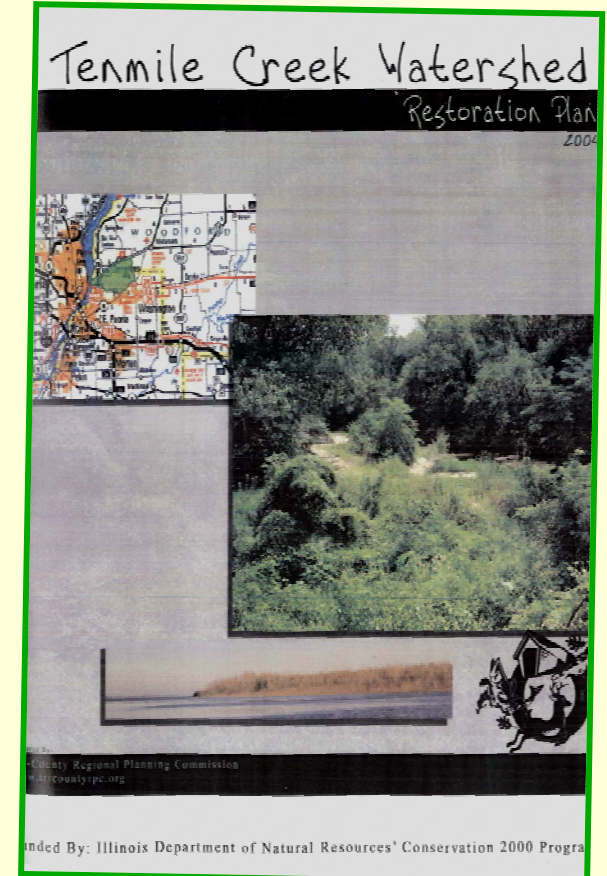
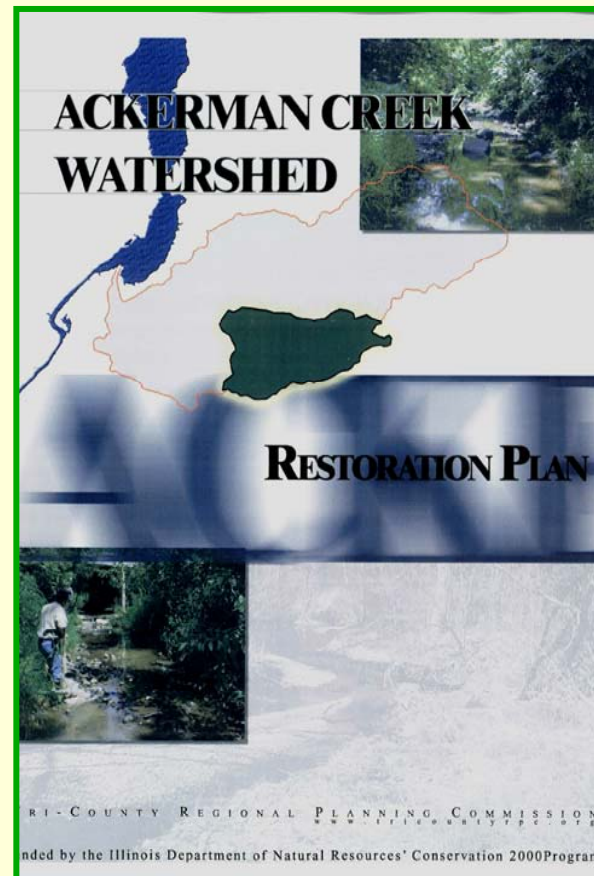
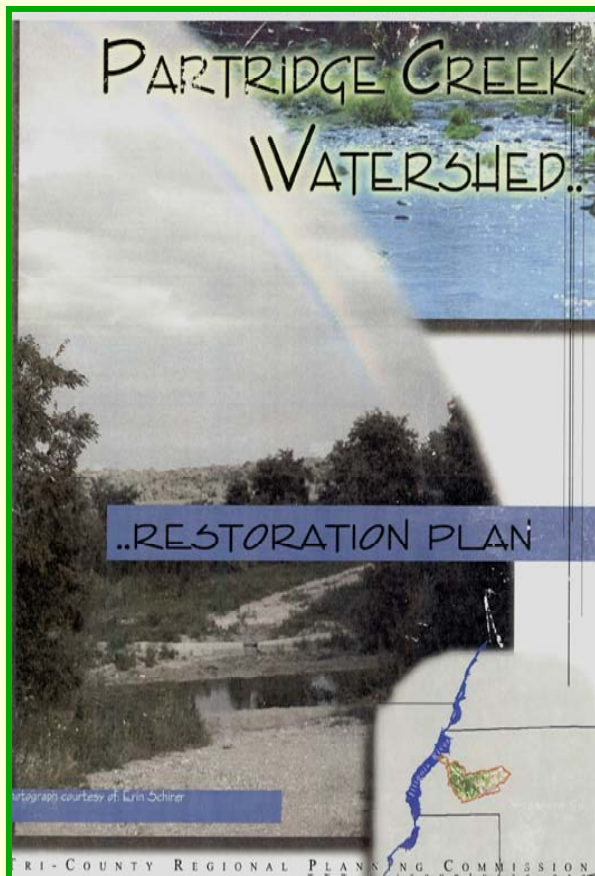


C Urban & Hillside Runoff Management

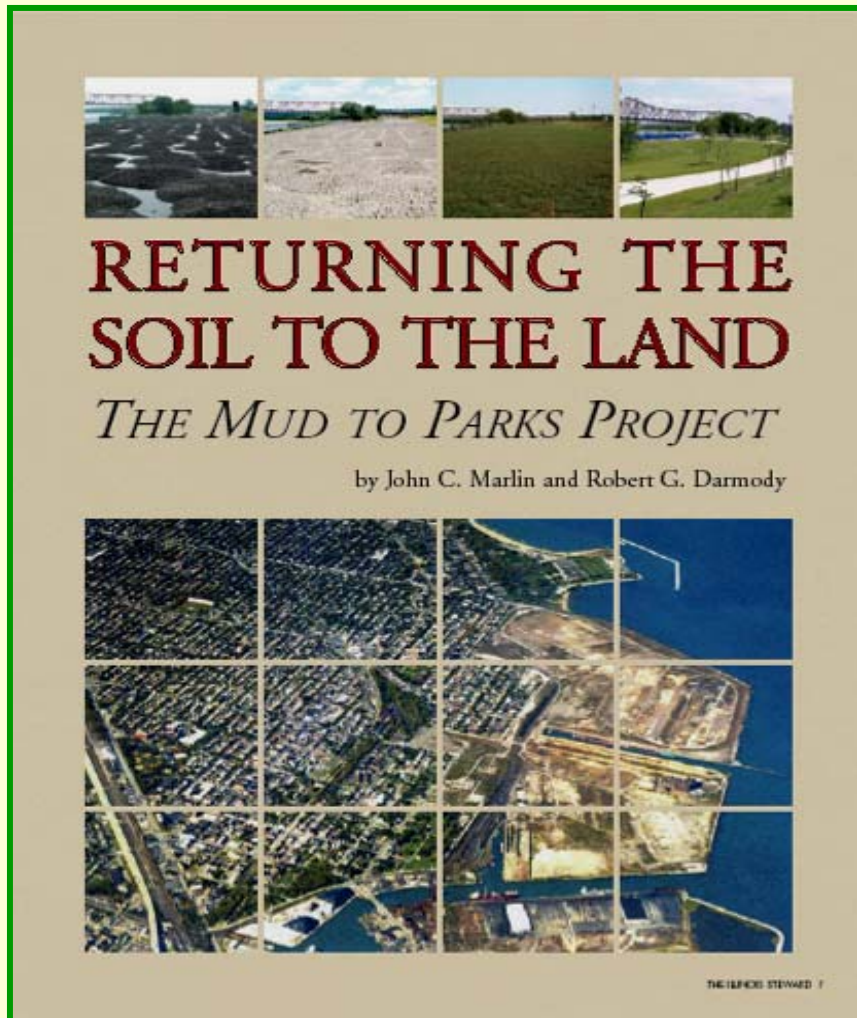
- Stormwater Management
- Ravine Ordinances
- Hillside Management

– Progress & Promise – Sediment Flow Reduction

D Comprehensive Tributary Watershed Planning



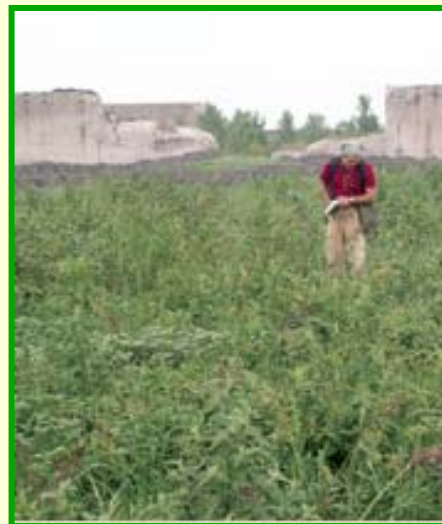
– Progress & Promise – Sediment Removal & Placement



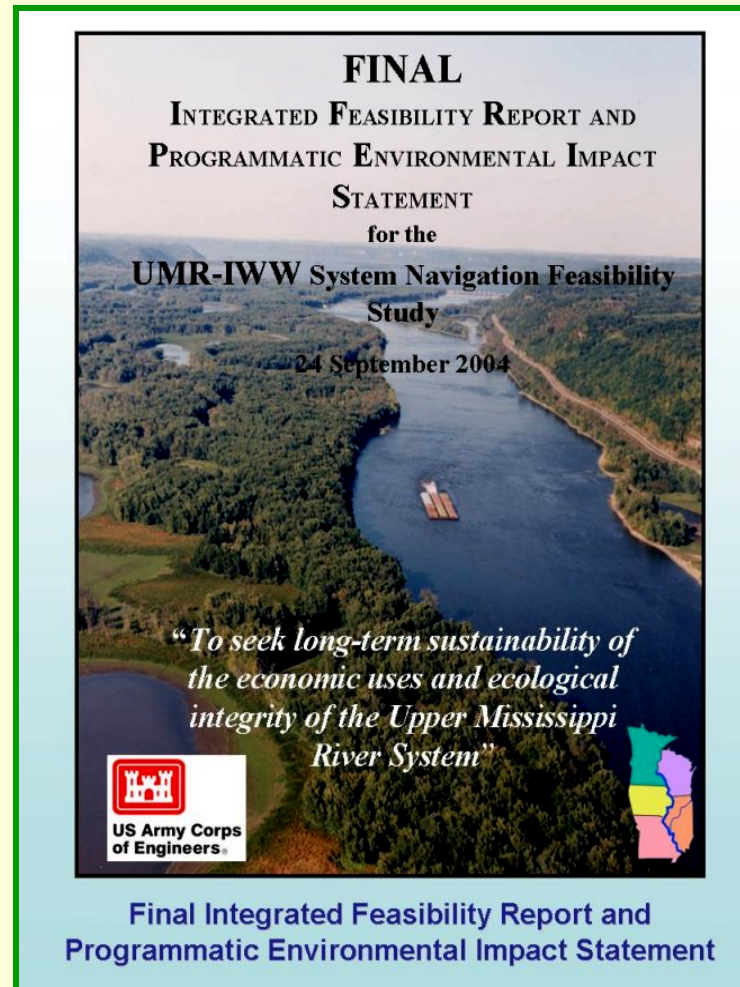
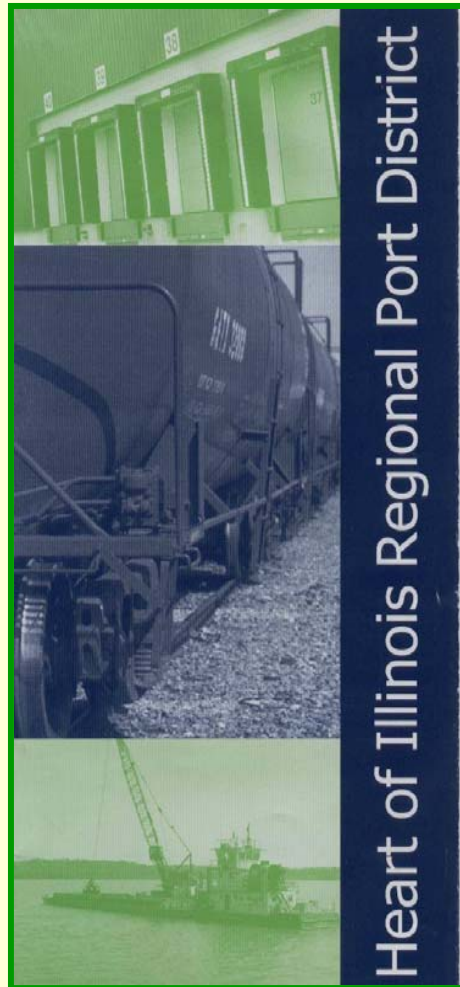
- Sediment is a valuable, though out-of-place resource
- Technical Feasibility Being Proven
- Technology Being Tested

Removal of large amounts of sediment is an important element of Peoria Lakes and certain backwater lake restoration plans

– Progress & Promise – Sediment Removal & Placement



– Progress & Promise – River Navigation & Economic Development





**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

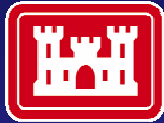


Upper Mississippi River-Illinois Waterway System Navigation Study

Now: Navigation & Environmental Sustainability Program

- **Chief's of Engineer's Report Signed Dec. 2004.**
- **Estimated construction start date: FY2006 (contingent on authorization)**
- **Scheduled completion date: FY2020 (contingent on authorization)**
- **Authorization status**

One Team: Relevant, Ready, Responsive and Reliable



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Ecosystem Restoration Implementation

\$1.58 Billion In First 15 Years



- Fish passage @ dams 4, 8, 22* & 26*
- Changes in water level control @ dams 25 and 16 (25*)
- Adaptive implementation of 225 small projects of less than \$25 million each
 - Island building*
 - Water level management*
 - Backwater/side channel restoration*
 - Wing dam/dike alterations*
 - Island shoreline protection*
- 35,000 acres of floodplain restoration
- Continued study & monitoring

* Initiate in FY05

One Team: Relevant, Ready, Responsive and Reliable

– Progress & Promise – Recreation, Tourism Expansion & Community Revitalization

A
RIVER
RECREATION

The Illinois River not only continues to serve as a major recreation resource, it has now become a focus for tourism expansion and community revitalization purposes

B
NATURE-BASED &
OTHER TOURISM

C
COMMUNITY
REVITALIZATION

6

– Progress & Promise – Recreation, Tourism Expansion & Community Revitalization

A River Recreation

- Successful restoration will result in improved recreational use of the river

FISHING

HUNTING

BOATING

6

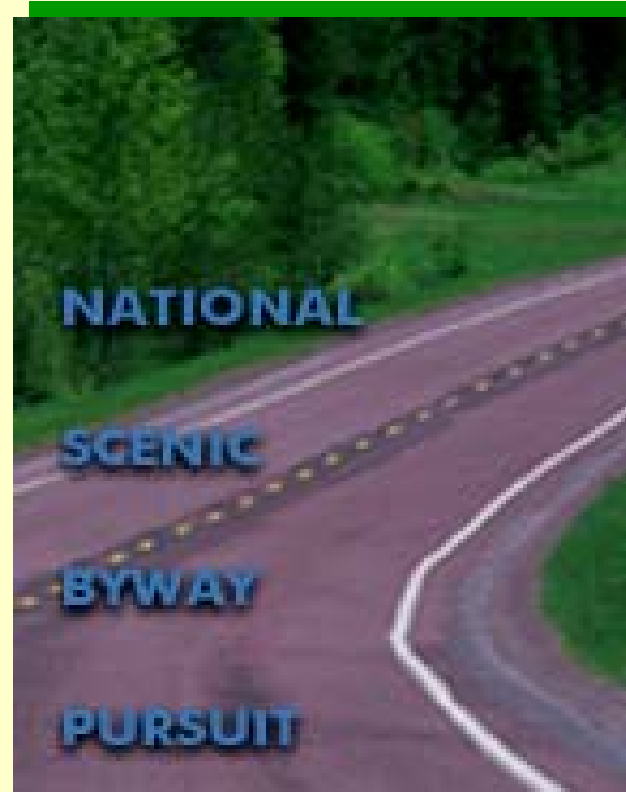
– Recreation, Tourism Expansion & Community Revitalization –

B

Nature-Based Tourism & Expansion



**Illinois River Country
Regional Advertising
Campaign**



**National Scenic By-Way
Designation**

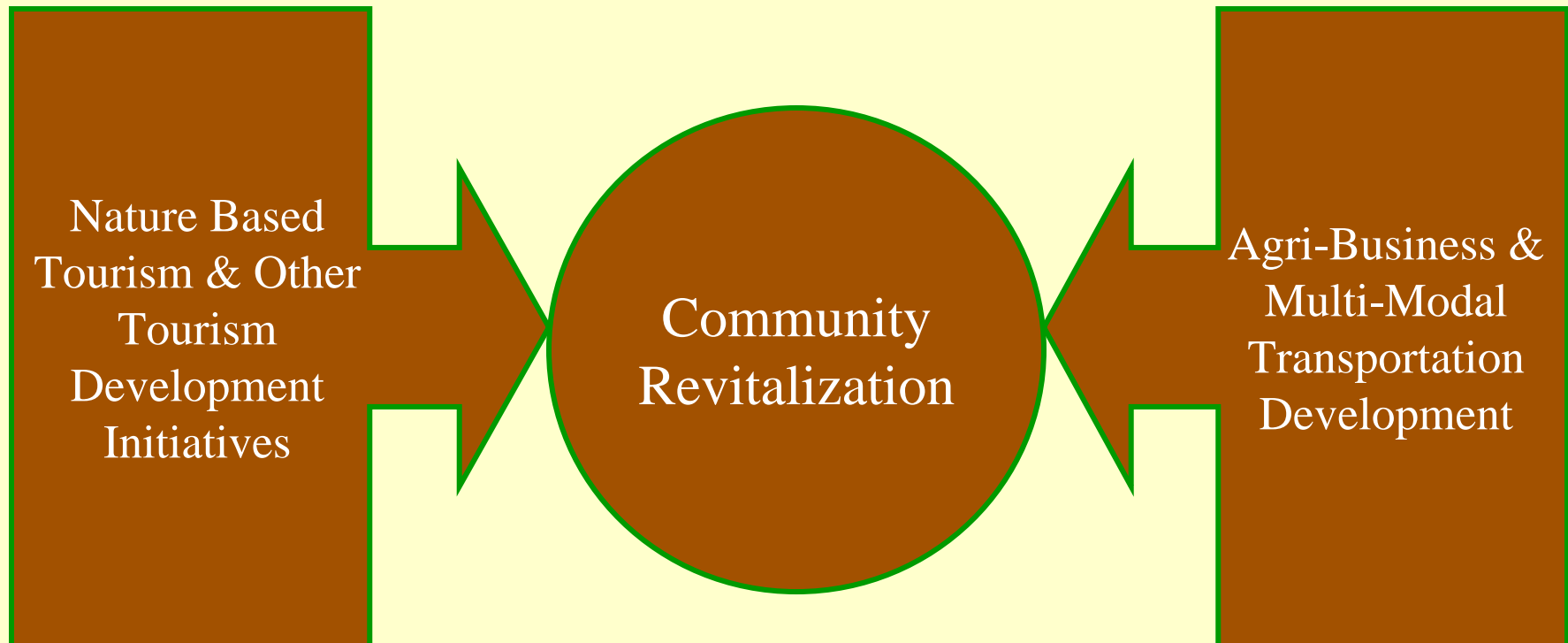


**Illinois River Country
Nature Trail**

6

– Progress & Promise – Recreation, Tourism Expansion & Community Revitalization

C COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION STRATEGY



GOAL: To take advantage of the Illinois River as an important natural, cultural, and economic resource to help further the overall revitalization of the community

6

– Progress & Promise – Recreation, Tourism Expansion & Community Revitalization

C

Community Revitalization



– Progress & Promise –



Bipartisan Action Addresses River Issues

YOU CAN HELP SAVE PEORIA LAKES

AVERAGE DEPTH OF PEORIA LAKES
ONLY 18 INCHES!



**WE MUST
STOP
SEDIMENT
FLOW
INTO
PEORIA
LAKES!**