

MISSISSIPPI RIVER WATERSHED PLAN – GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: To collaborate with watershed partners in promoting an integrated and consistent approach to the health and management of the watershed and water resources.

OBJECTIVES

- A. Develop a plan that integrates all relevant aspects of watershed management and planning.
- B. Clarify responsibilities for delivering and funding watershed assets, programs and services.
- C. Cultivate partnerships among individuals, community groups, businesses and government agencies that have a stake in the health of the watershed.
- D. Develop and strengthen Indigenous partnerships, respecting Indigenous values and rights.
- E. Establish a coordinated and adaptive approach to watershed management activities amongst government and other partners.

Goal 2: To use and manage both surface water and groundwater wisely to meet current and future needs under normal and extreme conditions.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Expand our understanding of the water budget of the Mississippi River watershed and the potential impacts of climate change.
- B. Maintain and enhance the hydrologic balance, including baseflow, groundwater quantity, recharge and discharge, within the Mississippi River watershed.
- C. Work with watershed landowners, communities and industry to balance competing demands for water use in a sustainable manner.

Goal 3: To minimize risks to human life and property due to flooding, erosion, and unstable slopes and soils.

OBJECTIVES

- A. Identify hazards and mitigate risks associated with flooding, erosion, unstable slopes, and unstable soils.
- B. Undertake water management operations to mitigate flooding and erosion.
- C. Provide flood storage throughout the system.
- D. Provide effective flood forecasting and warning.
- E. Communicate and educate about risks and mitigation strategies associated with flooding, erosion and unstable slope/soils.

Goal 4: To sustain or improve current water quality for all users.

OBJECTIVES

- A. Establish surface water quality trends and determine sources of surface water quality impairment.
- B. Carry out remedial actions to mitigate further degradation and ensure safe drinking water.
- C. Establish groundwater quality trends and determine sources of groundwater quality impairment.
- D. Prevent groundwater contamination to ensure safe drinking water supplies.

Goal 5: To increase our resiliency and adaptive response to climate change.

OBJECTIVES

- A. Improve our understanding of climate change impacts in the Mississippi River watershed.
- B. Improve local resiliency to changing climatic and extreme weather conditions.
- C. Incorporate climate change considerations into planning and management decision making tools, guidelines, plans and policies.

Goal 6: To support environmentally sustainable growth and economic development.

OBJECTIVES

- A. Monitor and report on watershed conditions.
- B. Quantify water use trends and needs by sector and establish priority needs and management practices under extreme conditions.
- C. Work with watershed partners to develop and implement best practices in the watershed.

Goal 7: To maintain, enhance, or restore natural features and systems for all users.

OBJECTIVES

- A. Protect and enhance the form and function of aquatic habitat and riparian areas.
- B. Reduce habitat fragmentation and protect, restore and enhance natural cover to improve connectivity, quality, biodiversity and ecological function.
- C. Optimize use of land acquisition tools and explore new means of acquiring public assets.

Goal 8: To support learning and environmental stewardship.

OBJECTIVES

- A. Quantify the social, economic and ecological value of watershed resources and processes.
- B. Communicate and educate about the values of the watershed.
- C. Demonstrate best management and stewardship practices and inspire and enable people to be stewards of the watershed.