

RiverWay™

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River Action strives to foster the environmental, economic, and cultural vitality of the Mississippi River and its riverfront in the Quad City region.

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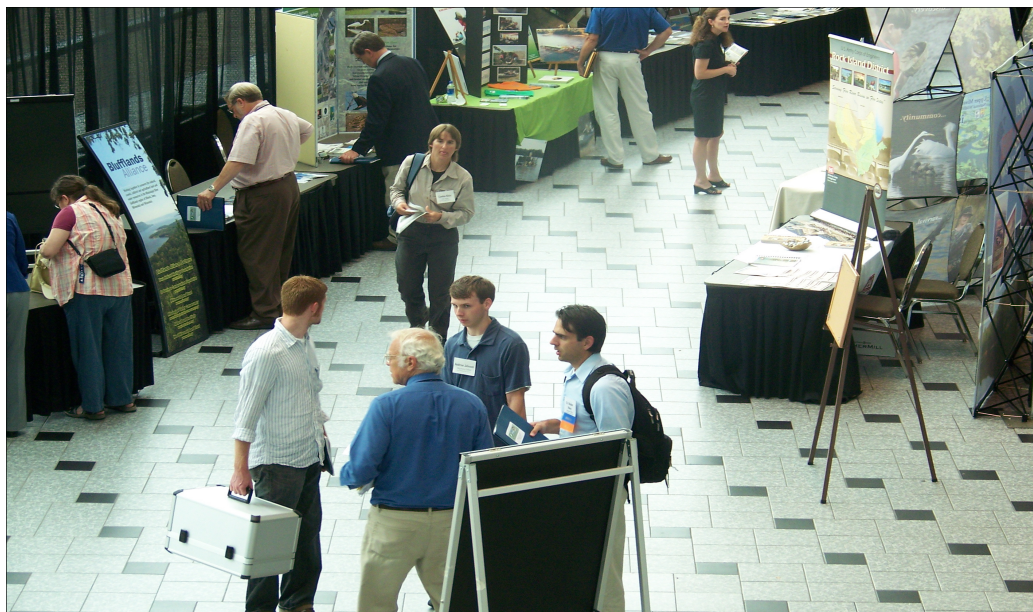
UMRC and RIVERWAY 2008



Left: Free sailing lessons were offered at the Lake Davenport Sailing Club's Open House on Saturday, followed by the RiverWay Regatta on Sunday.



Above Right: Dan Belcher, award winning sand builder from St. Louis, works on a river themed sand sculpture at Centennial Park. Below: Upper Mississippi River Conference attendees visit 20 vendor booths during a break in presentations at the i-Wireless Center.



PLANNING MATTERS

** Editorial **

River Action To Celebrate 25 years

Having just completed the Jr. League of the Quad Cities' 1983 Year of the River, full of energy and ideas, Paddy Blackman, Priscilla Parkhurst, and I founded River Action in 1984. Our first efforts were to expand public access to the river through the building of riverfront trails.

Paddy came up with the name River Action, "because that is what we want to do!" she stressed. We have always tried to live up to that "We meet, we act, we get it done." goal we wrote that day.

In 2009, we'll celebrate our 25th anniversary. The momentum and success of our 25th anniversary campaign and celebrations will give RA the opportunity to greatly improve the Mississippi River beyond what was imaginable when we were founded 25 years ago. Our achievements are the result of people like you, who share our vision for what the Mississippi River can be.

We'll start by expanding some of our existing programs. For example, the 2009 Explore the River Series will include Channel Cat Talks, Riverine Walks, Mondays for Kids and Families, and Sunday bus tours to communities where we'll explore 'what makes a river town a river town.' We plan to make the entire year momentous.

As we enter 2009, we hope you will become a member of River Action, or join us again during this special year.

- Kathy Wine

Rock Island's Armory Park

At the September 8 Study Session, City Council heard a presentation from Schreiber / Anderson Associates (SAA) and Williams / Valley Corporation Construction Managers concerning the latest design for Rock Island's Mississippi River Armory Park.

The revised plan can be built for the approved budget of \$13 million [You can view the plan at www.rigov.org]. The park still includes the following elements: performance stage, festival & event areas, entry icon, observation shelter, flood protection, Mississippi River views, greenspace, water feature, playground, bike path, restrooms, & parking

With Council's approval of this concept, SAA and Williams / Valley will proceed with final design and engineering. It is expected that bids for demolition, temporary flood protection and the sewer improvements will be advertised in November 2008, awarded in late December 2008 with work getting underway in early 2009. The park will be bid in late winter, 2009, construction will start in spring, 2009, and should be completed by mid-2010.



Credit Island Trail Bridge

Davenport was awarded a federal grant in 2005 for a bridge that will connect bikers and pedestrians across Credit Island slough to Concord St. This connection is an integral link to the riverfront trail system that is planned to extend through Sunderbruch Park all the way to the Duck Creek and Mississippi River Trails which will connect to Buffalo and Muscatine. The significant increase in the price of steel forced the city to consider new design options to keep costs down. VJ Engineering and city staff decided on a concrete arch design that allows for wide viewing areas. The total cost of the project is \$2.3 million and it is projected that construction will start in late 2009 and take 10 months to complete.

Moline's River Tech Corridor

The demolition of former businesses at the 2500 block of Moline's E. River Dr. is now complete to allow for recycling of building materials. FlexTech, a high-priority project geared to create a critical bridge between the region's emerging businesses and mature companies, is likely to be the first phase developed. It brings to the Quad Cities the space required for technology companies to expand and grow while maintaining a high-tech image along the shores of the Mississippi River. Other developments include University Square & e3 Initiative all tied to the WIU-QC Riverfront Campus.

To date, over \$8 million in public funding has been secured for various uses including infrastructure and public improvements. Current hold ups with the State of Illinois' Capital Bill are slowing the development of the new WIU campus. Components of this riverfront development will include facility, student, and general population housing; retail that favors an academic setting and flexible office and technological spaces that accommodate diverse, modern business ventures.

KONE Centre Update

The eight-plus story KONE Centre is intended to bring retail, office, and residential condominiums to Bass Street Landing, Moline, with a 500-vehicle multi-story parking structure sustaining it. The highly anticipated building design and site plan will be reviewed by the Design Build Team sometime this fall. After the review, it will go to the City Council for final approval.

KONE will be the anchor tenant for the tower and lease up to seven stories of the building. The project has also been given \$2 million in state incentives to retain jobs in the Quad City Region. A development agreement is still under negotiation with the City of Moline. Tenants and project financing are still being sought.

Quad City Watershed Plan Taking Shape

Conservation Design Forum, consultants to River Action's QC Watershed Plan, presented its prioritized action plan for implementing projects to improve the Duck Creek and Rock River Watersheds at its regular meeting, October 1st. The steering committee, municipal public works departments, counties and local professionals and citizens are providing detailed feedback on these recommendations, so that they can be incorporated in the final draft in November. The prioritized action plan is one of the last steps in the watershed planning process which will be completed in December, 2008. It will then go to the City Councils and County Boards for approval.

Chicago Meeting: Urban Waterfronts 26: Countless Opportunities

A workshop, "Chicago: The Tale of Two Waterfronts", November 19—20, and the 27th annual "Urban Waterfronts Conference", sponsored by the Waterfront Center, will be held at the Drake Hotel, Chicago, November 20—22, 2008. The meeting brings together communities committed to the health of the world's waters as well as to sound waterfront planning and development practices.

"Finding Adventure in an Urban Environment" presented by Jeff Cornelius, River Action, will feature Taming of the Slough and other River-Way 2008 activities during one segment of the conference.

Contact River Action for a brochure, 322-2969, or go on line at www.waterfrontcenter.org. If you are interested in catching a ride with other QC attendees, give us a call as well.

Mississippi River Parkway Commission Honored for 70th Anniversary of the Great River Road

While setting five year goals at the Commissions' annual meeting, September 24-28, Bettendorf, it took time to celebrate 70 years of the Great River Road by establishing the MRPC Endowment Fund with a \$10,000 donation. "We need to look at the sustainability of the organization while we look beyond state and federal funds for additional programs." Patsy Ramiccitti, National Pilot, commented. The announcement of the endowment came with a challenge to attendees to match the original donation. In addition to special speakers and presentations, attendees participated in a riverfront trail ride. The Commission supports not only the Great River Road but also many amenities such as riverfront trails and interpretive signage.

QC Wayfinding Signage

Signs around the QC have a lot more color these days. Years of studies, plans, and funding assistance from the Riverboat Development Authority were realized on September 30 with the unveiling of new wayfinding signs that are intended to help tourists navigate from destination to destination throughout the QC area.

Mayors from East Moline, Moline, Rock Island, Davenport and Bettendorf participated in a simultaneous unveiling in their respective city along with River Action staff, community representatives, and city personnel.

The cost for design work was just more than \$100,000 and supported by grants from the Riverboat Development Authority [RDA], the Scott County Regional Authority, and River Action. The estimated cost of implementation of the entire project was \$350,000. RDA will pay up to \$75,00 of that cost, or \$15,00 to each city.

Henry Farnam Speakers Bureau: The QC Henry Farnam Committee has established a speaker's bureau, offering programs by experts on local and regional topics. The presentations are given as an extension of the annual Quad Cities Henry Farnam Dinner, which celebrates local and regional Mississippi River history in February of each year. The programs are free of charge, however, presenters will accept a donation in support of the Henry Farnam Dinner. For more info, contact Libby Roseman, 309-764-6122, or email libbyonusroute6@qconline.com.

Don't Forget to Vote this November...For the 2009 Environmental Book Club Candidates!

Log on to www.riveraction.org to vote on your selections for the 2009 Environmental Book Club. Voting will begin November 15th and end December 15th. This month, the Book Club will discuss Mississippi Solo by Eddy Harris, Tuesday, November 25, 7pm at River Action.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

I want to become a member!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE (H) _____ (W) _____ EMAIL _____

I have enclosed a check for \$500 _____ \$250 _____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ Other \$ _____
Make checks payable to: River Action, P.O. Box 964, Davenport, IA 52805



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Nominations for Eddy Award 2009 are now being accepted! Awards recognize those who went against the current to get things done. The deadline for nominations is January 23, 2008. For a form, visit www.riveraction.org or call 563.322.2969.

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

Oct 28

River Action's Environmental Book Club, 7pm, River Action office, discusses Desert Solitaire by Edward Abby

NOVEMBER

Nov 1 thru April

Farmers Market in the Freight House, 8am-Noon, every Saturday until April.

Nov 15-18

19th Annual Trails Symposium, Little Rock, Arkansas, www.americantrails.org/2008

Nov 15

Homemade Bird Feeder - 10am - Noon. Milk jugs, cartons, and pop bottles will be magically transformed into useful feeders. Call 563328.3286 for more info. Wapsi Environmental Education Center.

Nov 20-22

26th Annual Urban Waterfronts Conference, Chicago, IL www.waterfrontcenter.org

Nov 21-30

Festival of Trees, River Center, call 309.793.1213 x104 for info.

Nov 22

12th Annual Lighting of the Commons, 3:30-6:30pm, call 563.823.8131 for more info.

Nov 22

Festival of Trees Parade, 11am-Noon, downtown Davenport.

Nov 25

River Action's Environmental Book Club, 7pm, River Action office, discusses Mississippi Solo by Eddy Harris

Nov 28

Shopping is for the Birds, 10am -Noon, Family activity at Singing Bird Nature Center, Rock Island. Call 309.788.9536 for more info.

DECEMBER

Dec 5-6 & 12-13

Christmas in the Village, Featuring live store windows, live music, animals, Santa Claus and a living nativity. Call 563.320.3043 for info.

Dec 7

Christmas in LeClaire, 10am-6pm, Shopping, carriage rides, crafts, silent auction and a nativity scene. Hwy 67 and Cody Road.

JANUARY

Jan 9-10

Bald Eagle Days, QCCA Expo Center, Largest show in the Midwest. Admission \$4 for adults, \$1 for children. Call 309.788.2543 for more info. If you're interested in volunteering for the River Action booth, please call River Action at 563.322.2969.