

eddy

MAGAZINE

Connecting people to the river

Summer Education Series

Learn about waterfowl and
other river topics!

More Inside:

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- :: Three Communities Update
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For maps and schedules see the informational
buoys or visit www.goqgreenmetro.com



May/June/July 2014

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Cover Photo: Tim Gillman

What Makes an Eddy?

Whenever our annual Earth Day celebration and the recognition of Eddy Award winners nears, we are asked 'what makes an Eddy?'

A study of the river tells us that eddies concern navigators because they are swirling waters that flow against the current with the ability to turn a boat in another direction. For River Action, wanting to honor extraordinary work, it honors those who have gone against the current to get excellent things done on the river.

What makes an Eddy? Mojo. The inability of a person to give up. Brilliance. And an idealistic vision.

The hard thing about hard things is that there are no easy answers, so it is the story of vision and passion that we seek; a lot of being successful is not quitting!

In 2000, the first award for Revitalization went to the Moline Park Board for the Ben Butterworth Memorial Parkway. In the early 1950's, Ben Butterworth talked to businesses on River Drive about his vision for a green, scenic parkway with public access. They told him it was a grand vision, and they would get back to him with selling prices. He said, "Oh, we don't want to buy; we want you to donate." While he understood the deep challenges, he talked and worked through each with the owners, and the Ben Butterworth Parkway was built with all donated land.

In 2008, Dr. Michael Giudici's Greenway Habitat was recognized for an outstanding citizen effort while he maintained a full cardiovascular medicine practice. In 1993, he raised funds, talked with homeowners and businesses about planting in the tree lawn, organized hundreds of volunteers, and had thousands repeating, "The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second best time is today." This effort boosted civic pride; more than 20,000 trees have been planted. Ongoing efforts are through the Scott County Beautification Committee and Davenport Public Works.

Vision and passion also went into the LaFarge Renewable Fuel System which received the 2013 Eddy Award for Stewardship. Citing a new process for using renewable fuels in its cement making process, the jury believed it was innovative and a good demonstration project for the industry.

Each year, the awards jury finds a great deal to applaud in the strong crop of entries from which they have to choose Honor Awards in six categories. All are deeply aware of the legacy we have inherited with this beautiful Mississippi River valley, and they are passionate about improving it and passing it on for future generations. Projects almost always have one eye on protecting the environment as well as enhancing enjoyment of the riverfront.

Celebrating success is a reason for the awards, but equally important is the positive momentum it creates for future projects and more entries for the jury to consider. As we recognize the 2014 winners, let's look for a willingness in ourselves and others to make innovative moves and go against the current as in an eddy. ☺



Kathy Wine

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Our Mission:

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

Photography Workshop

— by Eileen Sipes and Brian Tugana

The digital revolution has fostered an explosive interest in photography. It is estimated that 880 billion images will be taken over the next 12 months with smartphones playing a leading role in the production and distribution of these images.

The number of participants at the recent photography workshop (March 8, 2014) sponsored by the Figge and River Action, and organized by Brian Tugana, certainly confirmed the public's thirst for information. Two hundred and twenty-nine individuals, almost perfectly divided between the morning and afternoon sessions, attended the workshop. While the majority of participants were from the Quad City region, individuals from Waukesha, WI; Platville, WI; and Oregon, IL traveled to attend.

The free workshop "Beyond a Snapshot: The Art of Building and Creating Fine Photographs," focused on ways to improve photo quality for photographers of all ages and skill levels. Presenters for the workshop included: Todd Mizener of The Dispatch and The Rock Island Argus; John Schultz of the Quad-City Times; Robyn Smith, a fine arts instructor with Eastern Iowa Community College District; Roxanne Westphal, who teaches digital photography with the Davenport school system; Ted Doty, manager of Camera Corner; and Brian Tugana, the Valley Bank Calendar Project. ☺



Watch for the new RiverWay Parks & Trails brochure in May

The full-color, 18-inch by 24-inch map provides an overview of recreation trails along both sides of the Mississippi River, Duck Creek in Iowa, the Rock River in Milan, Rock Island and Moline and the Hennepin Canal extending from Colona to Geneseo, Illinois and beyond.

The maps will be available at the River Action office, the Quad Cities Convention and Visitor Centers in Rock Island, Moline and Davenport and local bike shops.

Also shown in the updated brochure are the locations of new off-road trails at Sunderbruch Park, Davenport, and Illiniwek Forest Preserve near Hampton, Illinois, plus the newly expanded recreational trails in Bettendorf and Riverdale, Iowa.

Popular shared use roadways also are highlighted on the maps.

Use the brochure to explore the scenic RiverWay trails in Iowa and Illinois and enjoy parks, playgrounds and public art along the way.

To request a copy of the map, call River Action at 563-322-2969, or visit riveraction.org to view or download the brochure.

Whether you walk or bike, the brochure will help you discover the expanding recreational opportunities along our shared RiverWay. ☺

Floatzilla Update

— by Tim Gillman

Spring has certainly sprung, and we're all gearing up for great events like Ride the River. However, those with more of a paddling persuasion have a lot to look forward to as the warmer months roll in. River Action is currently preparing for its fifth annual paddlesports event – Floatzilla 2014, Saturday, August 16. More participants are expected than ever before for a day of fun and paddling. This year's paddlers can expect launches and routes to be very similar to 2013. Due to the closed bridge, Sylvan Island and its portage have been and will continue to be inaccessible for maintenance. At this time volunteer assistance is not expected at the portage. Paddlers launching from Empire Park in East Moline or Ben Butterworth Parkway in Moline will lock-through Lock & Dam 15. Those choosing to launch from Main Street, Marquette Street, or Credit Island in Davenport will cross the river and return to Credit Island. If you plan to put-in at Lake Potter or arrive earlier in the day, canoe, kayak, and stand-up paddleboard (SUP) demonstration and instruction will be available. There will also be food, non-alcoholic beverages, live music, merchandise, and paddlesports vendors at Lake Potter the day of the event. Anyone interested in attending can find more information and register at: www.Floatzilla.org. \$15 dollar early registration ends June 30th and includes a T-shirt and boat decal. ☺



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By Amy Bandman

Get to know the Mississippi River this Summer!



Join River Action for the 2014 Summer Education Series: Channel Cat Talks and Riverine Walks, and receive an outdoor educational experience you won't be able to get anywhere else!

River Action's Explore the River Series provides you with a chance to experience and learn about the Mississippi River from a new perspective. Four times each week, all summer long, local professionals take citizens to unique sites on the river and along the riverfront to explore its history, identity, culture, arts, wildlife and watershed. Participants of the Channel Cat Talks board the Channel Cat Water Taxi for an hour and a half excursion filled with learning and sightseeing on the Mississippi River. Riverine Walks take participants to explore the shoreline on foot during guided walks along the river and surrounding sites. Every site is distinctly different and site specific. Programs are tailored to take advantage of the many opportunities unique to each place on 30 miles of the river in the Quad City region. This year includes programs tailored specifically toward kids, to encourage citizens of all ages to spend time exploring and learning in the great outdoors.

The 2014 Summer Education Series is funded in part by the Resource Enhancement and Protection Conservation Education Program. Also known as REAP. REAP invests in Iowa, our outdoors, our heritage, our people. REAP is supported by the state of Iowa, providing funding to public and private partners for natural and cultural resource projects, including water quality, wildlife habitat, soil conservation, parks, trails, historic preservation and more.

Channel Cat Talks are \$12 per person and take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am to 10:45am, starting at Celebration Belle Landing, 2501 River Drive, Moline, IL. Riverine Walks are \$5 per person (free for

River Action members) and take place on Wednesday nights, 6:30pm-8:00pm, and Saturday Mornings, 9:00am-10:30am, and meet at various locations along the river.

Below is the complete listing of the 2014 Explore the River Series Schedule:

Channel Cat Talks

June

- 3, 5 30 Years of River Action, Kathy Wine (River Action)
- 10, 12 Waterfowl of the Mississippi River, Bob Clevens (USFW)
- 17, 19 Native Americans and the Mississippi River, Christina Kastell (Putnam Museum)
- 24, 26 Tales of a Riverboat Captain, Harry 'Duke' Pelton (Riverboat Captain)

July

- 1, 3 Just for Kids!, Susan McPeters (Black Hawk College)
- 8, 10 Arsenal Island History, Mike McKean/Sam Helig (US Army Corps of Engineers)
- 15, 17 Rafting Logs to QC Mills, Gayle Rein (Historian)
- 22, 24 Historic Bridges of the QC, Curt Roseman (Geographer)
- 29, 31 Water Quality Testing, Brent Earley (Iowa American Water)

August

- 5, 7 I-74, Doug Rick (Iowa DOT)
- 12 River Landscape Mosaic, Norm Moline & Reuben Heine (Augustana College)
- 19, 21 Photography – Taking Better Pictures, Brian Tugana (Environmental Photographer)
- 26, 28 Music of the Mississippi, Ellis Kell (River Music Experience)

Riverine Walks

June

- 4, 7 Birds and Birding, Tim Murphy (QC Audubon)
- 11, 14 Where Does all that Sand and Gravel Come From?, Marshall Guth, (RiverStone)
- 18, 21 Reptiles and Amphibians, Mik Holgersson (Environmental Specialist)
- 25, 28 Decoding the Past: Seeking Saukenuk and Black Hawk's Home Sites, Ferrel Anderson (QC Archeological Society)

July

- 2, 5 Bicycle Friendly Bettendorf, Steve Grimes (City of Bettendorf)

- 9, 12 Where does it all Go? Recycling 101, Martin Davis (Midland Davis)
- 16, 19 Mississippi River Barge Fleeting, Walt Bassow (Mississippi River Fleeting)
- 23, 26 ALCOA: Environmental Sustainability, John Riches (ALCOA)
- 30, 2 Credit Island: Plans for the Future, Bob Peppers (Friends of Credit Island)

August

- 6, 9 Ghost Stories of the Mississippi, Bobbie Swanson
- 13, 16 Gold Coast Historic Walking Tour, Marion McGinnis (Historian)
- 20, 23 Green Valley Wetland Restoration, Mik Holgersson (Environmental Specialist)
- 27 State of the River, Reuben Heine (Augustana College)

Log on to riveraction.org and click on Explore the River to learn more, volunteer, and to register online. Reserve your spot on a Channel Cat Talk or Riverine Walk today and start to see the Quad Cities from the perspective of the Mississippi River. ☺

It's not a message; it's an action we salute.

The 15th Annual Eddy Awards announced at Fish and Fire, April 25th

— by Kathy Wine



City of Mills – This public art installation in downtown Moline was the result of many years of fundraising and the collaborative efforts of many.

Art

Barb Sandberg: "Moline, City of Mills" Mural

If saving from demolition and restoring an historic block aren't enough of a challenge, Barb Sandberg, Moline Historic Preservation Society, brought about a piece of public art on top of that. Receiving the award for Art was the Moline, City of Mills Mural at 1509 3rd Avenue, Moline. Historically accurate following research to the early 1850's, the \$20,000 project took five years to achieve: raising funds, selecting artist, Bill Gustafson, placing it on the building, lighting, and writing the tributes for a plaque and historic brochure were achievements the jury found remarkable. Unveiled in 2012, the mural serves as a wedding site, John Deere photos, a destination on historic walking tours. Bullt into the fundraising goal were funds for maintenance. Moline Centre Main Street, the titleholder of the mural, reports that no vandalism has taken place to date. The mural has found wide acceptance. So much so that Barb and her committee hope it becomes a springboard for further partnerships.



Will B Rolling – The sculpture "Will B. Rolling" finally finds his spot along the Port Byron riverfront after several placement challenges.

Art

Larry Bay: "Will B. Rolling" Sculpture

The jury saluted the thoroughness and commitment of Larry Bay, Port Byron, in the installation of the large public sculpture "Will B. Rolling" towering over the riverfront in Port Byron. Inspired by the Sparta, WI, sculpture "Ben Biking" of the same mold, he considered the need for a landmark on Port Byron's riverfront trail. But ordering the sculpture was the easy part. After the pad was ready to accept the art piece, the Canadian Pacific notified the village that it was in the railroad right of way. Installation was canceled and Will B. Rolling went back to Sparta to find a new location. In late 2014, a new site presented itself, was improved by the Village Board, and it was installed November 14, 2013 with formal

dedication June 28, when a bike ride is planned by the Quad City Convention and Visitors Bureau. With the exception of the concrete pad, Larry and Carol Bay covered the entire \$60,000 cost. Currently, Larry is working to create a bike ride from Port Byron to Sparta, WI in the fall.

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The members of the 2013 Adaptive Rowing Program pose with their coaches along the Mississippi River.

River Activity

Two Rivers YMCA for Adaptive Rowing Program

Inspired by Rowing Club volunteer Tanya Braet, a physical therapist and avid rower, the YMCA found a way to combine her two passions and involve two other members of the club, Randy Groff and Paul Herrington, to start an innovative Adaptive Rowing Program for the Quad Cities. Calling on Louisville's rowing club that hosts Paralympics competitions, the three enthusiasts began some of the start up acquisitions in 2013. They secured through gifts and grants two boats with the needed special equipment. The docks required a paved portion for easier access by wheelchairs and this was done with donated materials and labor. But that was not the hard part. With a start up of this kind, which in this case is for a specialized population, rowers are paralyzed either from the chest or the waste down, there is a determining factor and that is the pace one can get them in the water. Costs have remained low for the program because every piece of equipment has been donated. Because the Y has income-based priced structure for membership, costs for the rowers has remained low, too. Having competed in their first regatta in Pennsylvania in 2013, the five in the program are looking forward to hosting a Midwest regatta in 2014.

River Activity

Greg Albansoder: The Credit Island Bridge

When the jury counted the years from the time an expanded Davenport riverfront trail to Concord Street was contemplated to when the Credit Island Bridge was completed, it was 20 years. Counting from the time an appeal to Congressman Jim Nussle and Senator Tom Harkin in 2006 for an earmark was made, it was only eight years. Either way, Greg's commitment and inability to give up are worth praising. The earmark came in 2006, a feasibility study on a pedestrian bike bridge came next, engineering and design followed that. The bids on the bridge came in too high. Another TEA21 grant with the assistance of Bi-State was written and received. The City Council still would not approve the \$1.7 million plus cost. Value engineering was applied to make it more affordable. More redesign was needed then,



After six years of uncertainty, bicyclists and pedestrians can now take advantage of the new Credit Island bridge thanks to the efforts of Greg Albansoder.

so arches and lighting on the bridge were eliminated. Rebidding came in at \$1.25 million which was covered primarily by the \$1 million earmark. Striping Concord Street and signage are the next steps in the project. This park and trail amenity, now widely used, is a major connection between West and East Davenport, but the hallmark of this construction is the signal it sends to Buffalo and Muscatine that the connection to their cities is underway.

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Revitalization Paul Rumler: The Quad City Rail Coalition



An early drawing shows the plan for the multi-modal station that will host the long-awaited Amtrak service to Chicago. (Courtesy of Door Thirteen, Chicago Illinois)

Since 1978, when passenger trains last served the Quad Cities, there has been a solid desire here to restore that service. Five or six times, unsuccessful campaigns called for new service. With a new alliance started in 2007 by Paul Rumler, Quad Cities Chamber, the Quad Cities Passenger Rail Coalition was initiated with many joining this grassroots effort. Paul likes to say he was at “the right place at the right time with the right people”. However, with his leadership, a steering committee of local enthusiasts, resolutions from municipalities, 100 organizations, letters of support from 10,000 supporters, and almost as many petitions gained the full support of state and federal officials, especially Senator Dick Durbin and Governor Pat Quinn. This broad coalition led the effort to secure funding for Chicago to Quad Cities passenger rail service at a time when there was little state or federal funds for new routes. In October 2010, the Quad Cities route persevered to receive over \$300 million in competitive state and federal grants to make passenger rail service a reality once again.



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Stewardship

Kathy Morris: Waste Commission of Scott County Innovations

In early 2000, Kathy Morris was hearing from businesses there was no outlet for electronic waste. The Waste Commission surveyed 1,200 customers, and in 2005, she asked “what would it take?” Since that time, the innovation of de-manufacturing e-waste has transformed the recycling center. The first year, 500,000 lbs. were processed; at last report, 2.4 million pounds were processed. The industry certified the Commission in 2012 citing its responsible recycling, and today it is one of less than 300 facilities worldwide, and among those, the only public facility. The jury was impressed by the large number of partners: Dubuque, Muscatine, Jackson County, Fort Madison, Rock Island County, Geneseo, John Deere, and Alcoa to name a few.

The ‘I live here’ campaign, an outreach program normally problematic, was at once a success and commission asset. A part of the Keep America Beautiful program, it involves a ‘Make it Yours, Adopt a Spot’, covering 33 sites. It also claims 1,204 volunteers, 2,300 hours, and 8,640 pounds of litter captured. Event Recycling, begun in 2013, serves 41 Quad City events with special recycling containers. An education program, grant program, and shingle recycling are three more innovations. Kathy Morris muses “It is a fun business; who would have known.”



The Waste Commission of Scott County is known for its use of efficient and state-of-the-art recycling technology.

Unwavering Commitment to Environmental Sustainability

A pair of bald eagles joined the Alcoa Davenport community in Iowa in 2009. They built their 7-foot nest on our 400-acre facility in a tree near the Mississippi River. In the spring of 2010 they fledged a pair of eaglets and later that year we installed our first Eaglecam.

Employees and the community helped name the eagle pair “Liberty” and “Justice”.

To date more than 20 million have tuned in to witness an American icon, the bald eagle, thriving here in the Quad Cities.



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Students participate in a hands-on experiment as part of a collaborative education program between Davenport Public Schools and Davenport Public Works.

Education

Robbin Dunn: Davenport Public Works Education and Outreach

The centerpiece of the environmental education program at Davenport Public Works reflects the many interests of Robbin Dunn. The Watershed Festival was born out of the desire to make stormwater education fun, so she brought together environmentalists who respect water and hosted a celebratory event at the Farmer's Market. The curriculum project in the Davenport schools evolved from Wet Wednesdays and on-demand school room visits to writing with Earth Grant teachers an inquiry and place-based learning syllabus for fifth graders. Because many of the schools were within walking distance of a creek, water testing was done regularly. Coolers for toting water were made possible with a grant from Waste Commission of Scott County. Measuring stormwater from home in a 1/2' rainfall was done with an on-line calculator, and 1939 maps of city streams led to engineering concepts that created the storm drain systems in place today. The Iowa Flood Center, University of Iowa, will assist with the Living With Floods pilot program for sixth grades, district wide. The jury felt that this program was an example of doing what had to be done in environmental education and doing it really well.



Mayor Bill Gluba welcomes the attendees of Urban Waterfronts 2013. Participants came from as far as Angola, New Zealand, and Hong Kong.

Special Recognition

Ann Breen & Dick Rigby: The Waterfront Center, Creative Collaborations Conference

Assisting cities with waterfront improvements was the idealistic vision of The Waterfront Center when it was formed in 1983. Their annual international conference since that time has focused on waterfront planning, development, and culture. Their attendees hear stories from all around the world and panelists who have worked diligently on their

waterfronts with stories of both triumphs and struggles. The Excellence on the Waterfront Awards were developed to recognize top quality design and development work. Entries are accepted for comprehensive plans, built projects and study work. The Center also recognizes citizen's efforts through a Clearwater Award.

In 2013, the Center went against the norm to bring their 31st annual Urban Waterfronts Conference to the Quad Cities and thus shine an international spotlight on the Mississippi River. The Creative Collaborations Conference was attended by persons from as far away as Auckland, New Zealand to San Pedro, CA,

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and from Halifax, Nova Scotia to Seattle, WA. Almost all undertakings, no matter how large or small, require some degree of people and organizations working together, and most initiatives involve cooperation as they seek a common goal. This theme was carried out throughout the meeting and ultimately by the Waterfront Center in this first ever joint conference for the Center.

Special Recognition



Tom Wine

Given a special recognition award for his 30 years of service and dedication to River Action. ©

THE POWER OF RECYCLING



For MidAmerican Energy Company, part of putting the power in your hands is helping electric customers save energy, save money and save the environment.

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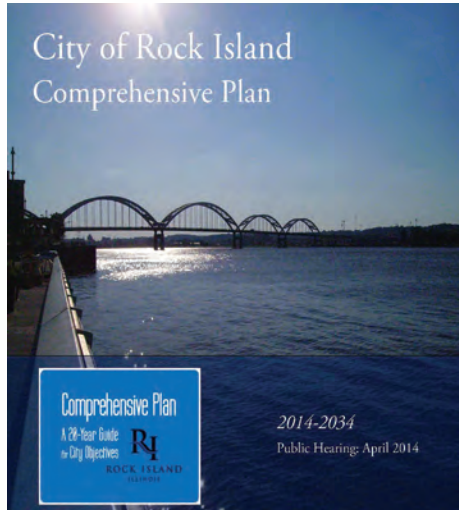
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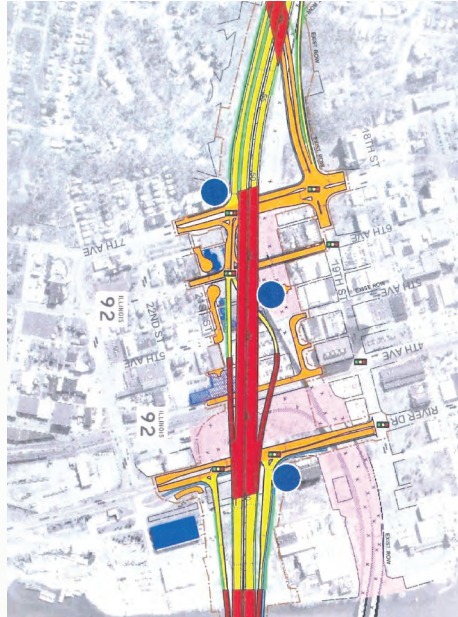
Planning Matters



Rock Island Planning

Rock Island is preparing its first city-wide Comprehensive Plan. City staff and their consultants have worked for the past year to prepare a forward-thinking plan that addresses future growth and redevelopment, promotes sustainability, and establishes long-term strategies to improve the quality of life in Rock Island. The process included extensive public outreach to gain insight into community priorities. A community-wide survey, numerous focus groups, visions workshops, multiple steering committee meetings, and a draft plan open house provided opportunities for the public to provide opinions on how to improve the city and shape local policies.

The foundation of the Comprehensive Plan is a future vision for the city as well as nine guiding principles to achieve it. They address the built environment, education, economy, housing and neighborhoods, transportation, community services, natural resources, regionalism, and a healthy environment. The Strategic Development Plan, a subcomponent of the larger Plan, identifies ways the city can combat local and regional challenges to economic growth and improve its quality of life and image. Once adopted by the City Council, the Plans will serve as a blueprint for staff and local decision makers to achieve long-term community objectives.



Moline Planning

In considering the future of riverfront neighborhoods – Moline Centre, Floricente, and Edgewater – Renew Moline, project facilitator, and the City of Moline have contracted with Lakota Group, Chicago, in order to learn what residents would like to see. They believe that for real transformation that is long-lasting and sustainable, residents must participate. Public walking tours and public input sessions were well attended. Of value was the issuing of ‘Monopoly’ type money to participants to “spend” on projects to determine priorities in this time of fiscal realities.

Realignment of the I74 bridge provided the designers with a canvas for a proposed riverfront park. “This is a unique opportunity that Moline hasn’t had in a long time. We need to make the best use of that property, not only for today, but for future generations,” assured Janet Mathis, executive director of Renew Moline.

Moline’s past public/private coalitions call for recognition. The Kone tower’s, financial structure was complex. It was made up of energy efficiency grants, and because of its location, funds from Hurricane Ike were employed. Added to that were funds from the developer and the city. This partnership is now a national model by the Council of Development Finance Agencies and the Internal Economic Development Council.



Davenport’s RiverVision Plan Update

In November, 2013, Hargreaves and Associates of Cambridge, Mass., was selected to update Davenport’s RiverVision Plan. In 2004, Hargreaves drafted the original RiverVision Plan which was a combined effort of Davenport and Rock Island to create a unified plan to tie together the two cities’ riverfronts. The update addresses the Davenport riverfront from Gaines Street to Pershing Ave.

There have been four, well attended public meetings since February to address issues such as the eventual move of the Rhythm City Casino riverboat and a proposed Dock development for 125 Perry Street that was submitted to the Levee Improvement Commission by Todd Raufeisen, Raufeisen Development. The public meetings have focused on property north of River Drive for development opportunities, too.

In the area between the casino and Dock building, open green space, water cannons and fountains, a sculpture garden, and pier have been proposed. Currently, there are 600 parking spaces at the foot of Main Street; this is proving to be an open canvas for imagining a plaza for excursion boats and other outdoor activities.

The final RiverVision recommendations are expected by the end of April. ☺

River Who? River What? River Which?

[A Glossary of River Terms]

River Action: (riv' er ak' shun) - A non-profit in its 30th year that strives to foster the environmental, economic, and cultural vitality of the Mississippi River.

Milan Bottoms: A 3,500 acre floodplain forest and marsh along the Mississippi River in southwest Rock Island providing nesting areas for herons, red-shouldered hawks and bald eagles.

Mississippi River Cities and Towns

Initiative (MRCTI): A mayoral-led effort to create a coordinated voice for the vitality of the Mississippi River.

Mississippi River Collaborative: A partnership of environmental organizations and legal centers in states bordering the river that works to reduce pollution entering bodies of water.

Mississippi River Network (MRN): A coalition of organizations spanning the length of the Mississippi River, dedicated to protecting land, water and people through implementing whole river strategies and sharing resources.

Mississippi River Trail (MRT): A bicycle and pedestrian trail that traverses the shores of the Mississippi River from headwaters to gulf.

Nahant Marsh: A restored, 265 acre wetland in southwest Davenport with an Education Center.

Partners of Scott County Watersheds:

An alliance dedicated to improving water quality and creating better stewards of our watersheds.

Permeable (Porous) Paving: A surface treatment allowing stormwater runoff to pass through it, rather than flowing off.

Quad City Conservation Alliance (QCCA): A coalition that protects, preserves, and enhances the natural resources and the quality of life in the Quad Cities.

Quad City Riverfront Council (QCRFC): Representatives who coordinate and

communicate ideas and information on planning, recreational amenities, development and aesthetic enhancement of the riverfront.

The Quarter: A riverfront development in East Moline, creating a connection between the downtown district and the riverfront.

Rain Garden: A shallow depression planted with deeply-rooted native vegetation, where rainwater is absorbed into the ground instead of running off.

Retain the Rain: An effort started by River Action to raise awareness about the damaging effects of stormwater runoff, and provide residents with ways to reduce runoff from their properties.

Retention Pond: A catchment device used to capture and hold water.

Ride the River: River Action's annual Father's Day bicycle ride along riverfront trails, fostering trail enhancement and development.

Riverboat Development Authority: The sponsoring organization for the riverboat casino in Davenport, providing community grants with income from the Rhythm City Casino.

RiverVision Plan: Davenport and Rock Island's plan to foster smart growth and economic activity along the cities' riverfronts.

RiverWay: The Quad Cities' scenic stretch of the Mississippi River with almost 100 miles of area parks, trails and overlook.

Scott County Regional Authority: The sponsoring organization for the riverboat casino in Bettendorf, providing community grants with income from the Isle of Capri Casino.

Stormwater Utility: An entity that charges a fee or tax to deal with the problem of excess stormwater and is used to fund the operation of the utility.

Upper Mississippi River Conference (UMRC): An annual gathering in the Quad Cities sponsored by River Action to facilitate communication between diverse Mississippi River stakeholders.

US Army Corps of Engineers: A federal agency with the mission of delivering engineering services, strengthening security, energizing the economy and reducing the risk from disasters.

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): A bureau within the Department of the Interior that works to conserve, protect and enhance wildlife, plants and habitats.

Water Table: The level below which the ground is saturated with water.

World Trade Center Mississippi River Alliance: An alliance between ten states within the Mississippi River basin to promote and advance business interests along the waterway. ©

1 Mississippi: A Mississippi River Network campaign to organize people dedicated to protecting the Mississippi River into a national constituency of River Citizens.

American Discovery Trail: Recreational trails and roads collectively forming a coast-to-coast trail across the United States.

Best Management Practice (BMP):

Techniques used to manage a resource in the best way possible. Stormwater BMPs include rain gardens, native plantings, permeable paving and green roofs.

Bioswale: A landscape feature used to capture, detain, and cleanse stormwater runoff, filled with large gravel and native plants.

Bi-State Regional Trails Council: Created by the Bi-State Regional Commission, it oversees and coordinates regional multi-use trail planning and design efforts.

Brownfield: A site that has been contaminated or contains infrastructure from historical industrial usage.

Davenport Levee Improvement

Commission: An appointed group of six members led by the mayor, charged with creating riverfront improvements and economic development.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Illinois and Iowa: A department of the state that maintains state parks and forests, protects the environment and manages wildlife, land and water resources.

Detention pond: A catchment device that captures and releases water.

Environmental Protection Agency (U.S.

EPA): The federal agency that protects human health and the environment.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

(FEMA): An agency of the US Homeland Security providing assistance to areas that have experienced a natural or man-caused disaster.

Great River Trail: 60 miles of Mississippi River off-road trail from Savannah to Rock Island, Illinois.

Green Roof: Rooftop gardens that catch and prevent stormwater from entering sewer systems.

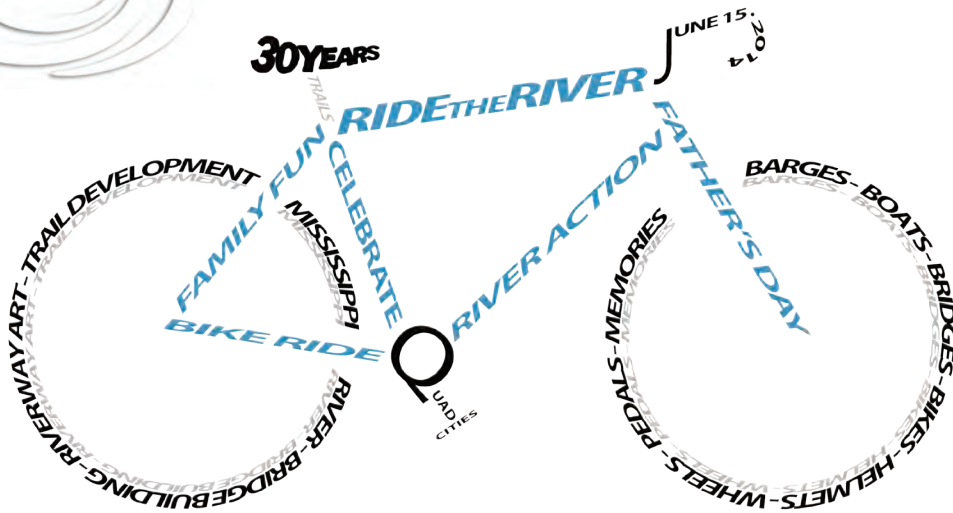
Hennepin Canal: An abandoned 75.2 mile waterway between the Mississippi River at Rock Island and the Illinois River near Hennepin. Opened in 1907, it is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Impervious: Something that cannot be penetrated by water, such as asphalt or concrete streets, sidewalks and parking lots.

Lights! River! Action! Foundation:

Supports the lights on the Centennial Bridge, managed by River Action.

Living Lands and Waters (LLW): An environmental organization that hosts national river cleanups and conservation activities.



30th Annual Ride the River

We recommend riding a bike to the really great places in the Quad Cities, and doing it all on Ride the River. Two absolute, standout preservation projects are Davenport's Union Station and the Freight House. They are not simply restored buildings, but have a central purpose, also; Union Station is a Visitors Center with offices and a bike rental, the Freight House has a restaurant, community room, pub, and food mart. Moline's Kone Centre is a stunning beauty, and the Ben Butterworth Parkway which inspired the first Ride the River call for public access to the river, meanders with varied landscaping, benches, waterfowl, a marina, restaurant, and more.

Rock Island's Schweibert Park offers breathtaking views, pool, and public art as well as a great lawn. Modern Woodmen Park soars, has an imaginative plaza, and soon will have a Ferris wheel.

Other features of the ride this year include: for all registered kids ages 8-16 a free safety light, donated by the Kiwanis Club of Davenport. All registered kids ages 5-7 will receive a free bike bell.



There will be "30 something" displays along the route celebrating 30 years. Look for 30 lounge chairs, 30 Estes Construction hard hats, 30 balloons, and many more.

The Arsenal Island will be open for riders 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. All cyclists must enter and exit through the Davenport gate. Riders must wear helmets on the island.

The Quad City Bicycle Club will provide helmets and assistance in fitting on June 14 and June 15. Adults: \$10, Youth: \$5. You must be registered to buy a helmet.

Riders may register one of several ways: 1. Send in a brochure form (available at bike shops) 2. Register online at www.riveraction.org, or 3. Stop by the River Action office—822 East River Drive, Davenport, Monday through Friday, 8 to 5. Each pre-registered group will receive a mailed confirmation. Questions? Call 563-322-2969.

Sponsors this year include The Quad-City Times, Upper Mississippi Fleeting, Sears Manufacturing Company, Estes Construction, HyVee, Kiwanis Club of Davenport, and QC Bicycle Club.



Another River Action connection.
If you love the river, you'll love taking care of it.

Trail Blazers

Trail Blazers is a new fund raising effort of River Action to continue the mission of improving local bike trails and keeping the river clean. This pilot project is a part of Ride the River, and is taking place in Davenport Middle Schools. Students sign up to ride FOR the river, and to collect sponsorships for a 20 mile ride during Ride the River on June 15th. This is part of an effort to promote outdoor recreation among Quad City youth and to raise funds and awareness for healthy trails.

As a part of River Action's 30th anniversary celebration of Ride the River Father's Day bicycle ride, Trail Blazers will be helping to keep our riverfront bike trails clean and beautiful and are securing the growth of the trail system in the Quad City region in the years to come. 30 years ago, only two miles of riverfront bike trails existed in the Quad Cities. Now 30 years later, the Quad Cities is able to show off over 65 miles of riverfront trails! Thanks to 30 years of Ride the River participants for making QC trails what they are today. All funds raised go to support River Action and the effort to keep the river clean. Thank you to Davenport Middle Schools and Brad Oates for helping to organize this fundraising effort. Let's keep raising money to expand our trails and keep our community outdoors for the next 30 years!

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eddy Calendar

May



Celebration River Cruises

2501 River Dr., Moline, 309-764-1952

Take in the sights and scenery, enjoy a cold beverage, and relax while cruising the Mississippi.

The Twilight Riverboat

Wisconsin St, Le Claire, IA, 800-331-1467, www.riverboattwilight.com

Destination Dubuque activities include Museums, an Aquarium, Trolley Tours, Art Galleries, and Historical Architecture. Call for cruise packages, dates and times.

Backwater Gamblers Water Ski Show Team

Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, 44th St. & the Rock River, Rock Island, 309-786-8987

Free water ski shows every Wednesday and Sunday at 6:30pm, on the Rock lasting approximately one hour with an intermission in which donations are accepted.

Volunteer Service Day

Saturday, May 3, 9am-Noon, Nahant Marsh Education Center, Davenport

Grab a group of friends or the whole family! Some projects may require heavy duty work, while others are light duty. If you plan to bring a large group, please call 563-323-5196.

Muddy Boots Nature Club

Wednesday, May 7 & 21, 4-5pm, Nahant Marsh Education Center, Davenport

Hands-on activities focusing on wildlife, conservation, outdoor recreation, recycling, and eco-art. Ages: 6-10. Cost: \$7 for non-members, \$5 for members. Register at nahantmarsh.org or call 563-323-5196.

Beaux Arts Fair

Saturday, May 10-11, Figge Art Museum, Davenport, beauxartsfair.com, 563-326-9042

One of Downtown Davenport's premier art festivals! Fine art of all kinds will be available. Don't miss your opportunity to find something truly unique for your collection! Free Admission.

Toddler Tales

Tuesday, May 13, 10-11am, 2-3pm, Nahant Marsh Education Center, Davenport

Program includes a nature-themed story, a craft, and an outdoor adventure. A great way to introduce young children to nature! Ages: 3-5. Cost: \$3. Register at nahantmarsh.org or call 563-323-5196.

Scott County Spring SNAPSHOT

Wednesday, May 14, 9am-noon, Davenport Public Works, 1200 E 46th St. Davenport. 563-326-7923

Water quality monitoring event

Earth Explorers

Wednesday, May 14 & 28, 4-5pm, Nahant Marsh Education Center, Davenport

Participants will learn about weather, wildlife, and geology through science based inquiry and experiments. Ages: 11-14. Cost: \$7 for non-members, \$5 for members. Register at nahantmarsh.org or call 563-323-5196.

Sunderbruch B&B Trail Races

Saturday, May 17 at 10:00am

The inaugural B&B Trail Races. Two distances to choose from. See registration site for details: https://secure.getmeregistered.com/get_information.php?event_id=10334

Eagle View Group, Sierra Club Book Club and Program Meeting

Monday, May 19, 6pm, Moline Library Bronze Room Book Club, [Breaking the Sound Barrier](http://BreakingtheSoundBarrier.com) by Amy Goodman

America's National Treasures

Monday, May 19, 7pm, Moline Library Bronze Room
Becky and David Olson journeyed over 8,000 miles the summer of 2013 in camper, visiting 18 National Parks, Monuments, and Scenic Areas, as well as numerous state parks. They will share highlights of their trip, of this beautiful country.



Targeted Grazing With Goats: Field Day

Friday, May 16, 1:00pm-4:00pm, Nahant Marsh Education Center, Davenport

Topics include: targeted grazing theory and research, developing and implementing a grazing strategy, goat care, what to do in emergencies and electric fencing. Dress for the weather. Visit www.nahantmarsh.org for cost and registration or call 563-323-5196.

The 49th Annual Quad Cities Criterium

Memorial Day, Monday May 26, www.quadcitiescriterium.com

The Criterium bicycle race will be moving to a challenging new course in the Village of East Davenport. Celebrating its 49th edition.



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River Action's Environmental Book Club

Tuesday, May 27, 7pm, River Action office, 822 E River Dr, Davenport

Discuss Folks, This Ain't Normal: A Farmer's Advice for Happier Hens, Healthier People, and a Better World, by Joel Salatin. Book discussions are free and open to the public.

Friends of Nahant Meeting

Wednesday, May 28, June 25, & July 30, 6-7pm, Nahant Marsh Education Center, Davenport

Join the Friends of Nahant at their monthly meeting. Learn about the group and how you can get more involved at Nahant Marsh.

34th Annual Kid's Fishing Seminar

Saturday, May 31, 9am-12noon, Environmental Discovery Park North Pond, 3300 Cedar St, Muscatine
General fishing instruction focusing on equipment care/maintenance, stewardship, spin casting, fish identification, and regulations. Ages: 0-15 years. Muscatine County Conservation Board, Michelle Berns, 563-264-5922, mberns@co.muscatine.ia.us

June

Channel Cat Talks & Riverine Walks

June-August, Channel Cat Talks meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Riverine Walks meet Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings, call 563-322-2969 for more information, www.riveraction.org.

Topics vary week by week. Don't miss out on this fun way to hear about your favorite river topics! Talks are \$12, Walks are \$5 for non-members, free walks for River Action members.

Music on the Levee

Sundays in June and July, 7pm, Peterson Pavilion, LeClaire Park, Davenport

Enjoy Sunday night Music on the Riverfront. Free admission.

Moline Centre Summer Concert Series

Every Thursday evening June-July, 7pm, Bass Street Plaza, Moline, molinecentre.org

Join us every Thursday night this summer for great music from local bands. Free Admission.

Friday Live at 5 – Summer Concert Series

Every Friday, June-September, 5 pm, River Music Experience, rivermusicexperience.org, 563-326-1333

A summer concert series that hosts local and regional music, giving residents and visitors an opportunity to experience the downtown atmosphere with live music outdoors. Free Admission.

Quad Cities Audubon Society Field Trip

Sunday, June 1, 7am, Mississippi Palisades State Park
Breeding birds likely to be found are Cerulean Warblers, Yellow-Throated Warblers, Ovenbirds and Scarlet Tanagers. Meet at 7:00 am at Brothers' Restaurant in Rapids City, Illinois. Contact Dick Sayles at 563-381-2390.



Muddy Boots Nature Club

Wednesday, June 4 & 18, 4-5pm, Nahant Marsh Education Center, Davenport

Hands-on activities focusing on wildlife, conservation, outdoor recreation, recycling, and eco-art. Ages: 6-10. Cost: \$7 for non-members, \$5 for members. Register at nahantmarsh.org or call 563-323-5196.

Gumbo Ya Ya Mardi Gras in the District

Friday, June 6-7, Downtown Rock Island, gumboyaya-festival.com

The only "two night Mardi Gras party" in The District. Hear Cajun, Zydeco, and Jazz bands and taste Cajun spiced food.

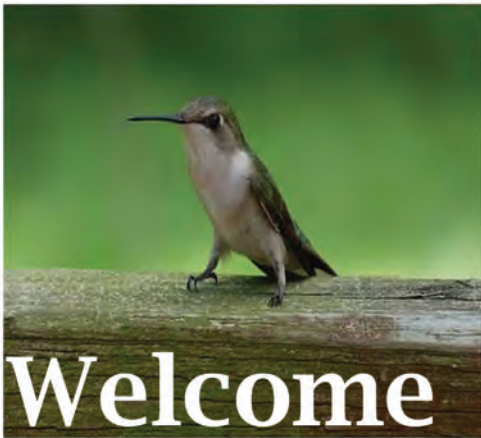
Tour Of the Mississippi River Valley

Saturday, June 7-8, www.qcbc.org/tomrv/
TOMRV is the Tour Of the Mississippi River Valley, a Midwest cycling tradition since 1978. Enjoy a well-supported, challenging ride on scenic roads through Midwest farmland and along the Mississippi River.

Volunteer Service Day

Saturday, June 7, 9am-Noon, Nahant Marsh Education Center, Davenport

Grab a group of friends or the whole family! Some projects may require heavy duty work, while others are light duty. If you plan to bring a large group, please call 563-323-5196.



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Toddler Tales

Tuesday, June 10, 10-11am, 2-3pm, Nahant Marsh Education Center, Davenport

The program includes a nature-themed story, a craft, and an outdoor adventure. A great way to introduce young children to nature! Ages: 3-5. Cost: \$3. Register at nahantmarsh.org or call 563-323-5196.

Earth Explorers

June 11 & 25, 4-5pm, Nahant Marsh Education Center, Davenport

Participants will learn about including weather, wildlife, and geology through science based inquiry and experiments. Ages: 11-14. Cost: \$7 for non-members, \$5 for members. Register at nahantmarsh.org or call 563-323-5196.

River Clean-up

Saturday, June 14, 10am, Ben Butterworth Parkway, Moline

Sierra Club's Eagle View Group River Mile Clean-up. Meet at the parking lot upstream of the Celebration Belle. Gloves and garbage bags will be provided. Contact Jerry Neff at 563-332-5373 or 563- 508-2513.

Beginner Outdoor Survival Camp

Monday, June 16 to Friday, June 20, 9am-3pm, Nahant Marsh Education Center, Davenport

Campers will explore wetlands, woodlands, prairies, shelter building, water purification, preparing food, edible and medicinal plants, fire building and more. Ages: 7-10. Cost: TBA. For more information, visit nahantmarsh.org or call 563-323-5196

French Market Days

Tuesday, June 17, LeClaire, IA, visitleclaire.com, 563-289-4242 x1135

The downtown will be transformed into an open-air market, and the museum will have the "Antoine LeClaire Trading Post"

West Lake Park Fishing Clinic

Saturday, June 7, 8am-12noon, Lake of the Hills, W Lake Park, Davenport

Learn about equipment care/maintenance, spin casting, fish identification, fishing regulations, clean/cooking fish, and water safety. Ages: 0-12 years. Scott County Conservation Board, Roger Larson, 563-328-3280, conservation@scottcounty-iowa.com



EDIWILD

Monday, June 23 to Thursday, June 26, Nahant Marsh Education Center, Davenport

A 4-day workshop to facilitate the incorporation of environmental education into the school curriculum. The course will use an interdisciplinary approach of teaching and will emphasize local natural resources, environmental stewardship, and conservation practices. To receive re-licensure or Drake credits, register with the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency. For more information, visit nahantmarsh.org or call 563-323-5196.

River Action's Environmental Book Club

Tuesday, June 24, 7pm, River Action office, 822 E River Dr, Davenport

Discuss *Cooked: A Natural History of Transformation*, by Michael Pollan. Book discussions are free and open to the public.

Edible and Medicinal Plants

Saturday, June 28, 11am-1pm, Nahant Marsh Education Center, Davenport

Explore the benefits of Iowa's native plants and their edible and medicinal uses. The program will include a guided hike, wild edible lunch, and recipes. Dress for the weather. Cost: \$15 for non-members and \$12 for members. Register at nahantmarsh.org or call 563-323-5196.

GITY Up!

Saturday, June 28-29, Great River Trail from Rock Island to Port Byron

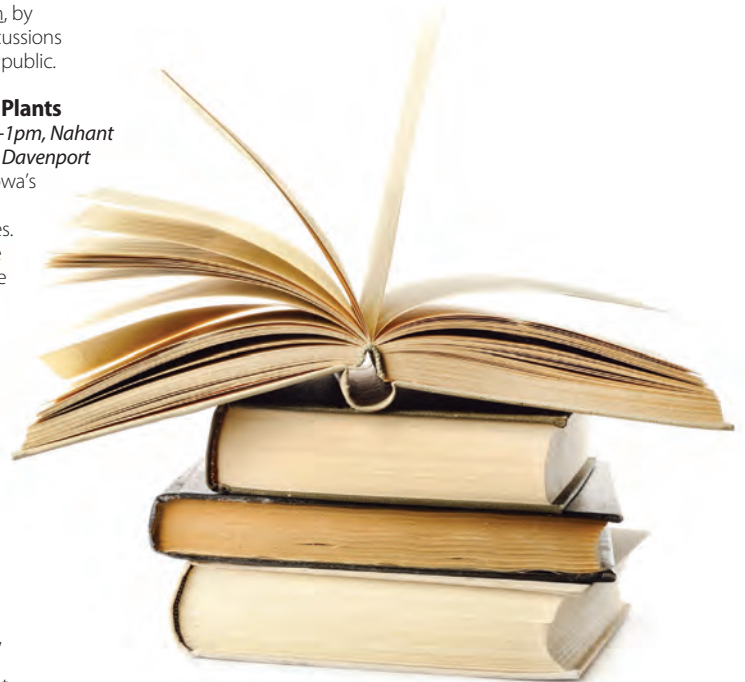
An overnight, supported bicycle tour for first-time bicycle campers, families, and the expert cyclist. Camping is on the river at Illiniwek Forest Preserve. Gear will be carried; the ride is an easy 40 miles over two days. Register at www.trailsforillinois.org/gityup



River Action's Ride the River Annual Father's Day Bicycle Ride

Sunday, June 15, 7am - 3:30pm, \$12 per adult - \$5 per kid, Freight House Farmer's Market, 421 West River Dr, Davenport, 563-322-RIDE

Join River Action for the 30th Anniversary of Ride the River! Enjoy a 20-60 mile bi-state tour along riverfront trails. Cruise the Mississippi River aboard the Celebration Belle from Iowa to Illinois, or ride a 4-mile loop on the historic Arsenal Island. For more information visit www.riveraction.org



July

Muddy Boots Nature Club

Wednesday, July 2, 16 & 30, 4-5pm, Nahant Marsh Education Center, Davenport

Hands-on activities focusing on wildlife, conservation, outdoor recreation, recycling, and eco-art. Ages: 6-10. Cost: \$7 for non-members, \$5 for members. Register at nahant-marsh.org or call 563-323-5196.

30th Annual Mississippi Valley Blues Festival

July 3-5, LeClaire Park, Davenport, www.mvbs.org/fest/
Recognized as one of the finest blues fests in the country. We hope you'll join us for a great weekend of blues music!



Red, White & Boom!

Thursday, July 3, 6pm-10:30pm, Schwiebert Riverfront Park, Rock Island, IL

Red, White & Boom! is Rock Island and Davenport's annual July 3rd celebration of our country's independence. Primary viewing areas and family activities located in Rock Island and Davenport. Free admission.

July 4th Firecracker Run

Friday, July 4, 7:30am, Downtown East Moline, firecracker-run.com

10K Run, 5K Run/Walk, the Frontline Chiropractic Mile and Kiddie Run. Stick around for Guns 'N' Hoses, Hospital Bed Races, and the post-race party.

Volunteer Service Day

Saturday, July 5, 9am-Noon, Nahant Marsh Education Center, Davenport

Grab a group of friends or the whole family! Some projects may require heavy duty work, while others are light duty. If you plan to bring a large group, please call 563-323-5196.



17th Annual Jr. Bix

Friday, July 25, 6pm,
For kids 12 and under. There will be various distances depending on child's age. Go to <http://bix7.com/> for more information.

40th Annual Bix 7

Saturday, July 26

The greatest long distance runners in the world will be competing to win thousands of dollars in prize money. Go to <http://bix7.com/> for more information.

Quad City Sailing School - Beginning Sailing Program

Classes start July 7, July 21, & August 4. Classes meet Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri at 5:30-8:30 pm & Sat 8:00am to 5:00pm at the Lake Davenport Sailing Club - on the river, just East of the Boat House Restaurant.

The Course is \$185 for IA residents, \$225 for non-residents. Registration is available at the Park & Recreation page or call 563-326-7812. For additional information call Greg Albansoder, 563-210-3365 or Bob Hummel, 563-343-6699.

Toddler Tales

Tuesday, July 8, 10-11am, 2-3pm, Nahant Marsh Education Center, Davenport

The program includes a nature-themed story, a craft, and an outdoor adventure. Toddler Tales is a great way to introduce young children to nature! Ages: 3-5. Cost: \$3. Register at nahantmarsh.org or call 563-323-5196.

Earth Explorers

Wednesday, July 9 & 23, 4-5pm, Nahant Marsh Education Center, Davenport

Participants will learn about weather, wildlife, and geology through science based inquiry and experiments. Ages: 11-14. Cost: \$7 for non-members, \$5 for members. Register at nahantmarsh.org or call 563-323-5196.

Advanced Outdoor Survival Camp

Monday July 14 to Friday, July 18, 9am-3pm, Nahant Marsh Education Center, Davenport

Campers will explore wetlands, woodlands, prairies, shelter building, water purification, preparing food, edible and medicinal plants, fire building and more. Ages: 11-14. Cost: TBA. For more information, visit nahantmarsh.org or call 563-323-5196.

River Action's Environmental Book Club

Tuesday, July 22, 7pm, River Action office, 822 E River Dr, Davenport

Discuss Overdressed: The Shockingly High Cost of Cheap Fashion, by Elizabeth Cline. Book discussions are free and open to the public.

Rain Barrels at River Action!

Collected rainwater can be used to irrigate lawns, water landscape beds or wash cars. Rain barrels also reduce storm-water runoff lessening the impact on storm sewers, local streams and rivers.

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Go to www.riveraction.org and order today!



RIVERACTION.ORG

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celebrate



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- HOUSEHOLD: \$ 60**
- INDIVIDUAL MEMBER: \$ 30**

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