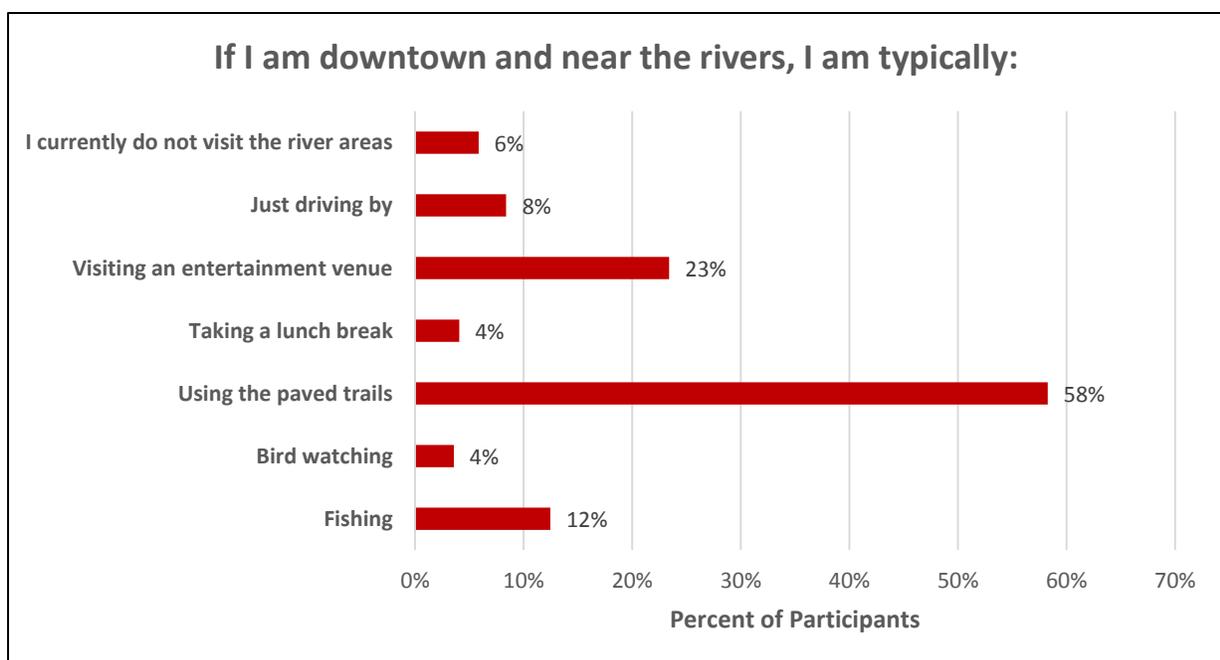
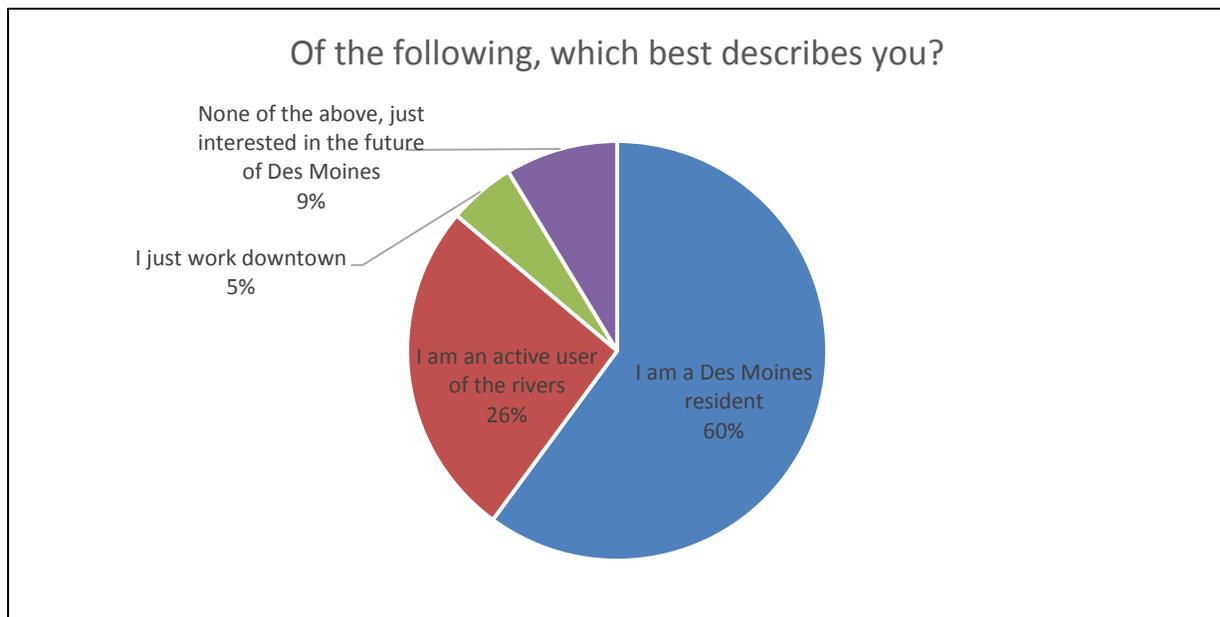
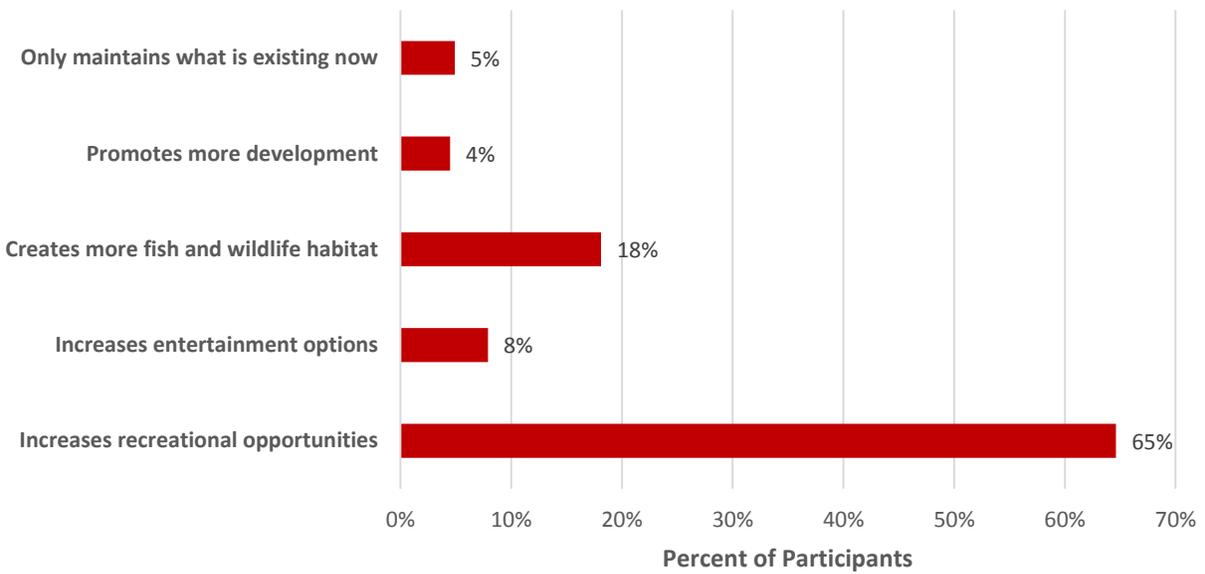


## Summary of Downtown Des Moines Dam Debate and Online Survey

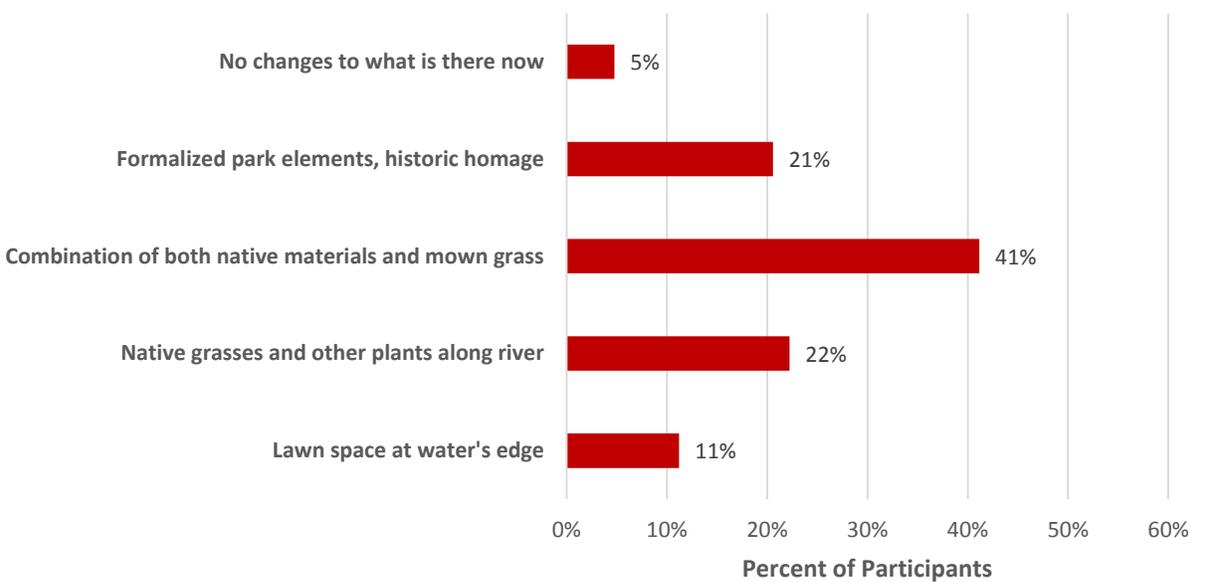
The following are the responses we heard from the 132 participants in the April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Dam Debate event and the 358 participants of the online Dam Debate survey. The online survey was advertised within event promotional articles by the Des Moines Register and closed on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. Both the event and online survey were co-hosted by the Register and the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.



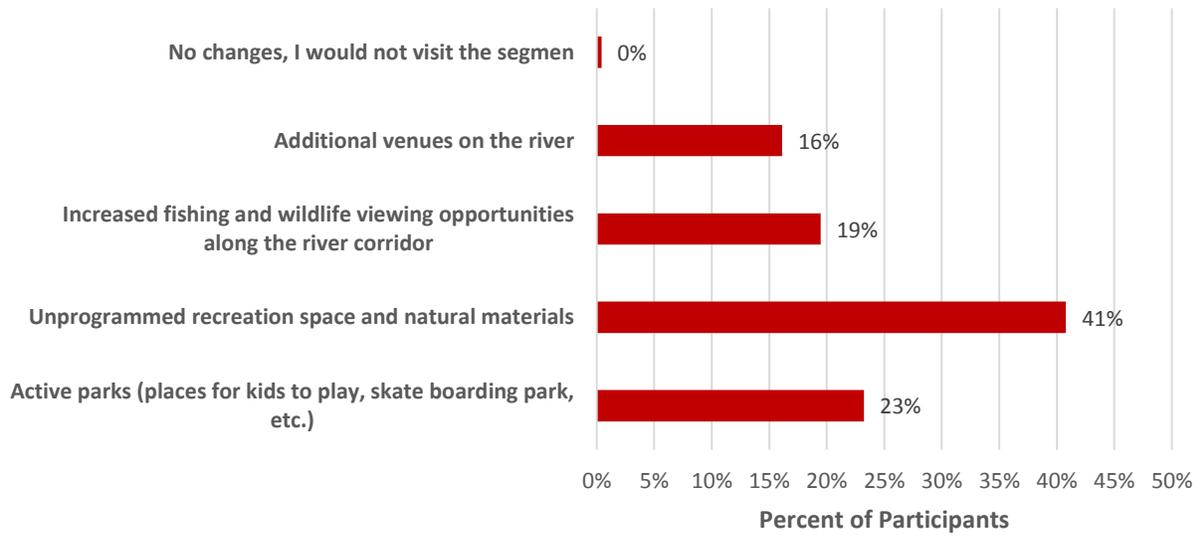
### Of the following, I hope the Greater Des Moines Water Trails and Greenways Master Plan:



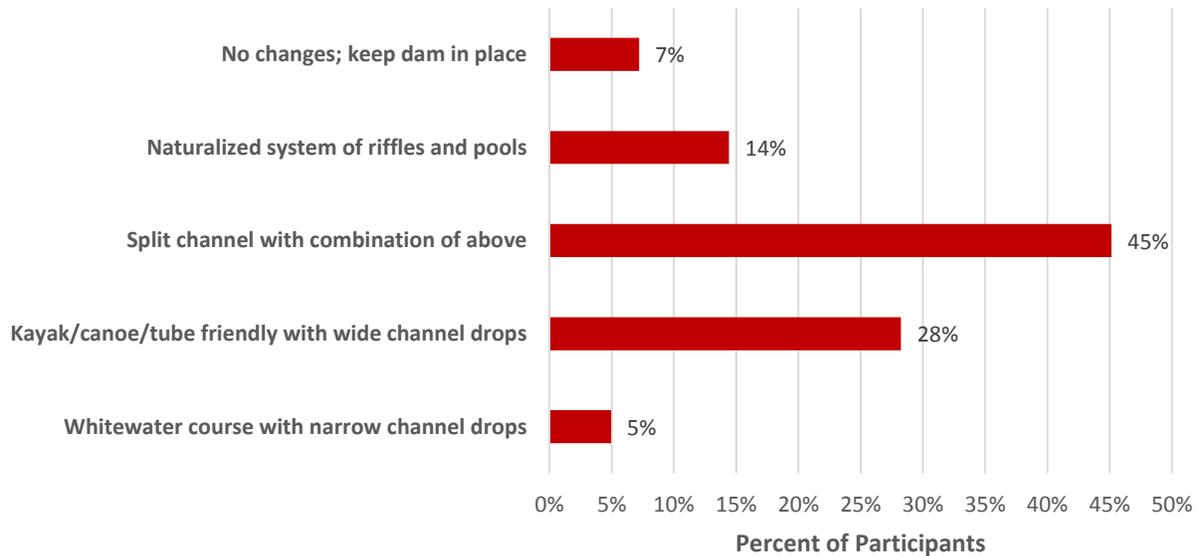
### Along the Women of Achievement Bridge river segment, I would most like to see:



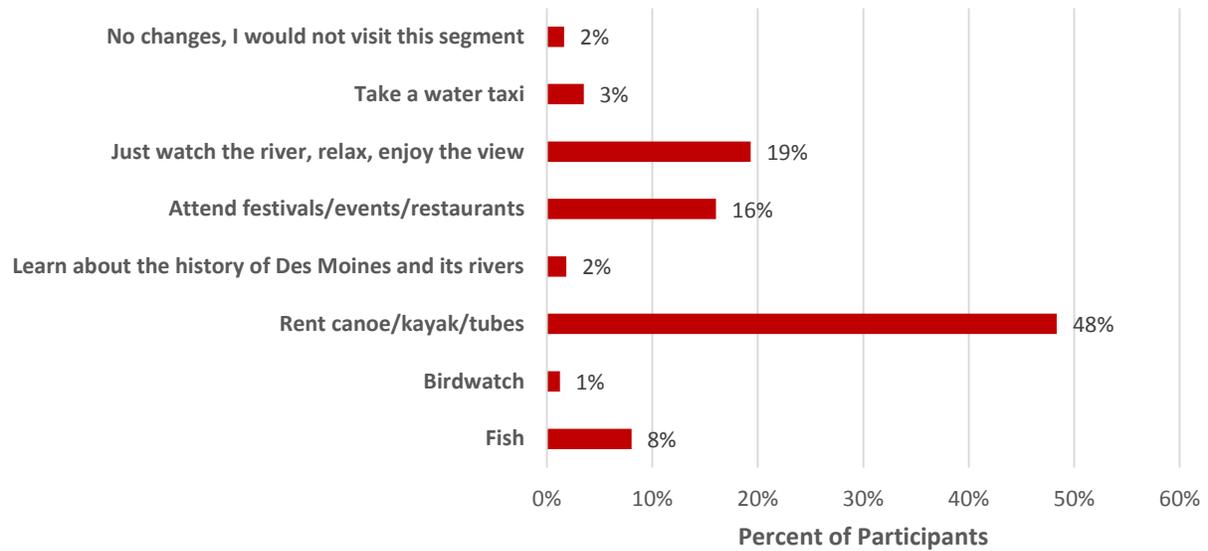
### When visiting the Women of Achievement Bridge river segment, I would most enjoy:



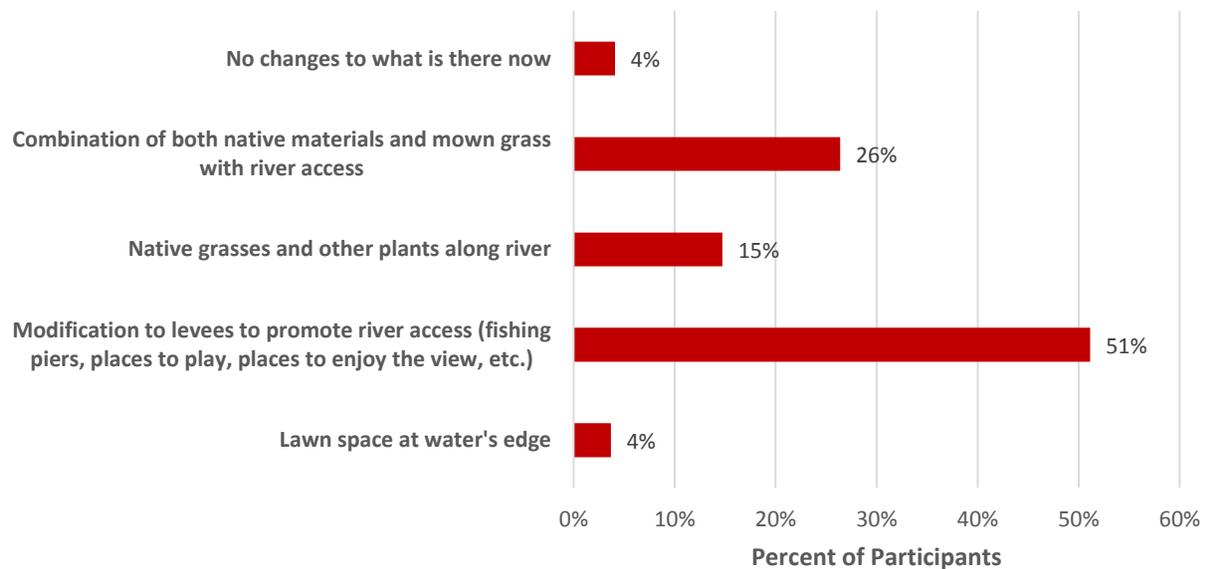
### On the Women of Achievement Bridge river segment, I would most like to see:



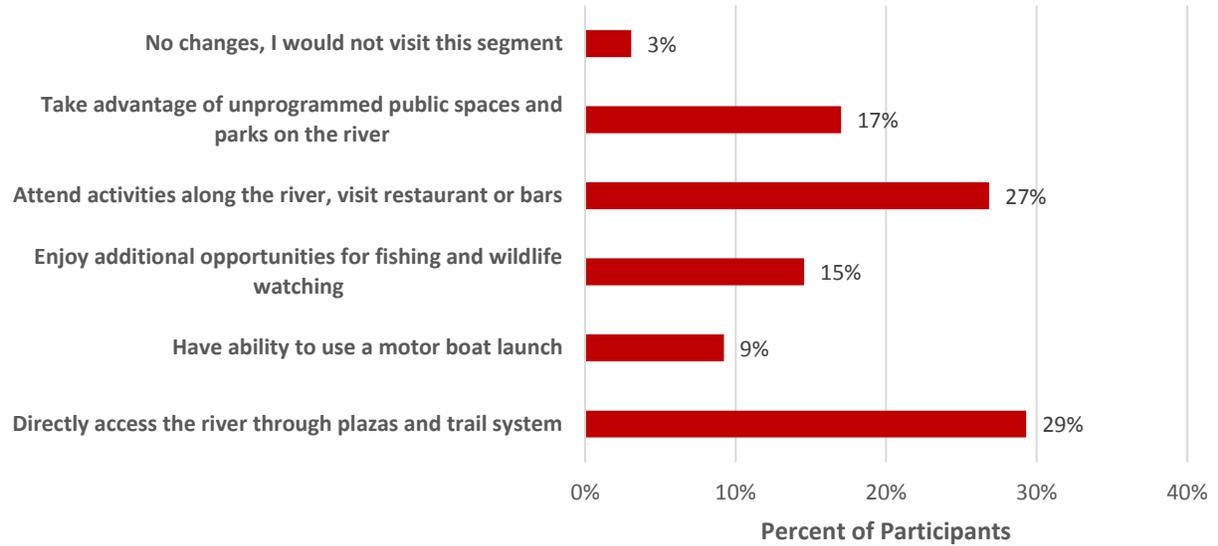
### When visiting the Women of Achievement Bridge river segment, I would most like to:



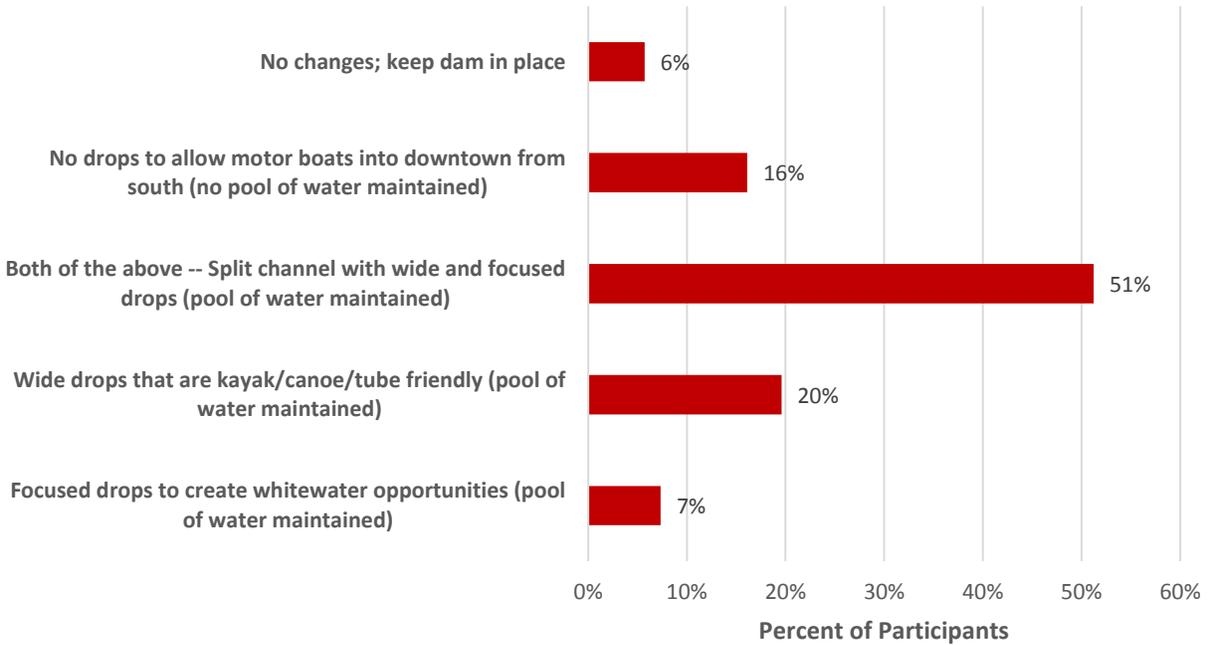
### For the Two Rivers District segment, I would most like to see:



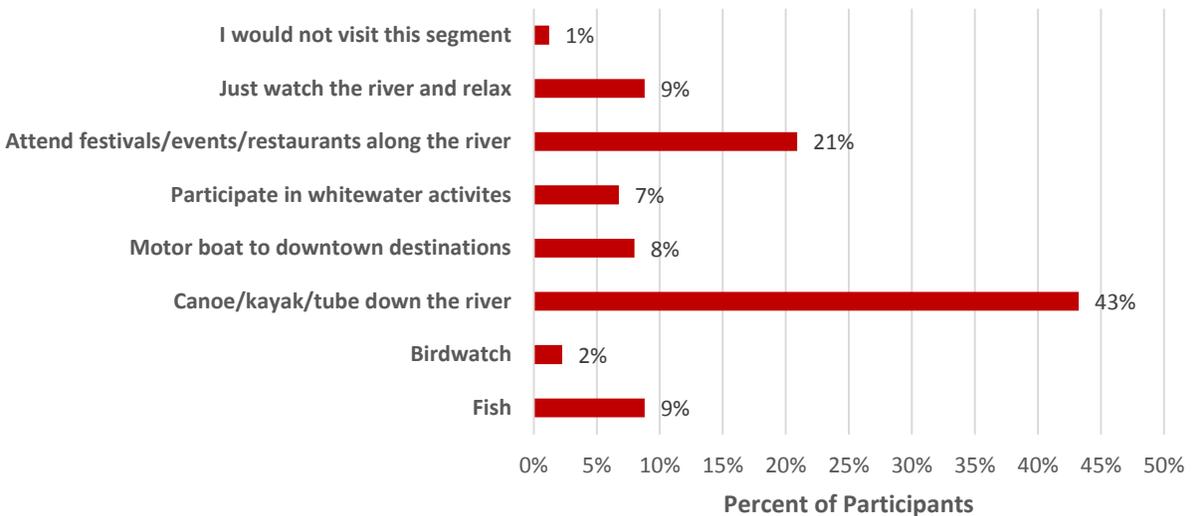
**Within the Two Rivers District segment, I would like to be able to:**



### At the Two Rivers District Segment, I would most like to see:



### When visiting the Two Rivers District segment, I would most like to:



## **Prompt: In a few words, what is your biggest concern about this effort ...**

The following are the short answer responses we heard from participants in answering the prompt, “ In a few words, what is your biggest concern about this effort.” The responses are in no particular order and have been organized into common themes including:

- Protecting fishing
- Protecting water levels, rowing and boating
- Money: both that it costs too much and that it might be underfunded
- Missing out on a great opportunity or the project taking too long
- No concerns
- Flooding
- Water Quality
- Protecting wildlife habitat
- Over development
- Safety and congestion
- Other dam comments
- Other general comments

### **Protecting fishing**

- fish habitat
- Water level manipulation creating potential harm and reduced access to a great fishing venue from Saylorville through the metro.
- To allow all activities including fishing boats

- That you will ruin the walleye fishing
- There is a great flathead catfish phenomenon that happens at the confluence biannually. I'd hate to see that go. Ask me for more input.
- Don't destroy the fishing from Scott Street.
- Its only being done to attract more people to live downtown and eliminate fishing downtown all together
- hinders fishing and promotes drunk kayakers
- Better access and fishing
- That everyone has a chance to use the river, not just those with vested interests. Don't push out the fishermen.
- Removing the dams would help fishing and boating if done properly
- Hoping it isn't just focused on downtown, would like more kayaking and fishing access in central Iowa
- My biggest concern is that this is being done for the view and not for actual boating/fishing/tubing/kayaking.
- The elimination of fish habitat.
- Not to change the dams and destroy the places fish use to spawn and create more fish
- I feel that that Scott st. Dam and the 2nd avenue damn should not be touched they have never intentionally hurt or killed anyone the humans that have my bad choices or stupid mistakes are the only reason for anyone to have ever died. For 100 years now many family's have been living off of the wonderful fishing habitats that the damns create. By slamming large groups of tubers kayakers and canoers down that stretch of river you are going to destroy the fishing and turn a beautiful capital city downtown river run into a beer can littered party run. There are plenty of areas in central Iowa that would be perfect for something like this downtown Des Moines is not one of them.

## Protecting water levels, rowing and boating

- Upstream water levels
- Continuous power boating
- Maintain water level
- Upstream use
- Upstream river conditions.
- We need opportunities upstream
- upstream
- Impact upstream
- Motorboats
- Maintain and expand powerboating
- Impact on rowing
- Water level manipulation creating potential harm and reduced access to a great fishing venue from Saylorville through the metro.

- Ability to use the river for rowing
- To allow all activities including fishing boats
- The effect on the down river towards the by pass and yellow banks, along with the city trying to limit boaters
- If you are going to take away the dams, I want to see motor boat access throughout the downtown area.
- These are two of the most polluted rivers in the country. If there is money available it should be used to clean up and prevent the pollution not plant flowers next to the water to distract our attention from reality. These are also living waterways that flood frequently, any money spent putting a human mark on them will only cost more later. These waters are also deep with heavy currents and debris, Anyone interested in letting their skin touch the toxic water, let alone recreate in it has little regard for their health and wellbeing. The exposure created by this project has either not been considered or is by design.
- Maintenance of the recreational and water conservation pool above the Women of achievement/I235 segment
- Removing the dams would help fishing and boating if done properly
- would like to see the ability for boaters on the river to continue past the dam to go both up & down stream. Des Moines is missing out by not developing venues on the river for boaters to stop.
- My biggest concern is that this is being done for the view and not for actual boating/fishing/tubing/kyaking.
- Water levels needs to maintained above center st. dam would invision filling in below dam to create white water area and the same at Scott st. Other wise water levels on Raccoon river would drop too low to be used for drinking water
- Maintaining water levels at the same level as when the flashboards are in upstream above I-235
- Making the river navigable for non-motorized vessels
- Need to keep large enough pool of water north of I-235 for power boat recreation.
- narrow channels for whitewater rafting with limit the number of river users, rather than just removing the damn to allow access to a wide variety of use including motor boat, canoe, tube, water taxi, houseboats,ect.
- making sure the upper pool is mintained at or near its current level, even in lower rain periods.
- That it will impact the water levels up stream for the rowers
- I'm a member of the Des Moines Rowing Club and we are all very concerned that any changes do not in any way negatively impact the ability for our club to row. No one seems to be able to definitively say that changes to the river will not affect the area of the river where the club rows. The level needs to remain at the same level as when flashboards are installed. Someone asked if this would be the case (at the public forum) and engineers seemed unsure. Please don't destroy the river for those already using it.
- River levels being to low for boating from Saylorville to Center Street
- I want to be able to boat from Birdland Marina to downtown. Or at least to the Botanical Center.

- My concern would be boating north of I-235. I feel taking the dam out would drop the already low level of water already existing when Saylorville shuts down in the summer allow recreation there. I grew up on the river I've caught 25+ fish over 50 pounds with a 71 pound monster being the biggest. I do not want to lose this ability just so kayaks can go downtown and j own a kayak so it's not biased. My father taught me how to be a man and while other kids were out doing drugs, committing crimes and doing other devious activities I was out fishing with him. If in any way the removal of the dams will make boating north of prospect boat ramp I strongly ask you to reconsider this plan!!
- that there will be no water up stream for boating
- That you will remove the Center St. dam flashboards, thus lowering the upstream river level to a point where the current users (rowers, power boaters) will not be able to use any part of the river. "Maintaining the pool level" is a vague promise. I would like a specific promise like "maintaining the pool level so that rowers and power boaters can use the river to the same extent they do today."
- Potential adverse impact on boating upstream of the Center Street dam during low water conditions.
- Removing motor boats who currently share the river with paddlers,kayakers, and floaters.
- maintain pool above center st for boating and rowing
- Need to be able to motorboat downstream to downtown.
- I row on the river 4/5 day a week in late Spring, Summer and early Fall. I am concerned at how the pool level can be kept high enough without flash boards.

### **Money: Both that it costs too much and that it might be underfunded**

- Cost
- Funding
- Money
- Cost
- Money
- Finding sources.
- Budget
- How do you economically
- cost/maintenance cost
- Funding
- Cost
- Cost
- Lack of funding
- Funding
- How can we spread out and afford the cost?
- Cost, suspect all the bridges would need replacement.

- That it will not get public support, funding -- or that the effort becomes undermined by corporate and commercial interests.
- spending tax dollars
- WE need to spend the millions of dollars on the schools instead of big business profits.
- money
- Cost (this should be privately funded, not funded by taxing Des Moines residents)
- Waste of money. Turning it into a 'strip mall' environment.
- MOney that will be set aside for thisproject will be used as "income" for some city official!
- too high of costs, how are we going to pay without more taxes?
- Agenda 2030!!! I don't want the federal government involved with "strings" using their money in lowans cities. lowans can figure out and pay for our needs and wants WITHOUT FEDERAL GUIDELINES AND INVOLVEMENT. Iowa needs to opt out of anything to do with Agenda 21, hense now Agenda 2030. Some other states are and it would be to our citizens overall betterment to rid ourselves of anything to do with these anti-american plans of which citizens can not actually even vote on to deliver our true choice in this matter.
- My main concern is money.
- Money and poor water quality.
- My biggest concern about this effort is finding and keeping it funded. We have to get the word out.
- It won't be funded
- That it won't receive adequate funding.
- funding
- Cost
- cost - who pays for
- Economic impact to the downtown area. Return on investment.
- Cost
- the project isn't wasteful with funds
- Cost and safety
- Cost
- Cost and time to complete
- that too much money will be spent on what only a few want
- Cost
- cost; effect on ecosystem
- Citizens will be overwhelmed by the cost and will not pursue modifications - we will never realize the potential of our rivers.
- The cost environmentally and financially.
- Finding the \$ for this
- cost
- unable to financially complete
- The effort and cost.

- Cost
- Cost to taxpayers
- Cost to taxpayers
- cost, and the effect upstream and downstream
- The long term efforts that will be needed to maintain what happens
- Cost. Flooding and damage done to all the new things created.
- Cost
- Funding
- Cost i.e. what operations/maintenance funds would be cut to fund these projects and their later maintenance? Specifically, the roads in south Des Moines need attention/money (especially Fleur and McKinley near the airport).
- Making it financially sustainable
- Ruining the historic "lake" view by the most beautiful buildings in town; cost; who maintains after it is destroyed by rocks being under 30 feet of swiftly moving floodwater; people hitting their heads on slippery, green, slimy rocks; fish guts & gulls, drownings of children from a false sense of security; there are better ways to spend money that would benefit more people; losing the sidewalks along the water; showers will be needed after being in the river water
- Too much money, let those wanting to do it, pay for it.
- What is the cost of this?
- Cost
- How much will it cost Des Moines residents?
- If money is being spent, make sure that the changes will be easy for people to use and appreciate.

### **Missing out on a great opportunity or the project taking too long**

- That it won't happen
- It won't happen
- Nothing will happen
- It will take too long
- Timeline
- It won't happen
- No follow thru to implementation
- Won't happen
- Making it happen
- That we will do nothing
- Actually getting something done
- How long it will take to construct
- That the dams won't be mitigated
- Yes, that it won't happen. Do it.
- Actually doing it.
- It won't happen soon enough!!!

- That it doesn't get done.
- That it happen!
- Not hearing the public crying for stuff to do, it not actually being done
- Time factor. How long would this take to complete?
- Worried it will take too long, water will flood downtown.
- That the location will stay as is with not much progression. It is a fantastic unutilized area that needs some attention and will help separate areas of downtown even more.
- Missed opportunities and lack of vision to really benefit DSM recreation
- Time frame
- Waiting too long
- Biggest concern I see people not liking the idea
- that it actually gets done,
- Biggest concern is that Des Moines will miss out on a great opportunity to make a world class whitewater park built by Recreation Planning and Engineering (REP) of Boulder Colorado.
- Just that it gets done! Des Moines is missing a huge opportunity.
- Making it happen and also putting more effort into water quality of our rivers
- Cost and time to complete
- I'm concerned it won't garner enough support.
- That it can't get done soon enough
- That it won't happen
- That it would not include mitigating the two Dams!
- Keeping the current dam system, they are a danger to river safety for water users.
- Not to change the dams and destroy the places fish use to spawn and create more fish
- Attempting to please too many people; not successfully executing the change.
- My only concern is not doing anything; the current dams are dangerous and impeding the public's use of the river.
- it would take to long to get it done
- lengthy time it will take to build consensus
- That both areas will not be completed in a timely fashion
- That it doesn't get done.
- That nothing changes, the dams stay in place
- That the old guard will prevent progress on this enormously important opportunity to reconnect with the river.
- that it will not happen
- The City of Des Moines fucking it up somehow.
- I'm concerned it won't happen soon enough.
- Nothing will happen- this is Iowa.
- That nobody will agree and nothing will ever come our of the hard work these people put into it. Kind of like the skate park plan a while back. Or that some big companies or people with big money will make it not happen due to their own interests.

- Iowa residents not supporting it after completion.

## No concerns

- No concerns
- No concerns
- None
- None! Love it!
- none just do it. Would be great for the city
- I want this done.
- i have no concerns
- nothing, get rid of those low heads dams
- none
- Please take out the dams in their entirety
- nothing, get rid of those low heads dams
- Just remove the dams and add places to drop in boats, kayaks and canoes
- none
- No real concerns
- Get it done. Great idea.
- Go for it. Make Des Moines unique!!
- No concerns!
- N/a
- None
- That I'm only allowed a few words. Got lots to say!!

## Flooding

- Flooding control
- Level control
- 100 yr floods
- Flooding
- Water level
- High flows
- Flood proof facilities
- Worried it will take too long, water will flood downtown.
- Flooding. Rivers need room to flood. As a society, we are trying to channel rivers during flood events. We need to allow for flood zones.
- Flooding; anything that gets installed must be flood tolerant. I don't want millions of dollars washed down the river.
- These are two of the most polluted rivers in the country. If there is money available it should be used to clean up and prevent the pollution not plant flowers next to the water to distract our attention from reality. These are also living waterways that flood frequently, any money spent putting a human mark on them will only cost more later. These waters are also deep with heavy

currents and debris, Anyone interested in letting their skin touch the toxic water, let alone recreate in it has little regard for their health and wellbeing. The exposure created by this project has either not been considered or is by design.

- Flood mitigation
- Worried it will take too long, water will flood downtown.
- When it floods, the fewer built structures along the river, the less damage done.
- The river floods a lot. Will the recreation areas and venues be damaged by this? How will we make sure people know when it is/isn't safe to use the spaces near the river?
- That it does not flood
- Maintenance of the new water features during flooding
- the effect of flooding
- Flood control and recreational water activities upstream
- developing a concept that will fit long term planning needs; including targeted development opportunities along the river's edge to create new opportunities such as restaurants and parks while also being mindful of periodic flooding as a result of rainfall within the upper Des Moines River watershed.
- Flood management
- Negative impact on flooding
- Flooding
- flood issues, debris and water quality making the river unusable for portions of the year
- Making sure flood prevention is in place and wildlife is protected.
- Cost. Flooding and damage done to all the new things created.
- Effect of flooding/drought
- flooding
- The main concern is have is keeping downtown safe from flooding.
- flooding, safety, cleanliness of the river if I'm getting in it (it isn't now)
- Awaiting DNR and corps acceptance as this is flood control first recreation second don't change a thing.
- The river levels are too unstable to make big changes. Will not be safe and flooding will destroy everything that is done.
- And what is going to control the flood water several times a year like right now this week that water will travel unrestricted right thru downtown and erode levees that millions were spent on for flood control. These ripples and drops won't be enough go back before Saylorville was impounded and look at the flooding
- Ruining the historic "lake" view by the most beautiful buildings in town; cost; who maintains after it is destroyed by rocks being under 30 feet of swiftly moving floodwater; people hitting their heads on slippery, green, slimy rocks; fish guts & gulls, drownings of children from a false sense of security; there are better ways to spend money that would benefit more people; losing the sidewalks along the water; showers will be needed after being in the river water
- Persistent flooding, river smell

## Water quality

- Making sure the river is protected for wildlife and people's drinking water.
- People dying from ingesting Branstads polluted river water.
- How to keep the river water clean.
- Litter
- Money and poor water quality.
- Making it happen and also putting more effort into water quality of our rivers
- Need to focus on water quality!
- flood issues, debris and water quality making the river unusable for portions of the year
- Water quality.
- Water quality.
- flooding, safety, cleanliness of the river if I'm getting in it (it isn't now)
- Cleaning up the polluted waters!
- The water quality- I personally do not want to swim or be in the river. I don't drink city water. I prefer to view the rivers and would take part in river-front activities.
- Persistent flooding, river smell
- Clean water
- Water quality
- Polluted water
- Water quality
- Water pollution
- Water quality
- Water Quality
- Polluted water
- Water quality
- Water quality
- Water quality
- Water quality
- Pollution
- Water quality. Safety
- Water quality
- Water quality
- Bacterial impacts from CSI
- Water quality and habitat
- Safety, water quality, water depths, hazards added

## Protecting wildlife habitat

- Wildlife prevatio
- Native habitat
- Wildlife habitat
- Natural habitat
- Water quality and habitat
- Get rid of the dams! Help return the rivers to their natural state.
- The effect on the down river towards the by pass and yellow banks, along with the city trying to limit boaters
- Rivers are meant to rise and fall with the time of year. Incorporate native plant wetlands to facilitate natural ebb and flow of river wherever possible. Wetlands help clean the water, the soil, the air, and provide habitat for key needed pollinators and other wildlife. Please, no more fertilized lawns that wash into the river--they only add to pollution levels here and downstream all the way to the sea.
- environmental degradation
- Too much commercializations. Losing the "natural river" and ecosystem.
- The water is dirty, which might gross out some people.
- That the process will make the area too commercialized
- Waste of money. Turning it into a 'strip mall' environment.
- Making sure the river is protected for wildlife and people's drinking water.
- Maintaining current habitat.
- I'm not well educated on the issues these modifications would create, but I would wantto make sure wildlife's habitat is not too disturbed.
- public value of access and recreation over ecological benefits
- cost; effect on ecosystem
- The cost environmentally and financially.
- I'm concerned with litter and the affect on river wildlife and water.
- Disruption to natural habitat for plants and animals
- Making sure flood prevention is in place and wildlife is protected.
- Still keeping the wildlife/plant life involved in the rivers.
- The elimination of fish habitat.
- Not to change the dams and destroy the places fish use to spawn and create more fish
- You're going to completely change the habitat for the fish if you screw around with the dams. Waterworks in Boone is proof of that. The water will be completely inundated with irresponsible kayakers, canoers, and tubers which leads to TRASH all along the river because these people have ZERO respect for nature of the law. It is impossible to get a boat on the river sometimes because of these people. You obviously don't care about conservation or natural habitat and this is just going to turn into more disrespectful idiots on the water. Are you going to be out there ticketing them for recklessness, public drunkenness, and littering? The river is already trashed enough as it is from these jerks. They could care less about nature. All they care

about is getting drunk and floating down the river. Ever wonder how they start off with however many cans of beer and then end up with none when they reach their destination? It's because they are either thrown on shore, floating in the water, or sunk to the bottom. Are you going to ticket them for that? This is so stupid, spend your money on something else.

## Over development

- Too much commercializations. Losing the "natural river" and ecosystem.
- That it will become too commercialized.
- Waste of money. Turning it into a 'strip mall' environment.
- City will think it needs to be cutting edge and could ruin it with too much build and too much modern. DONT OVERBUILD/OVERDEVELOP...THINK balance. THINK simplicity and a potential will be reached by working with nature that cannot be "built". The project needs to "allow" activities and gatherings, not create/restrict them to a few options. People who get out and use these areas will find the potential in space. Dont feel the need to create too much. Keep it simple, with the natural world and those that find that "enough" the focus!!! [KEEP THE VISION ALIVE - WHAT A GREAT IDEA FOR DOWNTOWN DSM]

## Safety and congestion

- Safety
- Safety
- Safety
- Water hazards added
- Safety
- Safety
- Stop Dam deaths
- Safety
- Safety - inexperienced motorboat era and kayaker a together
- Safety
- Safely invite water interaction
- Water quality. Safety
- Flood protection, Safety,
- Safety
- Safety, water quality, water depths, hazards added
- Cooperated use up river
- Too much river traffic with raucousness and drinking and inability to enjoy the serenity of the river.
- The dams. We need to find a safer alternative for our river.
- These are two of the most polluted rivers in the country. If there is money available it should be used to clean up and prevent the pollution not plant flowers next to the water to distract our attention from reality. These are also living waterways that flood frequently, any money spent

putting a human mark on them will only cost more later. These waters are also deep with heavy currents and debris, Anyone interested in letting their skin touch the toxic water, let alone recreate in it has little regard for their health and wellbeing. The exposure created by this project has either not been considered or is by design.

- Safety
- To make river more safe and usable to larger numbers of citizens.
- safety
- The river floods a lot. Will the recreation areas and venues be damaged by this? How will we make sure people know when it is/isn't safe to use the spaces near the river?
- Cost and safety
- "Safety" concerns holding up the project from beginning.
- Water safety for those not accustomed to moving bodies of water
- My only concern is not doing anything; the current dams are dangerous and impeding the public's use of the river.
- Replace the dams, they are a danger to people who accidentally fall in.
- The big question, whether or not to remove the dams is not being addressed. Can we keep the Center Street dam, a less expensive option, and enhance the safety aspects of it?
- I think the river would be safer without the two dams. This would increase recreational use. Not excited about motorboat traffic downtown
- Making sure all those people are safe
- flooding, safety, cleanliness of the river if I'm getting in it (it isn't now)
- Keeping the current dam system, they are a danger to river safety for water users.
- I feel that that Scott st. Dam and the 2nd avenue dam should not be touched they have never intentionally hurt or killed anyone the humans that have my bad choices or stupid mistakes are the only reason for anyone to have ever died. For 100 years now many family's have been living off of the wonderful fishing habitats that the damns create. By slamming large groups of tubers kayakers and canoers down that stretch of river you are going to destroy the fishing and turn a beautiful capital city downtown river run into a beer can littered party run. There are plenty of areas in central iowa that would be perfect for something like this downtown Des Moines is not one of them.
- The river levels are to unstable to make big changes. Will not be safe and flooding will destroy everything that is done.
- You're going to completely change the habitat for the fish if you screw around with the dams. Waterworks in Boone is proof of that. The water will be completely inundated with irresponsible kayakers, canoers, and tubers which leads to TRASH all along the river because these people have ZERO respect for nature of the law. It is impossible to get a boat on the river sometimes because of these people. You obviously don't care about conservation or natural habitat and this is just going to turn into more disrespectful idiots on the water. Are you going to be out there ticketing them for recklessness, public drunkenness, and littering? The river is already trashed enough as it is from these jerks. They could care less about nature. All they care about is getting drunk and floating down the river. Ever wonder how they start off with

however many cans of beer and then end up with none when they reach their destination? It's because they are either thrown on shore, floating in the water, or sunk to the bottom. Are you going to ticket them for that? This is so stupid, spend your money on something else.

- Ruining the historic "lake" view by the most beautiful buildings in town; cost; who maintains after it is destroyed by rocks being under 30 feet of swiftly moving floodwater; people hitting their heads on slippery, green, slimy rocks; fish guts & gulls, drownings of children from a false sense of security; there are better ways to spend money that would benefit more people; losing the sidewalks along the water; showers will be needed after being in the river water
- While this brings activities to the city, I think this may cause injuries or deaths.

### **The project encouraging boating in areas that some do not want boating**

- big motor - please limit hp. to make it a calm and more natural space
- this is a VERY poorly designed survey. its intent is quite obvious. i do NOT want motorized ANYTHING on either of the rivers.
- I think the river would be safer without the two dams. This would increase recreational use. Not excited about motorboat traffic downtown

### **Other dam comments**

- Removing the dams would help fishing and boating if done properly
- narrow channels for whitewater rafting with limit the number of river users, rather than just removing the damn to allow access to a wide variety of use including motor boat, canoe, tube, water taxi, houseboats,ect.
- I feel that that Scott st. Damn and the 2nd avenue damn should not be touched they have never intentionally hurt or killed anyone the humans that have my bad choices or stupid mistakes are the only reason for anyone to have ever died. For 100 years now many family's have been living off of the wonderful fishing habitats that the damns create. By slamming large groups of tubers kayakers and canoers down that stretch of river you are going to destroy the fishing and turn a beautiful capital city downtown river run into a beer can littered party run. There are plenty of areas in central iowa that would be perfect for something like this downtown Des Moines is not one of them.

### **Other statements or statements that are unclear**

- A
- Whitewater
- Plan for implementation
- Balance
- Trying to b all things to all
- Connection
- Accessibility
- Poll is flawed - everyone here is a kayaker.
- Integration
- Availability to kayak

- Historic preservation
- Water access
- split channel?
- Recreate!
- Construction
- Appear to be ignoring
- adjacent uses
- Public buy-in
- Dog beaches
- Government bureaucracy
- White water activity
- DAMDEBATE Speed of completion
- Choices too restrictive
- Whitewater opportunities
- Maintenance
- I want a great surf wave please
- River needs more recreation!
- Lawyers
- Pipe dream
- Failure to see the value of the project
- Do we have the population to support white water rafting/rentals?
- G
- Making everyone happy
- It will be improperly constructed, like the Boone waterworks dam project.
- I am concerned there will be public push like back from the Xenophobic end.
- I don't want people thinking the river has to be manmade for it to have value.
- Agenda 2030!!! I don't want the federal government involved with "strings" using their money in lowans cities. lowans can figure out and pay for our needs and wants WITHOUT FEDERAL GUIDELINES AND INVOLVEMENT. Iowa needs to opt out of anything to do with Agenda 21, hense now Agenda 2030. Some other states are and it would be to our citizens overall betterment to rid ourselves of anything to do with these anti-american plans of which citizens can not actually even vote on to deliver our true choice in this matter.
- just a few people making decisions
- too many people fishing and leaving their trash laying around. I like to fish, but not like that or in that mess.
- Hoping it isn't just focused on downtown, would like more kayaking and fishing access in central Iowa
- That it will not be extensive enough.
- that the river is more then just fishing and I think parts of the raccoon needs to be worked on also

- Available areas to park that would be close to the river. Right now if any event is going on nearby no spots to park and I will not plan on visiting the area.
- None
- I am very concerned that the plans seem to disregard the beauty of the existing historic formal design, with its balustraded river walls and controlled water level. This is a National Register listed Historic District. It is our historic city center, where a formal design is most appropriate. I visit these river segments, but this survey is so biased that a vote for No Change assumes that I am one who would not visit these segments. I am concerned that maintaining this historic resource is not considered a high priority.
- that due respect will not be paid to the historical Riverwalk, City Beautiful plan.
- Narrow focused short sighted visionary
- Bring more people downtown. Liven it up
- I would like to keep the beautiful view from the Women of Achievement Bridge involving the dam.
- Engagement with the new Botanical Garden and expanding outdoor activity are a great match with an updated river corridor
- Non river users not understanding the river yet influencing the decision
- Making sure everything compliments each other and not competes - so sustainable
- The choosing of non-comprehensive plan
- These cookie-cutter responses don't allow for much public input.
- The difficulty of making any changes
- it will be white water activity that only a few can enjoy
- People scared of change
- Love the idea of utilizing the rivers to provide entertainment!
- White water limits the flexibility of the river
- cost, and the effect upstream and downstream
- Lack of education for the many benefits this could bring
- Opposing interests vying for their way.
- That dirtbags could over take improvements
- Awaiting DNR and corps acceptance as this is flood control first recreation second don't change a thing.
- Maintaining a balance of new ideas and features and current uses.
- I like what has been proposed so far but the biggest concern is that structures that are proposed need to be able to withstand 22,000 to 25,000 cfs of water flow. Simple boulders will not do it. Ex Corps of Engineers manager. perhaps Beaver Creek should be the primary Kayak/canoe focus area.

## **Prompt: In a few words, what are you most excited about with this effort ...**

The following are the short answer responses we heard from participants in answering the prompt, “In a few words, what are you most excited about with this effort.” The responses are in no particular order and have been organized into common themes including:

- Kayaking, canoeing, and whitewater
- Fishing and fish migration
- New activities and recreational possibilities
- Nature and conservation
- Growth and development
- I am not excited about the plan
- Dam removal
- Increased safety
- Improved water quality
- Other

### **Kayaking, canoeing, and whitewater**

- Paddling
- Whitewater!
- Whitewater!!!!!!
- Whitewater park
- Surfing waves
- Whitewater
- Kayak access in town
- White water and habitat
- Opening rivers and kayaking
- White water!
- Kayaking
- Whitewater
- Whitewater variable flow
- Paddling accessibility
- Whitewater
- I would like to meet all of the whitewater folks!
- The opportunity to do some fishing in my kayak with an improved fisheries
- What a great chance for the city to develop and make downtown an attraction...adding some sort of whitewater while developing the space around the river is just a no-brainer!
- increased access with a canoe or motorboat
- That more native prairie, native woodland and native wetland plant areas will be established and that I could canoe there with my family. Grey's Lake is quite small for canoeing and kayaking. Not concerned about access for motorboats! Let's make this an improvement for water quality.
- To be able to kayak through downtown on the river.

- fishing and canoeing/tubeing
- I've been canoeing and kayaking for 17 years and would love to be able to participate in these activities in my home city! Take out the killer dams!
- Having a great paddling opportunities close to home.
- Kayaking from Saylorville Spillway all the way to Red Rock. It would be excellent to have a camping spot for people right off the river.
- Being able to get in the water and fish,tube,boating
- Whitewater park in Des Moines
- Brining more quality whitewater to Iowa built by REP, removing useless dams, and restoring the rivers so they may flow freely.
- I'm excited about the possibilty of canoeing and kayaking in my hometown. We claim to be a city that embraces the outdoors, but that's really only true if you own a bicycle at this point in time. These changes would open up many new possibillies as far as outdoor recreation goes.
- I think the addition of kayak/canoe/tubing features is awesome, not to mention much-needed. I also love the idea of more space to use the bank area.
- kayaking
- watching concerts at the amphitheater from boats, from kayaks to motor boats.
- I drive 4-5 hours to visit whitewater parks and spend weekends and vacations at the river parks. As Manchester discovered, if you build it, they will come. :-)
- The ability to boat to downtown locations.
- Being able to more day floats closer to home.
- The potential for kayak/tube/canoe activity! It is a favorite summer acitivity of mine but I usually have to travel an hour or more to do it.
- Kyaking!!!
- SWIMMING - TOWN SWIMMING-HOLE!!!! Think Barton Springs at Zilker Park in Austin, TX. I like the Tubes/Kayaks whitewater and lazy river appraoch. have a place for swimming grilling, sunshine. Create plazas with tiers and mowed grass to overlook river but have natural boulders and grasses to welcome those who want to use the river. [KEEP THE VISION ALIVE - WHAT A GREAT IDEA FOR DOWNTOWN DSM]
- being able to kayak downtown - get rid of those damn dams
- Kayaking and paddle boats on the river like a real city
- I'm extremely excited about the prospect of being able to kayak this portion of the river!
- Kayaking in Des Moines
- vibrant rivers with people paddling the rivers and playing on their bank
- Removing the dams to allow for kayaking
- River access to kayak and play on the water close to home and walk or ride trails along the water
- Kayak/Canoe Opportunities!
- The opportunity kayak around downtown
- Being able to paddle through downtown
- Kayaking and tubing

- having a white water park that is local
- kayak/water tube/canoe options - and the increased traffic/visitors it will bring to downtown
- kayak and connection the Raccoon River
- The many benefits - social, economical, and natural - of a restored white water channel
- Whitewater canoeing
- I would love to utilize the river more by boating, kayaking, whitewater rafting and entertainment venues.
- Possibility for canoe and kayak opportunities downtown.
- Navigability (human- and motor-powered boats) and some return to a more "natural" river state where it makes sense. Growing up in Northwest Florida, there were miles and miles of navigable river and places to dock/beach in some towns. This was in addition to many miles of unmodified river with natural, uncontrolled riverbanks anyone could enjoy at their leisure.

### **Fishing and fish migration**

- The opportunity to do some fishing in my kayak with an improved fisheries
- More opportunities to fish
- Improved fishing
- more spots to fish. less crowded at few spots
- Fishing
- Improve natural fish habit. Improving water quality and recreation.
- Fish will not be confined and there will be less deaths.
- I'm an avid fisherman but fishing in Iowa is futile due to the horrible water quality. I hope if they do improvements to the river in town, that they can put more emphasis on improving the water quality which will improve fishing and recreation opportunities.
- fishing and canoeing/tubeing
- Being able to get in the water and fish,tube,boating
- The way they are trying to use the river for recreation that will hurt the fish+the fisherman last year 400 thousand gallons of raw sewage went down the river they should worry about that instead of kayaking

### **New activities and recreational possibilities**

- It will bring new people & opportunities to Des Moines.
- vast opportunities across the board
- More motorboat opportunities around downtown.
- Increased recreation opportunities and improved wildlife habitat
- More outdoor recreation
- More activities and natural river movement
- Access to the river for recreation and education
- Enhancing the river area which is very underutilized now. Great potential here!
- Opening up the river to be used instead of just viewed
- Restaurants and bars along the river downtown

- More to do in Des Moines. Most cities have more entertainment/activities than Des Moines
- Excited to develop opportunities to enjoy our rivers instead of turning our backs to them!
- Entertainment to bring people downtown
- I'm mostly excited about the new changes and opportunities for the city.
- Additional activity on the river walk
- Brings more entertainment downtown
- Dog playing opportunities
- More access to rivers!
- Swimming
- Downtown FUN
- Recreate!
- Access!
- Increased recreation
- Increased recreational opportunities
- Hosting national events
- Tubing during lunch
- Recreational opportunities
- Boating
- Touring the river
- Increasing day and night outing opportunities
- Recreation and access
- Expanded opportunity for power boats in downtown DSM
- Stand up paddle boarding
- Getting better access to river
- Fun on river
- Recreation! Conservation! Ecotourism!
- Power boating opportunities
- power boat path unending
- Actually using the river in this area
- Swimming, access to river
- More river activities
- powerboat access
- Activating our rivers
- Power boating downtown
- Active outdoor activities downtown
- Increase River activity for all!!
- That the river becomes central to recreation in downtown
- Access and recreation opportunities

- Giving the community the opportunity to have another space to give more recreational use. Hopefully they can use it as a public event space because the investment in the beautiful bridge doesn't have the foot traffic it deserves.
- It would be great to have a recreational venue and place for boaters. Maybe watch nightfall in the river by boat.
- Increasing DSM's profile as river recreation/enjoyment venue
- The ability to use the river itself instead of just looking at it.
- Increasing the activities in the river areas within Des Moines.
- More opportunities
- Having the best of both worlds: 1) allowing the rowers to continue building their club (and Drake's team), and 2) offering more water sport options downtown. Note that 2) assumes that the water nitrate and bacteria levels are safe for people to enter the water. As a rower, we are very cautious about the bacteria levels in the water and any open wounds.
- Recreational opportunities in the metro area
- Bring additional activities and excitement downtown and increase safety
- Everything, I also want to see Kansas City style river where u can boat n do so much recreational stuff
- Recreational opportunities.
- Opportunity and activities
- more things to do!
- more opportunities in downtown
- I am excited because it will bring great activities to Des Moines. Des moines needs these to amp up the city. Great way to kids and teenage to enjoy the outdoors.
- New recreation opportunities on the river
- Would be awesome to have more outdoor activities available in the metro.
- recreation in and around the river and native transitions between our downtown and the river edge
- Everything! My family lives downtown, and we use the riverwalk almost daily and year-round. We would love more activities in and around the river for learning, play, and exercise.
- To be able to play on and around the river, along with additional opportunities to dine, etc.
- To bring on the water activities to these historic rivers and it's in the heart of our beautiful city!
- I skate the trails in this area. I would love to see a skate park! I also stand up paddle board, mostly at Gray's Lake & would love to have more river access to Paddleboard!
- excited to remove the dams and open up the river to recreation
- That I live just a block from the heart of where all this is planned for and I enjoy all the activities mentioned in the survey.
- more rec opportunities
- Making the river & its recreational use a centerpiece.
- Increase water access and activities
- The opportunities are staggering.

- New recreational opportunities
- More recreation opportunities down river from the Women of Achievement Bridge.
- ability to use the river for recreation for the first time
- Makes the river seem less industrial, better fits City's growing recreational culture
- ability to use the river; increased activity along the waterway
- Being able to access the river for recreation and enjoy it's natural beauty without the look of dams.
- SWIMMING - TOWN SWIMMING-HOLE!!!! Think Barton Springs at Zilker Park in Austin, TX. I like the Tubes/Kayaks whitewater and lazy river approach. have a place for swimming grilling, sunshine. Create plazas with tiers and mowed grass to overlook river but have natural boulders and grasses to welcome those who want to use the river. [KEEP THE VISION ALIVE - WHAT A GREAT IDEA FOR DOWNTOWN DSM]
- Taking my scouts out on the river(s) here instead of other communities
- reintegrating the rivers into the recreational and social life of the city
- Expanding the river corridor of outdoor opportunities
- Fun recreational opportunities that will attract diversity of users
- Boating
- Giving Des Moines residents and visitors more things to do in the Downtown area.
- Increasing how far down the river we can row
- Hosting a rowing regatta downtown. Each arch is a race lane.
- Recreational activities
- Increase the recreational potential of this downtown natural resource
- new opportunity for everyone to get on and enjoy the river
- More activities to downtown Des Moines
- More and safer access to the river and the variety of possible activities
- Being able to do activities on the river and eat at more restaurants on the rivers edge!
- having the rivers be the true central activity magnet and gathering point for the community
- More things for my kids to get outdoors and be excited about within the city
- More recreational use of the downtown river!
- Increases in recreational oport
- A More natural look with recreational oportunities!
- More recreational oportunities downtown
- Growth and development of Downtown
- Promotion of an active lifestyle
- water activities near downtown with cool new venues for more events by the river.
- paddle boarding, activities, festivals, restaurants
- Being able to use the river for recreational purposes!
- Recreation! People in the river downtown!!
- More green space and recreational oportunities
- No dams, more river activity
- more activities

- more activities for everyone!
- Opportunities for motor boating downstream to future downtown entertainment venues.
- getting rid of the existing dams and creating recreational opportunities. This makes the river more vibrant. Whenever amenities are added the value of living in an area goes up and the entire metro gains. Makes the city more desirable as a place to live.

## Nature and conservation

- If there could be more natural grasses and habitat for birds and fish it would be a change in my opinion.
- More opportunities for kayaking and wildlife viewing.
- Removing the dams to promote fish/wildlife.
- For too long the Des Moines River has been treated like garbage and I think this is a tremendous opportunity to create a beautiful, sustainable, educational, and ecologically sound public space in the heart of Des Moines.
- White water and habitat
- Habitat
- Connecting with our best natural asset
- Wildlife
- Cleaner water mindset
- Recreation! Conservation!
- Opening river to more people! Back to nature.
- A live river
- Celebrating our natural resource
- Opportunity to expose citizens to rivers in an environmentally beneficial way
- Losing the ditch
- Improving the health of our rivers and our connection to our river roots
- Habitat
- Improve natural fish habitat. Improving water quality and recreation.
- That more native prairie, native woodland and native wetland plant areas will be established and that I could canoe there with my family. Grey's Lake is quite small for canoeing and kayaking. Not concerned about access for motorboats! Let's make this an improvement for water quality.
- I am glad the river is getting some attention. I attended MPO's Beaver Creek meeting, and fail to mention an idea. I would like to see a plot of elm trees, for live-stakeing. I hope this would encourage a volunteer effort to combat erosion.
- Increased recreation opportunities and improved wildlife habitat
- More activities and natural river movement
- Cleaning up the river
- change the view of the city! the current river, walls, concrete is not attractive. give me a reason to bring my kids to the river!
- People being comfortable in spaces that aren't mowed, sprayed, and devoid of natural life.

- Better public involvement with our river and safety improvements, preservation of Des Moines as a rowing venue, more natural river front. One flaw in this survey is that it does not distinguish between the different uses and character of the river above and below the Women of Achievement Bridge.
- recreation in and around the river and native transitions between our downtown and the river edge
- The rivers are awesome. Additional access to downtown via boats takes us back to a bygone Era. Additional tourism through the water access (taxi, motor boats, water sports) would be cool. Could use the space to teach water quality and conservation as well.
- Being able to access the river for recreation and enjoy it's natural beauty without the look of dams.
- We'd like to see more explanation about the level upstream where the beautiful natural area of the river is. Downtown is a bunch of bridges and concrete and car exhaust.
- More interaction with the water and native vegetation
- A More natural look with recreational opportunities!
- creating a lively natural area
- Increasing the natural beauty of the shoreline.

### **I am not excited about the plan**

- Not excited at all
- I'm not excited about it at all. This is a waste of tax payers money.
- Nothing at all - I am against major changes without a major study of the long term effects
- I have not been downtown in years. Really dont like all the changes.
- NOT A DAM THING!!!!
- not to excited about the whole thing
- If you want to do something, dredge the coon from walnut woods to waterworks remove the dam at waterworks and then do the water activities. Horrible idea to remove center street or Scott street dams. There will be no water then massive amounts of water. So inconsistent it won't even be usable.
- Nothing
- Nothing it's a minority groups interest only to spend the majority tax money
- Other plans need completion first. Stay out of taxpayers pockets
- Not a thing if I want to boat to the two rivers area there is a launch for boats at raccoon river park in West des Moines or SE 14th in des Moines already. Flood control first concern

### **Dam removal**

- dam removal
- Dams might be gone
- No more Center Street dam
- Removing the dams to promote fish/wildlife.
- Please take out the dams in their entirety

- That there are funds available to convert the dams into hydroelectric power sources instead.
- eliminate the dangerous dams
- I've been canoeing and kayaking for 17 years and would love to be able to participate in these activities in my home city! Take out the killer dams!
- Brining more quality whitewater to Iowa built by REP, removing useless dams, and restoring the rivers so they may flow freely.
- opening up the river
- excited to remove the dams and open up the river to recreation
- Removing the dams so people can use and enjoy the river.
- Being able to access the river for recreation and enjoy it's natural beauty without the look of dams.
- being able to kayak downtown - get rid of those damn dams
- Removing the dams to allow for kayaking
- Getting rid of the dams
- Safety with removal of the low head dams
- Getting rid of the current dam system
- Being able to pass through
- Making the Dam a lock so motor boats can go below the dam
- No dams, more river activity
- Getting rid of Center dam is good if it does not ruin upstream activities.
- getting rid of the existing dams and creating recreational opportunities. This makes the river more vibrant. Whenever amenities are added the value of living in an area goes up and the entire metro gains. Makes the city more desirable as a place to live.

### Increased safety

- The increased ability for activities on the river and the ability to safely be in the river without the fear of dams or drowning due to the immense water current we have now.
- Getting people safely on and near the water.
- It's exciting to remove the dangerous dam, and potentially modify the levees to allow people to engage more with the river.
- Better public involvement with our river and safety improvements, preservation of Des Moines as a rowing venue, more natural river front. One flaw in this survey is that it does not distinguish between the different uses and character of the river above and below the Women of Achievement Bridge.
- More useable space that is safe to access
- That we will have a connected river with safer recreational opportunities
- Bring additional activities and excitement downtown and increase safety
- More and safer access to the river and the variety of possible activities
- Safety with removal of the low head dams
- To make downtown waterways a cool place to visit and explore on the water instead of a dangerous dam to be avoided

## Improved water quality

- Rive water quality advocacy
- I'm an avid fisherman but fishing in Iowa is futile due to the horrible water quality. I hope if they do improvements to the river in town, that they can put more emphasis on improving the water quality which will improve fishing and recreation opportunities.
- Having the best of both worlds: 1) allowing the rowers to continue building their club (and Drake's team), and 2) offering more water sport options downtown. Note that 2) assumes that the water nitrate and bacteria levels are safe for people to enter the water. As a rower, we are very cautious about the bacteria levels in the water and any open wounds.
- The rivers are awesome. Additional access to downtown via boats takes us back to a bygone Era. Additional tourism through the water access (taxi, motor boats, water sports) would be cool. Could use the space to teach water quality and conservation as well.

## Growth and development in downtown Des Moines

- Business growth
- Development
- Attracting visitors
- Development
- Development
- Economic development
- Reinvent downtown again!
- Revitalize downtown
- The value it brings to the city
- Seeing increased activity downtown
- Higher property values downtown
- Expanded entertainment district.
- That the river becomes central to recreation in downtown
- Downtown growth opportunities
- So excited to have more development along the river!!!
- It would be nice to have some restaurants near river
- It will bring tons more people downtown & provide park space and amenities that downtown is missing & other metros have. Relaxing amenities will provide competitive housing with suburban markets now.
- Increased usage and development of the area
- River access and downtown beautification
- The ability to experience downtown DSM from the river would be incredible and a huge asset to experiencing downtown!
- along with the new Skyline I think modify and both the Des Moines River and Raccoon River through the downtown area would make Des Moines a very exciting place to visit and to play
- Vibrancy of Riverside development. Would like to see houseboat village.
- Bring in more performers for concerts/shows in Iowa

- Changes to Des Moines! And creating a river walk!
- another reason to visit downtown DM
- Developing Des Moines River Walk into a "place to be". Des Moines has a lot of potential and it is time to unlock.
- opportunities to change downtown for the better
- that it gets done and people can have some fun downtown etc.
- I hope to see restaurants, venues, parking, trail beautification, and water access.
- Opportunity for growth! Yay DSM!
- the possibility that small local businesses might be prominent along the river rather than big corporate crap.
- Development. Des Moines downtown is embarrassing.
- Development of an untapped beautiful Iowa resource
- The possibility to realize the potential of the rivers as an asset to our downtown. It could/would spur development along the rivers because, finally, you could travel by boat from the Raccoon to the Des Moines River. I can imagine housing, bars, restaurants all along the shore of the river - particularly the Raccoon south of MLK. Amazing.
- This could be a combination of all of the best things that other cities offer - boating and shops on the river like in San Antonio and whitewater and recreational activities to really draw people into the Downtown District for a few days
- Bring the river to life and bringing D.M. to life. Life has always gravitated to water
- Helps to bring together both West Downtown and East Villiage. Area isn't used as much as it should be and this will bring another family place downtown
- The use of the untapped potential to showcase Des Moine's rivers
- It encourages people to spend more time downtown to help it thrive.
- drawing more people to the downtown area, thus more business and residential
- The new and exciting future of Des Moines
- It has great opportunity to get more tourist and other people to down town and to travel by water around town which could be a unique aspect to Des Moines and a great tourist attraction
- The rebirth of downtown along with the renaissance of the river front have transformed DSM. This potential project is a critical step in our evolution as a city and a region.
- Continous improvement of our great city!
- Tourism. Bring people downtown. Being proud of the DSM river running through heart of DSM.
- Making the area an attraction.
- To make downtown watetways a cool place to visit and explore on the water instead of a dangerous dam to be avoided
- getting rid of the existing dams and creating recreational opportunities. This makes the river more vibrant. Whenever amenities are added the value of living in an area goes up and the entire metro gains. Makes the city more desiriable as a place to live.
- Improving the S.side of the two rivers. That would be great better yet to be able to boat from the Birdland Marina to Downtown venues.

- More river-front developments.
- Something new to the area that not only local people will use, but maybe it will help with tourism. Hopefully it will create jobs and help the economy of our area.
- More opportunities for creation of small businesses and denser population of downtown.
- To utilize the river as an asset, not just a channel of water for drinking water or up river boating (of which only benefits a very few).
- More opportunities for growth in Des Moines.

## Other

- Reconnecting the rivers
- Family friendly
- Public space
- Being able to use the river more
- Natural connections for an urban population
- Increased engagement with the area
- Touching water
- That it will happen!
- Usage of the river
- Using river downtown
- Public access to water
- Water access downtown
- RIVER ACCESS
- downtown
- Bringing people to the river.
- Touching the water
- Access
- River vitality
- Attention for rivers
- Lunch on the river
- Using river as a resource
- Engaging the river
- DAMDEBATE Downtown
- Integration into DM life
- Public planning
- Integration
- Water access
- Transformation
- Access/use of rivers
- Getting lowans in the river
- Bringing multiple generations together

- It'll make DSM cool!
- To bring river into downtown culture
- Healthier populace
- Interacting with the rivers
- A new dynamic in city
- Vibrant city
- More people enjoying river
- Access to the river
- Enhancing river for public use
- Better experiences on the river
- Becoming Indianapolis!
- Increased awareness of rivers.
- Saving upstream
- Where are the kayakers now ??
- Beautification
- Rivers no longer ignored
- Multiple benefits to diverse stakeholders
- Improving the health of our rivers and our connection to our river roots
- River + Beer = Fun
- General interest in the river.
- To make it for everybody to enjoy
- Returning the river to a more natural flow.
- To be able to get a boat closer to watch fireworks
- Increased flood events from Saylorville Reservoir through the City of Des Moines.
- Improving Des Moines!
- New public spaces!
- Better public involvement with our river and safety improvements, preservation of Des Moines as a rowing venue, more natural river front. One flaw in this survey is that it does not distinguish between the different uses and character of the river above and below the Women of Achievement Bridge.
- To remove ALL monies tied to this project that is coming from Agenda 21/Agenda 2030 and Federal Funding and guidelines
- Hoping this actually happens for more things for my family & myself to do
- It would be great to have a more of a park setting in downtown Des Moines
- Being able to connect watertrails and not have to drive in between different sections to continue the trip
- It needs to happen.
- Incorporating the river into our trail system and active downtown life.
- I think greater awareness and appreciation of our rivers is good. I understand that planning is a long process with many different concerns that must be considered.

- More opportunities to promote outdoor life and public health.
- I think the addition of kayak/canoe/tubing features is awesome, not to mention much-needed. I also love the idea of more space to use the bank area.
- Everything! My family lives downtown, and we use the riverwalk almost daily and year-round. We would love more activities in and around the river for learning, play, and exercise.
- Finally getting something done.
- To be able to play on and around the river, along with additional opportunities to dine, etc.
- The fact that people are finally putting forth an effort.
- I think any of the proposed modifications would be of benefit to Des Moines. Very excited to see changes.
- to be able to party there
- The creation of space that will welcome people to the river not exclude them from it. The rivers should be highlighted or celebrated as an asset in the city. Create an atmosphere that draws people to them.
- if done right, this could add a really unique dynamic to downtown
- Clean up of the river in downtown area.
- The rivers are awesome. Additional access to downtown via boats takes us back to a bygone Era. Additional tourism through the water access (taxi, motor boats, water sports) would be cool. Could use the space to teach water quality and conservation as well.
- more access to rivers
- I'm most excited about the river being enjoyed for all it has to offer.
- vibrant rivers with people paddling the rivers and playing on their bank
- being able to use something that has been right in front of us
- Accessing and enjoying our waterways and trails
- To get a pretty water feature to look at while running along the river.
- The ability to use the river instead of just looking at it.
- River access to kayak and play on the water close to home and walk or ride trails along the water
- Greater use of the river than what is currently available.
- Investment in Des Moines
- Being able to do activities on the river and eat at more restaurants on the rivers edge!
- Get it done. Great idea.
- Everything!
- When people love the river, they are more likely to support it
- Access to River
- kayak/water tube/canoe options - and the increased traffic/visitors it will bring to downtown
- The City might actually do something good.
- More participation in the rivers.
- water activities near downtown with cool new venues for more events by the river.

- To be able to spend time on the river with family. It will also add so much value to downtown des moines. WE NEED THIS IN OUR COMMUNITY!!!!!! :)
- Fun in the water
- paddle boarding, activities, festivals, restaurants
- On going beauty of downtown Des Moines
- I would love to be able to actualt use the river!
- Others enjoying the river like we currently enjoy it. Please remember to acknowledge and consider those who are already using this excellent resource. The water levels need to be sufficient for us to continue to use the river.
- additional landscaping & benches would be good and signage to wear life jackets & follow warning signs could be installed; hours should be limited
- This is going to bring even more beauty to great city.
- increased use of river between dams
- Opportunities for motor boating downstream to future downtown entertainment venues.
- Having more people use the river.