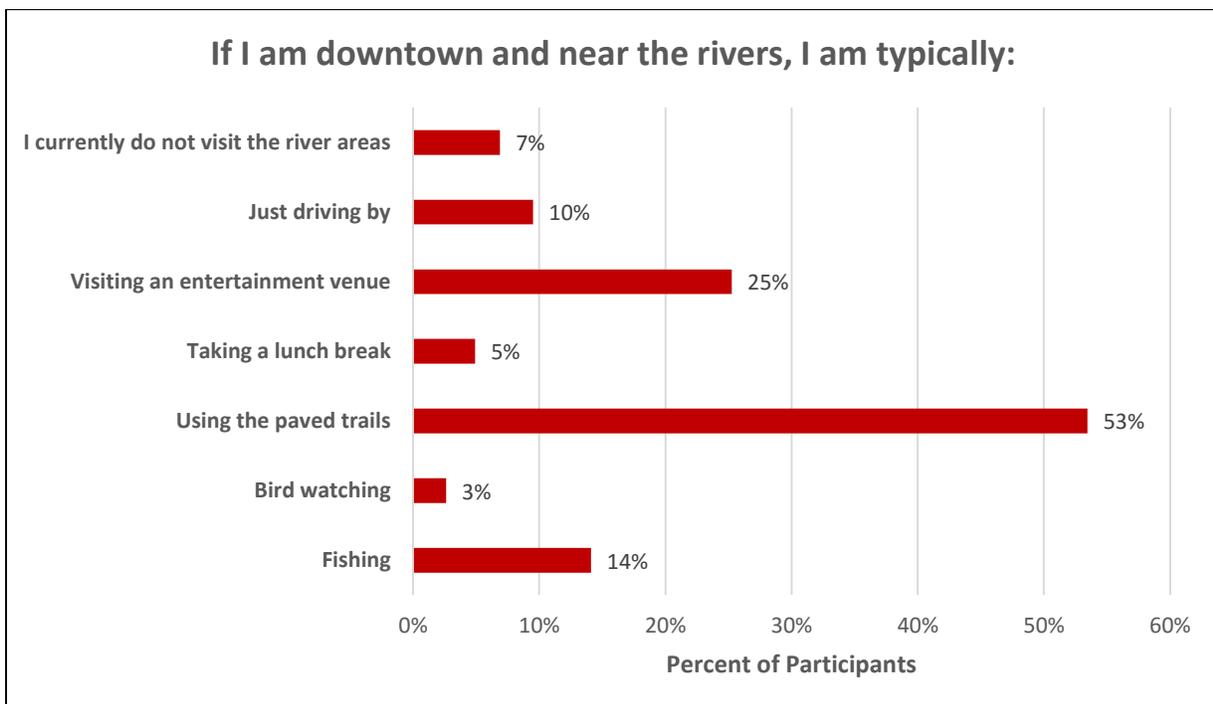
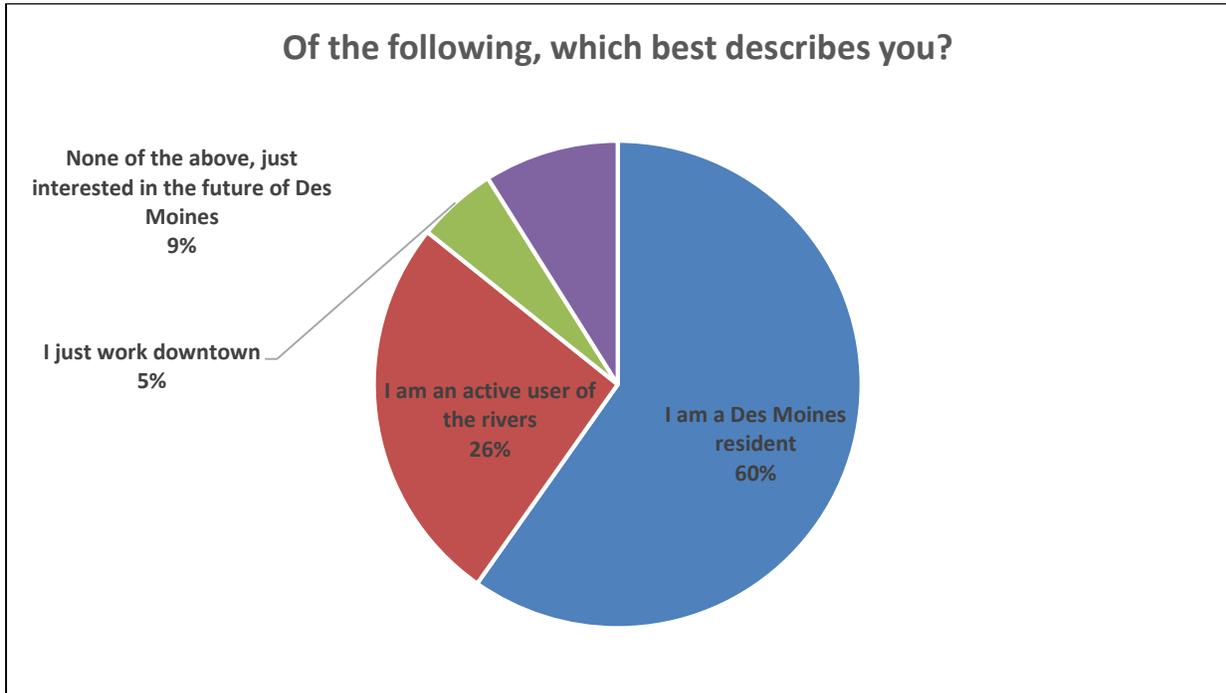


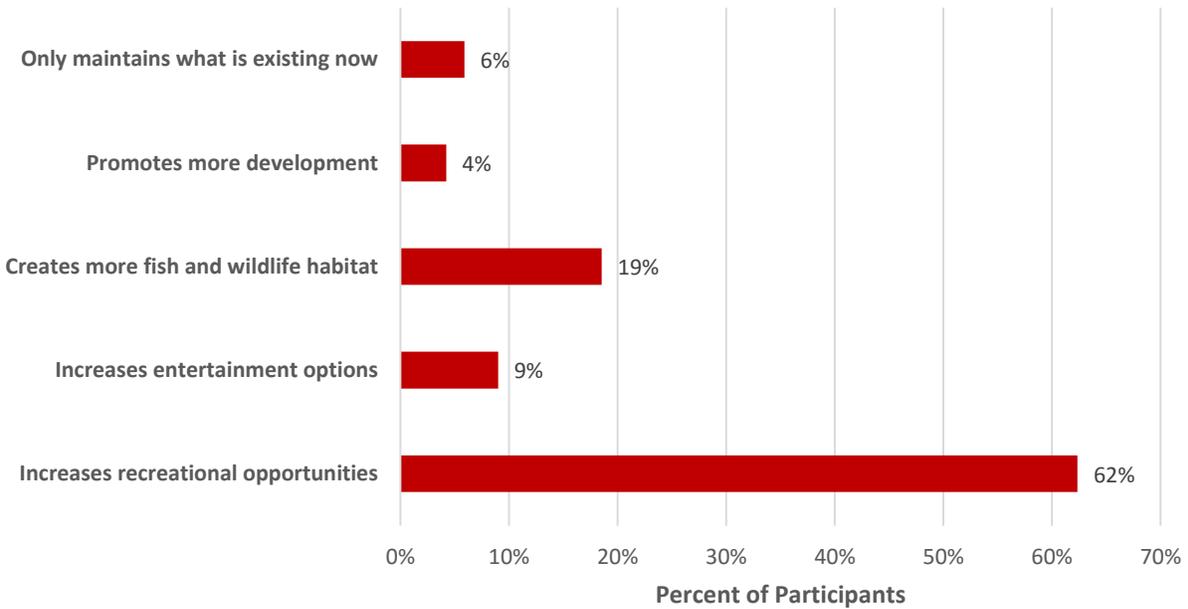
Summary of Downtown Des Moines Dam Debate Online Survey

Survey Closed May 2, 2016

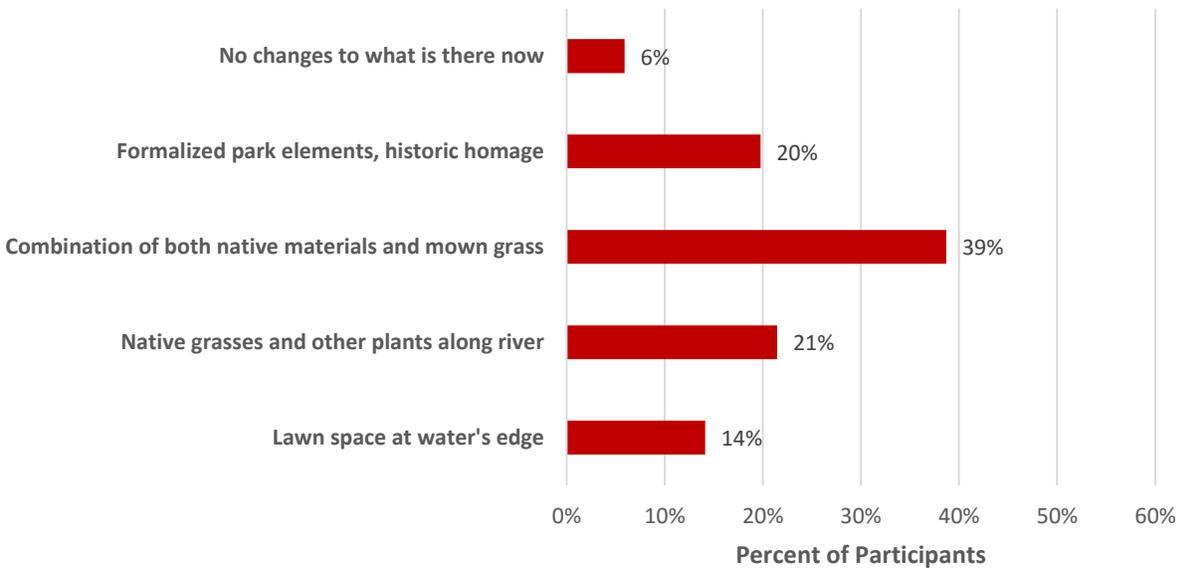
The following are the responses we heard from 358 participants of the online Dam Debate survey cohosted by the Register and the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.



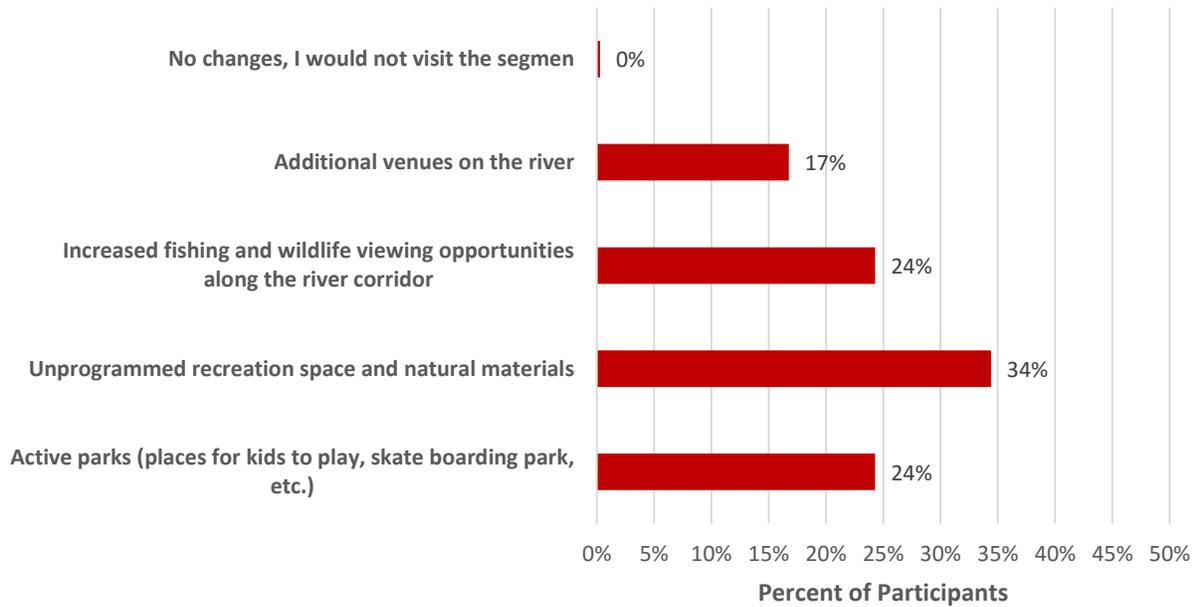
Of the following, I hope the Greater Des Moines Water Trails and Greenways Master Plan:



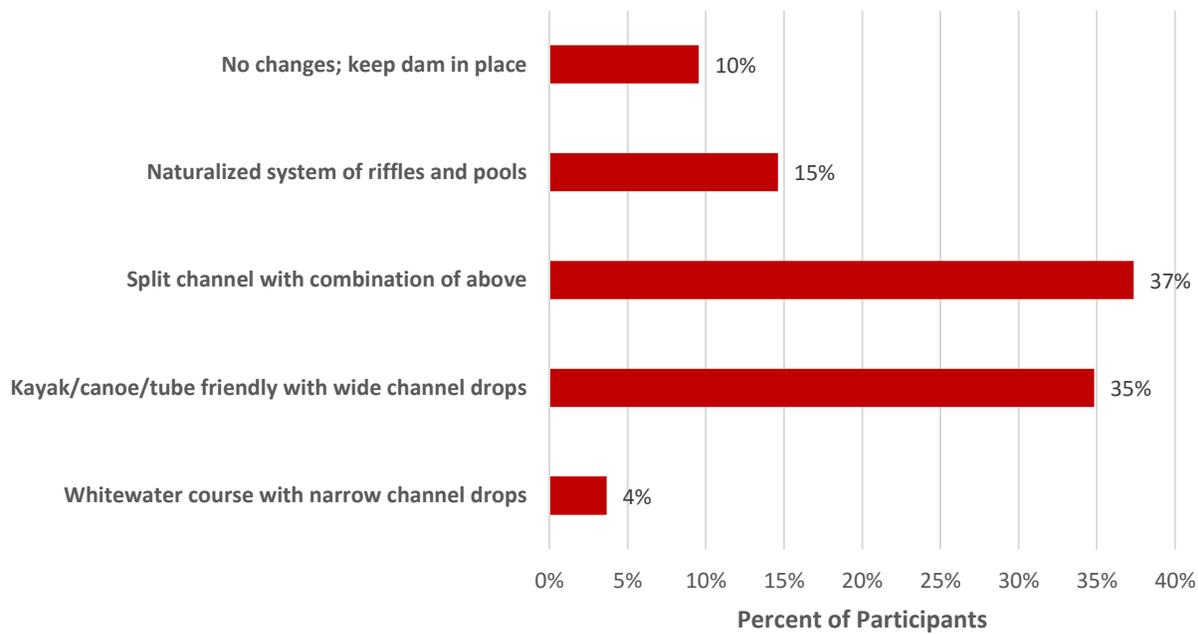
Along the Women of Achievement Bridge river segment, I would most like to see:



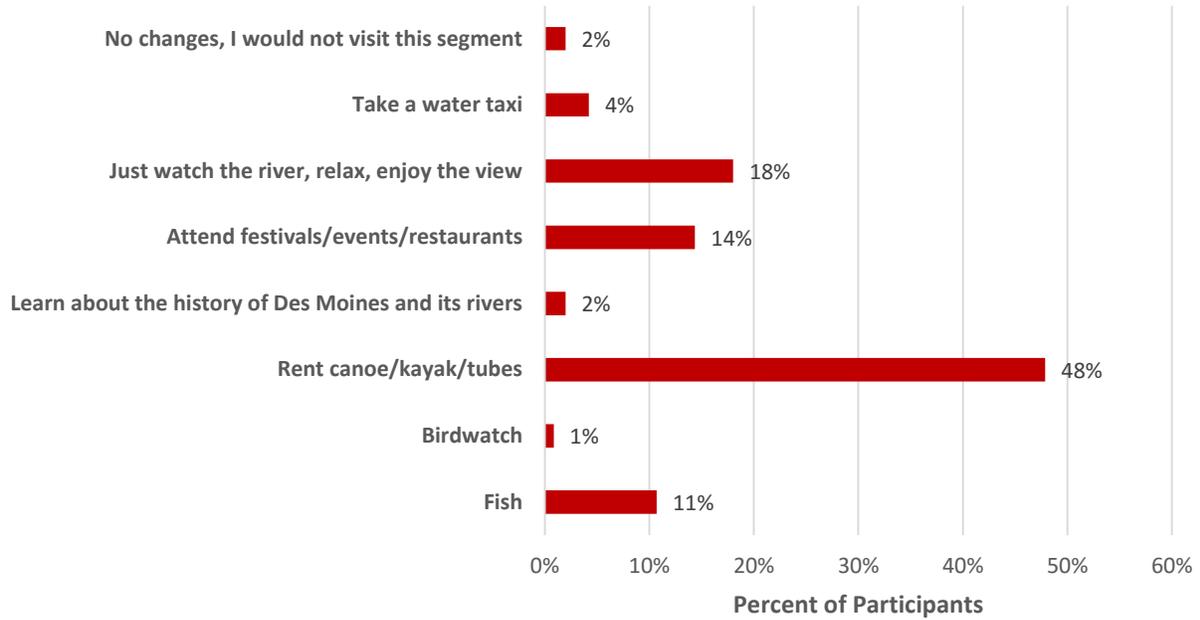
When visiting the Women of Achievement Bridge river segment, I would most enjoy:



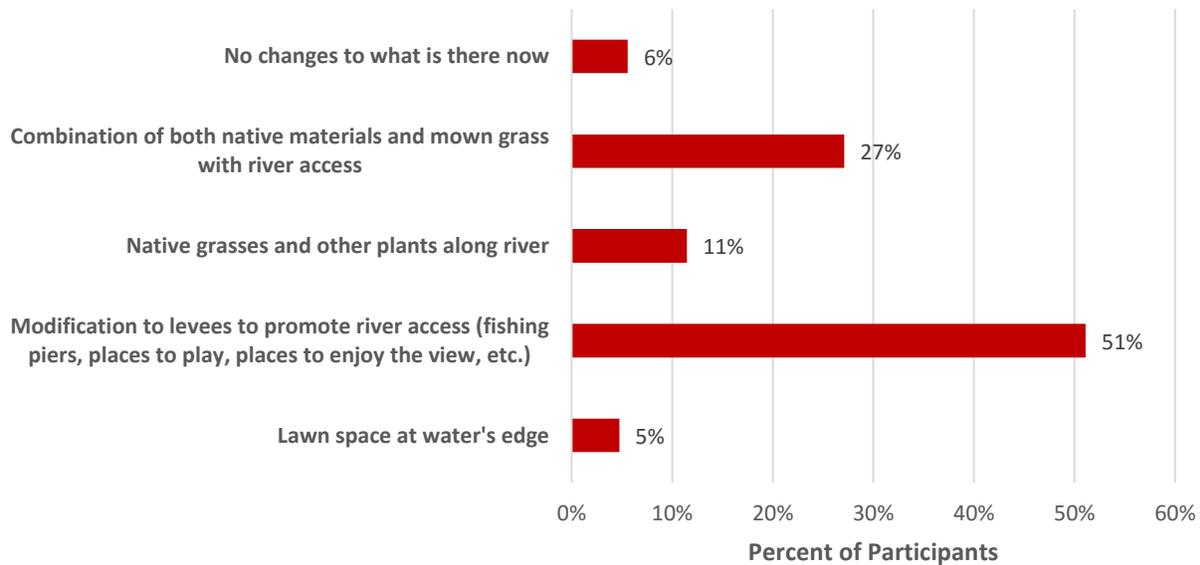
On the Women of Achievement Bridge river segment, I would most like to see:



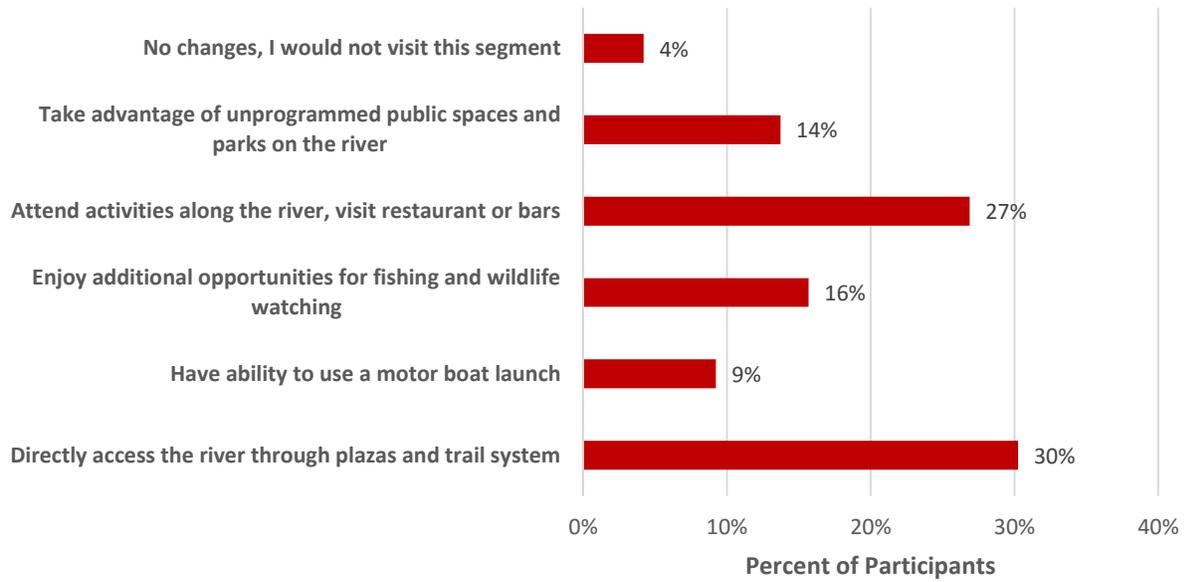
When visiting the Women of Achievement Bridge river segment, I would most like to:



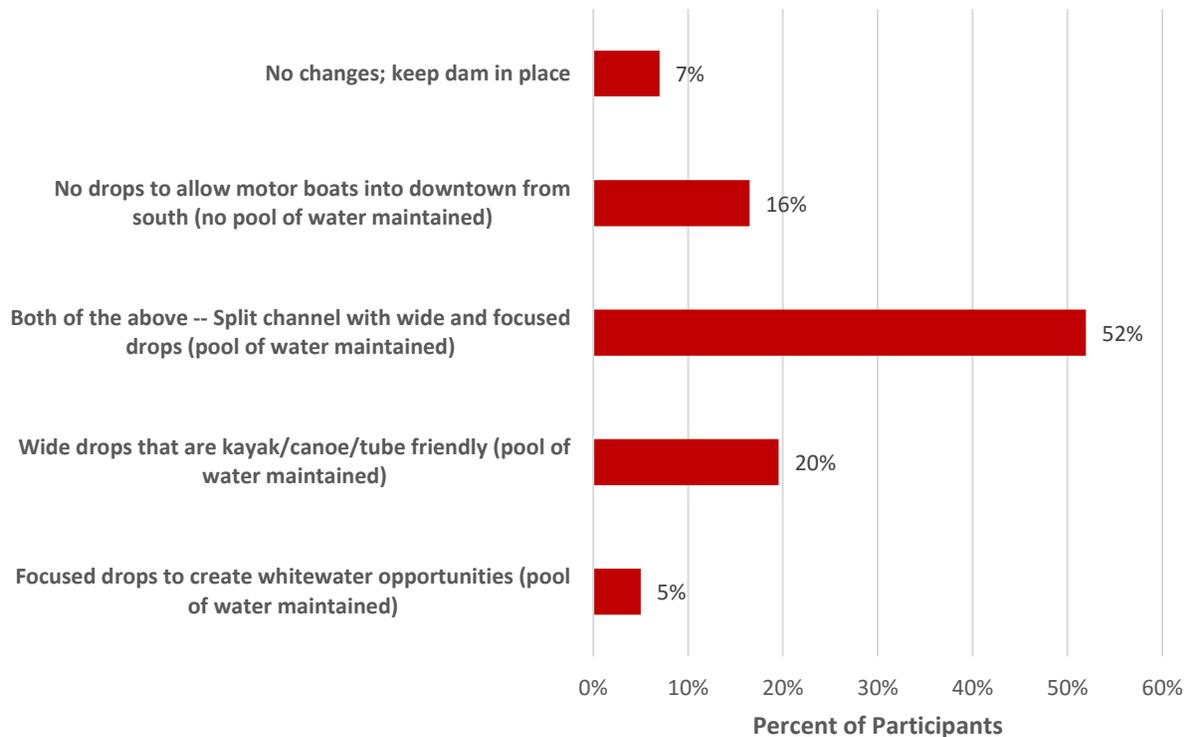
For the Two Rivers District segment, I would most like to see:



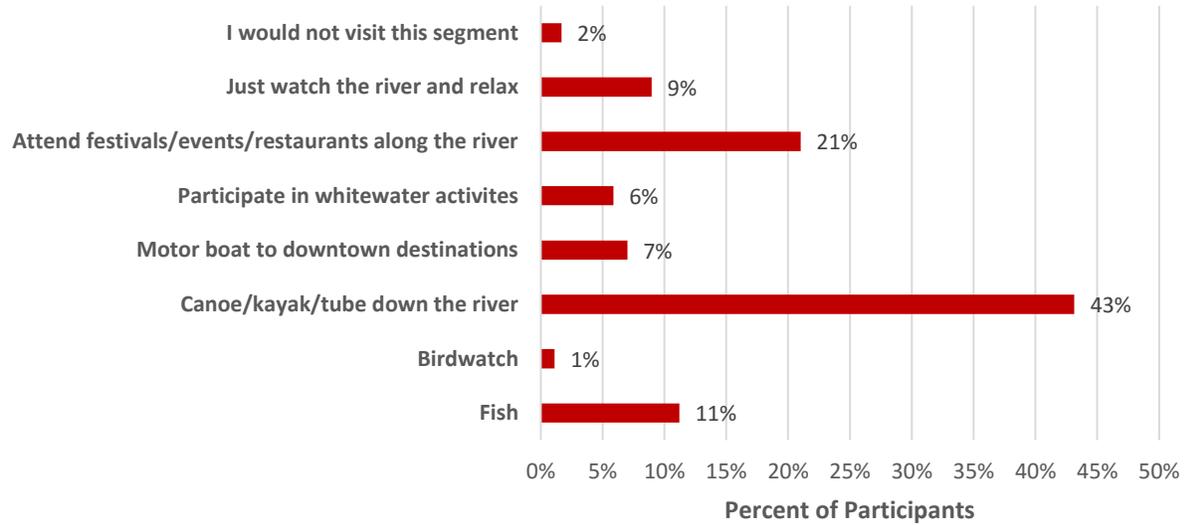
Within the Two Rivers District segment, I would like to be able to:



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 ...

- "Safety" concerns holding up the project from beginning.
- Ability to use the river for rowing
- 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, hence 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.
- 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
- Attempting to please too many people; not succesfully executing the change.
- 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.
- Awaiting DNR and corps acceptance as this is flood control first recreation second don't change a thing.
- Better access and fishing
- big motor - please limit hp. to make it a calm and more natural space
- Biggest concern I see people not liking the idea
- 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.
- Bring more people downtown. Liven it up
- Citizens will be overwhelmed by the cost and will not pursue modifications - we will never realize the potential of our rivers.
- 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]
- Clean water
- Cleaning up the polluted waters!
- Cost

- Cost
- Cost
- Cost
- Cost
- Cost
- cost
- Cost
- cost - who pays for
- Cost (this should be privately funded, not funded by taxing Des Moines residents)
- Cost and safety
- Cost and time to complete
- 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).
- Cost to taxpayers
- Cost to taxpayers
- cost, and the effect upstream and downstream
- Cost, suspect all the bridges would need replacement.
- Cost. Flooding and damage done to all the new things created.
- cost; effect on ecosystem
- 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.
- Disruption to natural habitat for plants and animals
- Do we have the population to support white water rafting/rentals?
- Don't destroy the fishing from Scott Street.
- Economic impact to the downtown area. Return on investment.
- Effect of flooding/drought
- Engagement with the new Botanical Garden and expanding outdoor activity are a great match with an updated river corridor
- environmental degradation
- Finding the \$ for this
- Flood control and recreational water activities upstream
- flood issues, debris and water quality making the river unusable for portions of the year
- Flood management
- Flood mitigation
- flooding
- Flooding
- flooding, safety, cleanliness of the river if I'm getting in it (it isn't now)

- 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.
- funding
- Funding
- Get it done. Great idea.
- Get rid of the dams! Help return the rivers to their natural state.
- Go for it. Make Des Moines unique!!
- hinders fishing and promotes drunk kayakers
- Hoping it isn't just focused on downtown, would like more kayaking and fishing access in central Iowa
- How can we spread out and afford the cost?
- How much will it cost Des Moines residents?
- How to keep the river water clean.
- I am concerned there will be public push like back from the Xenophobic end.
- 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.
- I don't want people thinking the river has to be manmade for it to have value.
- 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 dams 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.
- i have no concerns
- 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.
- 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.
- I think the river would be safer without the two dams. This would increase recreational use. Not excited about motorboat traffic downtown
- I want this done.

- I want to be able to boat from Birdland Marina to downtown. Or at least to the Botanical Center.
- I would like to keep the beautiful view from the Women of Achievement Bridge involving the dam.
- If money is being spent, make sure that the changes will be easy for people to use and appreciate.
- If you are going to take away the dams, I want to see motor boat access throughout the downtown area.
- 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.
- I'm concerned it won't garner enough support.
- I'm concerned it won't happen soon enough.
- I'm concerned with litter and the affect on river wildlife and water.
- 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.
- Iowa residents not supporting it after completion.
- It will be improperly constructed, like the Boone waterworks dam project.
- it will be white water activity that only a few can enjoy
- It won't be funded
- it would take to long to get it done
- Its only being done to attract more people to live downtown and eliminate fishing downtown all together
- just a few people making decisions
- Just remove the dams and add places to drop in boats, kayaks and canoes
- Just that it gets done! Des Moines is missing a huge opportunity.
- Keeping the current dam system, they are a danger to river safety for water users.
- Lack of education for the many benefits this could bring
- lengthy time it will take to build consensus
- Litter
- Love the idea of utilizing the rivers to provide entertainment!
- maintain pool above center st for boating and rowing
- Maintaining a balance of new ideas and features and current uses.
- Maintaining current habitat.
- Maintaining water levels at the same level as when the flashboards are in upstream above I-235
- Maintenance of the new water features during flooding

- Maintenance of the recreational and water conservation pool above the Women of achievement/I235 segment
- Making everyone happy
- Making it financially sustainable
- Making it happen and also putting more effort into water quality of our rivers
- Making sure all those people are safe
- Making sure everything compliments each other and not competes - so sustainable
- Making sure flood prevention is in place and wildlife is protected.
- Making sure the river is protected for wildlife and people's drinking water.
- making sure the upper pool is maintained at or near its current level, even in lower rain periods.
- Making the river navigable for non-motorized vessels
- Missed opportunities and lack of vision to really benefit DSM recreation
- money
- Money and poor water quality.
- Money that will be set aside for this project will be used as "income" for some city official!
- My biggest concern about this effort is finding and keeping it funded. We have to get the word out.
- My biggest concern is that this is being done for the view and not for actual boating/fishing/tubing/kayaking.
- 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 kayakers can go downtown and join 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!!
- My main concern is money.
- My only concern is not doing anything; the current dams are dangerous and impeding the public's use of the river.
- N/a
- narrow channels for whitewater rafting with limit the number of river users, rather than just removing the dam to allow access to a wide variety of use including motor boat, canoe, tube, water taxi, houseboats, ect.
- Narrow focused short sighted visionary
- Need to be able to motorboat downstream to downtown.
- Need to focus on water quality!
- Need to keep large enough pool of water north of I-235 for power boat recreation.
- Negative impact on flooding
- No concerns
- No concerns

- No concerns!
- No real concerns
- Non river users not understanding the river yet influencing the decision
- none
- none
- None
- None
- None
- none just do it. Would be great for the city
- None! Love it!
- Not hearing the public crying for stuff to do, it not actually being done
- Not to change the dams and destroy the places fish use to spawn and create more fish
- Nothing will happen- this is Iowa.
- nothing, get rid of those low heads dams
- Opposing interests vying for their way.
- People dying from ingesting Branstads polluted river water.
- People scared of change
- Persistent flooding, river smell
- Please dont put a lawn that requires chemicals, that will wash into the river. We are educated enough about polluting our rivers, that we should promote how something that can be done nicely that does not adversely affect the ecosystem.
- Please take out the dams in their entirety
- Potential adverse impact on boating upstream of the Center Street dam during low water conditions.
- public value of access and recreation over ecological benefits
- Removing motor boats who currently share the river with paddlers,kayakers, and floaters.
- Removing the dams would help fishing and boating if done properly
- Replace the dams, they are a danger to people who accidentally fall in.
- River levels being to low for boating from Saylorville to Center Street
- 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.
- 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
- safety

- Safety
- spending tax dollars
- Still keeping the wildlife/plant life involved in the rivers.
- That both areas will not be completed in a timely fashion
- That dirtbags could over take improvements
- that due respect will not be paid to the historical Riverwalk, City Beautiful plan.
- That everyone has a chance to use the river, not just those with vested interests. Don't push out the fishermen.
- That I'm only allowed a few words. Got lots to say!!
- that it actually gets done,
- That it can't get done soon enough
- That it does not flood
- That it doesn't get done.
- That it doesn't get done.
- That it happen!
- That it will become too commercialized.
- That it will impact the water levels up stream for the rowers
- That it will not be extensive enough.
- That it will not get public support, funding -- or that the effort becomes undermined by corporate and commercial interests.
- that it will not happen
- That it won't happen
- That it won't receive adequate funding.
- That it would not include mitigating the two Dams!
- 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.
- That nothing changes, the dams stay in place
- 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.
- That the old guard will prevent progress on this enormously important opportunity to reconnect with the river.
- That the process will make the area too commercialized
- that the river is more then just fishing and I think parts of the raccoon needs to be worked on also
- that there will be no water up stream for boating
- that too much money will be spent on what only a few want
- 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."

- That you will ruin the walleye fishing
- 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?
- The choosing of non-comprehensive plan
- The City of Des Moines fucking it up somehow.
- The cost environmentally and financially.
- The dams. We need to find a safer alternative for our river.
- The difficulty of making any changes
- the effect of flooding
- The effect on the down river towards the by pass and yellow banks, along with the city trying to limit boaters
- The effort and cost.
- The elimination of fish habitat.
- The long term efforts that will be needed to maintain what happens
- The main concern is have is keeping downtown safe from flooding.
- the project isn't wasteful with funds
- 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?
- The river levels are too unstable to make big changes. Will not be safe and flooding will destroy everything that is done.
- The water is dirty, which might gross out some people.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- These cookie-cutter responses don't allow for much public input.
- this is a VERY poorly designed survey. its intent is quite obvious. i do NOT want motorized ANYTHING on either of the rivers.
- Time factor. How long would this take to complete?
- Time frame
- To allow all activities including fishing boats
- To make river more safe and usable to larger numbers of citizens.

- too high of costs, how are we going to pay without more taxes?
- too many people fishing and leaving their trash laying around. I like to fish, but not like that or in that mess.
- Too much commercializations. Losing the "natural river" and ecosystem..
- Too much money,let those wanting to do it,pay for it.
- Too much river traffic with raucousness and drinking and inability to enjoy the serenity of the river.
- unable to financially complete
- Waiting too long
- Waste of money. Turning it into a 'strip mall' environment.
- Water level manipulation creating potential harm and reduced access to a great fishing venue from Saylorville through the metro.
- 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
- Water quality.
- Water quality.
- Water safety for those not accustomed to moving bodies of water
- WE need to spend the millions of dollars on the schools instead of big business profits.
- What is the cost of this?
- When it floods, the fewer built structures along the river, the less damage done.
- While this brings activities to the city, I think this may cause injuries or deaths.
- White water limits the flexibility of the river
- Worried it will take too long, water will flood downtown.
- 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.
- 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.

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

- The new and exciting future of Des Moines
- A More natural look with recreational oportunities!
- ability to use the river for recreation for the firs time
- ability to use the river; increased activity along the waterway
- Access to River
- Access to the river for recreation and education
- Accessing and enjoying our waterways and trails
- Additional activity on the river walk
- additional landscaping & benches would be good and signage to wear life jackets & follow warning signs could be installed; hours should be limited
- 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
- another reason to visit downtown DM
- Being able to access the river for recreation and enjoy it's natural beauty without the look of dams.
- Being able to connect watertrails and not have to drive in between different sections to continue the trip
- Being able to do activities on the river and eat at more restaurants on the rivers edge!
- Being able to get in the water and fish,tube,boating
- being able to kayak downtown - get rid of those damn dams
- Being able to more day floats closer to home.
- Being able to paddle through downtown
- Being able to pass through
- being able to use something that has been right in front of us
- Being able to use the river for recreational purposes!
- 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.
- Boating
- Bring additional activities and excitement downtown and increase safety
- Bring in more performers for concerts/shows in Iowa
- Bring the river to life and bringing D.M. to life. Life has always gravitated to water
- Brings more entertainment downtown
- Brining more quality whitewater to Iowa built by REP, removing useless dams, and restoring the rivers so they may flow freely.

- 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!
- Changes to Des Moines! And creating a river walk!
- Clean up of the river in downtown area.
- Cleaning up the river
- Continuous improvement of our great city!
- creating a lively natural area
- Developing Des Moines River Walk into a "place to be". Des Moines has a lot of potential and it is time to unlock.
- Development of an untapped beautiful Iowa resource
- Development. Des Moines downtown is embarrassing.
- drawing more people to the downtown area, thus more business and residential
- eliminate the dangerous dams
- Enhancing the river area which is very underutilized now. Great potential here!
- enjoying the view of DSM from the river viewpoint from a kayak or canoe
- Entertainment to bring people downtown
- Everything!
- 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.
- Everything, I also want to see Kansas City style river where u can boat n do so much recreational stuff
- Excited to develop opportunities to enjoy our rivers instead of turning our backs to them!
- excited to remove the dams and open up the river to recreation
- Expanding the river corridor of outdoor opportunities
- Finally getting something done.
- Fish will not be confined and there will be less deaths.
- Fishing
- fishing and canoeing/tubeing
- 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.
- Fun in the water
- Fun recreational opportunities that will attract diversity of users
- General interest in the river.
- Get it done. Great idea.
- Getting people safely on and near the water.
- Getting rid of Center dam is good if it does not ruin upstream activities.
- Getting rid of the current dam system
- Getting rid of the dams

- 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.
- Giving Des Moines residents and visitors more things to do in the Downtown area.
- 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.
- Greater use of the river than what is currently available.
- Growth and development of Downtown
- Having a great paddling opportunities close to home.
- having a white water park that is local
- Having more people use the river.
- 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.
- having the rivers be the true central activity magnet and gathering point for the community
- 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
- Hoping this actually happens for more things for my family & myself to do
- Hosting a rowing regatta downtown. Each arch is a race lane.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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. :-)
- I have not been downtown in years. Really dont like all the changes.
- I hope to see restaurants, venues, parking, trail beautification, and water access.
- 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!
- I think any of the proposed modifications would be of benefit to Des Moines. Very excited to see changes.
- 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.
- 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.
- I would love to be able to actualt use the river!
- I would love to utilize the river more by boating, kayaking, whitewater rafting and entertainment venues.

- if done right, this could add a really unique dynamic to downtown
- If there could be more natural grasses and habitat for birds and fish it would be a change in my opinion.
- 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.
- 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.
- I'm excited about the possibility of watching/participating in more kayaking and canoeing activities on Iowa rivers. I think these activities will bring a lot of people to Des Moines for competitions and recreational opportunities.
- I'm excited about the possibility 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 possibilities as far as outdoor recreation goes.
- I'm extremely excited about the prospect of being able to kayak this portion of the river!
- I'm most excited about the river being enjoyed for all it has to offer.
- I'm mostly excited about the new changes and opportunities for the city.
- I'm not excited about it at all. This is a waste of tax payers money.
- Improve natural fish habitat. Improving water quality and recreation.
- Improved fishing
- improving Des Moines!
- 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.
- Incorporating the river into our trail system and active downtown life.
- Increase the recreational potential of this downtown natural resource
- Increase water access and activities
- increased access with a canoe or motorboat
- Increased flood events from Saylorville Reservoir through the City of Des Moines.
- Increased recreation opportunities and improved wildlife habitat
- Increased usage and development of the area
- increased use of river between dams
- Increases in recreational opportunities
- Increasing DSM's profile as river recreation/enjoyment venue
- Increasing how far down the river we can row
- Increasing the activities in the river areas within Des Moines.
- Increasing the natural beauty of the shoreline.
- Investment in Des Moines
- It encourages people to spend more time downtown to help it thrive.

- 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
- It needs to happen.
- It will bring new people & opportunities to Des Moines.
- 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.
- It would be great to have a more of a park setting in downtown Des Moines
- It would be great to have a recreational venue and place for boaters. Maybe watch nightfall in the river by boat.
- It would be nice to have some restaurants near river
- It's exciting to remove the dangerous dam, and potentially modify the levees to allow people to engage more with the river.
- 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!
- kayak and connection the Raccoon River
- Kayak/Canoe Opportunities!
- kayak/water tube/canoe options - and the increased traffic/visitors it will bring to downtown
- kayaking
- Kayaking and paddle boats on the river like a real city
- Kayaking and tubing
- 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.
- Kayaking in Des Moines
- Kyaking!!!
- Makes the river seem less industrial, better fits City's growing recreational culture
- Making the area an attraction.
- Making the Dam a lock so motor boats can go below the dam
- Making the river & its recreational use a centerpiece.
- more access to rivers
- more activities
- More activities and natural river movement
- more activities for everyone!
- More activities to downtown Des Moines
- More and safer access to the river and the variety of possible activities
- More green space and recreational opportunities
- More interaction with the water and native vegetation
- More motorboat opportunities around downtown.
- More opportunities for creation of small businesses and denser population of downtown.
- More opportunities for growth in Des Moines.

- More opportunities for kayaking and wildlife viewing.
- more opportunities in downtown
- More opportunities to fish
- More opportunities to promote outdoor life and public health.
- More oppurtunities
- More outdoor recreation
- More participation in the rivers.
- more rec opportunities
- More recreation opportunities down river from the Women of Achievement Bridge.
- More recreational opportunities downtown
- More recreational use of the downtown river!
- More river-front developments.
- more spots to fish. less crowded at few spots
- More things for my kids to get outdoors and be excited about within the city
- more things to do!
- More to do in Des Moines. Most cities have more entertainment/activities than Des Moines
- More useable space that is safe to access
- 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.
- new opportunity for everyone to get on and enjoy the river
- New public spaces!
- New recreation opportunities on the river
- New recreational opportunities
- No dams, more river activity
- NOT A DAM THING!!!!
- 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
- not to excited about the whole thing
- Nothing
- Nothing at all - I am against major changes without a major study of the long term effects
- Nothing it's a minority groups interest only to spend the majority tax money
- On going beauty of downtown Des Moines
- opening up the river
- Opening up the river to be used instead of just viewed
- Opportunities for motor boating downstream to future downtown entertainment venues.
- oppurtunities to change downtown for the better
- Opportunity and activities
- Opportunity for growth! Yay DSM!

- Opportunity to actually interact with the water and be able to canoe through and have a viable place to stop and relax and people watch
- Other plans need completion first. Stay out of taxpayers pockets
- 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.
- paddle boarding, activities, festivals, restaurants
- People being comfortable in spaces that aren't mowed, sprayed, and devoid of natural life.
- Please take out the dams in their entirety
- Possibility for canoe and kayak opportunities downtown.
- Promotion of an active lifestyle
- recreation in and around the river and native transitions between our downtown and the river edge
- Recreation! People in the river downtown!!
- Recreational activities
- Recreational opportunities in the metro area
- Recreational opportunities.
- reintegrating the rivers into the recreational and social life of the city
- Removing the dams so people can use and enjoy the river.
- Removing the dams to allow for kayaking
- Removing the dams to promote fish/wildlife.
- Restaurants and bars along the river downtown
- Returning the river to a more natural flow.
- River access and downtown beautification
- River access to kayak and play on the water close to home and walk or ride trails along the water
- Safety with removal of the low head dams
- So excited to have more development along the river!!!
- 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.
- 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
- 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.
- that it gets done and people can have some fun downtown etc.

- 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.
- That there are funds available to convert the dams into hydroelectric power sources instead.
- That we will have a connected river with safer recreational opportunities
- The ability to boat to downtown locations.
- The ability to experience downtown DSM from the river would be incredible and a huge asset to experiencing downtown!
- The ability to use the river instead of just looking at it.
- The ability to use the river itself instead of just looking at it.
- The City might actually do something good.
- 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.
- The fact that people are finally putting forth an effort.
- 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.
- The many benefits - social, economical, and natural - of a restored white water channel
- The opportunities are staggering.
- The opportunity kayak around downtown
- The opportunity to do some fishing in my kayak with an improved fisheries
- the possibility that small local businesses might be prominent along the river rather than big corporate crap.
- 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.
- The potential for kayak/tube/canoe activity! It is a favorite summer activity of mine but I usually have to travel an hour or more to do it.
- 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.
- 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.
- The use of the untapped potential to showcase Des Moines's rivers
- 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

- 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
- This is going to bring even more beauty to great city.
- To be able to get a boat closer to watch fireworks
- To be able to kayak through downtown on the river.
- to be able to party there
- To be able to play on and around the river, along with additional opportunities to dine, etc.
- 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!!!!!! :)
- To bring on the water activities to these historic rivers and it's in the heart of our beautiful city!
- To get a pretty water feature to look at while running along the river.
- To make downtown waterways a cool place to visit and explore on the water instead of a dangerous dam to be avoided
- To make it for everybody to enjoy
- To remove ALL monies tied to this project that is coming from Agenda 21/Agenda 2030 and Federal Funding and guidelines
- 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).
- Tourism. Bring people downtown. Being proud of the DSM river running through heart of DSM.
- vast opportunities across the board
- Vibrancy of Riverside development. Would like to see houseboat village.
- vibrant rivers with people paddling the rivers and playing on their bank
- watching concerts at the amphitheater from boats, from kayaks to motor boats.
- water activities near downtown with cool new venues for more events by the river.
- 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.
- 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!
- When people love the river, they are more likely to support it
- Whitewater canoeing
- Whitewater park in Des Moines
- Would be awesome to have more outdoor activities available in the metro.