Timeline of Flood Protection

2008

May 2008 // City of Cedar Rapids and United States Army Corps of Engineers Agreement for feasibility study of Time Check Area

June 13, 2008 // Flood of 2008
Cedar River crested at 31.12 feet.

June 17, 2008 // Council Action
Four days after the flood, the Cedar Rapids City Council sets flood recovery goals.

July 29, 2008 // First neighborhood meeting

September 11, 2008 // Second neighborhood meeting

September 12, 2008 // State of Iowa deadline for voluntary acquisitions

October 1, 2008 // City Council selects Preferred Flood Management System
Selected after public input.

October 1, 2008 / Jumpstart Housing Assistance Funds Awarded

October 16, 2008 // Third neighborhood meeting
City presents Preferred Flood Management System for comment.

November, 2008 // River Corridor Redevelopment Plan
Approved by City Council, completed in 120 days.

November 12, 2008 // City submits Flood Management Strategy to US Army Corps of Engineers
City Council approves Preferred Flood Management System; provides notice to US Army Corps of Engineers to use in their feasibility study.

December 10, 2008 // Council adopts Flood Management Areas; acquisition consultation
City Council adopts Flood Management Areas - Greenway, Construction, and Neighborhood Revitalization; set policy to offer acquisition within the Greenway and Construction Areas. Also in December, City begins conducting one-on-one consultation with property owners in the Greenway (FEMA funding).
2009

January 28, 2009 // Acquisition application
City submits application to State for FEMA acquisition funds.

February 2009 // City Council approves Public Facility Rebuilding plan

More than 1,400 citizens participated in the Neighborhood Planning Process to develop reinvestment plans, which included 8 public meetings.

Spring 2009 // City begins to repair public facilities

April 12 2009 // City receives first Rental Rehabilitation assistance funds

May, 2009 // US Army Corps of Engineers begins feasibility study

May 13, 2009 // Neighborhood Reinvestment Action Plan Adopted
The Cedar Rapids City Council approved the final Neighborhood Reinvestment Plan to guide redevelopment in the neighborhoods over the next 10 to 15 years.

July 31, 2009 // City submits application to State for CDBG funds

August 21, 2009 // City awarded FEMA funding for Voluntary Property Acquisitions

Fall 2009 // Community Facilities Public Participation Process complete

November 2009 // City awarded CDBG funding; City begins purchasing properties with FEMA funding

December 28, 2009 // US Army Corps of Engineers Evaluations, Benefit-to-Cost Ratio
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the City of Cedar Rapids, continues to review and evaluate flood risk management alternatives for the city. The Corps completed a preliminary analysis for an alternative that mirrored the City of Cedar Rapids’ preferred plan. The preliminary analysis of this alternative showed a Benefit-to-Cost Ratio of less than 1. The law requires a project to have a favorable Benefit-to-Cost Ratio of more than 1 to move forward.

2009 – 2014 // Housing acquisitions
In an unprecedented acquisition program, the City removed 1,300+ properties from the flood zone; by December 2014, approximately $128 million had been invested to acquire and safely demolish both residential and commercial properties.
2010

January 20, 2010 // Council approves Voluntary Acquisition Administrative Plan

July, 2010 // City begins purchasing properties with CDBG funding

August 31, 2010 // US Army Corps of Engineers completes feasibility study
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, in partnership with the City of Cedar Rapids, completed the Cedar River, Cedar Rapids, Iowa Flood Risk Management Project Feasibility Report with Integrated Environmental Assessment, Public Review Draft. This document presented the evaluation of flood risk management alternatives for the City of Cedar Rapids. The report was available for public review and comment for a 30-day period beginning Aug. 31 and ending Sept. 30, 2010.

November 10, 2010 // City and US Army Corps of Engineers present to Civil Works Review Board in DC
The United States Army Corps of Engineers along with representatives of the City of Cedar Rapids, presented the Flood Risk Management Project Feasibility Report with Integrated Environmental Assessment to the Corps' Civil Works Review Board (CWRB) in Washington, D.C. The City’s post-flood planning efforts helped reduce the typical timeline for completing a feasibility study from 3 – 5 years to 16 months.

December 14, 2010 // Council approves Design Agreement with US Army Corps of Engineers
The City of Cedar Rapids and the Corps of Engineers entered into a Design Agreement for the Pre-construction Engineering and Design (PED) phase of the project. The estimated cost of the PED phase is $12,375,000, funded at 75 percent federal and 25 percent City responsibility. As of Fiscal Year 2011 (01 OCT 2010 to 30 SEP 2011), $2,820,000 of federal and $857,333 of City funding was available, or approximately 30 percent of the funding necessary to complete the PED phase.

2010 // Construction begins to raise City’s water wells

2011

The Chief’s Report was finalized, incorporating comments from the State and Agency Review, and was signed by Lieutenant General Van Antwerp, the Chief of Engineers.

February 2011 // Original MOU with US Army Corps of Engineers
MOU served place of an agreement which can’t be executed until after Federal Funding is allocated

March 2011 // City receives $9 million grant
From Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recover Infrastructure Grant (NewBo/Sinclair)
June 29, 2011 // Chief’s Report Transmitted to Congress
The Office of Management and Budget completed their review of the Chief’s Report and transmitted it to Congress. This makes the Cedar Rapids Flood Risk Management Project eligible to appear in the President’s Budget.

2012

2012 – 2017 // Neighborhood and housing revitalization
Alongside the Iowa Economic Development Authority, the City helped establish almost 900 new homes a safe distance from the flood plain.

June 2012 // DC Visit
Mayor Ron Corbett, City Manager Jeff Pomeranz, City Council members Ann Poe and Justin Shields, and City staff member Joe O’Hern visit Washington DC on a trip related to FEMA.

2013

March 2013 // DC Visit
City Manager Jeff Pomeranz visited Washington DC on a trip regarding FEMA and federal representatives.

May 2013 // Senate approved Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013 (WRRDA)

Summer 2013 // Preparation for State’s Flood Mitigation Grant application

August 30, 2013 // McGrath Amphitheatre opens and includes flood protection measures
Blending recreation and flood protection in the form of a levee. Designed to take on water, the amphitheater also provides a signature outdoor concert and event venue.

October 2013 // House approved Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013 (WRRDA)
Authorizing Army Corps of Engineers-approved projects

November 19, 2013 // Application to the State of Iowa for Flood Mitigation Grant

December 4, 2013 // State funding secured
Two years of legislative collaboration culminated in the creation of the State of Iowa Flood Mitigation Board, awarding Cedar Rapids a 20-year, $263 million commitment to flood protection for both East and West sides. The State contribution today is $267 million.
End of 2013 // All Water Department repairs substantially complete
Repairs complete on horizontal collector wells, flood repairs complete on the 5-in-1 Dam Gate House controls and power, repair and abandoning of meters and services effected by the flood, repairs to motors and control panels for 45 vertical wells, raising of 18 Seminole Valley Vertical Wells, replacement and reprogramming of flood damaged control boxes for the well field electrical reclosers, raising of 17 east well field vertical wells.

2014

2014 – 2015 // Public outreach on new permanent plan
The City embarked on a planning initiative to engage residents and design a permanent system on both sides of the river.

May 2014 // City contracted with lobbying firm
Cedar Rapids contracted with Kutak Rock LLP

June 10, 2014 // WRRDA Bill approved, not appropriated
Federal Government Water Resource Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) approving Cedar Rapids Project (est $73 million) but not appropriated.

October 2014 // Ribbon cutting for Water Pollution Control Plant

June 2014 // Final well raised

December 2014 // DC Trip
Mayor Ron Corbett and City Manager Pomeranz meet with Obama Administration officials, the Army Corps of Engineers, and staff members of Rep. Dave Loebsack and retiring Sen. Tom Harkin.

2015

June 2015 // Permanent plan adopted
City Council formally adopted the Cedar River Flood Control System Master Plan. The plan serves as the guiding document on the construction and implementation of the entire system on both the east and west sides of the river, and details scope, type, alignment, budget, construction sequencing, and acquisition policy.

2016

August 2016 // FCS Master Plan revisions
Added aesthetics chapter, made alignment refinements
September, 2016 // CRST Center opens and includes flood protection measures
The CRST Center opens downtown, which includes a floodwall built into the side of the 11-story structure.

September 27, 2016 // Second highest crest
In September of 2016, the Cedar River crested at 21 feet, the second highest on record. City staff and community partners designed, engineered, and constructed a temporary protection system within a four-day window, consisting of earth berms, sand-filled HESCO barriers, sandbags, and storm sewer pumps/plugs.

October 11, 2016 // Groundbreaking on Sinclair Levee
Just weeks after fighting back the 2016 flood, City officials broke ground on the NewBo Levee.

2017

February 2017 // DC Trip
Mayor Corbett and City Manager Pomeranz travel to DC for a meeting regarding the US Army Corps of Engineers.

March 1, 2017 // Mayor Corbett and City Manager Pomeranz testify before Congress
Cedar Rapids Mayor Ron Corbett made a case to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works for federal flood protection aid and an examination of a benefit vs. cost funding formula.

July 2017 // US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration Grant
$1,729,500 for Quaker Oats site.

December 8, 2017 // Ribbon cutting at Sinclair Levee
The Sinclair Levee marked the first permanent measures completed since the adoption of the master plan. The project also included a detention basin and pump station.

2018

February 11, 2018 // Mayor Hart, City Manager Pomeranz visit White House
Mayor Hart and City Manager Pomeranz spoke with President Trump and the White House Infrastructure Team.

Wednesday, March 7, 2018 // Congressional meetings
Mayor Hart, City Manager Pomeranz, and Assist to the City Manager Angie Chariper meet with Senator Grassley; Congressman Blum; Tyler Owens, Chief Clerk for Senator Alexander; and Senator Ernst.
March 8, 2018 // White House meetings
Meetings with The White House Intergovernmental Affairs Office; Senator Ernst

Spring 2018 // Federal Government $89.3 billion Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief and Recovery (Cedar Rapids project fits the eligibility criteria)

Spring 2018 // Lot 44 Pump Station Completed in NewBo District

June 13, 2018 // 10-Year Flood Anniversary
City and neighborhood leaders held a commemorative ceremony marking the 10 year flood anniversary and the completion of the Northwest Gateway and Memorial Plaza.

July 5, 2018 // Federal Funding Awarded
Federal Government announcement of funding of $117.4 million toward the Cedar Rapids Project

August, 2018 // Construction begins on Quaker Oaks floodwall
Protection will include 2,100 linear feet of permanent flood wall; first protection measures that help protect the Downtown District.