

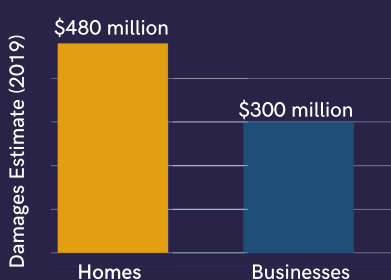
THE TRUE COST OF FLOODING



\$2 billion  **estimated total damages in 2019**¹

Flooding carries a deep economic impact, damaging homes, businesses, roads, and livelihoods.

The cost of rebuilding and repairs to homes and businesses plus the cost of buy-outs (purchasing properties from willing owners in vulnerable areas) makes flood recovery pricey.²



FLOOD MITIGATION

Traditional flood control and prevention structures include levees, floodwalls, and floodgates. But these structures are expensive. The upkeep and repair costs are incurred with every flood event.

REASSESSING USE OF LEVEES

In 2019, 400 residences in Fremont and Mills Counties were majorly damaged or destroyed due to flooding, despite having levees in place to protect the community and property.³

“Water broke through four levees that protect Mills and Fremont counties, putting 2,300 people and 1,600 buildings at risk.”

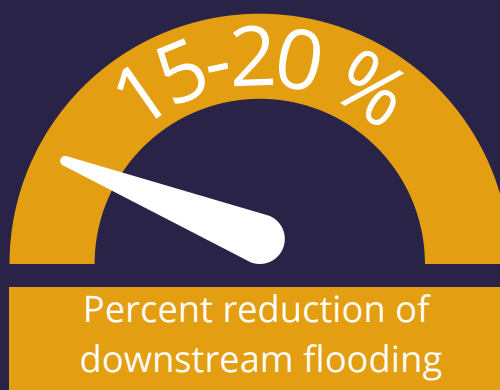
DATA FROM THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS' NATIONAL LEVEE DATABASE

The cost to repair these structures (levees, floodwalls, etc.) was extremely expensive:

ITEM	AMT
Non-federal levees needing repair	\$175 million
Public infrastructure damage	\$275 million
Levee repairs	\$1.1 billion
TOTAL	\$1.5 billion

CONSIDERING THE NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE APPROACH

According to the Des Moines Register, "models show that \$1.5 million in improvements made each in three watersheds — the Otter, Beaver and South Chequest and Soap creeks — would reduce downstream flooding 15-20 percent"⁴



Natural infrastructure approaches to flood mitigation, such as floodplain reconnection, levee setbacks, and wetland restoration, help reduce the severity of floods. Floodplains can hold massive amounts of water and reduce downstream flooding by absorbing excess water in safe areas. These structures can help reduce flood risk while being less costly and more environmentally sound.

RESOURCES:

- [1. https://www.iowafarmbureau.com/Article/Flood-damage-in-iowa-could-top-2-billion](https://www.iowafarmbureau.com/Article/Flood-damage-in-iowa-could-top-2-billion)
- [2. https://apnews.com/article/cc5a796b2eab4784900e853f1ba8d854](https://apnews.com/article/cc5a796b2eab4784900e853f1ba8d854)
- [3. https://www.iowaeda.com/UserDocs/2019cdbg-dr-draft-action-plan.pdf](https://www.iowaeda.com/UserDocs/2019cdbg-dr-draft-action-plan.pdf)
- [4. https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/2016/10/15/iowa-has-little-idea-cost-fully-protect-flooding/91949996/](https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/2016/10/15/iowa-has-little-idea-cost-fully-protect-flooding/91949996/)