

FLOODPLAIN PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT IN DAVENPORT, IOWA

A Thesis

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Master of Arts

by

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this thesis is to identify the context and conditions related to the flood hazard areas found within the City of Davenport, Iowa and to develop an official city plan which sets forth actions and activities to alleviate future flood-related losses. While working for the City of Davenport, Iowa during the period of April 1995 through June 1996, the author was assigned the responsibility of preparing the City's Repetitive Loss and Floodplain Management Plan. The plan, which is the central focus of this thesis, was adopted as an official city plan by the Davenport City Council and submitted to the National Flood Insurance Program in partial fulfillment of Community Rating System requirements.

The development of the plan utilized a synoptic rationality or rational comprehensive approach for methodology and structure. The rational planning methodology typically concentrates on the collection and analysis of data, goal-setting, identification of policy alternatives, and implementation of the preferred alternatives. Within this thesis the reader will find a discussion pertaining to the general aspects of flooding and floodplain management, the identification and discussion of Davenport's specific flood hazard problems, a review of possible flood management activities, and an action plan to address Davenport's flood-prone areas.

This thesis concludes with an action plan which was selected from a review of possible flood management activities that were based upon the collection and analysis of data pertinent to Davenport's flood-prone areas and flood-related problems. An implementation schedule is included which identifies the entities responsible for implementing each recommendation. Appropriate funding sources and budget status are also included to ensure the effectiveness of plan implementation. Additionally, the action plan represents the public input and political review process which culminated in the selection of specific activities and policies that were formally adopted by the Davenport City Council as part of the plan.