

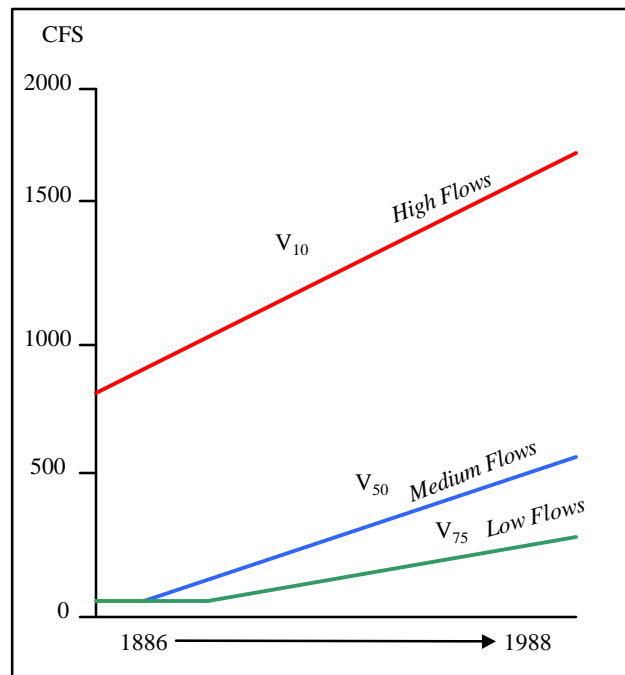
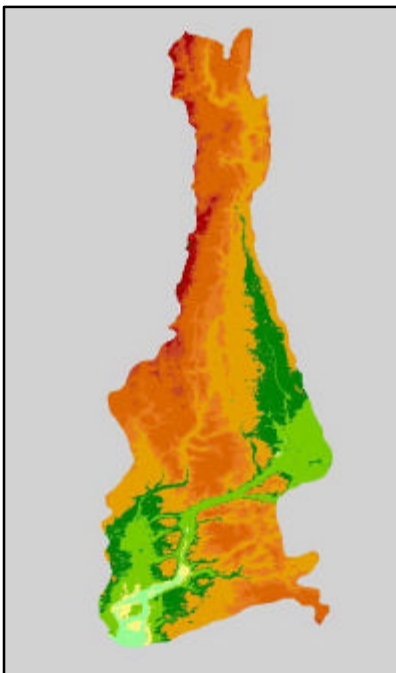
# *Des Plaines River Watershed Study*

*Southeastern Wisconsin and Northeastern Illinois*

For over 20 years, Applied Ecological Services, Inc. (AES) has been involved in the study of historic and existing ecological conditions of the Des Plaines River and its watershed. During this time, AES has designed and implemented ecological restoration and management programs for the river and adjacent wetlands, savanna and floodplain environments. Our analysis of historic data provided some of the very first Midwestern evidence on how the hydrology, hydraulics and ecology of a large watershed have been altered following regional settlement. Our study documented how the river and its watershed have changed due to agricultural and subsequent urban/suburban development land-use changes.

As a founding member of the recently formed Des Plaines River Ecosystem Partnership, AES is currently conducting research, restoration and education programs on the watershed and river system. One current study is the exploration of flood mitigation alternatives using wetland and prairie restoration strategies, as opposed to a U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) approach using levees and detention facilities. In a counter proposal to the ACOE approach, we have suggested that restoration of floodplain wetlands bordering the river in both Illinois and Wisconsin would be substantially more effective and cost-efficient in addressing existing and projected flood damages.

AES also was a principle in the design and restoration of the Des Plaines River Floodplain Preserve in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, for The Nature Conservancy and Wisconsin Electric Power Company. This project and numerous others on the river and its tributaries have allowed us to develop a great deal of experience with the Des Plaines River.



Above, AES has used digital topographic mapping to identify watershed and wetlands restoration potential on the Des Plaines River watershed. At right, historical hydraulic studies measuring cubic feet per second indicate that river flows today have increased 200 to 400 times over historical rates.

**Applied  
Ecological  
Services, Inc.**

