**First-Ever Report Card for the 31-State**

**Mississippi River Watershed is Released**

For the first time ever, detailed information about the 31-state Mississippi River Watershed, or *America’s Watershed*, has been compiled and analyzed to produce a “Report Card” that paints a picture for six key goals—clean, abundant water; marine transportation; flood control and risk reduction; the economy; recreation; and ecosystem health. The [Report Card](http://www.americaswatershed.org/reportcard) was produced and recently released by [America’s Watershed Initiative](mailto:http://americaswatershed.org/) (AWI), which includes more than 400 business, government and science organizations who’ve come together to find solutions for the challenges facing the Mississippi River and the more than 250 rivers that eventually flow into it.

Over the past two years, AWI worked with 700 stakeholders and experts from across this vast watershed worked together to produce the Report Card, which also provides assessments for five major sub-basins—the Upper Mississippi River, Lower Mississippi River, Ohio and Tennessee rivers, Arkansas and Red rivers, and the Missouri River.

With an overall average of D+ for the six goals, the Report Card reveals many opportunities to ***raise the grade*** for America’s Watershed. And much is at risk. The rivers in America’s Watershed provide clean drinking water for millions of people and water for farms and ranches that produce $54 billion of food and goods each year. Transportation via these rivers safely, reliably and efficiently moves millions of tons of goods, generating billions in economic value. Its rivers and wetlands provide unique wildlife, habitat, recreation opportunities and naturally filter water pollution for thousands of communities. And modern infrastructure and healthy wetlands help reduce the risk of flooding for communities.

***Raising the Grade for America’s Watershed***

The Report Card process has identified several steps to raise the grade for America’s Watershed. Central to every step is the need for collaboration to scale up solutions for improving water quality and quantity, safety and the health of America’s Watershed.

To ensure America’s Watershed continues to drive the nation’s economy and protect the livelihoods and environments of future generations, AWI seeks $1 billion annually in new public and private investments. AWI supports a more transparent, integrated approach for decision-making, where stakeholders are engaged at a watershed scale in setting goals based on best available information. And AWI recognizes and supports local leaders who implement solutions that address challenges within the system.

*Explore an interactive version of the Report Card online at* [*AmericasWatershed.org/ReportCard*](http://www.AmericasWatershed.org/ReportCard)*.*

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