

The logo features the word "River" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, arched over a central graphic. The graphic consists of three concentric, blue, curved shapes that resemble stylized waves or a globe. Below this graphic, the word "discovery" is written in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font, with the "o" overlapping the graphic. Underneath "discovery", the word "CENTER" is written in a smaller, bold, black, sans-serif font, in all caps. The entire logo is set against a white rectangular background.

River
discovery
CENTER



Mission Statement

The River Discovery Center is a private, non-profit, educational institution whose primary mission is to stimulate an interest in and teach the public about the importance of America's rivers to the development of the nation, and in particular upon the Four Rivers Region. The Museum will deal with all aspects of the rivers, including environmental, cultural and economic benefits, seeking to provide a forum for mutually beneficial development of this great national asset.

History

- 1988- Mayor Montgomery initiated an ad hoc committee to pursue prospect of developing a museum to showcase river heritage
- 1991-1993 – Secured a loan from TVA to study feasibility, mission, objectives and exhibit content of proposed museum. Founding board appointed. Over 250 citizens in our region interviewed for input.
- 1995- City of Paducah purchased the Petter Supply complex
- 1996- Seamens Church Institute began work on opening their Center for Maritime Education adjacent to museum.
- 2000 Renovation work to restore historic façade . Building is the oldest standing building in downtown, dating back to 1840. It most notably survived the Flood of 1937.
- 2003 Museum opened first phase of exhibits with Senator Mitch McConnell as the featured speaker at Grand Opening.
- 2005 Completion of Master Plan and Economic Feasibility Study
- 2005-Present – Worked with architect on conceptual plans for a large expansion. Opened River Industry exhibits including boat simulator. Began assembling a team for fundraising for expansion. Exploring various options for expansion.

Educational Programs





- The Ingram Skipper program offers all 4th graders in our region (including southern Illinois) to spend a day at the River Discovery Center. Only one classroom may attend at a time. The goal is to create a relaxed environment for fun learning about the river, its environment, its culture, and its commerce. With fewer children here at the same time, more information can be absorbed and it is a more memorable and valuable experience.
- The day long visit includes activities encompassing science, commerce, history, social sciences and arts and humanities. Most programs are geared to curriculum requirements. Included in their day here are two projects, typically one being an art project related to the river. They also tour the center and spend time in the simulator.

Adopt -A-Towboat

- Program started in 2000
- Reached over 8,500 children
- Provides students with opportunities to experience the practical applications of many subjects including math, geography, history, economics and communications in a real-world setting.
- Students gain an appreciation of the importance of the inland towing industry to the economy of Western Kentucky, and of the many job opportunities that may be available to them in the future.
- Teachers provided extensive curriculum guide to assist in lesson planning
- Teachers may tailor the program to their own goals and objectives.
- Local towing companies provide the towboats and each class “adopts” its own boat for the year. Students become familiar with vessels Captain and the crew. Many boats are now able to communicate in real times from remote locations by email or *Skype*.
- Endorsed by local school superintendents and has received both local, state and national awards.

Funding Sources

Federal

Department of Interior-National Park Service Save America Treasures RHM received 2 grants.

State

TEA 21 Grants - Transportation Enhancement Act

States required to award 10% of federal transportation dollars to state-chosen applicants

Other

Private Donations

Membership

Museum Shop Sales

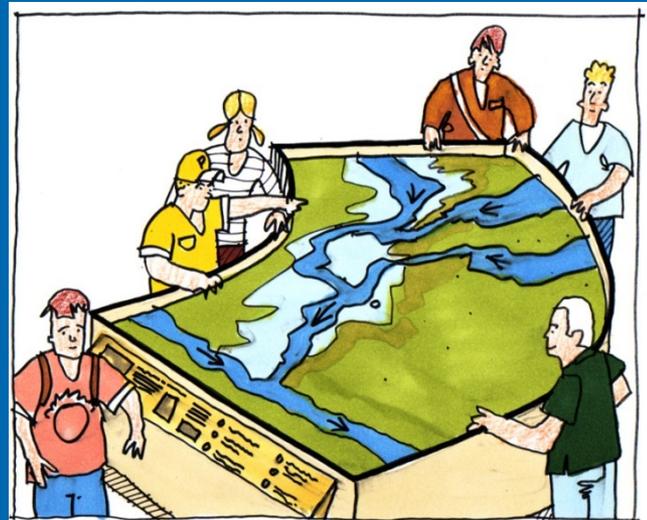
Expansion Plans

Expansion Facts

- Master Plan and Economic Feasibility study completed simultaneously in 2005
- Cannot sustain the center long term without expansion
- Space limited in existing location
- Expansion's estimated annual visitation over 90,000
- Size will be appropriate based on market potential
- Exhibits will include aquariums
- More classroom space



Erosion Table



Flood Model



River Speaks



Swift Waters

Questions or Comments

