CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa - CERES FLOOD - It's been nearly a decade since the 2008 flood. While the City of Cedar Rapids is now recovering from the $3.6 billion in damages, efforts to avoid similar situations are well underway.

"We want to see what's going to flood as it is built up," said Rob Davis, the flood control program manager with the City of Cedar Rapids.

He's talking about the flood control system being built in Cedar Rapids along the Cedar River.

"That consists of levees, walls, gates, and pump stations," said Davis.

The system will be 73 miles long and will encompass both the East and West sides of the river. The structure protects a number of areas, and there are some locations that still need to be upgraded.

This is a story from the Iowa Flood Center.

"You need to see where floodwater will go if there is a block-off on one area or a see a curve or actually we're protecting those areas now," said Davis.

Since 2009, the Iowa Flood Center has worked to help cities like Cedar Rapids avoid extensive flood damage. City engineers use the DRASTIC tool to help make evacuation plans, as well as pivot points that could help the hardest hit. With the newest updates, the city engineers know how much damage may be done ahead of time.

"If you can come into the map and up to that individual building and then you can click on and see what will be the expected damage," explained Braden Dennis, an associate.

The update also provides an estimated cost of possible damages.

"We’d like to be able to go to any community, select a flood scenario and then calculate the damage instantly," said Davis.

System developers hope to help by drawing figures out where to tend, place extra flood protection for any future possibilities.

"If you’re on the floodplain, you need to be aware of the risk," said Davis.

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