

THEORY OF CHANGE

MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN



Even as climate change intensifies storms and flooding, while farmers work to feed more people with fewer resources, the Walton Family Foundation believes that there are practical reasons to be both *hopeful and take action* along the Mississippi River. **Working with communities and businesses closest to the challenges at hand, we work to find solutions so that nature and people can thrive together.**

WHAT



Inclusion

Engage, empower and learn from a diverse set of communities, governments, leaders and funders to drive impact

- ▶ Build place-based support for natural infrastructure and sustainable agriculture
- ▶ Bring together broad coalitions with diverse expertise and experience



Innovation

Develop and drive adoption of nature-based and technological solutions

- ▶ Test diverse cropping systems to reduce soil loss and improve water quality



Supply Chain

Scale effective practices by building supply and demand for sustainable agriculture

- ▶ Incentivize the adoption of sustainable farming practices
- ▶ Build demand for sustainably grown agricultural products



Policy

Advocate for long-term change that solidifies progress in protecting water resources

- ▶ Promote federal agricultural policy, including crop insurance, that encourages conservation with an emphasis on soil health practices like cover crops
- ▶ Advance federal programs, policies and funding for natural infrastructure

WHERE



WHO



Farmers

Implement soil health practices to improve water quality, become more climate resilient



Communities and government

Prioritize investments in natural infrastructure and establish policies that encourage soil health practices

WHY

Communities more resilient to changing climate

Improved water quality in the Mississippi River Basin

