

Amana Mill Race, Amana, Iowa

Between 1865 and 1869, the Amana Colonists built a seven-mile-long canal stretching from the Iowa River, through the Amana Colonies, and into Price Creek, just past town, where it continued to the river. They dug it with human, oxen, and steam power so it could provide water power to the mills in Middle Amana and Amana. After repeated flooding, Shoemaker & Haaland worked with the Amana Society to design the reconstruction of damaged portions of the mill race levee system. Initial steps of construction included removal of the existing organic soils used during the original construction and followed with reconstruction utilizing impervious clay soils. The project was completed with reestablishment of vegetation to preserve the natural character of the area. Specific varieties of switch grass were selected to deter grazing cattle from traversing the levee.

