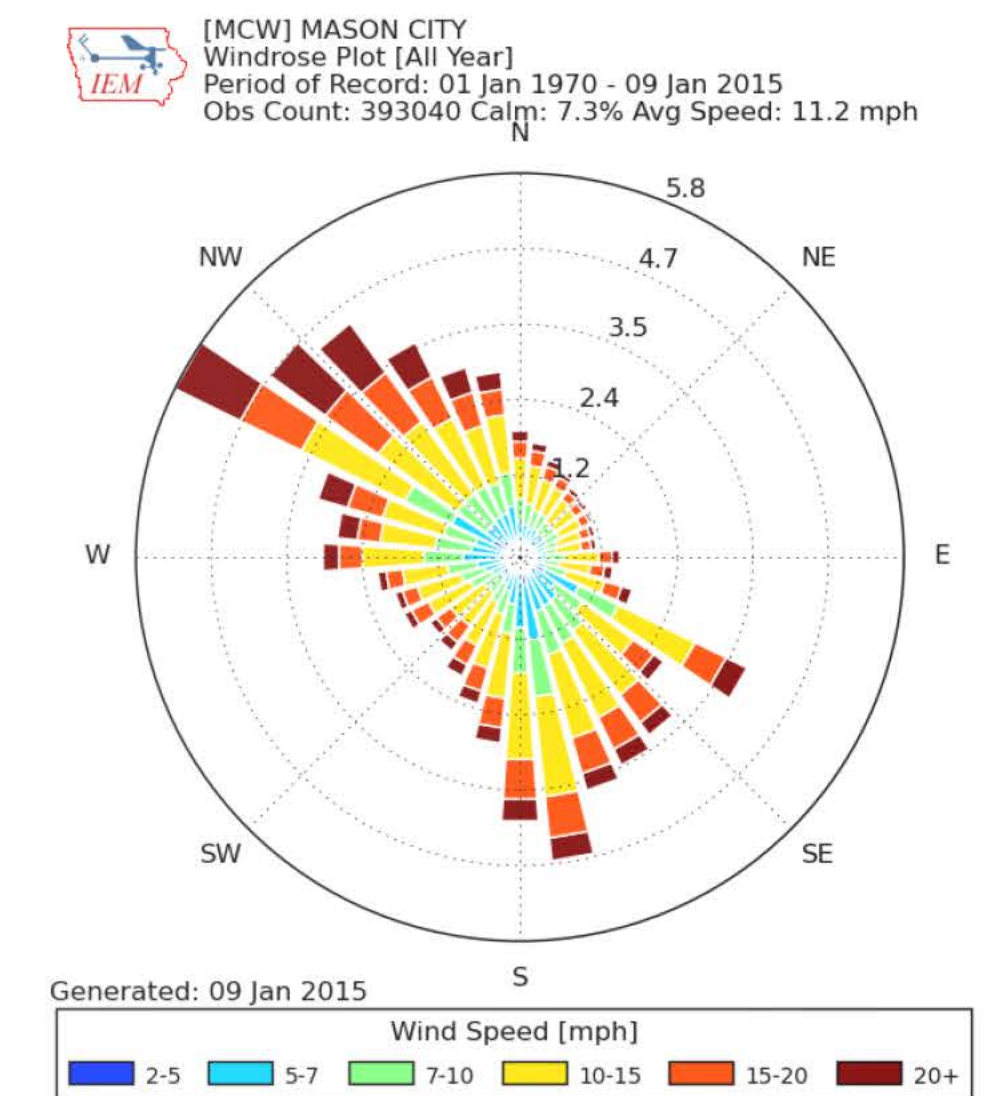


Implications of Elevation

The map to the left displays elevation using warm and cool colors. The warm colors represent higher elevations and the cool colors represent lower elevations. The elevation of the land and how quickly it changes greatly impact many landscape systems. Areas where the color changes quickly signifies a high slope percentage, which can be a major barrier to transportation access and development.

The colorization also helps reveal the direction of surface runoff. In general, runoff will move from areas with warmer colors to the nearest area with a cooler color. Valleys where runoff is collected are easily identified because they appear as cool-colored veins surrounded by warmer colors.

Wind is another landscape system affected by elevation because areas at higher elevations have greater exposure to wind conditions. This can be an asset during the warm summer months, but it becomes a liability during the cold winter months. The wind rose to the right represents wind data that was recorded at a nearby, regional airport.



Map Data Source: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "Natural Resources Geographic Information Systems Library," accessed January 2015, <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/nrgislib/>
Wind Rose Source: Iowa Environmental Mesonet, "Wind Roses", accessed March 2015, <http://mesonet.agron.iastate.edu/>

Nashua

Landscape Elevation

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