

Project Factsheet for: Illinois Waterway, Peoria Pool, Plum Island - TERMINATED

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Project Location Information

Location: Illinois Waterway, Peoria Pool, Plum Island

River Basin(s): Illinois

State(s): IL

Congressional District(s): IL-11

Status

No Longer Applicable. Area in question is now an Audubon Society sanctuary.

Description

The United States has an easement on 52.3 acres of Plum Island, which is located in Peoria Pool just downstream of Starved Rock Lock and Dam near Ottawa, Illinois. The easement grants the United States the right to deposit dredged material, to overflow, flood and submerge, to remove any and all obstructions and to build, construct, maintain and operate all structures in and upon the land, which may become necessary for the improvement of the Illinois Waterway. The easement does not prohibit the owner from using and developing the property and does not require the owner to obtain our consent to any use and development of the property; however, the owner may not interfere with the easement rights the United States has on the property. It would be difficult for any developer to obtain financing and insurance to develop in the easement area without the easement being released or at least some documented assurance that the Corps will not exercise the easement rights in a manner that would be detrimental to the proposed development. Plum Island is one of the sites considered for potential future placement of dredged material in the LaSalle Reach DMMP project. It is the District position that the easement rights on Plum Island must be retained to preserve the ability to utilize the island as may be needed for future operation, maintenance and improvement of the navigation project.

In March 2004, the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation granted the Illinois Audubon Society \$370,340 for the purpose of acquiring Plum Island. Technical assistance for the acquisition was provided to the Audubon Society by the Trust for Public Land. Plum Island will be protected as habitat for the bald eagle, and will be included in the Audubon Society's sanctuary system, which is managed for state-threatened or endangered species. The Government's easement rights have been maintained.

Authority

SI - Special Interest --

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