### QUINCY BAY HABITAT REHABILITATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (HREP)

Upper Mississippi River Restoration (UMRR) Program

Public Open House

February 15, 2024



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US Army Corps of Engineers®









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### **UMRR** Program

- Covers 5 States
- 62 Projects Completed
- 23 Projects Underway
- Over 119,270 Acres Restored
- Long Term Resource Monitoring

### UMRR Quincy Bay HREP

- 100% Federally-funded Project (planning and construction)
- Non-Federal Sponsor Quincy Bay Area Restoration & Enhancement Association (QBAREA) will be responsible for operation & maintenance of the Project

















# **PROJECT AREA AND OVERVIEW**



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### **Quick Facts**

- Initiated Feasibility Study Fall 2021
- **Final Feasibility Report Scheduled Fall 2024**
- Initiate Construction Scheduled Fall 2026
- River Miles 327 332, near Quincy, Adams **County**, Illinois
- **Project area is approximately 2,350 acres**
- **Quincy Bay is one of the largest natural bays** in the Upper Mississippi River
- All lands within the Project area are Federally
- Adjacent to Quincy, a community of almost
- Directly adjacent to areas with Environmental Justice considerations and opportunities

# **RESOURCE SIGNIFICANCE**

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The Upper Mississippi River is considered a nationally significant ecosystem, providing crucial habitat for more than 40% of North America's migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. In total, this ecosystem sustains:

- 325 species of birds
- 154 species of fish
- 50 species of mussels
- 47 species of reptiles and amphibians
- 50 species of mammals

The Project area is known to support:

- Migrating waterfowl
- Native species of emergent aquatic vegetation
- Neotropical migratory birds
- Backwater habitat for native fish and mussels
- Over 1,200 acres of diverse floodplain forest

The public places immense value on Quincy Bay and its natural resources. Recreational boating, fishing, waterfowl hunting, kayaking, and bird watching are popular activities within the Project area.







# **PROBLEMS & OPPORTUNITIES**



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#### **Opportunities:**

- Increase diversity and stability of native freshwater aquatic species
- Improve public and recreational access, use, and education
- Support known areas of Environmental Justice concern
- Beneficial use of dredged material
- Improved conditions for migratory waterfowl and floodplain forest bird, bat, and pollinator communities
- Improved conditions for aquatic vegetation



#### Problems:

- Sediment deposition has resulted in decreased water depths and reduced habitat availability and quality
- Floodplain forests have experienced an increase in invasive species and a decrease in regeneration and diversity
- Loss of aquatic vegetation







### **Objectives**:

- Reduce sediment deposition and sediment input into the Study area
- Increase backwater habitat quantity and quality for native fish species
- Increase abundance of emergent aquatic vegetation, rooted floating leaves, and submerged aquatic vegetation within the Study area
- Enhance and restore floodplain forest vegetation and habitat



# **CONSTRAINTS & PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS**



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#### Universal Constraints

- Avoid impacts to 9-foot navigation channel
- Avoid impacts to flood heights, private property, or infrastructure
- Avoid and minimize impacts to endangered species, migratory birds, and cultural resources

#### **Considerations**

- Environmental
  - Floodplain forest impacts
  - Fisheries connectivity
- Non-Federal Sponsor and Public
  - Recreation & hunting seasons
  - Operations & Maintenance
  - o Indian Grave Drainage District
- Study Area
  - o Underground gas line
  - Railroad bridge and associated berm
  - Quinsippi Island Bridge



# PLAN FORMULATION: MEASURES, ALTERNATIVES, & DECISIONS



Initial Array of Alternatives (7 Alternatives using 11 Measures) Initial Array – Evaluation & Screening Final Array of Alternatives (4 Alternatives) Final Array – Evaluation and Comparison Tentatively Selected Plan

Tentatively Selected Plan Measures:

- Aquatic Vegetation Plantings
- Timber Stand Improvement
- Pothole Enhancement
- Dredged Material Placement
- Dredging for Overwintering Habitat
- Dredging for Sediment Reduction
- Bankline Stabilization
- River Training Structures
- Cut Through Channel Modification Structure
- Cedar Creek Modification
- Vegetated Overflow Structures







## **TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN DESCRIPTION**

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Project Cost (100% Federal Cost): Approximately \$41 Million

Total Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement: 916 acres		
<ul> <li>Overwintering Fish Habitat</li> <li>Willow Slough</li> <li>Upper Bay</li> <li>Middle Bay</li> </ul>	37 acres	
Summer Fish Habitat/Dredging for Sediment Reduction • Lower Bay	5 acres	
Aquatic Vegetation/Waterfowl Habitat	8 acres	
Pothole Wetland Enhancement	16 acres	
<ul><li>Scrub/Shrub Habitat</li><li>Vegetated Overflow Structures</li></ul>	4 acres	
Floodplain Forest Rehabilitation	18 acres	
Timber Stand Improvement	828 acres	
<ul> <li>Sediment Reduction Measures</li> <li>Out Through Channel Modification</li> <li>Cedar Creek Modification</li> </ul>		



### TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN – ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS



- 916 acres of habitat rehabilitation and enhancement
- Addresses more sediment sources than other alternatives and fully meets all four objectives
- Attains all ecological-focused opportunities
- Sediment reduction measures support the health of, protect, and increase long-term resiliency of aquatic vegetation plantings and overwintering sites
- Contributes to resource significance







# TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN – OTHER BENEFITS 🔢



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#### **Regional Economic Development**

- Supports tourism, recreation, and connection to regional corridors
- Improved conditions in the Bay near the downtown area increases local use and visitation of downtown dining, parks, and walkways
- Economic benefits contribute to City health and lead to enjoyment of the Mississippi River, constructed Project, and natural resources



#### Environmental Justice (EJ)

- Provides benefits to immediately adjacent areas of EJ concern and documented food deserts, two of which also represent lack of vehicle access, including:
  - Opportunities for recreational and subsistence fishing\*
  - Unburdened public access for shoreline fishing Ο

\*The District recommends consulting the Illinois Department of Public Health's (IDPH) website for current advisories on fish consumption from the Mississippi River

#### **Other Social Effects**

- Provides opportunities for:
  - Shoreline fishing and recreation 0
  - Education  $\bigcirc$
  - Handicap accessible fishing
  - Safety in access and pathways for boaters Ο
- Indirect positive impact to nearby recreation areas

# TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN





#### Existing understory conditions



Thinning treatments



Overwintering/Dredging



Existing pothole wetlands



Aquatic vegetation planting









\*Construction can commence in Fiscal Year 2026, pending USACE approval, permitting, appropriations by Congress, and execution of an Operations & Maintenance agreement between the USACE and QBAREA.



# **PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD**



**U.S. ARMY** 

### Public Review Comment Period: February 8 – March 9

#### **ONLINE**



https://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environ mental-Stewardship/Upper-Mississippi-River-Restoration/Habitat-Restoration/Rock-Island-**District/Quincy-Bay/** 

### **EMAIL**

PublicInvolvement@usace.army.mil



WRITE U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District (ATTN: Regional Planning and Environmental Division North, Rachel Perrine) Clock Tower Building, P.O. Box 2004 Rock Island, IL 61201





Draft Version

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#### Draft Feasibility Report Released - Public Open House Feb. 15

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, has released the draft feasibility report for the Quincy Bay Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project. **The main report and it's appendices can be found in the lower left corner of this website under project documents.** 

A public open house, which is being conducted in partnership with the Quincy Bay Area Restoration and Enhancement Association (QELREA), along with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Illinois Department of Natural Resources, will take place on **February 15 from 5-7 p.m. at the Oakley-Lindsay Center, located at 300 Civic Center Plaza #237 in Quincy, Illinois.** 

#### Public Comment Form

I'm not a robo

se the form below to provide public comment on Rock Island District projects.

Public comments regarding the tentatively selected plan will be accepted through March 9. Comments can be submitted by clicking the line below or emailing PublicInvolvement@usace.army.mil.

#### Submit Comments

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Draft Feasibility Report - Main Report
APP A - Correspondence
APP B - Model Project Partnership
Agreement
APP C - Environmental
APP D - Programmatic Agreement for
Cultural Resources
APP E - Engineering
APP E - Engineering
APP F - Water Quality
APP G - Geotechnical
APP H - Hydrology and Hydraulics
APP I -Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive
Waste Report
APP J - Cost Estimate
APP K - Economic and Social Considerations
APP L - Real Estate Plan
APP M - Distribution List
APP N - Plates