



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

## PROJECT FACT SHEET

### Middle Mississippi River Island Building Phase 1

Upper Mississippi River, Unimpounded, River Miles 200-0  
St. Louis, Jefferson, Perry, Cape Girardeau, and Scott Counties, Missouri  
St. Clair, Monroe, Randolph, Jackson, Union, and Alexander Counties, Illinois  
Navigation Ecosystem Sustainability Program, St. Louis District

**Location.** The Middle Mississippi River (MMR) Island Building Phase 1 study area includes opportunistic sites within RM 200-0. The following areas have been identified where the biological need for islands align with opportunity to alter existing river training structures. The study area includes, but is not limited to, the following river miles of interest: 172-168, 164-160, 113-112, 105-89, 84-83, 80-78, 76-72, and 45-30. These areas could be phased for feasibility.

**Land Ownership.** The proposed work would be 100% aquatic and below the ordinary high-water mark; therefore, no landowners have been identified.

**Resource Problem.** Within the identified areas of interest, there are over 290 existing river training structures. Noted for years by natural resource agency biologists, the stone dikes, constructed to maintain the navigation channel, have caused a homogeneous pattern of sediment deposition limiting the quality and diversity of aquatic and island habitats important for fish and wildlife. Diversifying flow and depositional patterns along with incorporation of natural and nature-based features within these homogenous dike fields would restore habitat diversity by promoting island development, while still maintaining the navigation channel. Restoring islands within the MMR has been identified by the River Resources Action Team as a resource need within the Unimpounded reach of the Upper Mississippi River. The dike fields within the identified areas of interest affect approximately 5,300 acres of main channel border habitat. A subset of these areas, to be determined during the feasibility phase, could be modified to diversify aquatic habitat, and promote natural establishment of islands.

**NESP Project Types.** Island building, dike alteration

**Project Objective.** The project seeks to restore island habitats within the Middle Mississippi River. The preliminary project objective includes:

- Improve flow and depositional diversity within dike fields and main channel border habitat to promote natural establishment of depositional islands
- Improve aquatic habitat for riverine fishes

**Potential Measures.** The following are potential measures that could be combined into an

implementable alternative in order to address the identified problems and achieve the project objective.

- Dike alteration (including but not limited to removal, lowering, degrading, raising, extending, or notching)
- Construction of new structures
- Natural and nature-based features
- Beneficial use of dredged material

As part of the feasibility study, a full range of measures and alternative formulation strategies would be developed and evaluated.

**Implementation Considerations.** The project has been endorsed by the River Resources Action Team Exec on July 30, 2021. The following data needs have been identified: hydraulic modeling, bathymetry and flow surveys, pre- and post-construction fisheries monitoring.

**Financial Information (Estimate).** The estimated Total Project Cost is approximately \$10-20M, including an estimated \$250,000 for monitoring and \$1M adaptive management. Project measures would require minimal operation and maintenance (O&M) costs. The project is located below the ordinary high-water mark; therefore, the construction of this project would be 100% Federal but could require a non-Federal sponsor to perform OMRR&R responsibilities on any newly constructed features.