

Mississippi River Project

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Rock Island District, Mississippi River Project, encompasses 314 miles and 215,000 land and water acres on the Mississippi River from Guttenberg, IA to Saverton, MO.

The Mississippi River Project Office houses the Lock and Dam, Lock and Dam Maintenance, and Natural Resource Management Sections. The office is located at the heart of the Upper Mississippi River System in Pleasant Valley, IA, near Locks & Dam 14. It is one of six Mississippi River Project Offices in the Mississippi Valley Division.



Navigation Structure Operations – The Lock and Dam Section staff work throughout the year and in all weather conditions providing lockages for commercial navigation and recreational vessels. Each year, more than 60,000 commercial vessels and 40,000 recreational boats lock through the Rock Island District’s portion of the Upper Mississippi River Navigation System. The annual transportation benefits for traffic using the Upper Mississippi River (above Lock 25) is approximately \$500 million.

Navigation Structure Maintenance - Lock and Dam Maintenance Section employees are responsible for the inspection, repair, and maintenance of 12 lock and dam locations and roughly 1,200 regulating structures. The Project Office is headquarters for the Regional Structural Repair Center for maintaining river structures on the Mississippi River and they often perform work outside the District on the Mississippi River System from New Orleans, LA to St. Paul, MN.

Natural Resource Management - Includes Recreation and Environmental Stewardship missions. Environmental Stewardship is largely accomplished through the Forestry and Shoreline Management Programs.

Recreation - On the Mississippi River, the Project provides boat access, camping, and recreation areas in portions of Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois and Missouri. Project facilities include 620 camp sites and 22 boat ramps at 26 public use areas. The Project has three Ranger Stations located in Dubuque, IA; Thomson, IL; and Muscatine, IA to increase recreation management service to the public.

Recreation staff also operates the Mississippi River Visitor Center located at Locks and Dam 15 on Arsenal Island in Rock Island, IL. Thousands of visitors come annually to the center to watch boats pass through the lock. In the winter, visitors get a birds-eye view to some of the best regional eagle watching. The Visitor Center is free of charge to the public.

Forestry – The Forestry Program is headquartered at the Project Office. The Project is the oldest and one of the largest continually managed forested resources managed by the Corps. Employees manage forests on 55,000 acres of Project lands in partnership with three national wildlife refuges and conservation agencies with the State of Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri.

Shoreline Management - In 1989, the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) was developed and implemented as guidance for the management, protection and preservation of the Mississippi River's environment, while allowing a balanced use of the shoreline. It provides policy concerning private exclusive use of Corps owned property. Private exclusive use involves placing private recreational structures (for instance boat docks) or pursuing certain activities along Corps shorelines (for instance mowing) that are limited to the individual and are usually not available to the general public.



US Army Corps
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Rock Island District

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