



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Louis District

Information Paper

Maple Island Boat Ramp

Operation and Maintenance (REC)

Contact:

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Location: Tailwater of Melvin Price Locks and Dam in Madison County, Illinois Mississippi River Mile 200.5.

Description: This project would replace the current Maple Island Boat Ramp, which is located within the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary. The Sanctuary receives approximately \$150k visitors each year, including participants from across the Nation for its one-of-a-kind wildlife viewing opportunities and its large fishing tournaments. The existing boat ramp faces siltation issues due to its current location, and mechanical dredging is cost-prohibitive at \$50k-\$100k annually. The maintenance required to keep this regionally important boat ramp accessible is both unattainable and an ineffective use of federal dollars, whereas a new ramp could be designed to benefit both local endangered fish species and the visiting public, while providing better stewardship of public funds environment.

Status: Currently awaiting FY24 funding decision. P Current estimated project is \$3,000,000.

Importance: This is currently the only public boat ramp located on the Mississippi River between Mel Price Locks and Dam (UMR 202.5) and Locks 27 (UMR 185.5). With no other publicly accessible launch to serve the local community, this location has become a major hub for environmental stewardship and beautification projects. This area has some of the best Blue Catfishing in the country, with year-round access that draws tournaments to this region. This is also a favorite launch location for water-based community river cleanups that benefit local habitat, the river, and its islands while promoting environmental stewardship through outdoor beautification and recreation. Additionally, this location has been identified as the only confirmed spawning location of the state endangered Lake Sturgeon fish species in either Illinois or Missouri. Our Environmental Stewardship Team, through collaboration with fisheries professionals from Missouri Department of Conservation, has identified ways in which this ramp could be constructed to also provide enhancement to spawning habitat through the addition of favorable substrates strategically positioned with flow patterns from the upstream dam. A new ramp would provide commercial fishermen and recreational boaters with a more reliable year-round access to an

ecologically significant section of the Mississippi River with its local fish populations, giving this region a nationwide attraction. This project would also work in conjunction with current local efforts to raise awareness about the endangered Lake Sturgeon and the area's significance as the only confirmed spawning location for the species.

Authority: River and Harbor Acts of 1930, as amended Public Resolution No. 10 (1932)

Schedule:

- March 2024 Project Design
- August 2024 Contract Award



Maple Island Public Access and modified boat ramp design. .

Activities for FY24: Upon receiving project funding and finalized design with USACE Civil Engineering Section, an IDIQ Construction Contract will go out for bid to begin work on the project.

Activities after FY24: General O&M of boat ramp and recreation area.

Congressional Interest: Senate: Durbin (IL), Duckworth (IL); House: Budzinski (IL-13)

Financial:

Estimated Federal cost \$3,000,000

Estimated Non-Federal cost: \$0

Total estimated cost: \$3,000,000

Total Federal funding to date: \$0