



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Louis District 874).

Information Paper

Nutwood Drainage and Levee District, Illinois

Section 203 of Flood Control Act of 23 October 1962 (Public Law (PL) 87-

Construction (FRM)

Location: The Nutwood Drainage and Levee District (D&LD) protects 10,360 acres of primarily agricultural land located in Greene and Jersey Counties, Illinois, on the left bank of the Illinois River between river miles 15.2 and 23.7 above the mouth of the Illinois River.

Description: Nutwood levee is federally authorized and constructed and locally operated and maintained by the Nutwood Levee District. The levee provides protection for a 4 percent chance of exceedance (25-year event). The levee was overtopped and breached completely during the floods of 1993 and 2019, inundating the area and causing a disruption of traffic on Illinois Routes 100 and 16 for months. The 1962 Flood Control Act provides project authorization to raise the entire levee system. The recommended plan in previous completed and draft studies involves a levee raise (3.0 ft avg) of 12+ miles of existing levees, improved pumping capabilities, construction of seepage control measures and associated mitigation.

Status: All Preconstruction, Engineering and Design (PED) work was suspended in 2012 due to cost-share imbalance of \$266,398.02.

Importance: A levee raise project would reduce risk of future overtopping and minimize direct flood risk to two important transportation routes (Highways 16 & 100), the small community of Nutwood, and more than 10,000 acres of farmland. Illinois Routes 16 and 100 lie within and adjacent to the leveed area and are the main commuting route for citizens of Calhoun County.. Flooding of these routes is a considerable consequence to Calhoun County.

Risk: The 2019 flood resulted in all Illinois River levees in the St. Louis District area of responsibility being at risk of overtopping. Overtopping risk increases as the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers approach major flood stage which was the case in June 2019 and lead to the failure of the levee.

Consequence: Any future project for the Nutwood Levee will require a new study that will result in a decision document (in this case a General Reevaluation Report or GRR) that would have to recommend construction of the project. A non-federal sponsor (such as the levee district, county, or the state) would have to be willing and financially capable of cost sharing 50% of the costs to complete the study and the Corps would need to receive a Federal appropriation to complete the study.



Levee overtopping during 1993 Flood



Levee overtopping with breach during 2019 flood.

Activities for FY 21: IDOT through the levee district has provided \$266,398 to resolve the cost share imbalance. Cost transfers will be implemented, and the old project cost share will be closed out.

Activities after FY 21: Develop cost share agreement with IDOT under Planning Assistance to States for evaluation of two levee raise alternatives. Prepare FY23 Budget Submission and FY22 Work Plan package for resumption of GRR.

Project Partner: Illinois Department of Transportation and Nutwood Drainage and Levee District

Congressional Interest: Senate: Durbin and Duckworth (IL) House: Davis

Phase	FY 21 Allocation
Investigations	\$0

SAMPLE