



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

Information Paper

Nutwood Drainage and Levee District, Illinois

Section 203 of Flood Control Act of 23 October 1962 (Public Law (PL) 87-874).

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 descending 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 is estimated to be at around the 1.67 percent annual chance of exceedance (60-year event) profile. 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 to a flood profile based upon the 1943 peak flood discharge. The recommended plan in previous completed and draft studies involves a levee raise (3.0-foot average) of 12+ miles of existing levees, improved pumping capabilities, construction of seepage control measures, and associated mitigation.

Status: Work on the General Reevaluation Report was suspended in 2012 due to the non-federal sponsor's inability to cost share.

Importance: A levee raise project would reduce risk of future overtopping and minimize direct flood risk to two important transportation routes (highways 16 and 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 led to the failure of the levee. This levee system is the closest to the confluence of the two rivers.

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. The rural location of this levee system will make it difficult to compete against other national priorities seeking

new start study decision under our flood risk management program.



Levee overtopping with breach during 1993 flood.



Levee overtopping with breach during 2019 flood.

Activities for FY22: Planning Assistance to States (PAS) study funds were used to execute an agreement with IDOT under PAS to provide engineering and technical services to inform IDOT decision making in their Joe Page Bridge Feasibility Study.

Activities after FY22: Activities depend on project partner(s). Potentially, prepare FY24 Budget Submission and FY23 Work Plan package for GRR new start.

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

Congressional Interest: Senate: Durbin and Duckworth (IL). House: Davis (IL-13).

Phase	FY 22 Allocation
Investigations	\$0

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