



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
St. Louis District

# Information Paper

## American Bottoms Comprehensive Plan

### Investigations (FRM)

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**Location:** The study area is located within the federally constructed locally operated and maintained East St. Louis Levee System in Madison and St. Clair Counties, Illinois. The leveed area contains approximately 250,000 residents, \$10B in economic value, and ten disadvantaged communities. The levee system reduces risk to 86,000 acres and receives 51,000 acres of upland bluff area drainage through a network of canals and ditches that drain to 19 different pump stations that allow for gravity flow during low water and pumping operations during Mississippi River high water events.

**Description:** The federally authorized but incomplete interior flood control system has 14 separate interior flood control features. Many of these features were never built because they were not economically justified. WRDA 2000, Section 304 (Public Law 106-541) modified the project authorization to include ecosystem restoration as a project purpose. As a result, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) initiated a general reevaluation report GRR to reevaluate and reformulate the project with a focus on ecosystem restoration while capturing incidental flood risk management benefits.

**Status:** An approved Chief's Report was completed in 2004, recommending eight ecosystem restoration action areas. The Chief's Report was Congressionally authorized for construction in WRDA 2007. Lack of sponsor interest/capability at the time, coupled with lack of federal funding, resulted in no appreciable work being accomplished to date.

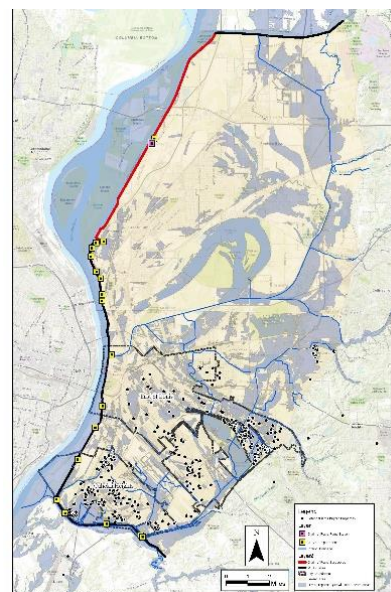
Recent extreme interior rain/flood events has generated renewed interest in pursuing implementation of flood risk reduction measures in the study area. State and local government interest has validated that USACE should initiate a General Reevaluation Report focused on flood risk reduction. Federal and sponsor funding is needed to initiate this 50/50 cost shared reevaluation report.

**Importance:** The primary problems in the study area are documented as recurring interior flooding, sedimentation, and ecosystem degradation. The volume of drainage coupled with changing climate conditions, undersized infrastructure, altered landscape and fragmented interior hydraulic system are compounding flooding problems within the leveed area.

**Authority:** Section 204 of the Flood Control Act of 1965, (Public Law 89-298) authorized East St. Louis and Vicinity, Illinois Flood Protection Project for construction. Section 1001 (18) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, authorized the project for ecosystem restoration based on the Report of the Chief of Engineers dated December 22, 2004.

#### Schedule:

- TBD pending receipt of federal funding and sponsor match.



**Figure 1: East St. Louis Levee System with FEMA delineated flood hazard area**

**Activities for FY24:** Pending receipt of Federal funds, execute FCSA and initiate GRR.

**Activities after FY24:** Continue GRR with estimated 3-year duration.

**Project Partner:** Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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

#### Financial: (For GRR only)

Estimated Federal cost: \$1,500,000  
Estimated non-Federal cost: \$1,500,000  
Total estimated cost: \$3,000,000  
Total Federal funding to date: \$0  
FY24 federal funding capability for GRR - \$500k