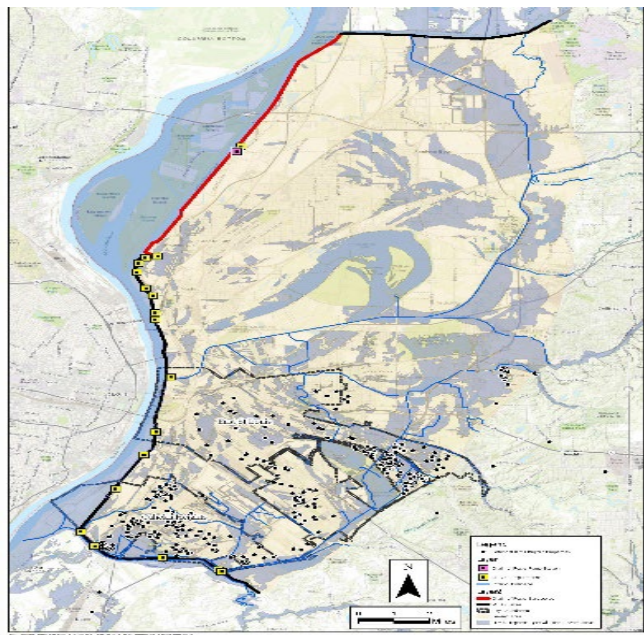




**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
St. Louis District

# Information Paper

## American Bottom Comprehensive Plan Investigations (Flood Risk Management)



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

### Contact

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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 (IL). The leveed area contains approximately 126,000 residents, \$8B in property value, 167 critical structures, and 46,922 structures. 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. While a low BCR has prevented prior implementation of this authorized interior flood risk reduction project, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Policy now enables total net benefits of the area to outweigh prior low Benefit to Cost Ratio (BCR) conclusions. The study will be completed under the original project authority which is authorized by Section 204 of the Flood Control Act of 1965, (PL 89-298), East St. Louis and Vicinity, IL Flood Protection Project.

### Status

Since 1973, recurring flood risk continues with seven federal disaster declarations for flooding. Two of these events have occurred within the last three years (2022 and 2024). These recent extreme interior flood events have generated renewed interest in pursuing implementation of flood risk reduction measures in the study area. State and local government interest have validated that USACE should initiate a General Reevaluation Report (GRR) focused on flood risk reduction. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has secured its full cost share to fund the study to completion. Federal funding is needed to initiate this cost shared reevaluation report.

### Importance

The primary problem in the study area has documented recurring interior flood risk (which is a priority of U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth; IL Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski; and IL Governor JB Pritzker) is widely publicized in the media. 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

A Review Survey Report for flood risk reduction was transmitted to the Chief of Engineers in November 1962 and corresponding Chief Report in November 1963. Section 204 of the Flood Control Act of 1965, (PL 89-298) authorized East St. Louis and Vicinity, IL Flood Protection Project for construction.

### Schedule

TBD pending receipt of federal funding and sponsor match.

### Activities for FY25

Pending receipt of Federal funds, execute FCSA and initiate GRR.

### Activities after FY25

Continue GRR with estimated 3-year duration.

### Project Partner

Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

### Congressional Interest

Senate: Durbin (IL) and 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  
FY25 Federal funding capability for GRR-\$500k

Total Federal funding to date: \$0