



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

Information Paper

Maple Island Boat Ramp Operation and Maintenance (O&M)



Figure 1: Maple Island Public Access and modified boat ramp design

Contact

Chris Garcia, Park Ranger
(314) 581-9057
christopher.d.garcia@usace.army.mil

Location

Tailwater of Melvin Price Locks and Dam is located in Madison County, Illinois at 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 150,000 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.

Status

Currently awaiting FY25 funding decision. 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 (Upper Mississippi River [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 reliable, year-round access. Considering its local fish populations, this area is an ecologically significant section of the Mississippi River with nationwide attraction.

This project would also work in conjunction with current local efforts to raise awareness about the endangered Lake Sturgeon, as well as awareness of 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

Contract Award 9 months after funds received.

Activities for FY25

Upon receiving project funding and finalized design with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Civil Engineering Section, a Construction Contract will go out for bid to begin work on the project.

Activities after FY25

General Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of boat ramp and recreation area.

Congressional Interest

Senate: Durbin and Duckworth (IL)
House: Budzinski (IL-13)

Financials

Federal funding	\$3,000,000
Non-federal funding	\$ 0
Total Project Cost	\$3,000,000
Federal Funds Allocated to Date	\$0