

# Value to the Nation

*SERVING THE REGION SINCE 1866*



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

St. Paul District

**BUILDING STRONG®**

# Value to the Nation



**COL. DANIEL KOPROWSKI**  
*Commander, St. Paul District*

The St. Paul District is where the “Mighty Mississippi River” starts its long journey through the middle of the United States of America to the Gulf of Mexico. The district borders follow the edges of four river basins– the Mississippi River, the Red River of the North, the Souris River and the Rainy River – and covers an area of

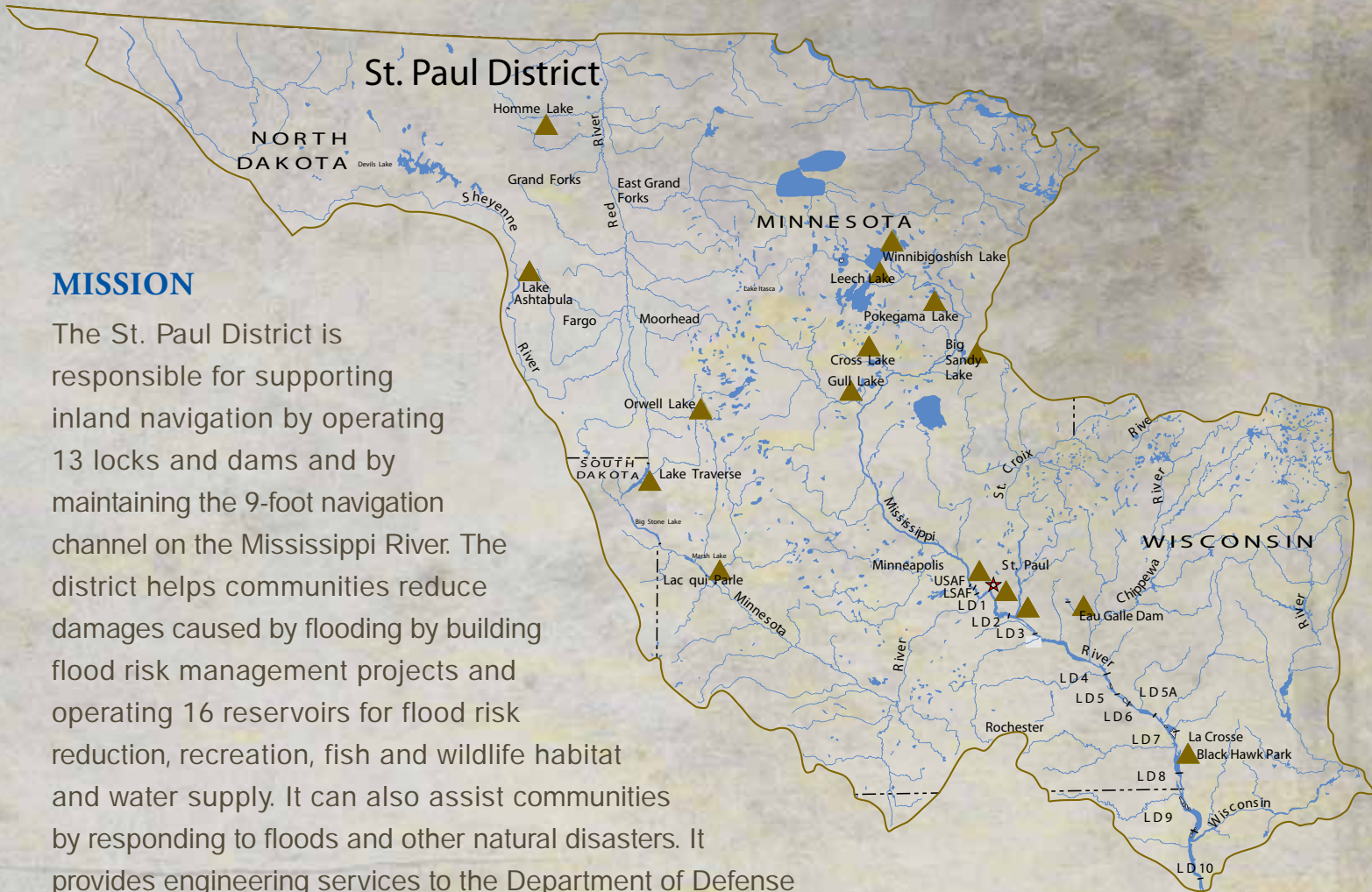
approximately 139,000 square miles. This area includes most of Minnesota, the western half of Wisconsin, the northeastern half of North Dakota and small portions of northeastern South Dakota and northeastern Iowa. The district also shares approximately 500 miles of border with three Canadian provinces.



## St. Paul District

### MISSION

The St. Paul District is responsible for supporting inland navigation by operating 13 locks and dams and by maintaining the 9-foot navigation channel on the Mississippi River. The district helps communities reduce damages caused by flooding by building flood risk management projects and operating 16 reservoirs for flood risk reduction, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat and water supply. It can also assist communities by responding to floods and other natural disasters. It provides engineering services to the Department of Defense and other federal agencies to include the Federal Emergency Management Agency. It issues permits for work in wetlands and navigable rivers and is responsible for an environmental restoration program to improve fish and wildlife habitat. In addition, the district maintains 49 recreation areas open to the public.





# Contributing to the Upper Midwest Economy

The St. Paul District serves the American public in the areas of environmental enhancement, navigation, flood risk reduction, water and wetlands regulation, recreational opportunities and disaster response. Around 700 employees work at 41 sites in five upper-Midwest states. Based on the district's \$175 million budget in fiscal year 2012, it supported or created around 700 Corps jobs and 1,840 non-Corps jobs, as well as added \$197 million to the national economy.



## FLOOD RESPONSE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Every year, floods sweep through communities across the U.S., taking lives, destroying property, shutting down businesses and causing millions of dollars in damage. The Corps assists communities in building projects that reduce risk from floods and manages a number of reservoirs designed to reduce excess flooding. Additionally, the Corps assists states in reacting to flooding when the response required exceeds a state's capabilities. The St. Paul District has built flood risk management projects in a number of Upper Midwest cities to include Grand Forks, N.D.; Mankato, Minn.; Rochester, Minn.; and St. Paul, Minn. In general, for every \$1 invested in the Corps' flood risk management program, it is estimated that Americans save \$7. Together, the St. Paul District flood risk management projects and emergency response activities saved approximately \$4.7 billion in flood damage in 2009 and \$4.6 billion in flood damage in 2011.

## NAVIGATION

The St. Paul District's navigation program provides a safe, reliable, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable waterborne transportation system on the Upper Mississippi River for the movement of commercial goods and for national security needs. To do this, the district maintains a 9-foot navigation channel and 13 locks and dams from Minneapolis to Guttenberg, Iowa. Keeping this system open is vital to the nation's economy. In 2012, 13.5 million tons of commodities were shipped on the Mississippi River within the St Paul District's area of operation, including 7 million tons of grain grown in the Upper Midwest. The industries making these shipments saved nearly \$288 million by using the inland waterways instead of overland shipping methods.





## RECREATION

The St. Paul District operates 49 recreation areas, ranging from public landings along the Mississippi River to lock and dam visitor centers to full-service campgrounds. These recreation areas are an important component of the region's tourism industry, and the impact on the local and regional economies is significant. Recent data shows an estimated 8.7 million visitors use district recreational sites each year and spend approximately \$239 million, of which \$165 million was captured in the local economy, generating \$235 million in total sales and supporting an estimated 3,060 jobs.



# *Preserving, Restoring and Protecting Upper Midwest Resources*

The St. Paul District recognizes the interdependence of life and the importance of the physical environment and proactively considers environmental consequences of its programs. Our goal is to seek balance and synergy among human development and natural systems by designing economic and environmental-friendly solutions that reinforce one another. Our environmental programs focus on the key areas of ecosystem preservation, restoration and protection.

## **REGULATORY**

The St. Paul District regulates structures and work in navigable waters of the U.S. under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and the discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the U.S. under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin. With more than 10,000 lakes in Minnesota and a like number in Wisconsin, the district's Section 404 permit program is second in the Corps of Engineers for its physical size. The office averages around 6,000 jurisdictional determinations each year. The staff is committed to the national program goal of no net loss of aquatic resources while, at the same time, allowing reasonable development through fair and balanced permit decisions.

## **HABITAT REHABILITATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS**

Habitat rehabilitation and enhancement projects are designed to benefit fish and wildlife by restoring lost habitat or protecting existing habitat features. Planned and engineered by the Corps, in partnership with other organizations and the public, typical habitat projects include restoring islands, constructing flow control structures or shoreline stabilization features and dredging backwater areas. Most of these sustainability projects for the St. Paul District fall under the nation's Upper Mississippi River – Environmental Management Program, or EMP. This program is meant to restore, protect and guide future management of the Upper Mississippi River. The district has completed more than 26 EMP projects, affecting more than 45,000 acres, or 62 square miles, of river and floodplain habitat.

## **STEWARDSHIP OF PUBLIC PROPERTY**

It is the policy of the St. Paul District to apply principles of good environmental stewardship to the natural and cultural resources located on Corps-administered federal lands. The district manages more than 67,000 acres of land and more than 284,000 permanent easements across the Upper Midwest – an area equivalent to around 546 square miles. On these lands, the district's natural resources staff is responsible for grassland, fisheries, forest and wetland management; regulating public use; managing water levels; establishing and enhancing vegetation; shoreline stabilization and more. The staff closely coordinates all of its activities on its river lands with other federal and state natural resource agencies.





## ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

The St. Paul District's environmental infrastructure programs assist rural communities with building, designing and/or restoring environmentally-friendly water supply and wastewater treatment systems. As of June 2013, the district has assisted 48 communities in building 67 of these projects. The total cost for these projects was more than \$48.8 million.

## NUISANCE SPECIES PROGRAMS

The St. Paul District works hard to combat invasive species on the federal land it administers, as well as routinely partners with other government agencies on a variety of nuisance species programs. The district's natural resource staff is currently working to remove Black Locust from Corps administered lands and replace it with native vegetation. They also enforce a locally-purchased firewood policy at Corps campgrounds to aid in preventing the spread of Emerald Ash Borer, or EAB. In the Upper Mississippi River, the district is working with a number of government partners to prevent the spread of Asian carp and Zebra mussels.



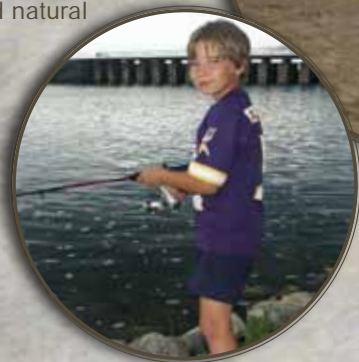


# *Supplying Healthy, Accessible, Outdoor Recreational Activities in the Upper Midwest*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the largest federal provider of water-based outdoor recreation in the nation. Our recreation sites provide a diverse range of outdoor activities that promote a healthy lifestyle to millions of people every year. We are committed to providing a safe, fun and secure experience for our visitors.

The St. Paul District operates 49 recreation areas throughout the region, ranging from Jay's Lake, Millstone and Bad Axe landings along the Mississippi River in Pools 9 and 10, to full-service campgrounds at Eau Galle Recreation Area and Blackhawk Park in Wisconsin, campgrounds in the Mississippi River Headwaters area in central Minnesota and Lake Ashtabula in eastern North Dakota. These recreation areas provide 712 individual campsites, 30 boat launching ramps, nine beaches and numerous individual picnic sites. There are recreation facilities at most of the district's locks and dams. Facilities range from visitor centers at Upper Saint Anthony Falls in Minneapolis and Lock and Dam 7 near La Crosse, Wis., to interpretive displays, observation areas and information kiosks. These recreation areas are an important component of the region's tourism.

Much of the federally-owned land managed by the Corps, however, is licensed or leased to other federal, state or local governments for management, especially along the Mississippi River navigation channel. There are 45 developed recreation areas managed by other public entities, ranging from city parks to full-service marinas. The district's recreation and natural resource management staff works in cooperation with these entities.







RECREATION  
NATURAL  
RESOURCE SITES



# *Providing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Engineering Capabilities Around the Globe*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the world's premier engineering organization. The Corps provides engineering support to other federal, state and local agencies, as well as more than 90 foreign nations, with a full range of planning, engineering, design/construction management, program management, real estate, research and development and technical assistance services. The work ranges from constructing critical infrastructure such as wastewater treatment plants to assisting other nations with damages caused by disasters and war. The agency employs a wide range of engineers and scientists, many of whom are considered experts in their field.

## **SUPPORT TO THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION**

Many rivers and some of the largest lakes in the world lie along, or flow across, the border between the United States and Canada. The International Joint Commission assists governments in finding solutions to problems in these waters. The 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty established the Commission, which has six members. Three are appointed by the President of the United States, and three are appointed by the Governor in Council of Canada, on the advice of the Prime Minister. The Commission has set up more than 20 boards, made up of experts from the United States and Canada, to help it carry out its responsibilities. The St. Paul District commander co-chairs and district staff support and participate in three of these boards to include the International Rainy Lake Board, the International Red River Board and the International Souris River Board. Additionally, under the 1925 Lake of the Woods Convention and Protocol Treaty, the St. Paul District commander co-chairs the International Lake of the Woods Control Board.

## **SUPPORT TO FEMA**

Under the National Response Framework, the Corps of Engineers is assigned as the coordinator for Emergency Support Function No. 3, "Public Works and Engineering." During disasters, the Corps of Engineers is the primary government agency for response activities such as providing ice, water and temporary power. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, is the Primary Agency for ESF 3 recovery activities and can assign the Corps of Engineers missions to assist in the execution of recovery missions.

The St. Paul District maintains a temporary housing team that can deploy in less than 24 hours. This team has built housing sites and critical public facilities around the nation to include North Dakota after the 2011 Souris River and 1997 Red River of the North floods; Iowa after the 2008 Cedar River flood; Louisiana and Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina in 2005; Florida after Hurricanes Charlie and Ivan in 2004; and New Mexico in 2000 after the Los Alamos fires. Individual district employees with specific technical skills also deploy to provide FEMA assistance at natural and manmade disasters on a regular basis. In fact, more than 400 of the district's 700 employees deployed to Louisiana or Mississippi in either 2005 or 2006 to support the Hurricane Katrina recovery mission.





## SUPPORT TO THE WARFIGHTER

A unique capability that the Corps of Engineers provides to the nation that is unlike that of any other military in the world is the synergy between its civil and military operations. Beyond the direct contribution that the civil works program makes to domestic economic development and environmental security, the Corps also applies its civil works expertise to support defense missions, such as operations that promote peace and stability around the globe. In turn, the civil works team derives increased

depth and broader experiences from operations in international areas by being an integral part of the larger Army and Defense organizations. The Corps has demonstrated this synergy most recently in post-conflict stability operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and post-disaster response operations. Since 2003, St. Paul District has voluntarily supported more than 150 deployments to Iraq and/or Afghanistan with its 700 civilian employees. Their role has included rebuilding these nation's infrastructure to include water supply and sanitary systems, schools, hospitals, airports and more.





“The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, is a team dedicated to maintaining the high quality of life in the Upper Midwest. Our work strengthens the nation’s economy, enables the movement of goods and people, reduces damages from disasters such as flood and drought, restores and maintains aquatic ecosystems and provides outdoor recreation for millions. We are proud of our past and present service to the region and we are continually transforming to be able to meet the needs of our nation well into the future.”

*Col. Daniel Koprowski, 64<sup>th</sup> District Engineer, St. Paul District*



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St. Paul District

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