



US Army Corps
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Regional Sediment Management Program



Sedimentation Impacts at the Confluence of the Sangamon and Illinois Rivers

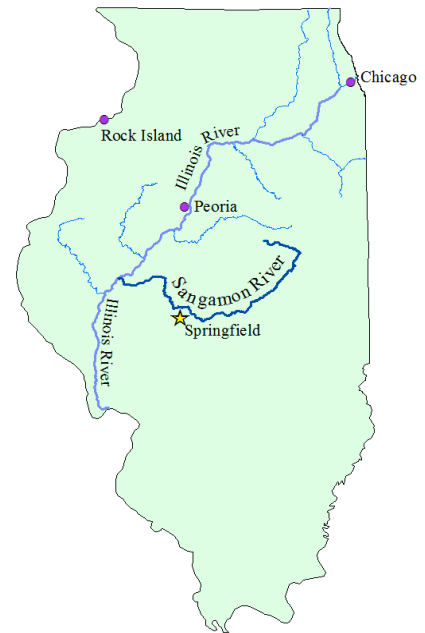
Description

The Sangamon River flows into the Illinois River near Beardstown, IL. In an effort to develop sediment management strategies for this area, a system wide approach to understanding hydrologic/hydraulic conditions affecting sediment transport within the basin will be taken.

Issue/Challenges

The Illinois River was recognized by WRDA '86 as “a nationally significant ecosystem and commercial navigation system.” As with most navigable waterways, dredging must occasionally be performed in certain areas to maintain required depths. One significant area that requires frequent dredging on the Illinois River is at the confluence with the Sangamon River. In 1949, the mouth of the Sangamon River was relocated from river mile 98 to 89 of the Illinois River near a backwater area called Muscooten Bay. Over time, Muscooten Bay has filled with sediment, impacting the local boat harbor and inhibiting its use.

In the last 20 years, the sediment has started to deposit in the main channel of the Illinois River, impacting navigation and increasing dredging costs downstream of the confluence with the Sangamon River. The source(s) of sediment (overland or in channel) in the Sangamon River is unknown.



Expected Products

- Establishment of a Sangamon River PDT consisting of USACE, state, and local members
- Meeting minutes from PDT meetings with a list of stakeholder issues, watershed objectives, and a range of alternatives
- Refined proposal for FY13 and FY 14 work
- Refined Regional Sediment budget covering the Lower Sangamon River watershed and confluence of the Illinois and Sangamon Rivers
- Sediment Sampling Plan

Potential Users

USACE Illinois River Program Managers and local non-federal sponsors/partners, USACE Operations Managers

Projected Benefits

Reduce sediment delivered to and dredging required in the navigation channel of the Illinois River; determine the source(s) of the sediment in the Sangamon River; preservation of backwater habitat that could potentially be lost due to sedimentation

Leveraging Opportunities

Illinois River Basin Restoration Program (IL 519) and State and local interests.

Points of Contact

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Participating Partners

Please refer to Potential Users