



**Lock and Dam No. 4**, gateway to Lake Pepin, is located at Alma, Wis., under jurisdiction of the St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



## Lock & Dam No. 4

P.O. Box 325  
Alma, WI 54610-0325  
Phone: (608) 685-4421

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

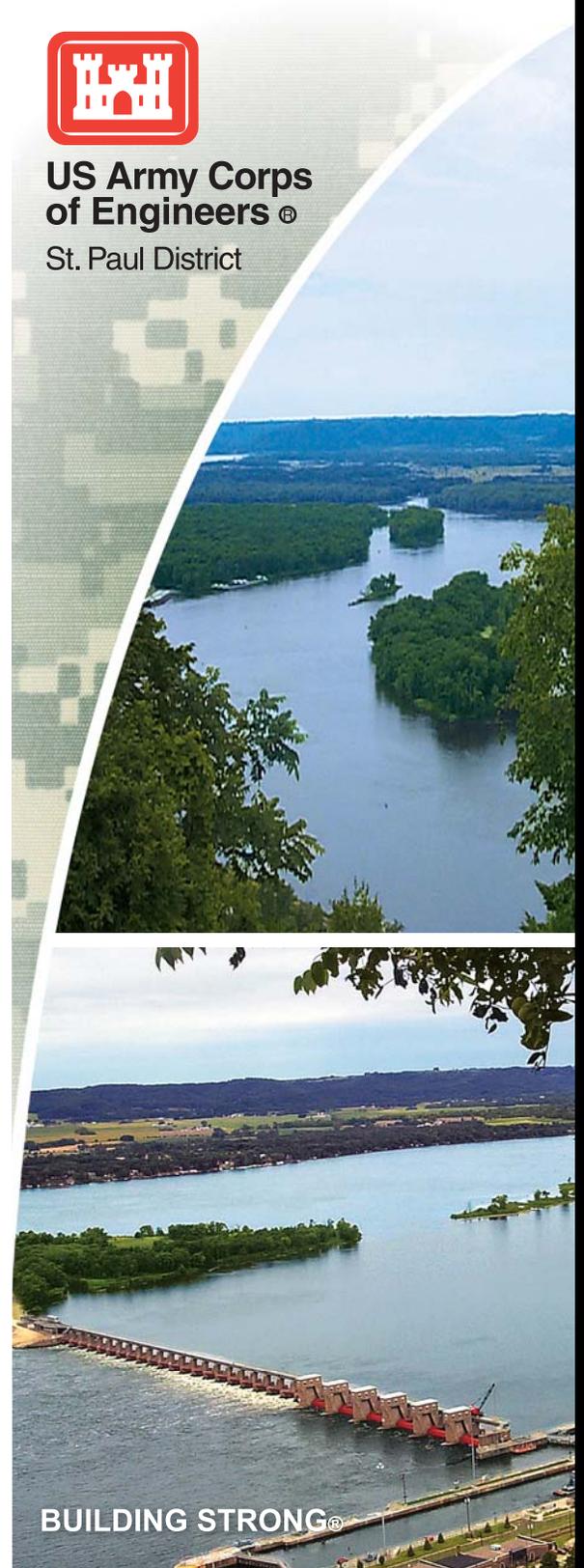
180 Fifth St. E., Ste. 700  
St. Paul, MN 55101-1678  
[www.mvp.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil)

For Information on Nationwide  
Corps Recreational Facilities  
[www.CorpsLakes.us](http://www.CorpsLakes.us)

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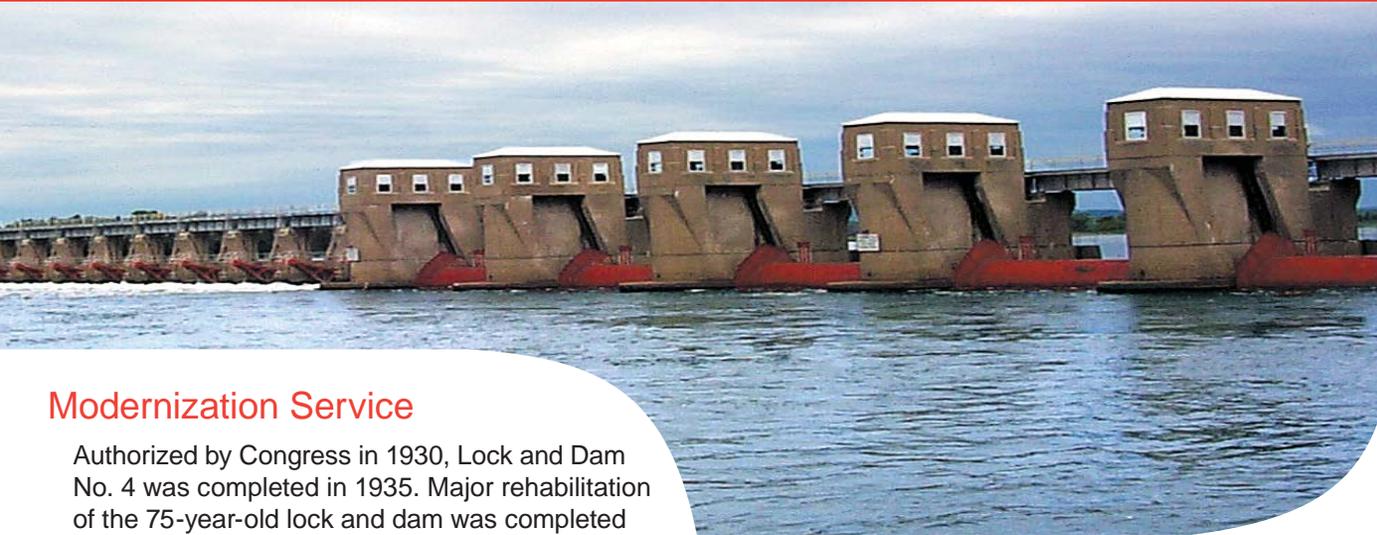


**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**®  
St. Paul District



**Lock & Dam No. 4 - Alma, Wis.**

**BUILDING STRONG**®



## Modernization Service

Authorized by Congress in 1930, Lock and Dam No. 4 was completed in 1935. Major rehabilitation of the 75-year-old lock and dam was completed in 1994. The work included construction of a new central control station, installation of new operating machinery, concrete repair, permanent wiring, new utilities and lighting. A platform was built overlooking the lock and dam for better handicap accessibility too. This modernization greatly increased the reliability of the heavily-used lock and dam. It also added at least another 50 years to its serviceability.

## Barges to Canoes

Lock and Dam No. 4, located at river mile 752.8 in Alma, Wis., is an important link in the "step" system of the Upper Mississippi 9-foot navigational channel. The lock and dam locks thousands of vessels, ranging from commodity-laden tows to small pleasure craft and canoes, annually. Commodities carried by barges include grain, coal, fertilizer and petroleum products. The lock is 600 feet long by 110 feet wide. It raises and lowers traffic seven feet. The dam is 6,876 feet long, including 1,367 feet of movable gate sections and 5,500 feet of earth fill dike. The movable gate section consists of six roller gates and 22 Tainter gates.

## Pool 4 Gateway

The pool, formed by the lock and dam, is the longest in river miles (44.1 miles) with the largest water area of all the pools in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District. It encompasses Lake Pepin, which was formed in geologic time by sediment deposited in the Mississippi River at the mouth of Wisconsin's Chippewa River. The lake is 22 miles long and up to 2.5 miles wide. It is the only natural lake in the Mississippi River's main channel.



## Wildlife and Ramps

Federal lands in Pool 4 are mostly dedicated to wildlife preserves, as part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Recreational facilities include resorts, marinas and parks. Boat ramps are available for visitors only two miles north of Lock and Dam 4 on State Highway 35.

Rieck's Lake Park also offers picnic facilities, campgrounds, a public boat ramp and an observation deck where you can watch tundra swans and other migrating waterfowl.

Buena Vista Park, at the top of the bluffs above Alma, offers panoramic view of the valley. The park is 500 feet above Main Street and 1,232 feet above sea level. The park can be reached by County Highway E. Follow signs at the top of the bluff. Admission is free.

