

Lock and Dam No. 7 is located just upstream of La Crosse, Wis. It serves as an important link in the water stairway on the Upper Mississippi River.



## Lock & Dam No. 7

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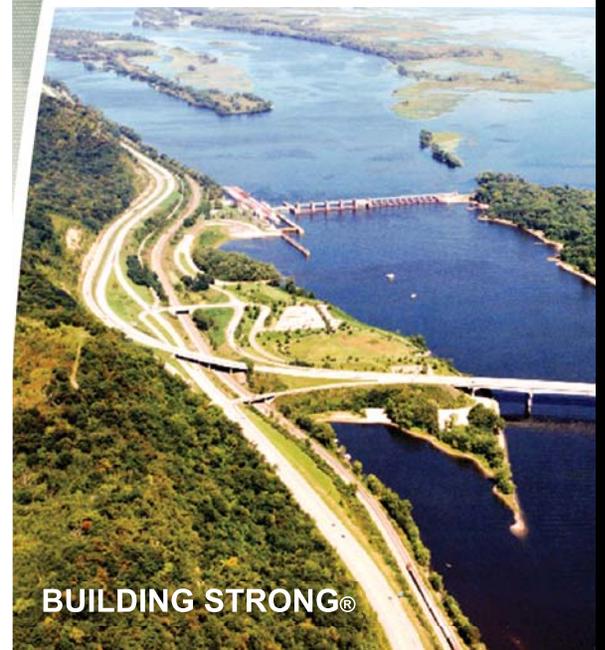
**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**  
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St. Paul, MN 55101-1678  
[www.mvp.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil)

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Lock & Dam No. 7 - La Crescent, Minn.



## Navigation

All types of vessels use the lock during the navigation season, which extends from mid-March through mid-December. The lock provides a vertical lift of 8 feet for boats, ranging from canoes to large towboats with barges. The Upper Mississippi River serves as a main artery for Midwest grain bound for both domestic and international markets. More than 15 millions tons of cargo pass through the lock each year with farm products, chemicals and coal the major commodities. Also, more than 13,000 recreational craft use the lock annually.

## Visitors

The Corps invites visitors to Lock 7 to view lock operations from platform, browse displays outside and in the visitor center, enjoy shore fishing and use the comfort station. Pool 7, which is the lake created upstream from the dam, forms a valuable upstream environmental habitat and resource for migrating waterfowl. Sand bars along the channel offer opportunities for recreation.

## Lock and Dam No.7

Lock and Dam No. 7 lies in the rolling Upper Mississippi River Valley near the communities of La Crescent, Minn., and La Crosse, Wis. The project includes the lock, a dam with moveable gates and a dike system that includes the Onalaska Dam. Originally, the Corps of Engineers completed the facility in 1935 as part of the overall 9-foot channel project. In 1989, after more than 60 years of service, the Corps undertook a major rehabilitation effort to replace much of the operating equipment and to construct a new control building to provide reliable service to navigation customers well into the future.

## Balancing Interests

At the completion of the rehabilitation program, the Corps restored the original control building into a visitors center, which is on the National Historic Register. The displays interpret the Corps role in assisting with management of the river resources. Today, the Corps is actively working with other agencies to preserve the Mississippi River environmental resource for generations to come.

