# CORP FACTS

District Missions

## U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

**BUILDING STRONG®**

### Disaster Response

Under the National Response Framework, the U.S. Army 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 engineering response activities, such as providing temporary power. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, is the Primary Agency for ESF 3 recovery activities and assigns the Corps missions to assist in the execution of recovery missions.

### Flood response and risk management

Every year, floods sweep through communities across the United States, 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, in accordance with Public Law 84-99, the Corps assists states in reacting to flooding when the required response 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, North Dakota; Mankato, Minnesota; Rochester, Minnesota; and St. Paul, Minnesota. Historically, for every $1 invested in a 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 prevented 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 2014, around 90 million tons of commodities were shipped on the Mississippi River with the St. Paul District’s area of operation. The industries making these shipments saved nearly $270 million by using the inland waterways instead of overland shipping methods.



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**Environmental Management**

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 Restoration Program, formerly known as the Environmental Management Program. The UMRR program is meant to restore, protect and guide future management of the Upper Mississippi River. The district has completed more than 25 projects, affecting more than 50,000 acres of river and floodplain habitat.

**Regulatory**

The St. Paul District regulates structures and work in navigable waters of the United States under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and the discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States 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.

**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. Approximately $165 million is captured by the local economy and this supports an estimated 3,060 jobs.



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