After the Eastman Tunnel collapsed in 1863, St. Anthony Falls was in imminent danger. The St. Paul District saved the waterfall by building a dam between the St. Anthony and Minneapolis millponds that extended from the upper limit of the limestone ledge to the falls.

As the falls were still in danger of erosion, in July 1874, the district began construction of a dike, a new apron and two dams to ensure their continued existence. This infrastructure is still in place under the limestone, preventing the erosion of the falls.

In the 1960s, the district designed and constructed the Upper Harbor Project, which extended the Mississippi River’s navigation channel over the falls by way of the Lower and Upper St. Anthony Falls locks.

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 called for closing the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam within one year and was meant to prohibit the travel of Asian carp upstream. The last tow made its way through the lock on June 9, 2015.

For more information visit www.mvp.usace.army.mil/150