

# UPPER ST. ANTHONY FALLS LOCK AND DAM, MINNEAPOLIS, MN DISPOSITION STUDY

## VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING PRE-BRIEF

St. Paul District  
February 2021



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®



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# PURPOSE OF PRE-BRIEFING



1. To give the public a comprehensive look at the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock project and provide a summary of the recommendations contained in the Corps of Engineers Upper St. Anthony Falls draft disposition study report with integrated environmental assessment.
2. To devote more time during the virtual public meeting to listen to and respond to questions.
3. To inform the public on how to tune in to and participate in the virtual public meeting.



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Please visit the disposition study webpage to download the draft report and keep informed of other announcements:

<https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/MplsLocksDisposition/>



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## UPPER ST. ANTHONY FALLS LOCK AND DAM

SECTION 216 DISPOSITION STUDY

DRAFT INTEGRATED DISPOSITION REPORT  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT



December 2020

(Revised January 2021)



# BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT (BLUF)



With the cessation of navigation at the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock, the Corps' original, primary mission at the site is no longer being performed and is not expected to re-start.

The Corps is recommending that the entire project be decommissioned and disposed of.

The Corps is proposing that Congress authorize a monetary incentive to be paid to the new owner to offset future maintenance costs. Additional terms of the transfer agreement could be negotiated, such as training, consultation and inspection assistance.

We invite parties that are interested in future ownership to submit a letter to the St. Paul District Commander. We also invite comments on the draft report and environmental assessment.



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# SUBMIT STATEMENTS OF INTEREST IN OWNERSHIP TO:



Statements of Interest in future ownership are recommended to be in the form of a signed letter submitted to the St. Paul District Engineer. Statements of interest would be appreciated by March 18, 2021. Statements of interest after this date will still be considered but may not be included in the final report document. Priority will be given to statements of interest consistent with the Tentatively-Selected Plan.

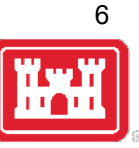
Colonel Karl D. Jansen, District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Paul District  
ATTN: Regional Planning and Environment Division North  
180 Fifth Street East, Suite 700  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1678



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# SUBMIT COMMENTS BY MARCH 18, 2021 TO:



Comments on the draft report and integrated environmental assessment would be appreciated by **March 18, 2021.**

Email to:

[MplsLocksDisposition@usace.army.mil](mailto:MplsLocksDisposition@usace.army.mil)

You may also submit written comments to:  
St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
ATTN: Regional Planning and Environment Division North,  
180 5th St. E., Suite 700,  
St. Paul, MN 55101.



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The following slides outline how the Corps came to be at St. Anthony Falls and why there is no longer sufficient Federal interest to remain at the site.



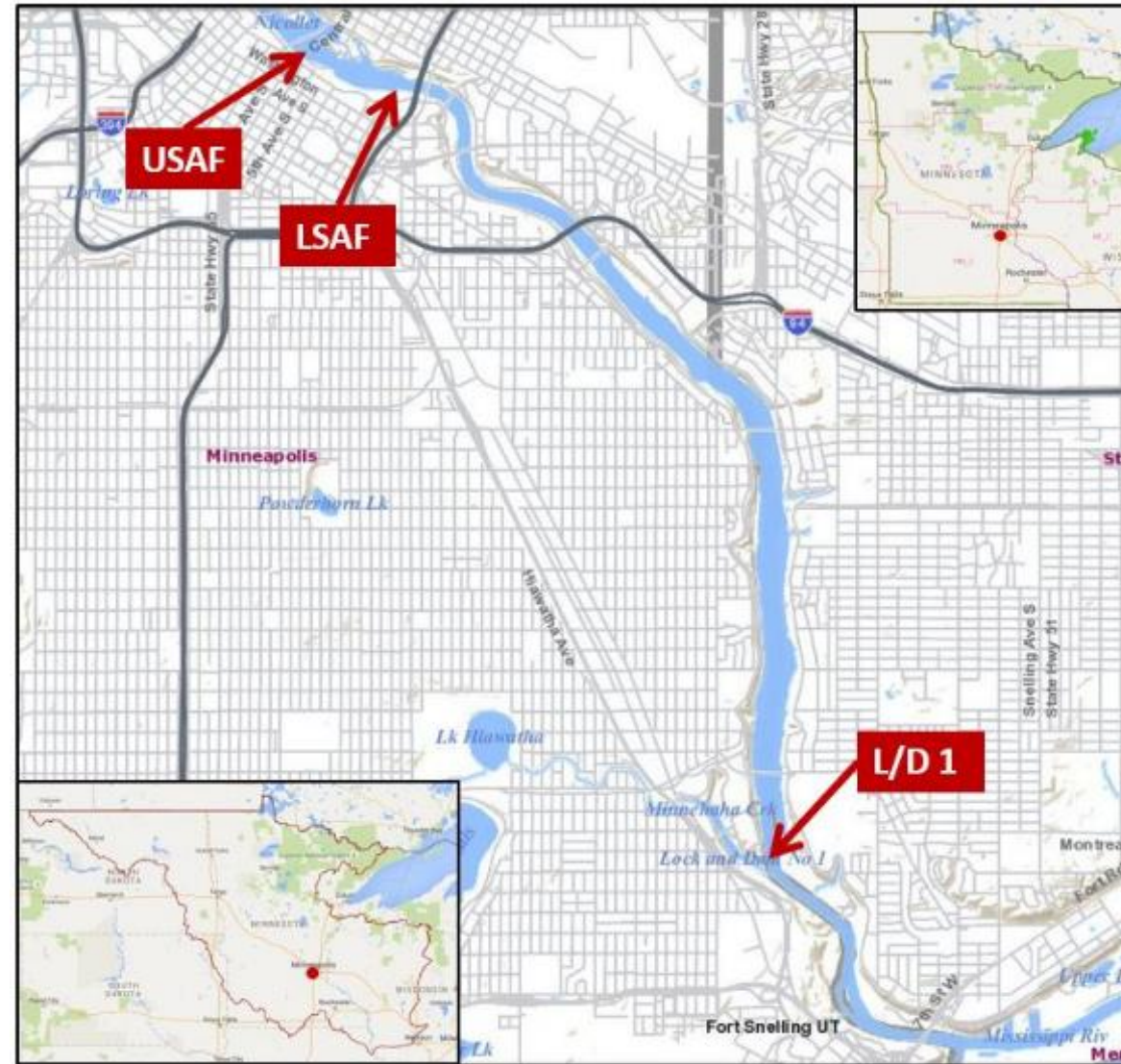
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# OVERVIEW

The Corps operates three federally-owned navigation projects on the Mississippi River in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

- Upper St. Anthony falls (USAF)
- Lower St. Anthony falls (LSAF)
- Lock and Dam 1 (L/D 1)



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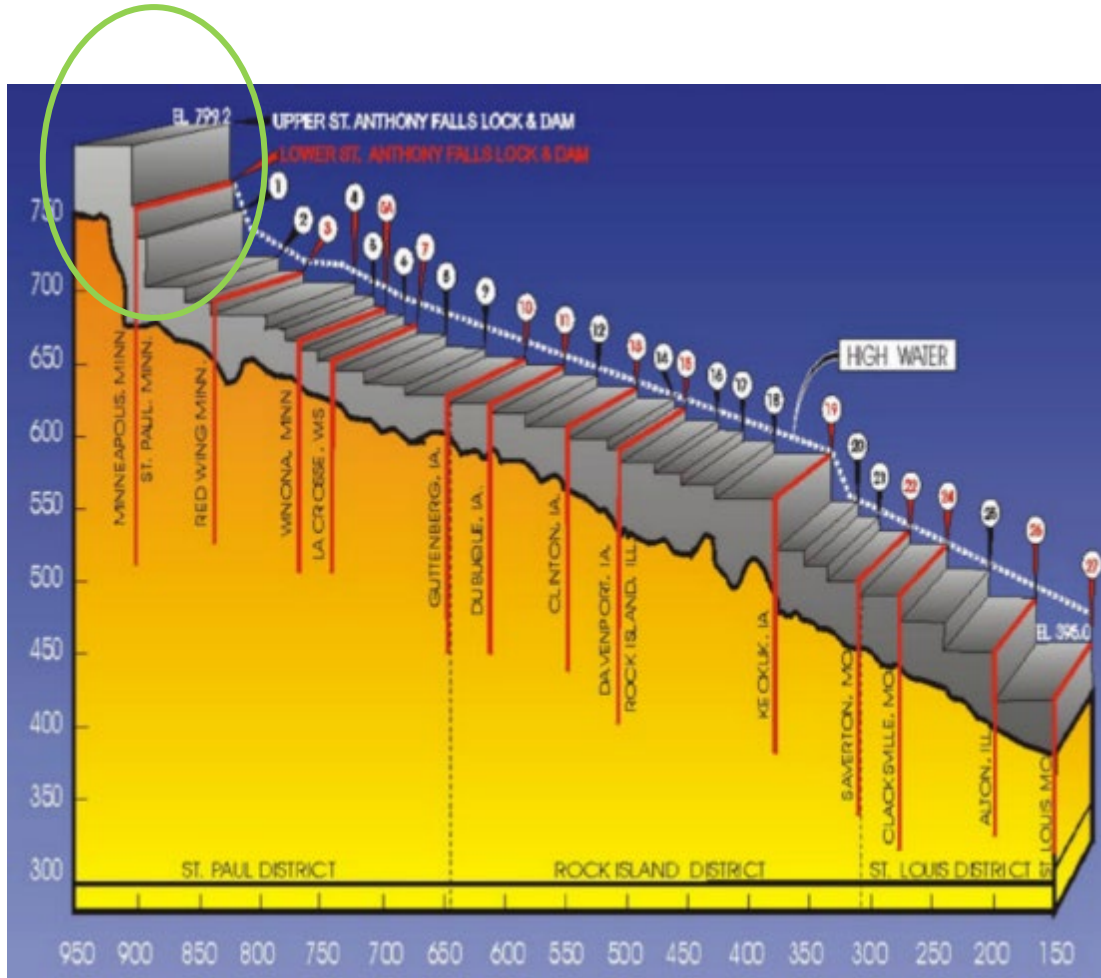






# OVERVIEW

9



The twin cities locks and dams are the top 3 steps in in the upper Mississippi River “Stairway of Water”.

- Upper St. Anthony falls – 49’ step
- Lower St. Anthony falls – 25’ step
- Lock and Dam 1 – 36’ step

The three locks made commercial navigation possible between the Mississippi River confluence at the Minnesota River and the Minneapolis upper harbor.



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# GEOLOGY

Geologic History: The present Mississippi river valley was cut over the last 10,000 years from the meltwater of retreating glaciers.

The three twin cities locks lie within the Mississippi River gorge, upstream of the confluence with the Minnesota River.



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*The Falls of St. Anthony – Henry Lewis - 1847*





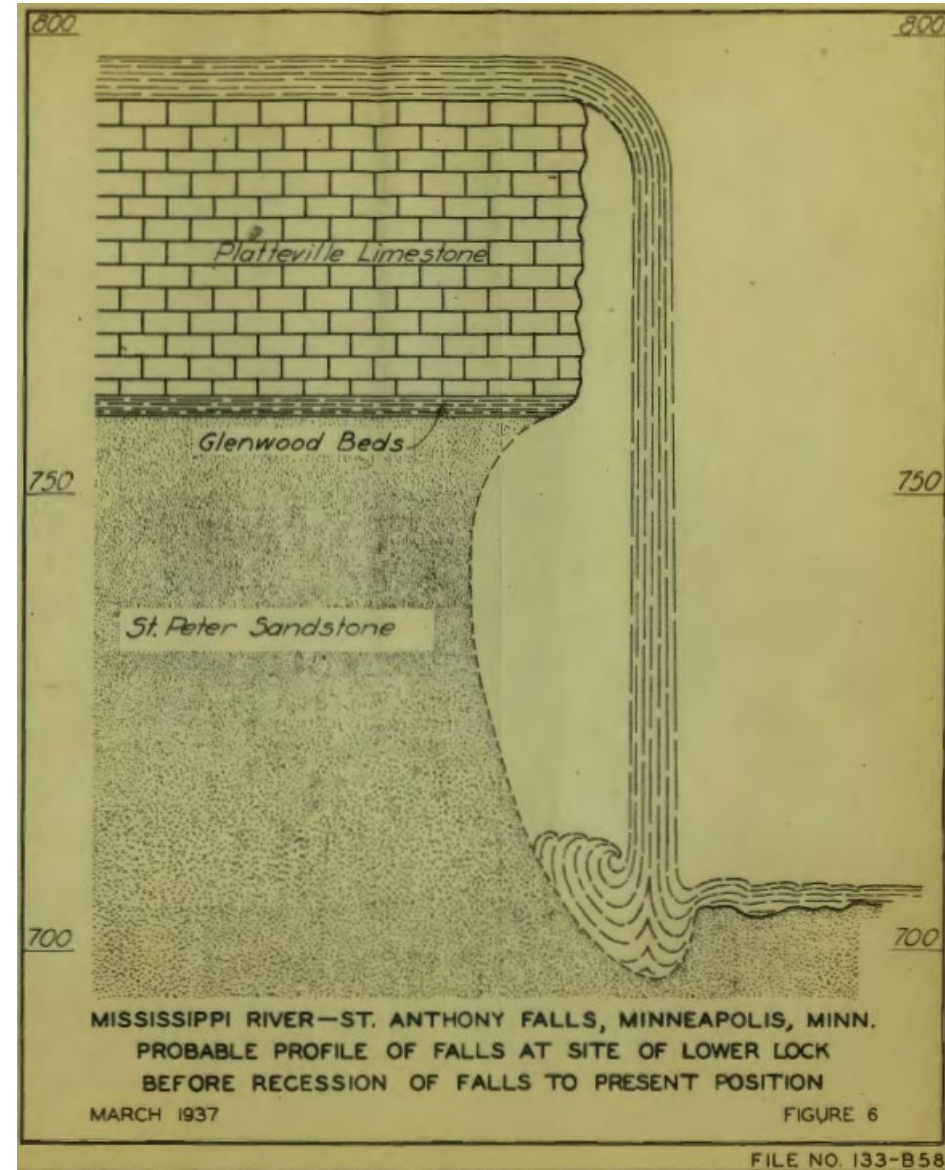
# GEOLOGY

The geologic profile in the St. Anthony falls area is composed of glacial drift outside the river channel with a thin mantle of limestone and shale overlying the softer and more erodible St. Peter sandstone.

Drawing from "Final Report on Foundation Conditions at the Site of the Proposed St. Anthony Falls Locks – Minneapolis, Minnesota" by G.M. Schwarz, Consulting Geologist



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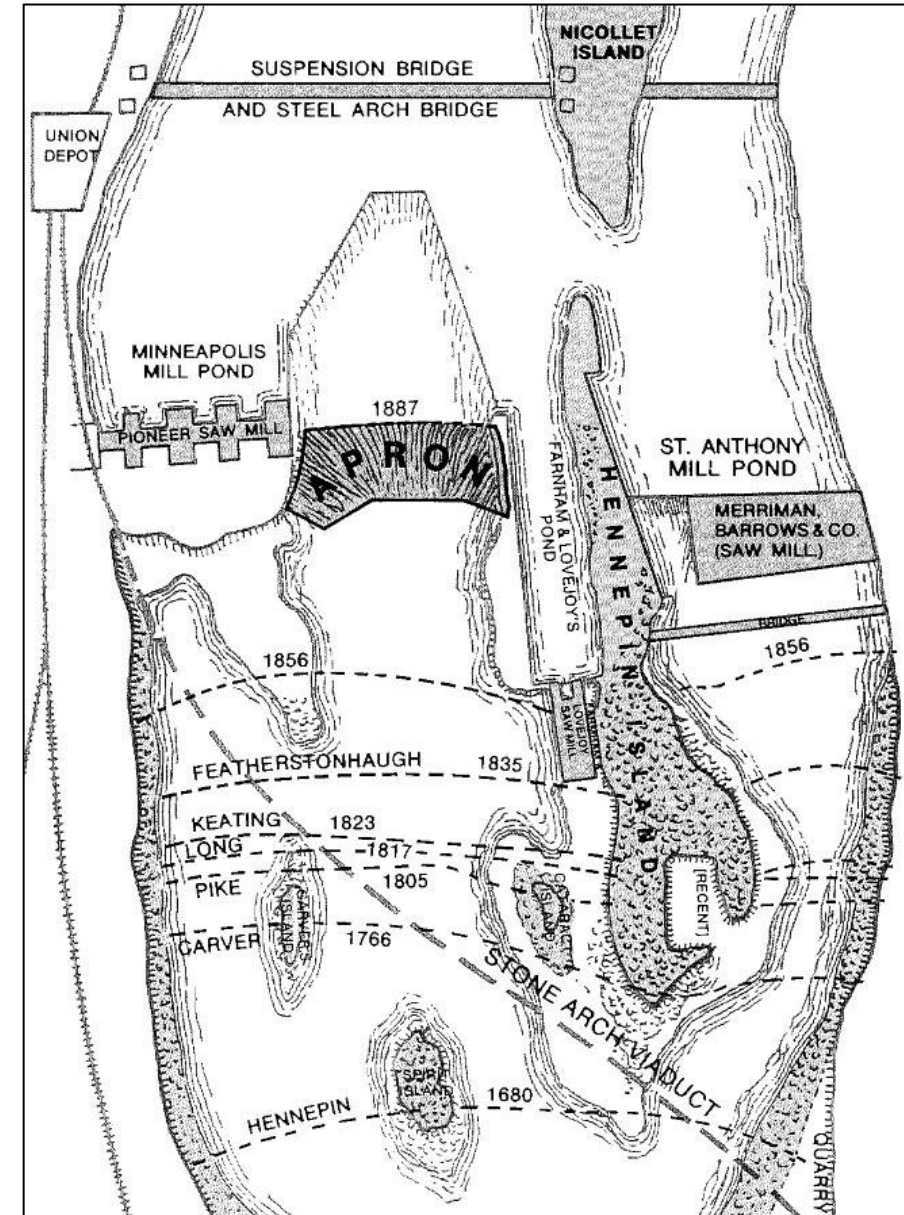




# GEOLOGY

Over time, as the sandstone layer eroded, and the overlying limestone layer collapsed, leading to an upstream progression of the location of the waterfall from Minnehaha Falls to its present location.

The average upstream progression of the natural falls prior to the 1870s was approximately 4 feet per year.



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# HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

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The erodibility of the sandstone was ideal for tunneling, which was conducive to development of Minneapolis milling industry.

In 1856, the first permanent dam was constructed above St. Anthony Falls.



*Sawmills over St. Anthony Falls - 1860*



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# HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT



The Falls' retreat upriver was greatly accelerated in the mid-1800s, when settlers began building lumber and flour mills along the waterfall's edge. To supply their mills with water, millers drove shafts through the limestone bedrock and excavated canals in the sandstone underneath.



*St. Anthony Falls, 1863, showing Winslow House on the left.*



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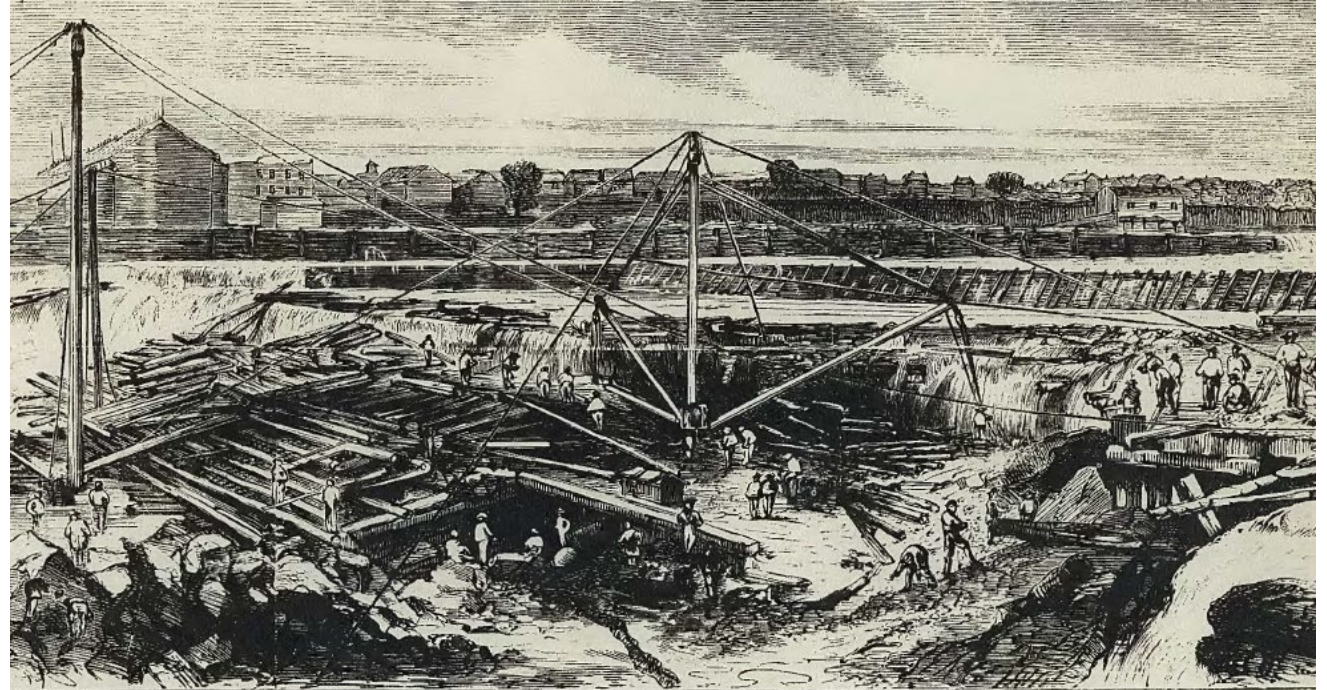
# EASTMAN TUNNEL FAILURE

15



On September 7, 1868, Eastman, Judd, Wilder and Merriam began excavating a tunnel from the foot of Hennepin island towards the foot of Nicollet island for the purpose of forming a tailrace for milling “manufactories”.

On October 4, 1869 the tunnel collapsed, and the river scoured a large hole in the St. Peter sandstone. A cofferdam was built by local efforts to stabilize the falls.



ANTHONY FALLS DAM, MINNESOTA.—[PHOTOGRAPHED BY WHITNEY AND ZIMMERMANN, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA.]

Photo. No. 2. Retouched  
photograph showing construction  
of the apron. (Harper's Weekly,  
1869. Mpls. Library Clipping).



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# CORPS HELPS STABILIZE THE FALLS



The Corps of Engineers surveyed the site in 1870.

The Corps report observed that the continuing freeze-thaw actions on the exposed rock surfaces would continue the erosion of the sandstone layer and collapse of the overhanging rock.

Left unchecked, the falls would continue to migrate upriver to Nicollet Island and the end of the protective covering of Platteville limestone. Without this protective layer, the Falls would have degenerated into a series of rapids, migrating as far as 30 miles upstream.

The Corps recommended protecting the limestone ledge with a timber apron and heavy cribbing. The July 11, 1870 River and Harbor bill appropriated federal funding for the work.



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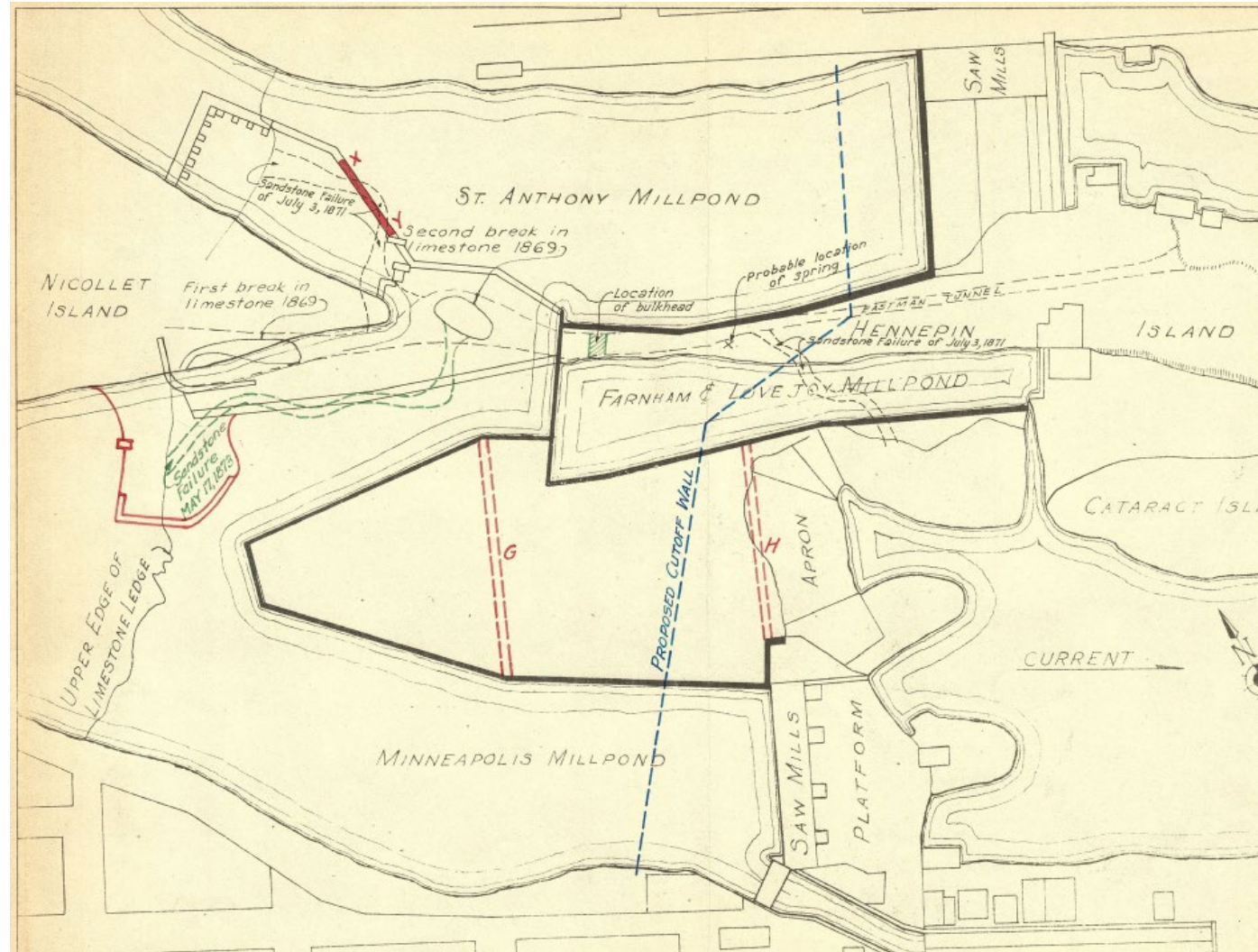
# 1869-1877 EFFORTS

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After much difficulty, and additional collapses, the “Government Cutoff Wall” was completed in 1876.

\$615,000 in federally-appropriate funds were spent on the effort.

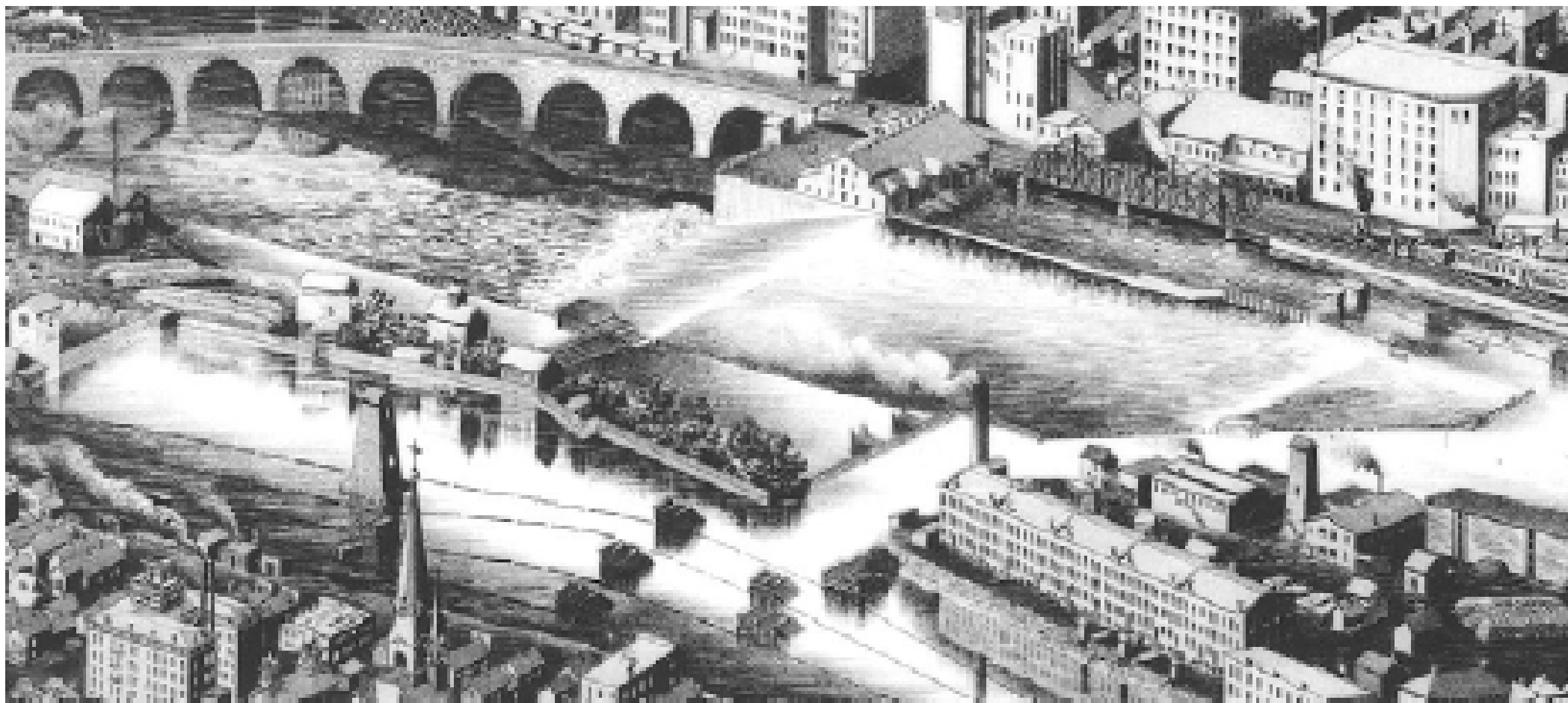


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# POST-STABILIZATION CONDITION

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*Rendering of Minneapolis in 1885 by W. V. Herancourt*



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# THE BEGINNING OF COMMERCIAL NAVIGATION IN MINNEAPOLIS



Lock and Dam 1 was first constructed in 1917. There was local interest in extending the navigation channel. Lock and dam 1 was later modified, and the river channel deepened as part of the Mississippi River 9-foot channel project authorized by the River and Harbor Act of July 3, 1930. Under that authority, the upstream limit of the 9-foot channel was river mile 853, at the lower Northern Pacific Railway bridge, just downstream of the present-day lower lock.

The City of Minneapolis pushed for extending commercial navigation further upstream. Congress enacted the River and Harbor Act of 26 August 1937, which authorized construction of the Minneapolis Upper Harbor Project. The project extended the 9-foot channel from the lower Northern Pacific Railway bridge at mile 853 to the Soo Line Railroad bridge at mile 857.6, just upstream of the upper harbor.

The River and Harbor Act of 2 March 1945 specified the terms of local cooperation required for the project. The City of Minneapolis was the local sponsor.



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# LOCAL SPONSOR – CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS



The city of Minneapolis was responsible for:

1. Making necessary alterations to highway bridges and publicly owned utilities.
2. Furnishing free to the United States all lands, easements and rights-of-way necessary for the channel and lock and dam construction.
3. Furnishing at its own expense, suitable disposal areas for the new work and subsequent maintenance (dredge disposal areas) when and as required.
4. Contributing \$1.1 million toward the Government's cost of the project.

These assurances of local cooperation were approved by the Secretary of War on 2 October 1945.



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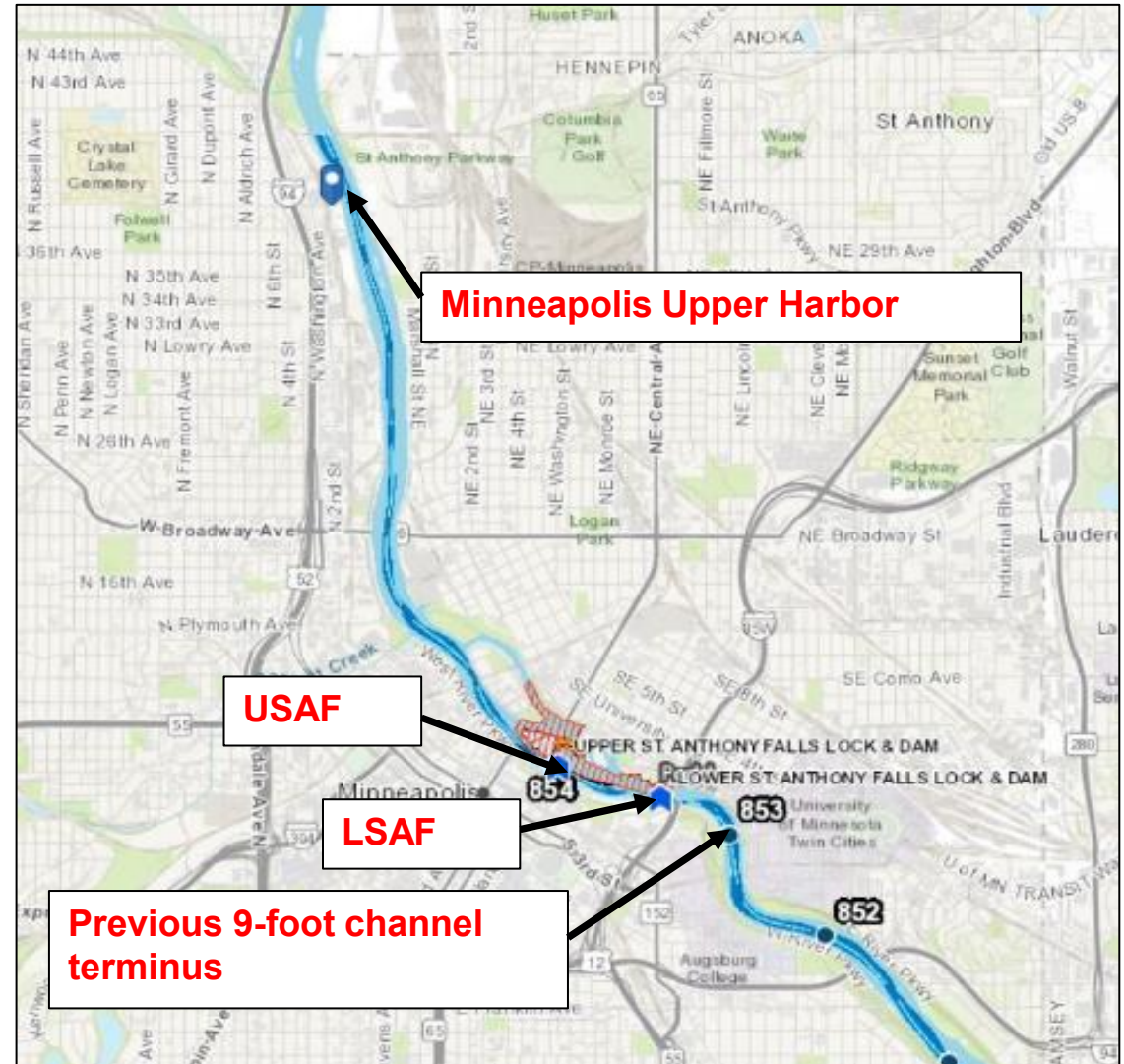


# EXTENDING COMMERCIAL NAVIGATION



The Minneapolis Upper Harbor project included 5 reaches:

- dredging in the lower pool from mile 853 to the lower lock,
- construction of the lower lock,
- dredging in the intermediate pool from the lower lock to the upper lock,
- construction of the upper lock and
- dredging of the upper pool between the upper lock and the upper harbor.



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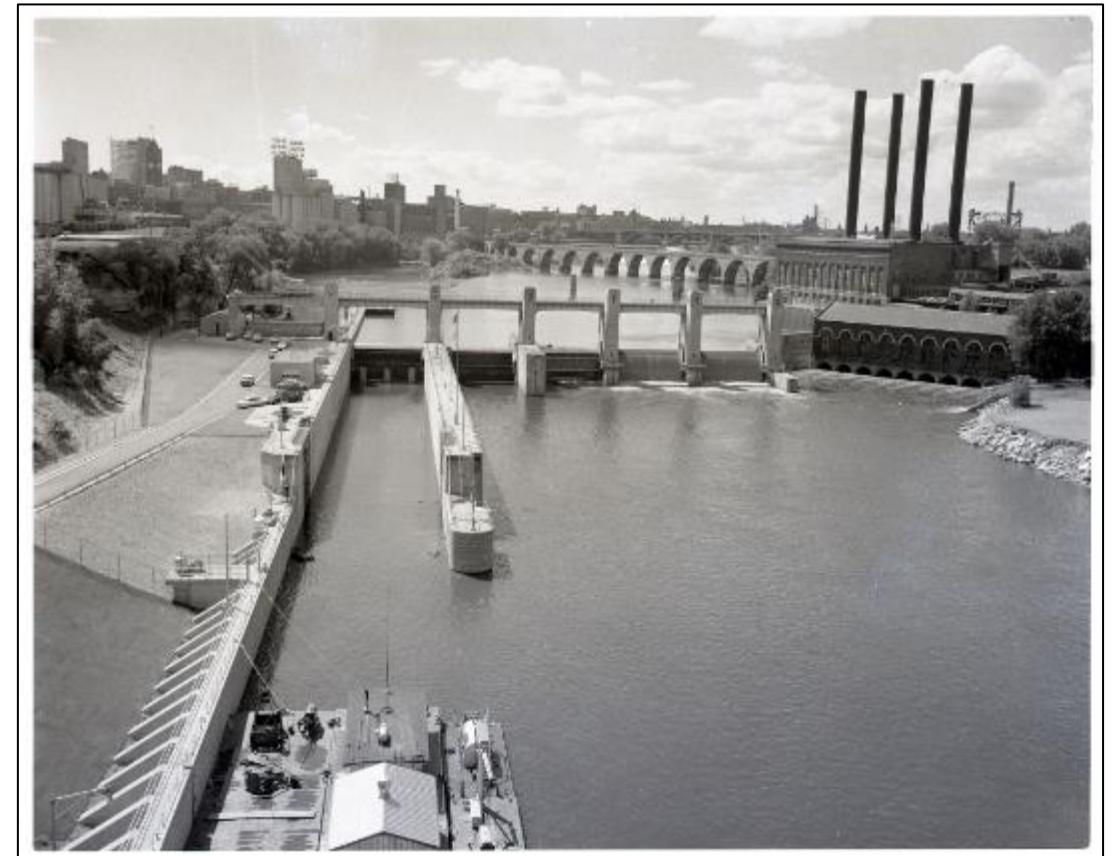


# CONSTRUCTION OF THE LOWER LOCK

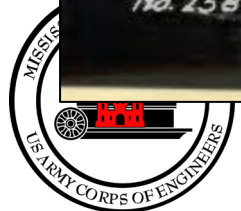
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Lower St. Anthony Falls lock and Dam was completed in 1956.



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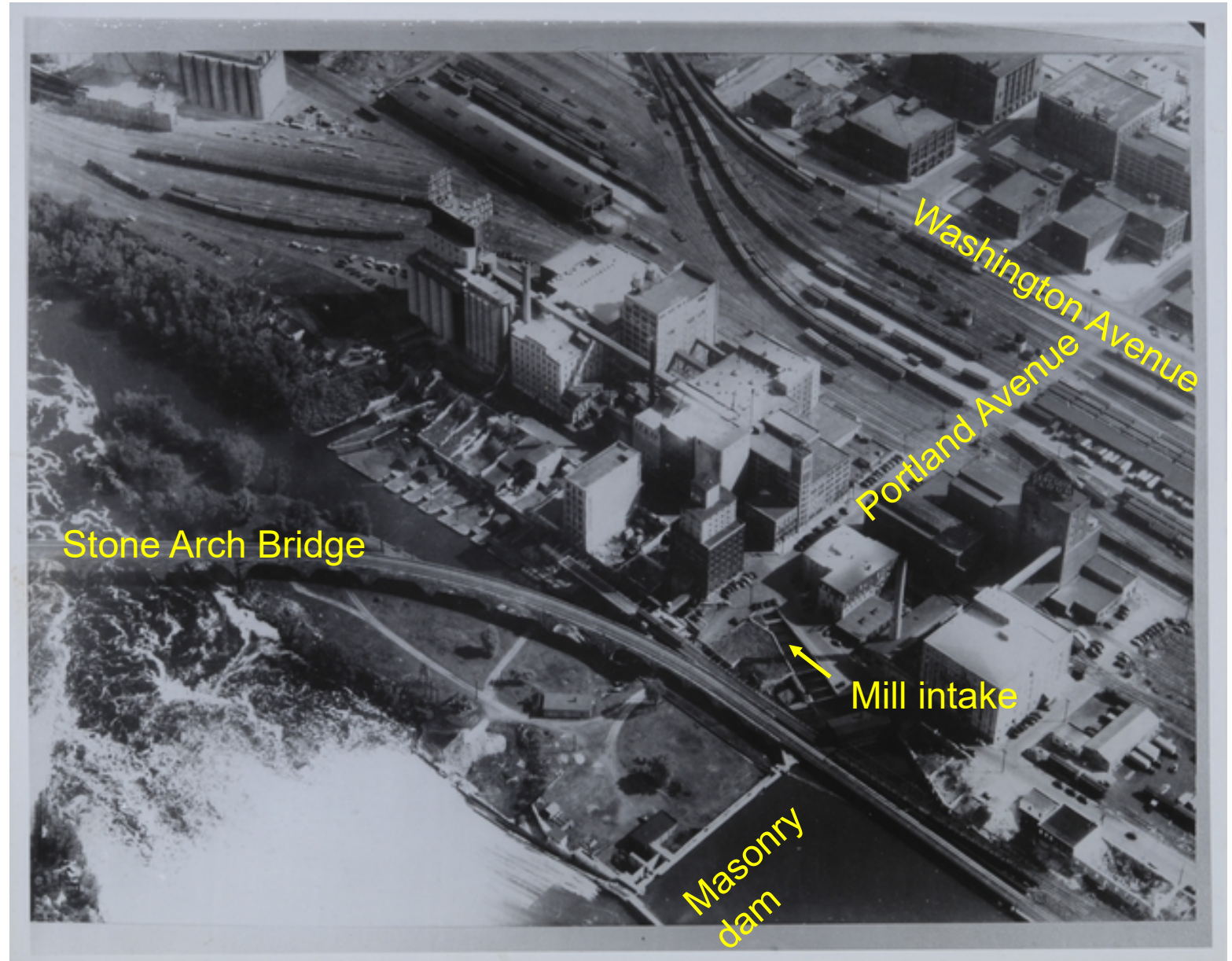


# CONSTRUCTION OF THE UPPER LOCK

23



Construction of the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock began in 1959 and was completed in 1963. (This photo is from 1955).



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# CONSTRUCTION OF THE UPPER LOCK

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# CONSTRUCTION OF THE UPPER LOCK

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# CONSTRUCTION OF THE UPPER LOCK

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# UPPER LOCK COMPLETED IN 1963

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Photo: post 1991



BU



# INTERVENING YEARS 1963-2014

28



Why are we not into commercial navigation anymore?



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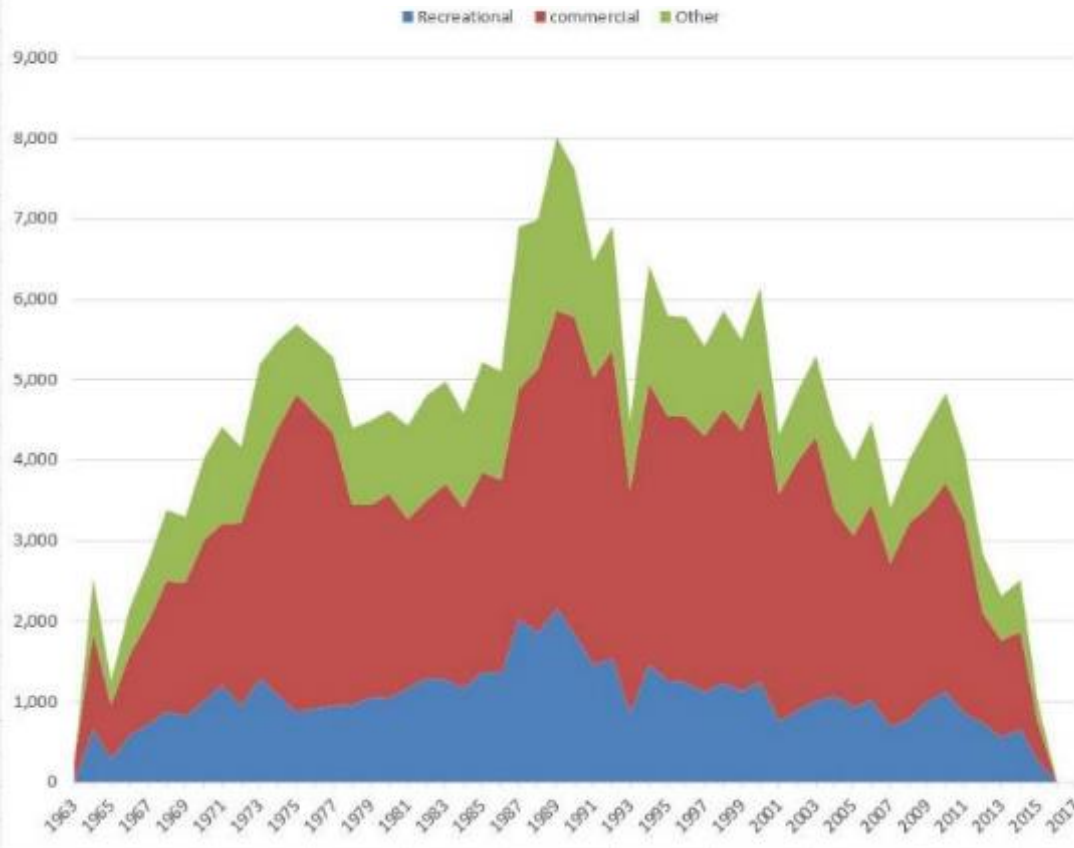
# INTERVENING YEARS 1963-2014: CHANGE IN DEMAND FOR NAVIGATION



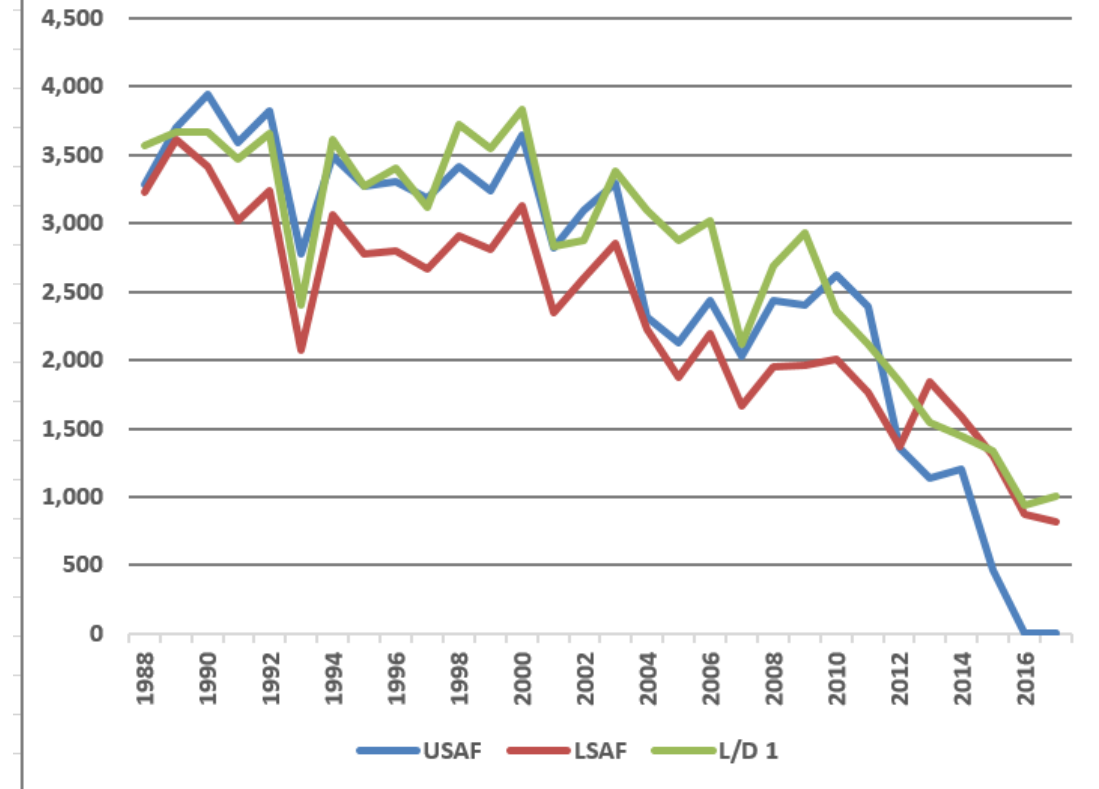
The number of lockages at Upper St. Anthony Falls peaked in 1990 and was on a downward trend.

The downward trend in was also seen at the two locks downstream.

Upper St. Anthony Falls – type of lockage, 1963-2015



Commercial lockages 1988-2016





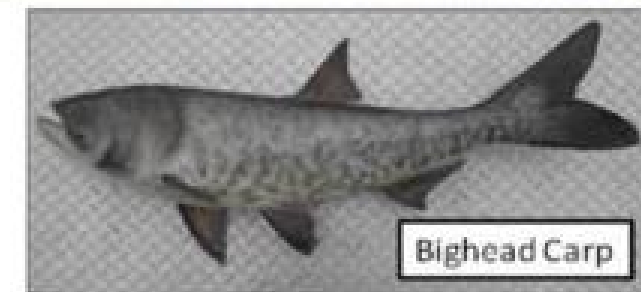
# 2012: CONCERN ABOUT INVASIVE ASIAN CARP

30



After being accidentally introduced to the Mississippi River in the 1970's, invasive carp are being found further and further upstream.

In 2012, local groups discouraged recreational lockages through the three twin cities locks due to the fear of the spread of invasive Asian carp.

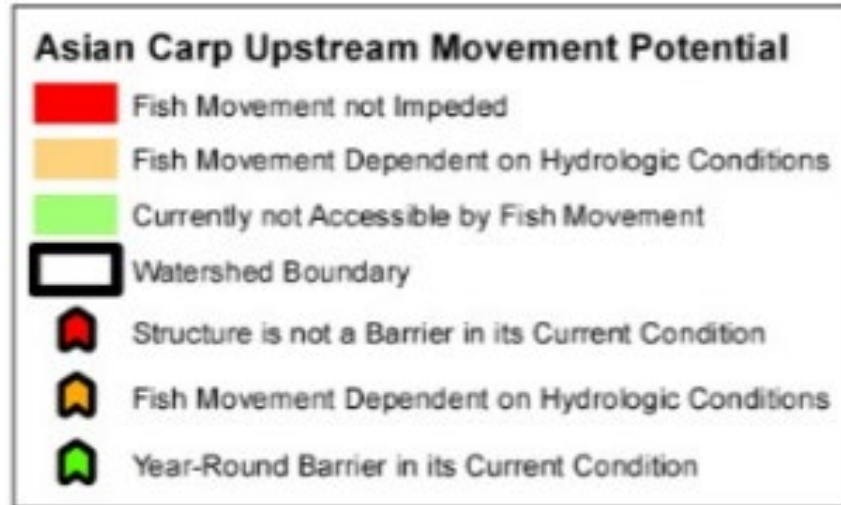


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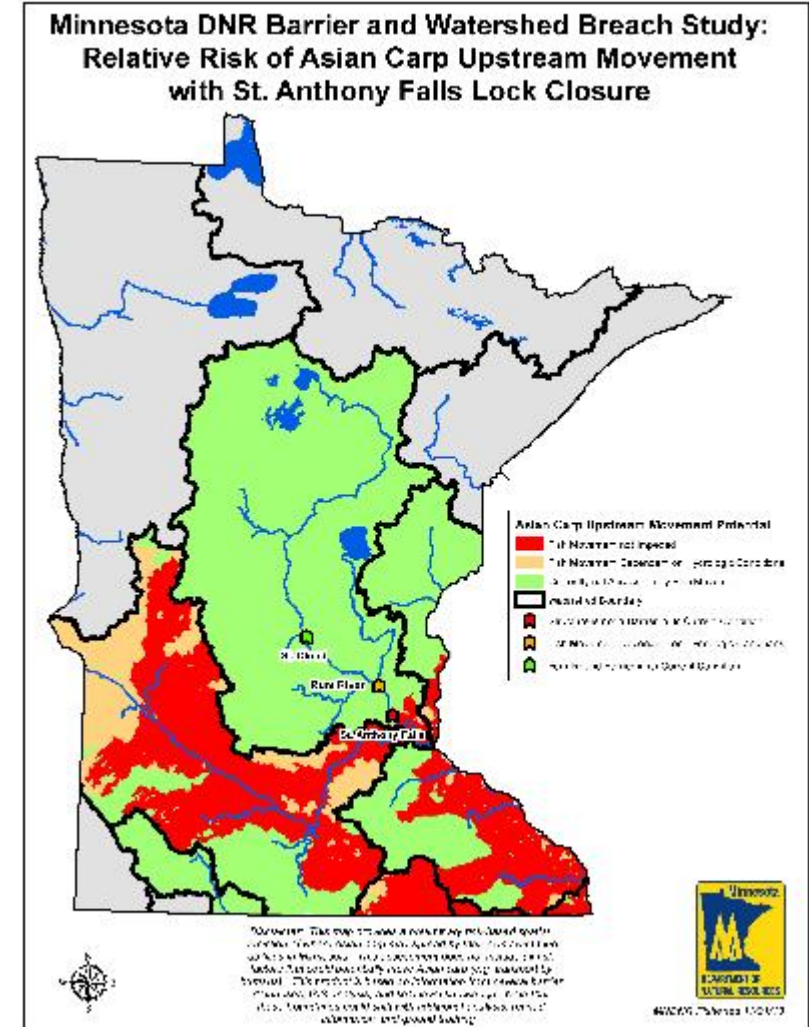
# 2012: CONCERN ABOUT INVASIVE ASIAN CARP



The Minnesota DNR did a risk study in 2013 to show the risk of invasive carp spreading in the Mississippi basin.



The Minnesota DNR continues to monitor the spread of invasive carp.







# CONGRESS ORDERS CLOSURE OF UPPER ST. ANTHONY FALLS LOCK

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## June 10, 2014

- Section 2010 of the Water Resources Reform and Redevelopment Act (WRRDA 2014) directed that Upper St. Anthony falls lock be closed.

## December 2014

- Minneapolis ceased commercial navigation operations at the upper harbor.

## June 9, 2015

- The last lockage occurred at Upper St. Anthony Falls.



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# CLOSURE OF USAF LOCK TO NAVIGATION



– What did Section 2010 of WRRDA 2014 say?

## ***WRRDA 2014 Section 2010 Upper Mississippi River protection***

*(a) DEFINITION OF UPPER ST. ANTHONY FALLS LOCK AND DAM. -In this section, the term "Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam" means the lock and dam located on Mississippi River Mile 853.9 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.*

*(b) MANDATORY CLOSURE. -Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall close the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam.*

*(c) EMERGENCY OPERATIONS. -Nothing in this section prevents the Secretary from carrying out emergency lock operations necessary to mitigate flood damage.*



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## What did the Corps do to comply with Section 2010 of WRRDA 2014?

- Prepared an Environmental Assessment for the closure.
- Allowed navigation up to 11:59 p.m. on June 9, 2015.
- Mobilized motor vessel *Hauser* to move bulkheads to site.
- On June 10, 2015, temporarily installed bulkheads upstream of the upper miter and tainter gates.
- Refurbished and installed the bulkheads upstream of the filling valves to prevent future operation.
- Bolted open the lower miter gates, removed and stored the hydraulic cylinders to prevent future operation.
- Performed a security survey and placed “lock closed” navigation signs.
- Refurbished flood gate and replaced operating equipment to enable continued operation.
- Removed bulkheads from upper gates and stored on-site.



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# WHAT IS THE USAF SITE CURRENTLY USED FOR?

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- Closed to all navigation uses.
- Temporary license agreement with the National Park Service to conduct tours during the summer season.
- Occasional open house events for the public (Open Doors Minneapolis, 2020 pool drawdown).
- Periodic Inspections are conducted on a 5-year cycle.
- Flood gate operated for maintenance of dam and flooding events.



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# CORPS BEGINS DISPOSITION STUDY



With the Corps' navigation mission suspended, it made sense to address whether or not the Federal government continues to have a role at Upper St. Anthony Falls.

Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 authorizes the Corps to conduct a disposition study.

The “Big” questions that disposition studies try to answer:

1. Is the federal project serving its authorized purpose?
2. If not, are there sufficient Federal interests for the government to continue to own, operate and maintain the project?



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# PRESENT STUDY PURPOSE

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The purpose of the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock disposition study is to determine whether or not there is continued **Federal interest** in owning and operating Upper St. Anthony Falls lock.

And if not, to identify if is there a viable disposal alternative.



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# PRIOR STUDY EFFORTS



- 2016 – The Corps completed an Initial appraisal of the three twin cities locks and dams. Conclusion: a disposition study was appropriate.
- April 2018 – A Disposition study was initiated for the three twin cities locks and dams.
- July 2018 – Public meetings held.
- October 2018 – the Water Resources Development Act passes.
  1. Section 1168 included requirements to consider dam removal and public involvement.
  2. Section 1225 directed that the disposition study for USAF be completed first and conducted separately from the LSAF and L/D 1 sites, and that it consider partial disposal.
- The combined disposition study was put on hold until May 2019, while the Corps developed guidance for the study team on how to proceed in light of the WRDA 2018 language.



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# USAF DISPOSITION ACTIONS TO DATE

- June 2019 – study effort resumes, focused on completing the USAF disposition study first and separately from the other sites.
- August 2019 – Public scoping meetings held.
- Introduced the Corps planning process.
- 2019-2020 – Corp team develops and evaluates alternatives and identifies a tentatively-selected plan.
- 2020 - Corps policy review.
- 18 December 2020 – Draft USAF Disposition study report released for public review.
- 27 December 2020 – Water Resources Development Act passed.
- 7 January 2021 – public review paused.
- 21 January 2021 – public review resumed, due date for comments extended.



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# STUDY PROCESS



1. Identify problems, opportunities, objectives and constraints
2. Identify present conditions and forecast future conditions (“no action plan”).
3. Formulate alternative plans
4. Evaluate effects of alternative plans
5. Compare alternative plans
6. Tentatively select a plan



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# PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES



The overall problem for the USAF Lock and Dam is that the project is no longer fulfilling its authorized purpose of navigation, and there are no other authorized purposes that justify the United States government continuing to provide federal investment through operation and maintenance activities.

An additional problem identified during the public scoping is the future deterioration of an important and historic site without further action to maintain or preserve it. Federal investment would be required in the future to prevent deterioration.



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# POST CLOSURE OPPORTUNITY: OTHER VISIONS EMERGE FOR THE UPPER HARBOR



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Image from Aug 2016 MPRB Central Riverfront Master Plan





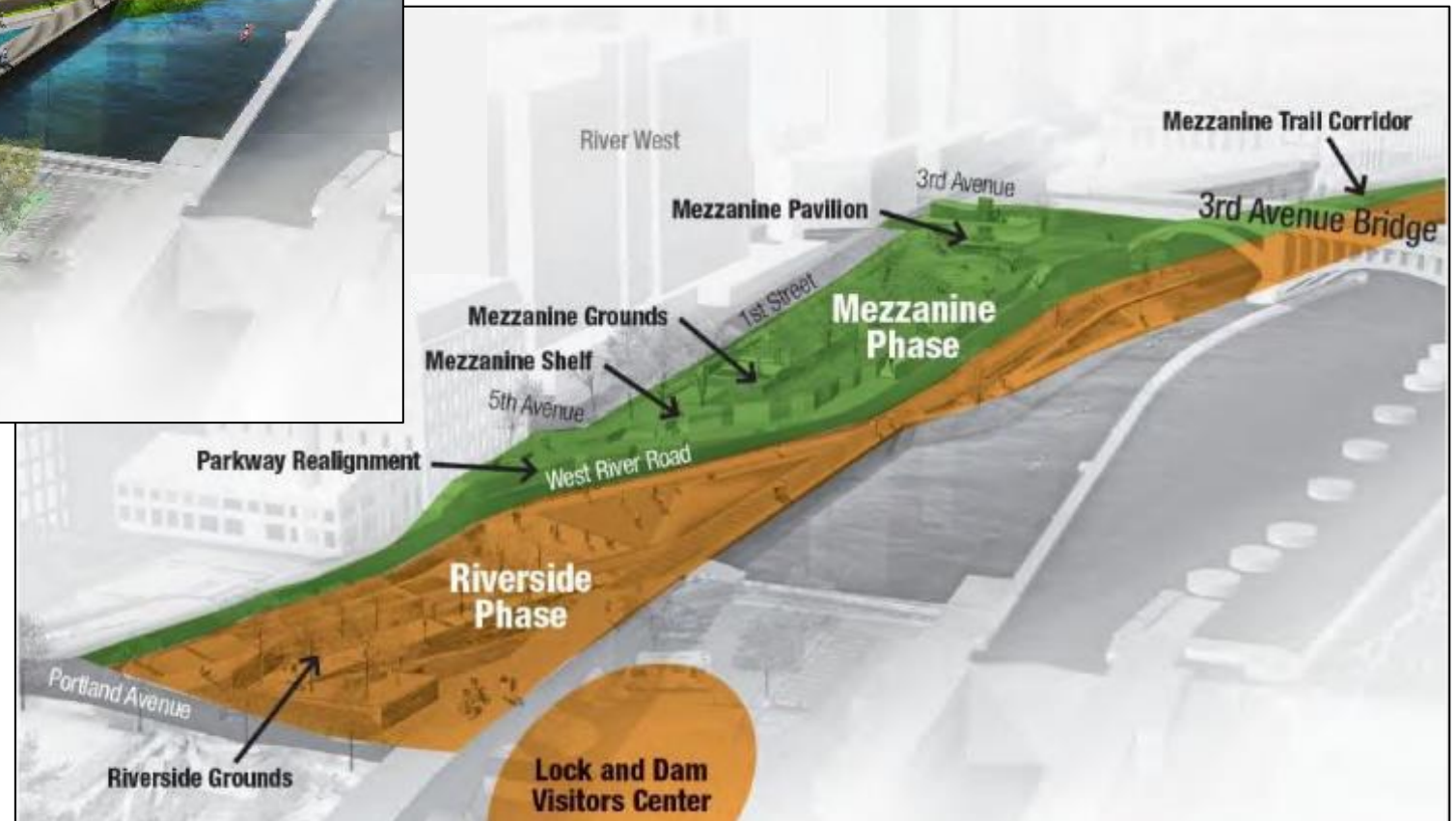
# POST CLOSURE OPPORTUNITY: OTHER VISIONS EMERGE FOR THE ST. ANTHONY FALLS AREA



2015 Water Works concept



2015 conceptual images from on-line sources



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# POST CLOSURE OPPORTUNITY: OTHER VISIONS EMERGE FOR THE UPPER LOCK – “THE FALLS”

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“The Falls” image courtesy of Friends of the Lock and Dam and VJAA



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# POST CLOSURE OPPORTUNITY: OTHER VISIONS EMERGE FOR THE UPPER LOCK – TRANSFORMING THE LOCK



A vision for a new  
national park visitor  
experience on the  
Mississippi river.



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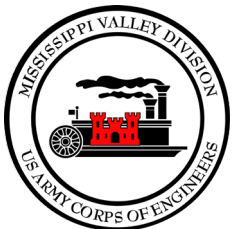




# PRESENT CONDITIONS: WHO OWNS WHAT? - LANDS



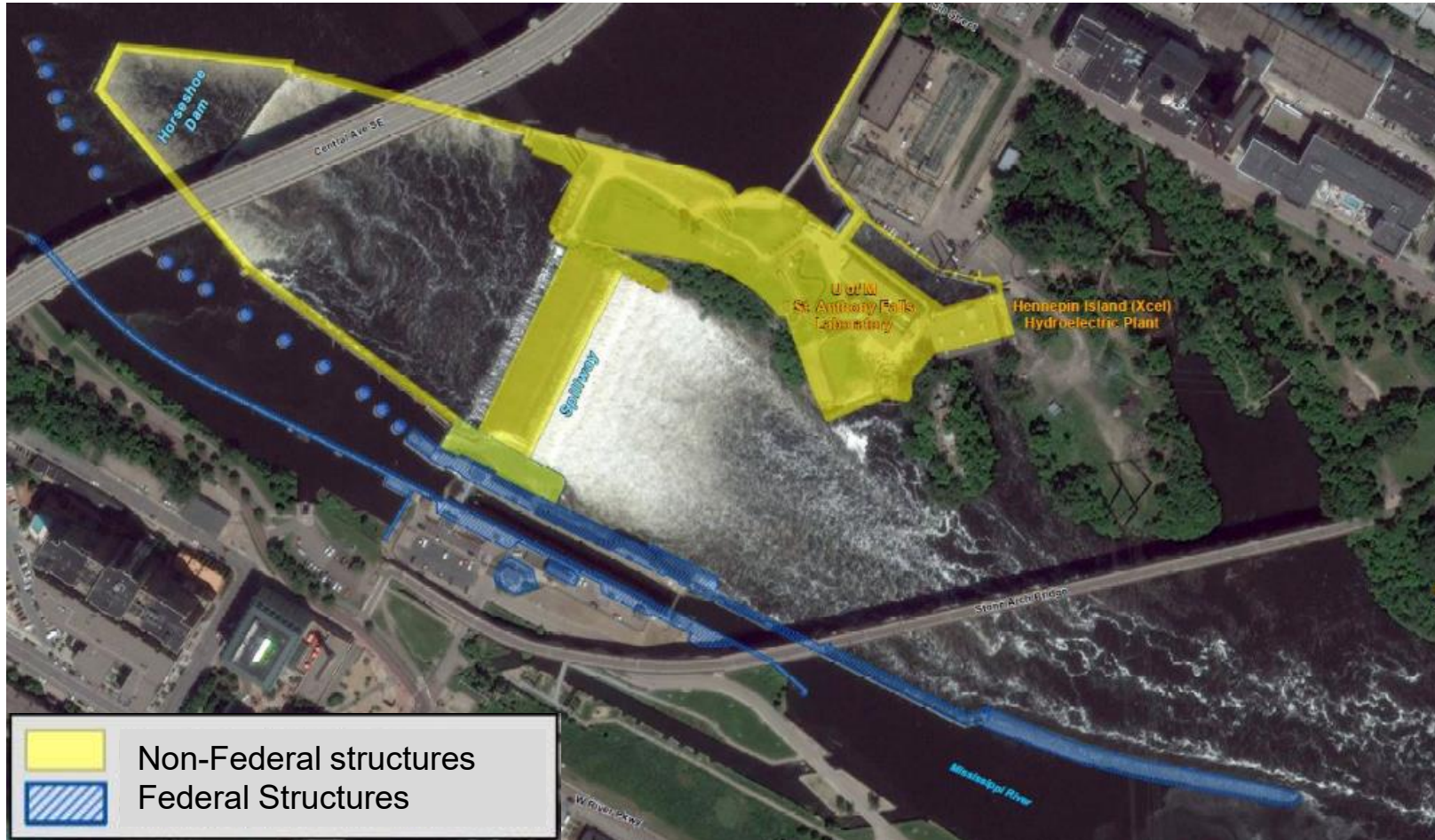
Lands that were ceded to the United States for construction of the project are shown in yellow. Easements are shown in green.



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# PRESENT CONDITIONS: WHO OWNS WHAT? - STRUCTURES



Xcel Energy owns most of the dam (shown in yellow). The structures built by the Corps are shown in blue.



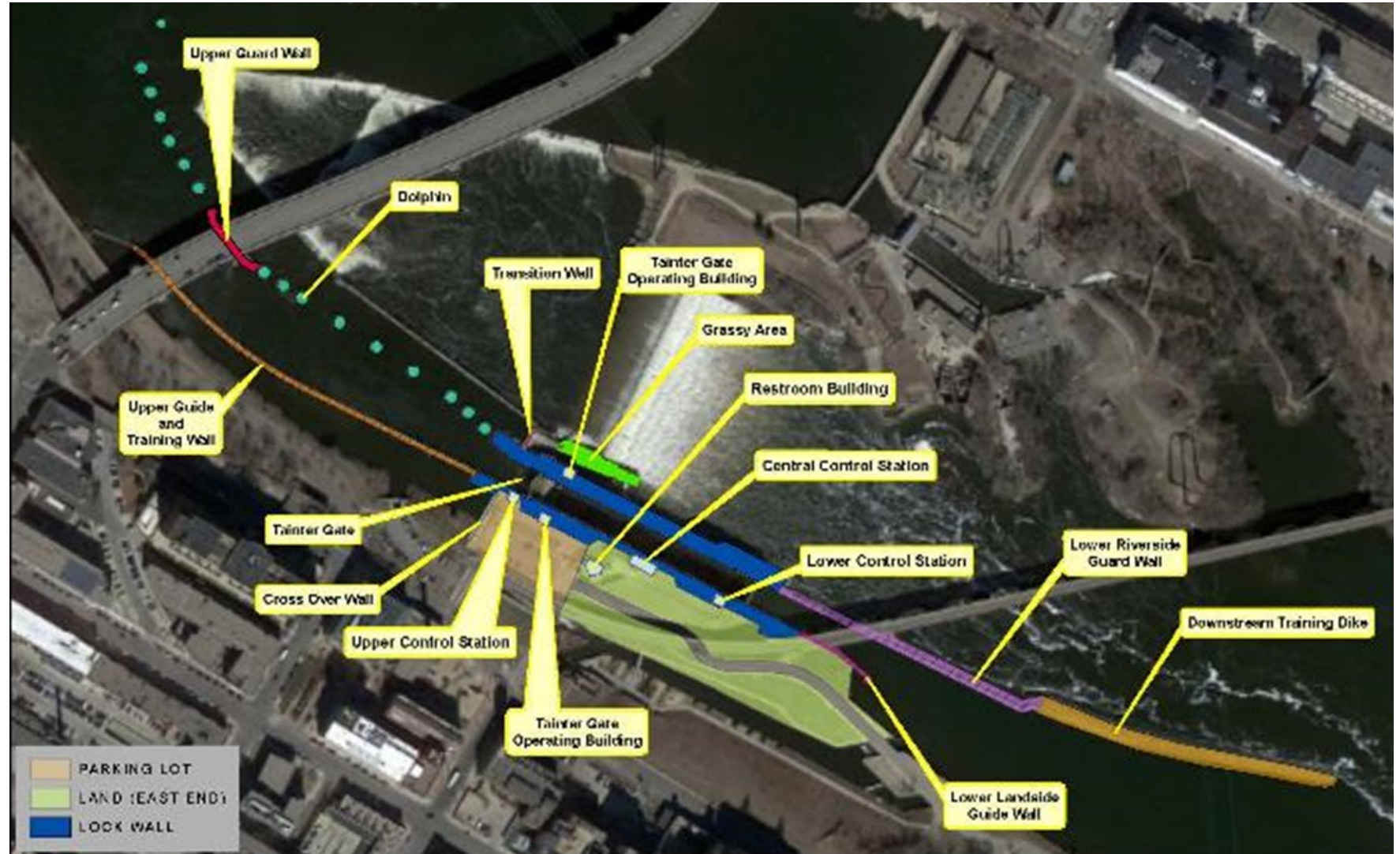
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# PRESENT CONDITIONS - WHAT ARE THE PARTS OF THE LOCK?

49



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# PRESENT CONDITIONS – HISTORIC PROPERTIES

50



The USAF is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under two National Register criteria:

- Criterion A in the areas of Commerce, Industry, Maritime History and Transportation
- Criterion C in the area of Engineering

Eligible as an individual listing, and as a contributing resource to:

- St. Anthony Falls Historic District, and
- Proposed St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam Historic District
- Association with the Nine-Foot Navigation Project

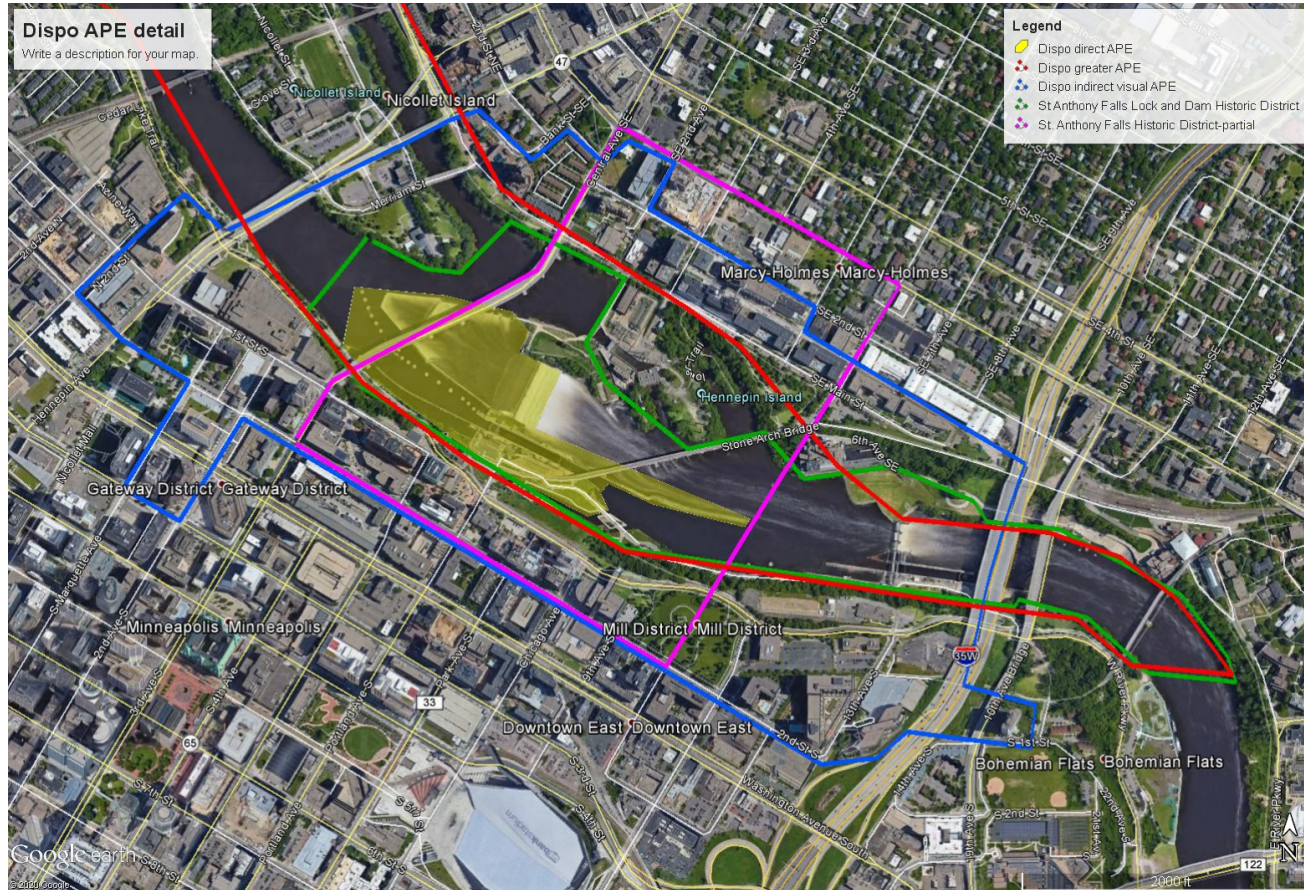


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# PRESENT CONDITIONS – HISTORIC PROPERTIES

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## Proximal Resources:

- Horseshoe and Chord Dams
- Apron
- Underground Dike
- Stone Arch Bridge
- Third Avenue Bridge
- UM Hydrological Laboratory
- Pillsbury A Mill
- Washburn, Crosby, and Company A Mill
- Mill Ruins Park
- Meets criteria for designation as a Minneapolis Landmark
- Significant to various Native American communities



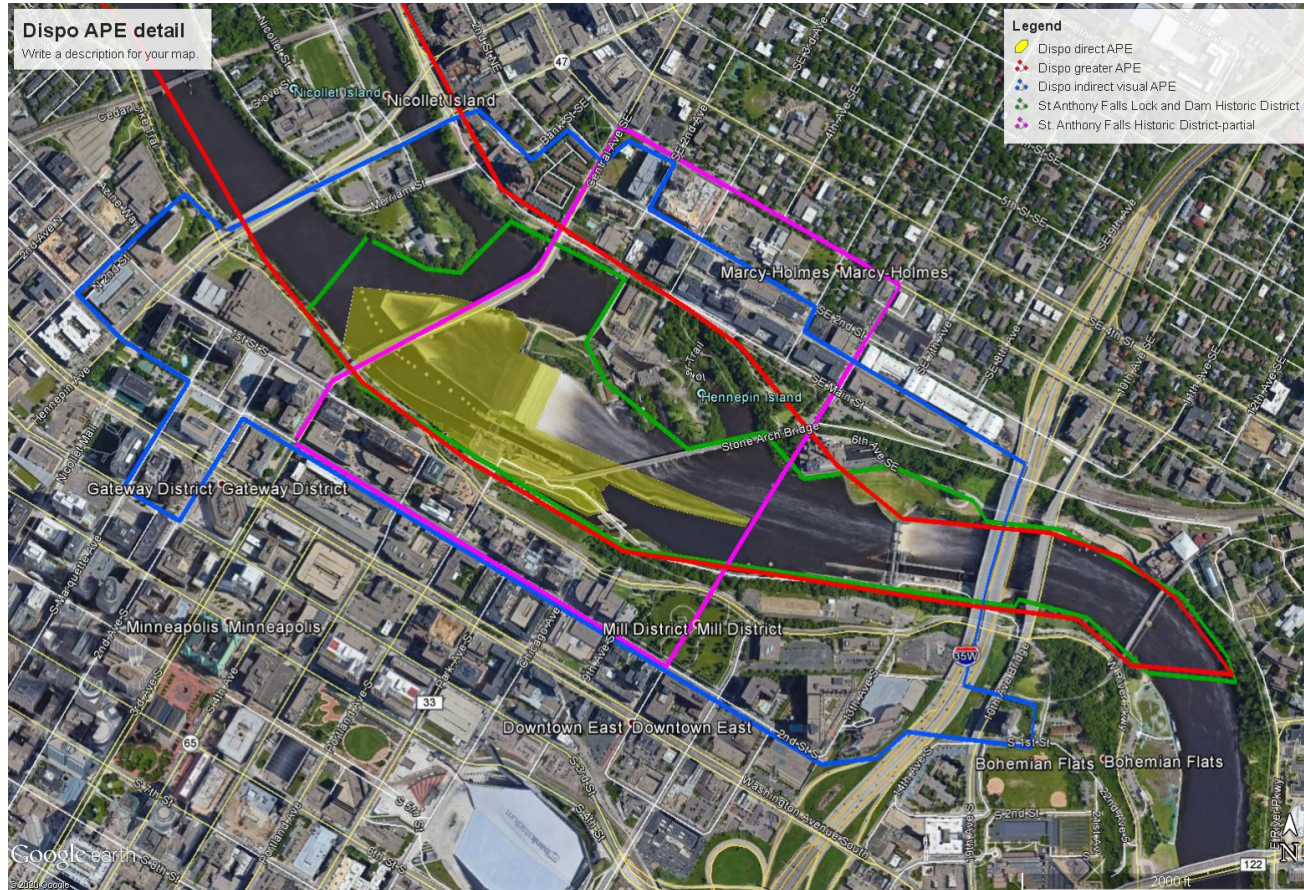
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# PRESENT CONDITIONS – HISTORIC PROPERTIES

52



## Proximal Resources:

- Horseshoe and Chord Dams
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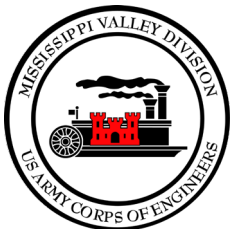
# SECTION 106 COORDINATION



Consultation and coordination will occur with the State Historic Preservation Office, Native American groups, agencies, others, to address historic preservation

## USAF Identified Historic Elements

Inventory No(s)	Name	Type	Year Built
HE-MPC-0177	Lock	Structure	1963
HE-MPC-0286	Upper and Lower Control Stands	Buildings	1963
HE-MPC-0296	"V"-Shaped Dam Wall Ruins	Structure	ca. 1854
HE-MPC-0287/9284	Central Control Building	Building	1963
HE-MPC-9285	Public Restroom Building	Building	1995
HE-HPC-9286	Jetty	Object	1963
HE-MPC-9287	Dolphins	Objects	1963
HE-MPC-9288	Shear Gate	Structure	1963



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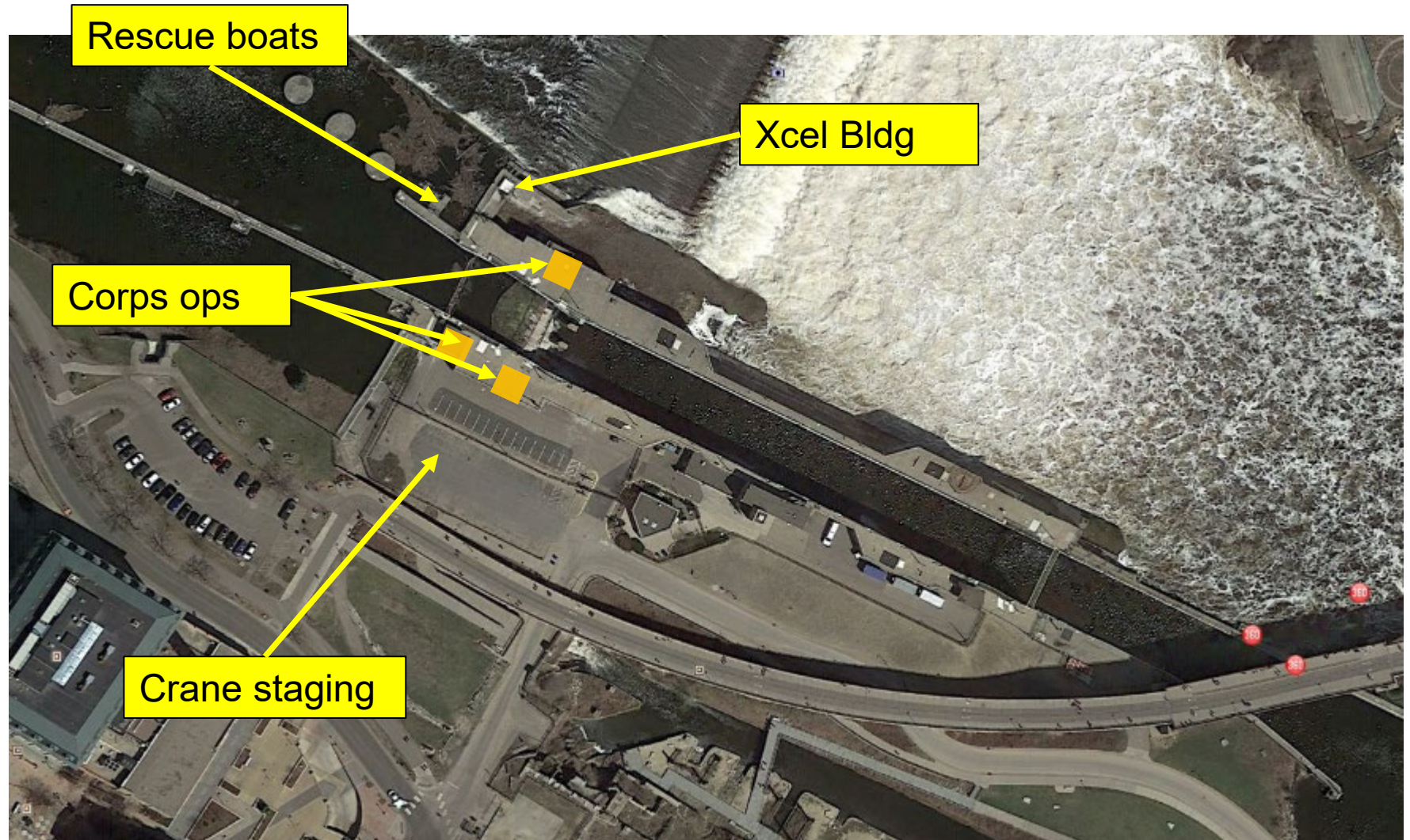


# PRESENT CONDITIONS - KEY OPERATIONAL AREAS

54



The following slides highlight some areas that are important for flood gate and dam operations, maintenance and for public safety.



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# PRESENT CONDITIONS – THE FLOOD GATE

What do we use it for?

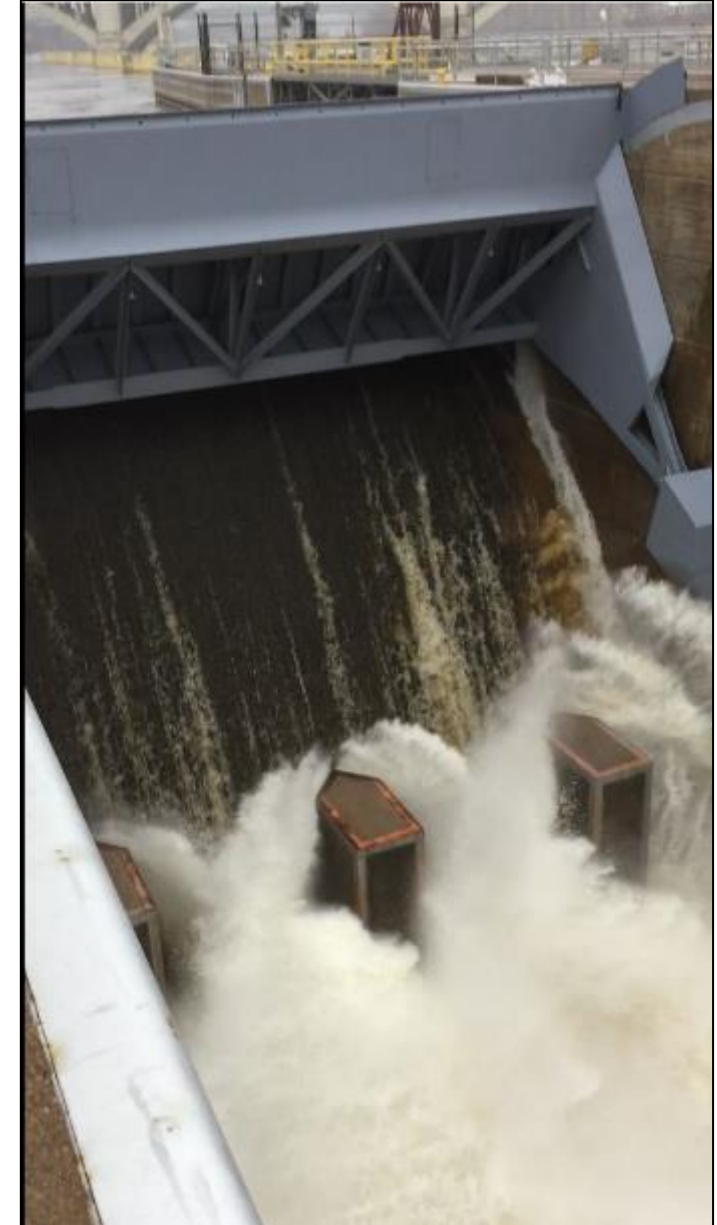
- Pass flood flows to augment the capacity of the main spillway.
- Assist Xcel by passing flows during dam maintenance.

Is it necessary?

- It is needed for the dam to be able to pass the standard project flood (157,000 cfs) without overtopping. (*The 1965 flood was approximately 91,000 cfs*).



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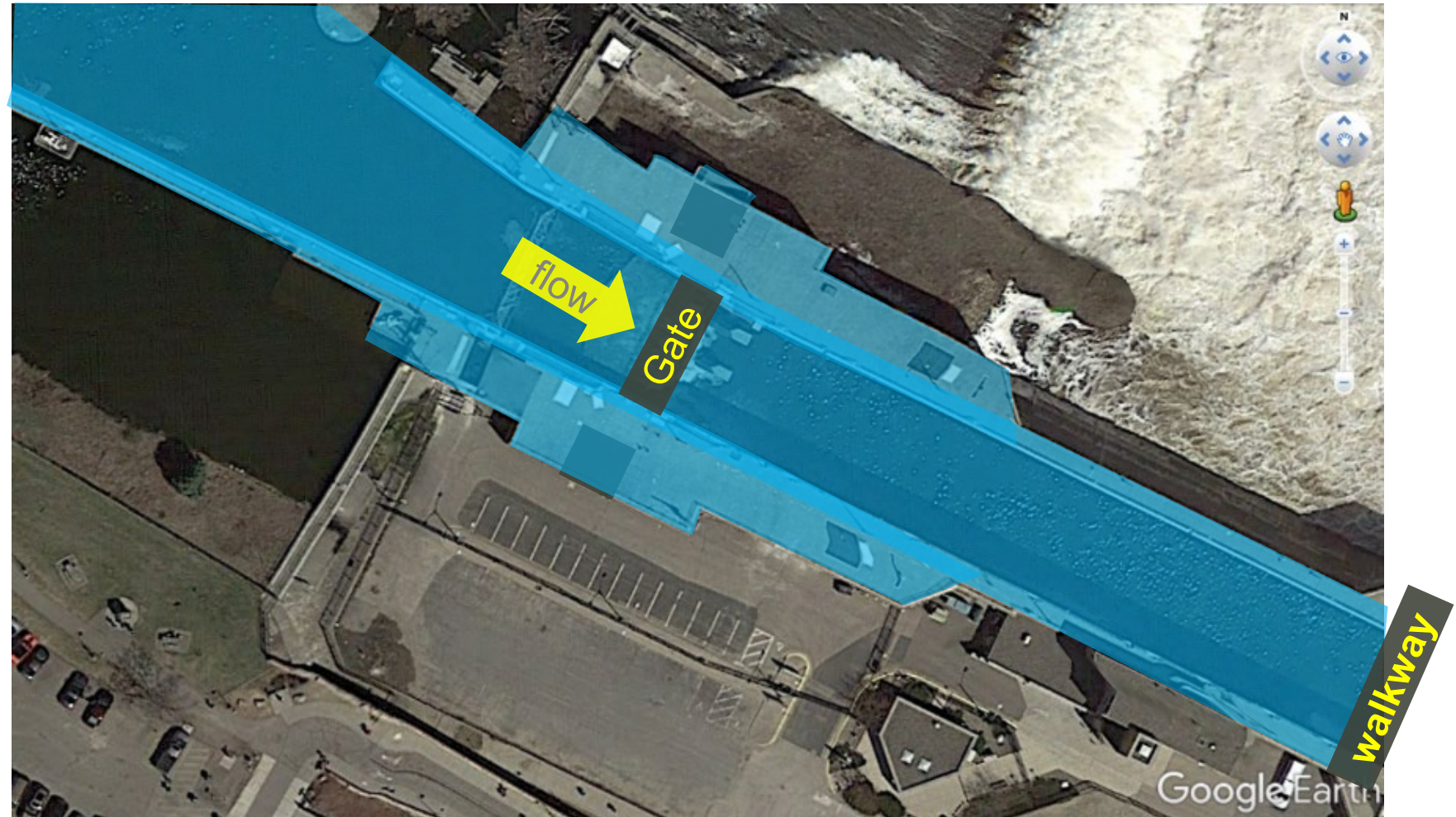


# PRESENT CONDITIONS - AREAS USED DURING FLOOD OPERATIONS

56



The flood gate is raised to allow water to pass beneath it and through the lock chamber. Once the gate is raised the lower walkway and an underground tunnel allow access to the river side of the structure.



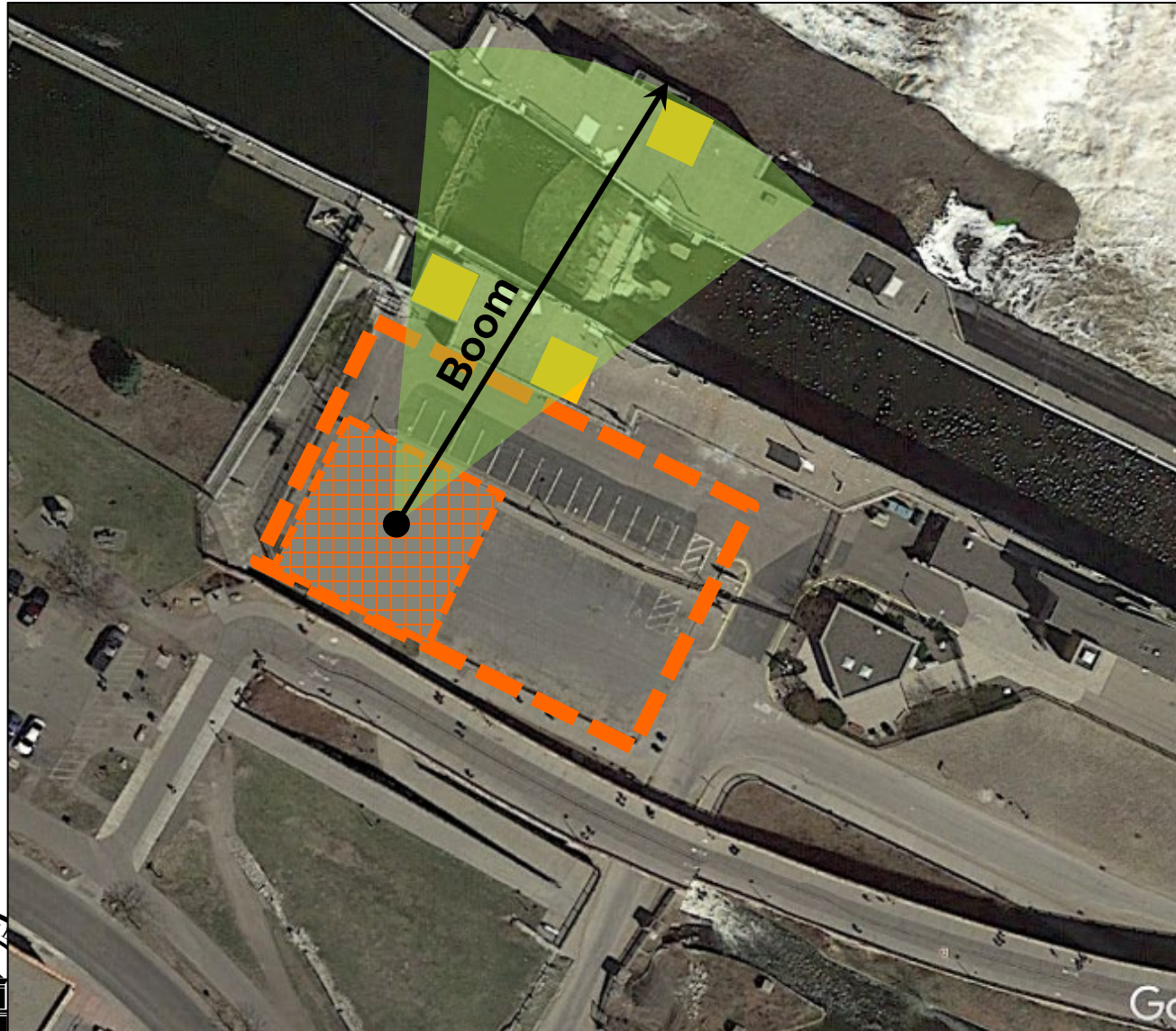
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# PRESENT CONDITIONS - AREAS USED DURING MAJOR MAINTENANCE

57



The Corps uses the parking lot during major maintenance activities that might require a land-based crane (like placing and removing bulkheads).

With navigation suspended, access by river from a barge-mounted crane is no longer possible.



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# PRESENT CONDITIONS - CRANE ACCESS

58



The clearance under the Portland Avenue arch of the stone arch bridge is limited. If the Corps needs a crane at the upper lock, it sometimes must be brought in by way of the access road from the lower lock.



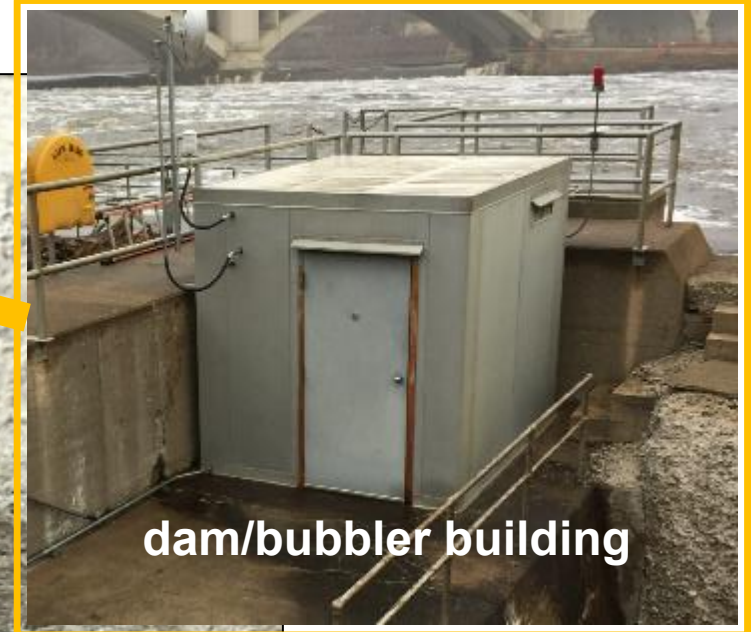
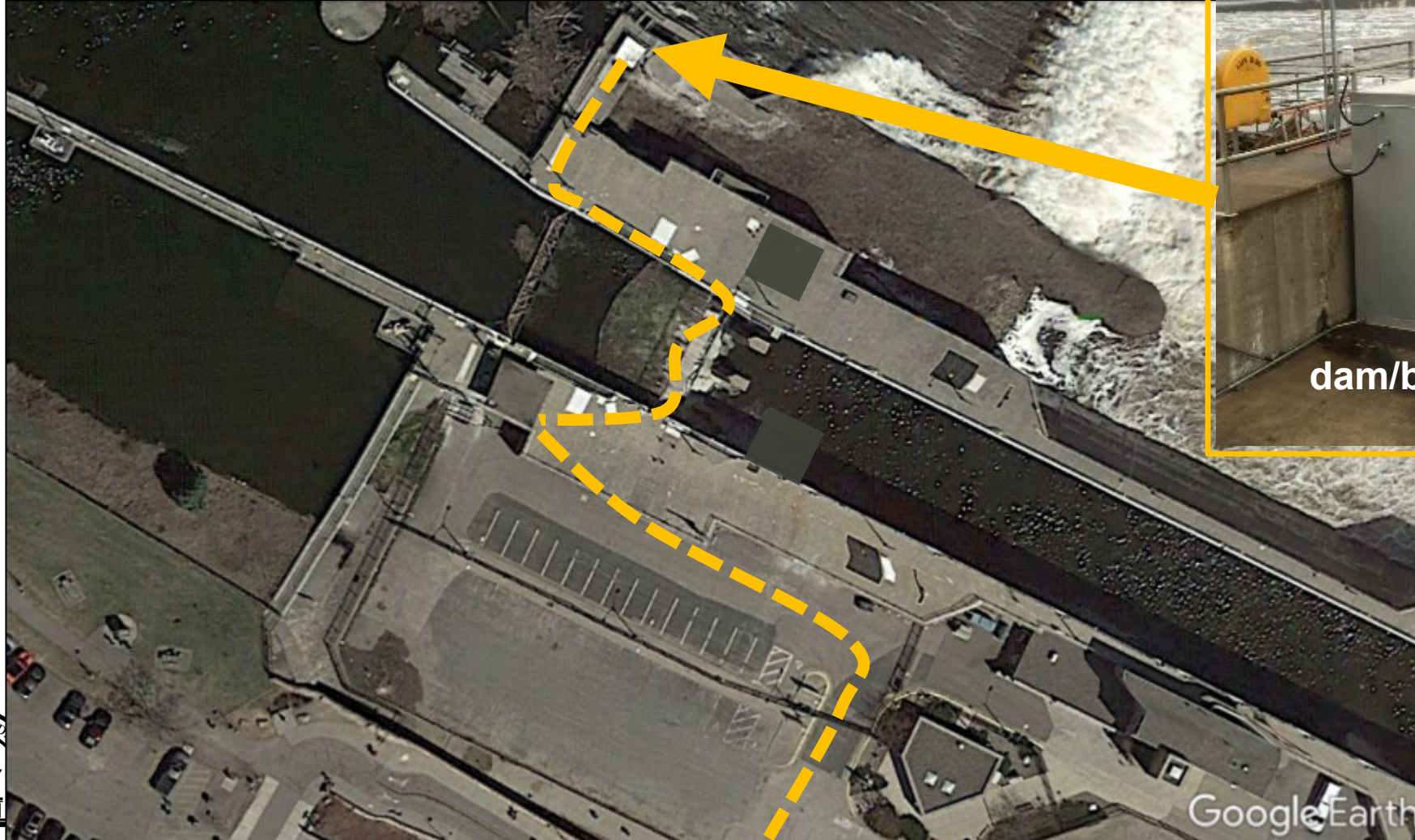
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# PRESENT CONDITIONS - XCEL ACCESS FOR DAM MAINTENANCE

59



dam/bubbler building

Xcel Energy has permanent rights to cross the property for dam maintenance.



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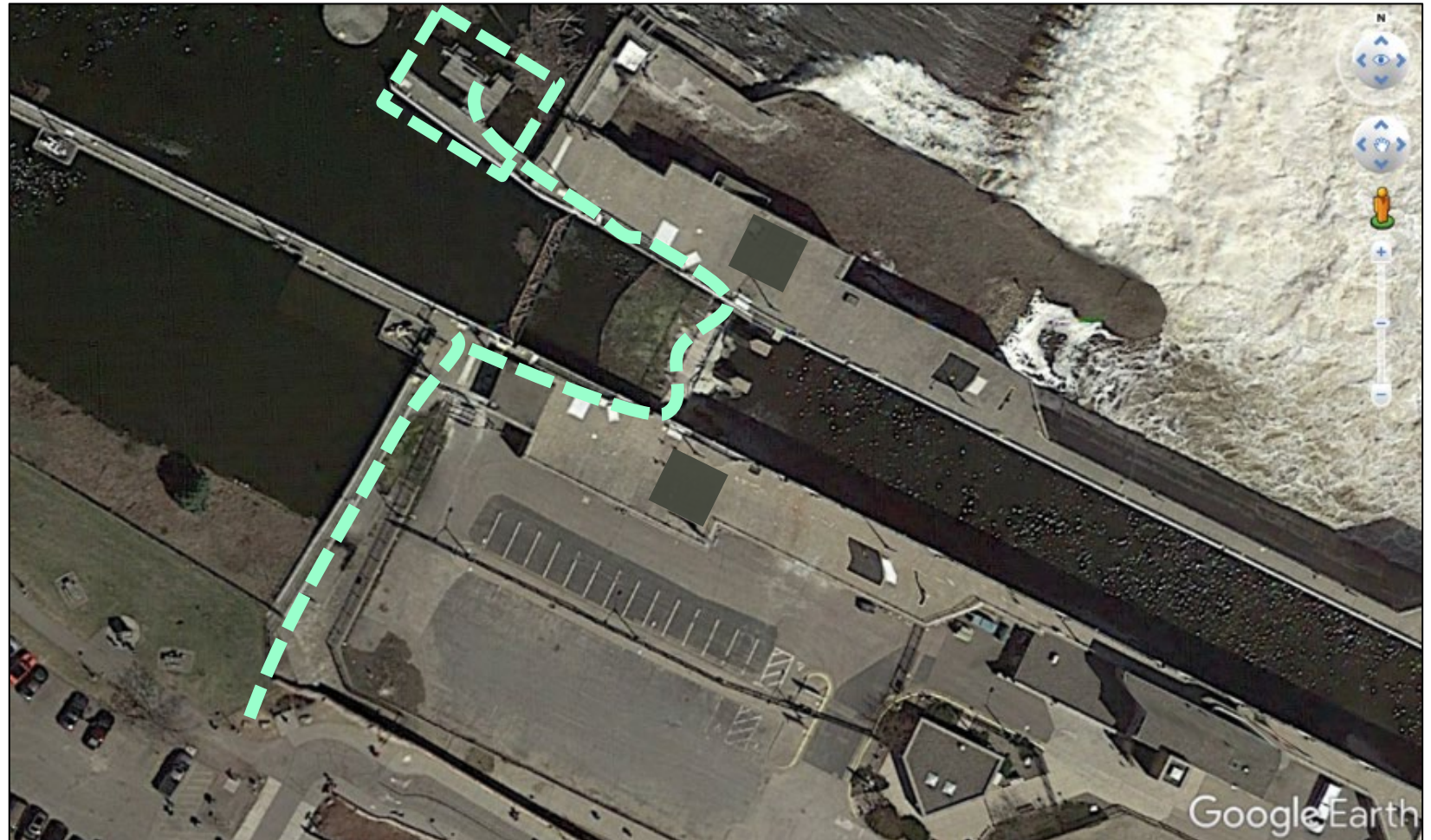


# PRESENT CONDITIONS - ACCESS FOR EMERGENCY BOAT LAUNCH

60



Minneapolis water rescue and Hennepin County water patrol currently have boats located at the upper lock for water rescues. They have 24/7 access to the site.



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# PRESENT CONDITIONS - MAINTAINING THE UPPER LOCK SITE

61



The Corps does the following to maintain the site:

- Maintains the concrete lock structure.
- Exercises and maintains the miter gate, flood gate and operating equipment.
- Maintains the Security system (lighting, alarms, fencing).
- Maintains the buildings and grounds.
- Maintains the handrailing, bridge and stairways.
- Performs safety inspections.



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# PRESENT CONDITIONS - UNCERTAINTY IN FUTURE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

62



The Corps has limited funds to maintain its infrastructure nation-wide. Without a navigation purpose, funds for operation and maintenance of the upper lock will get lower priority than a site with navigation. Maintenance on some features has already been deferred, and the project is expected to deteriorate over time.



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# PRESENT CONDITIONS - MINNEAPOLIS WATER SUPPLY

63

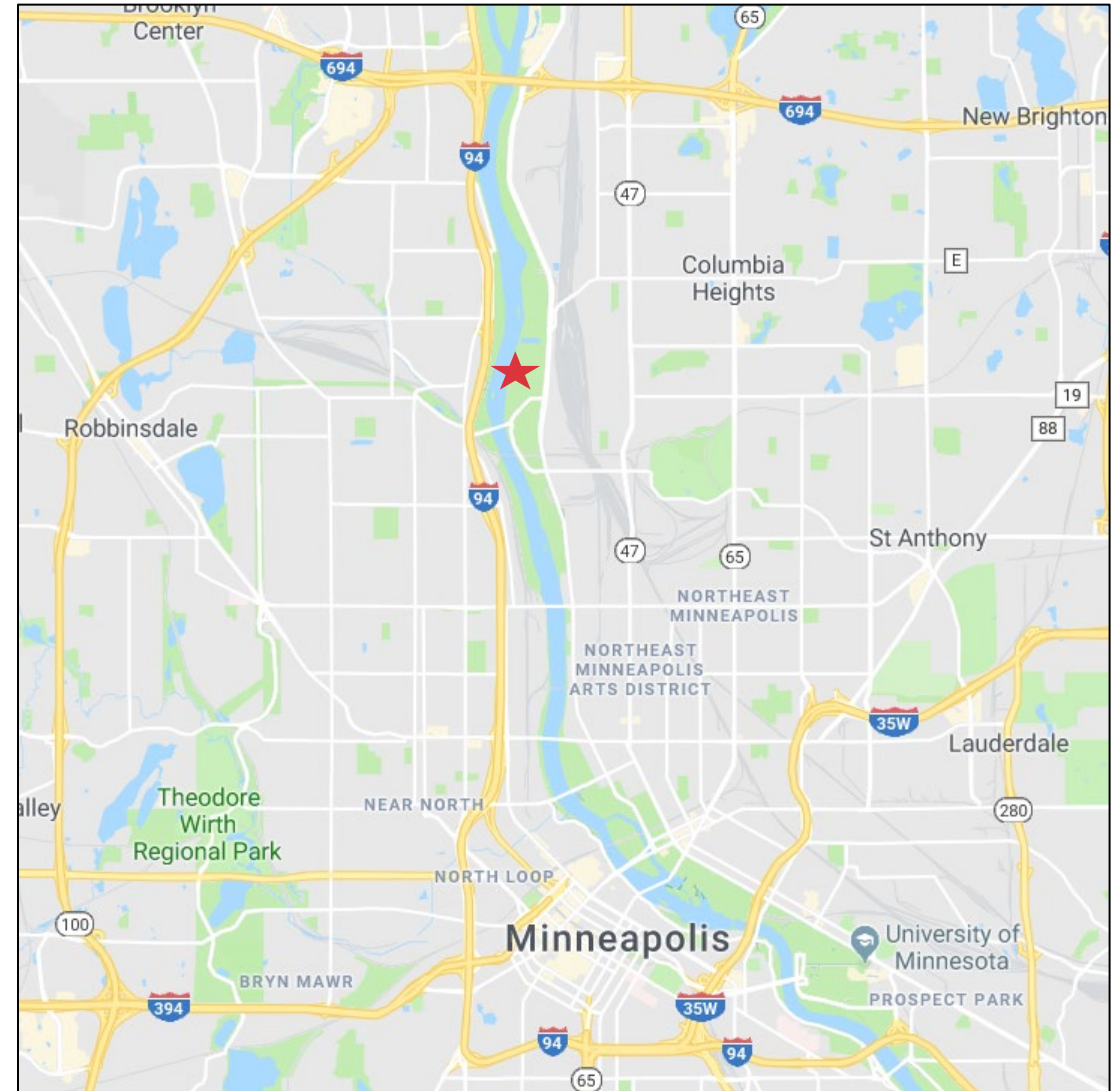


Other facilities that are linked to the upper St. Anthony Falls dam include the Minneapolis water supply.

The intakes for the Minneapolis water supply are located on the Mississippi River upstream of St. Anthony Falls.

The intakes depend upon the water level in the Mississippi River remaining above a set elevation.

The dam at Upper St. Anthony Falls helps maintain this elevation.



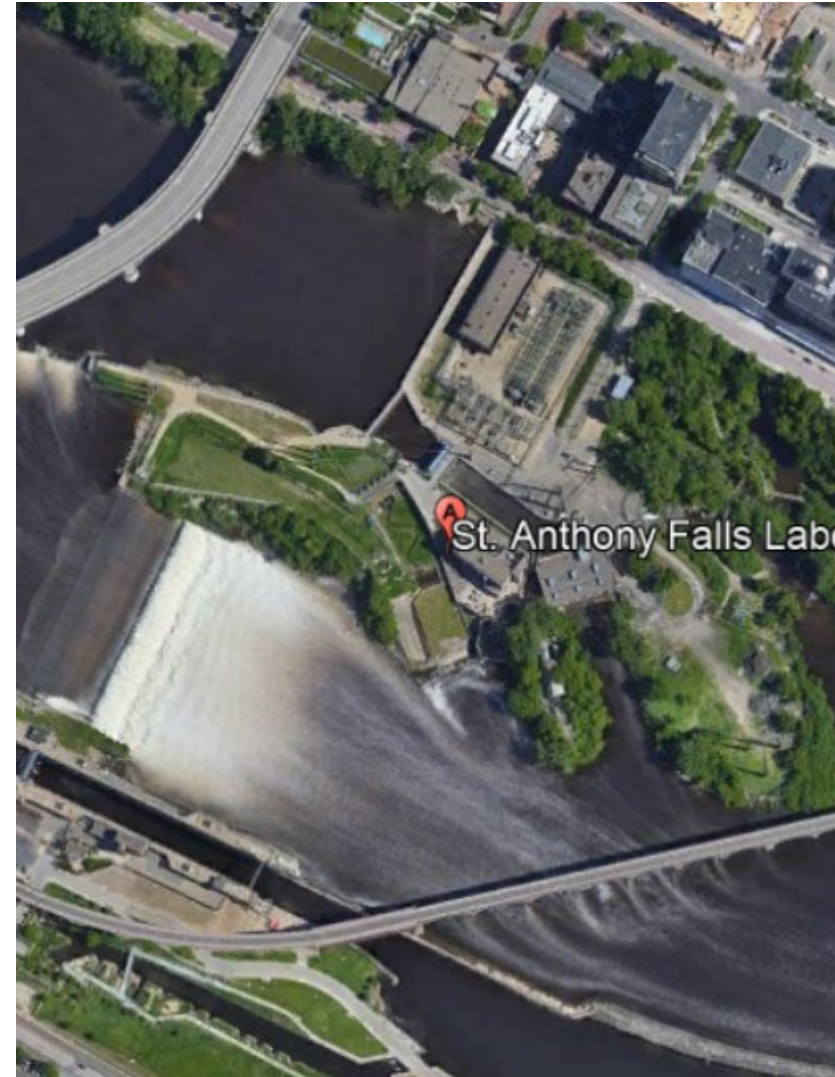
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# PRESENT CONDITIONS – HYDROPOWER AND RESEARCH

Two hydropower owners rely upon the pool upstream of Upper St. Anthony Falls to operate their projects: the St. Anthony Falls hydroelectric project and the Artists A-mill project.

The University of Minnesota Hydraulics laboratory also relies on river flow for its 3-D models.



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# ALTERNATIVES



In evaluating any Federal action, the Corps is required to look at the No Action alternative and an array of other potential alternatives.

As per WRDA 2018, the Corps was required to consider dam removal and partial disposal.

The following slides discuss the alternatives.



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# DAM REMOVAL ALTERNATIVE



Removing the dam would lower the water levels upstream, which would:

- Affect the intakes for the Minneapolis water supply.
- Remove a barrier to the upstream spread of invasive Asian carp.
- Allow the erosion of the limestone layer which supports the waterfall.
- Prevent electrical generation at the St. Anthony Falls Hydropower plant.
- Most of the dam belongs to Xcel, not the Federal government.

For these reasons, removal of the dam was eliminated from further consideration.



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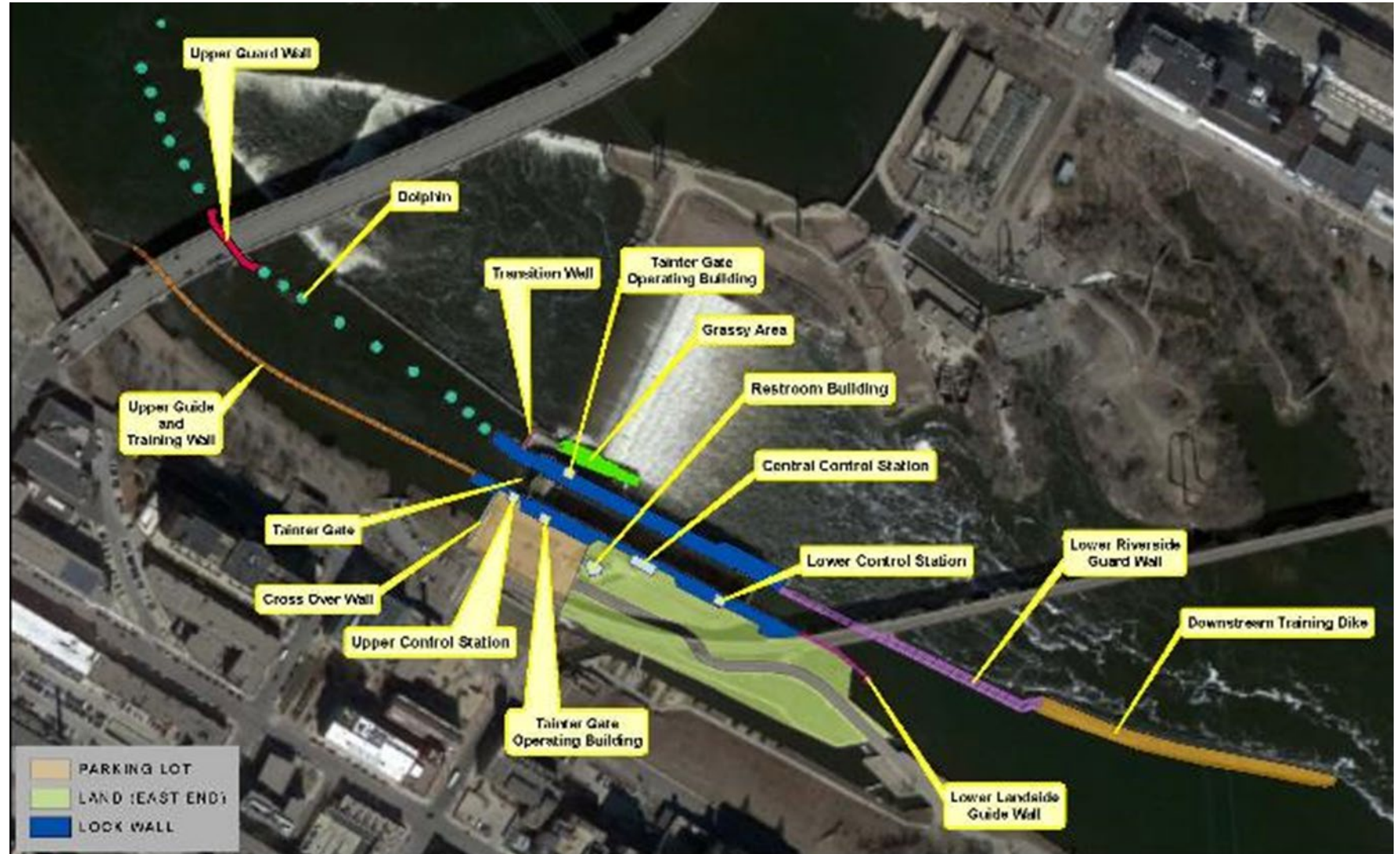


# NO ACTION – KEEP EVERYTHING

67



The Corps would continue to be responsible for operating and maintaining all structures and lands at USAF. These are the features that would be retained under a no action scenario.



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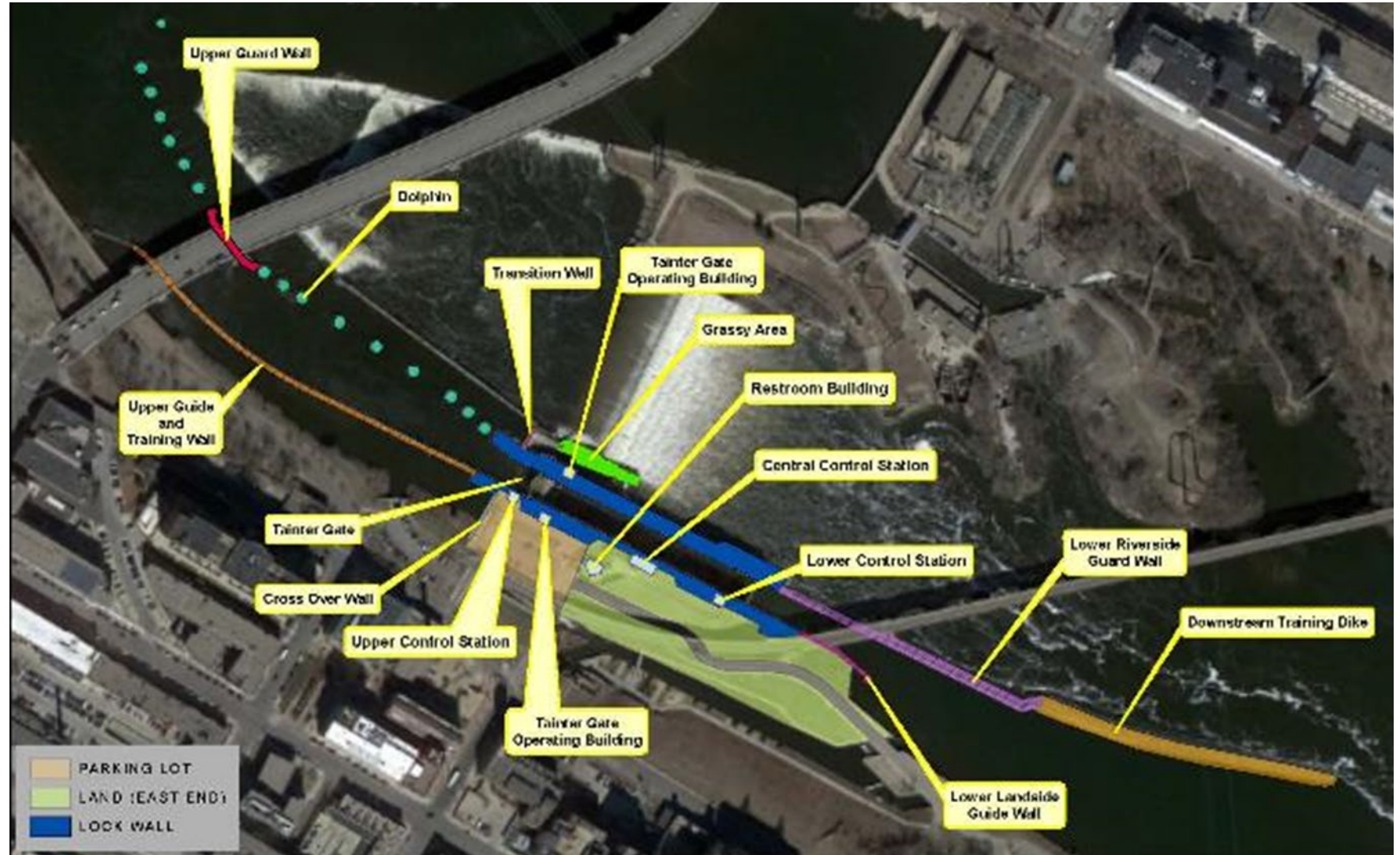


# FULL DISPOSAL – DISPOSE OF EVERYTHING

68



Alternative 1 –  
Converse to the  
No Action  
Alternative, these  
are the features  
that would be  
disposed of under  
a full disposal  
scenario.



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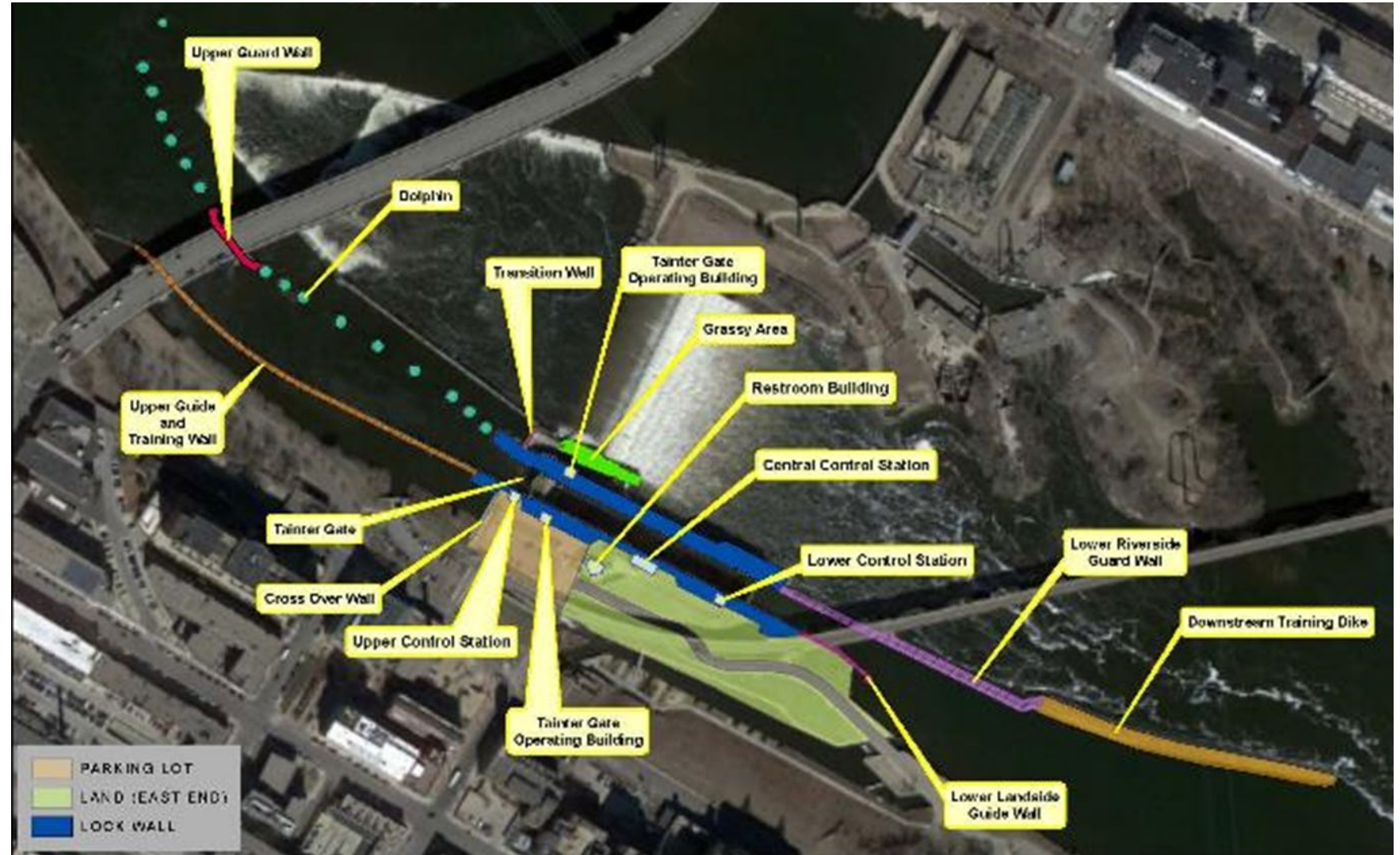


# FULL DISPOSAL – DISPOSE OF EVERYTHING AND PAY INCENTIVE

69



Alternative 1a –  
Similar to Alternative 1, these are the features that would be disposed of under a full disposal scenario with the addition of a monetary incentive offered to the new owner to expedite the transfer.



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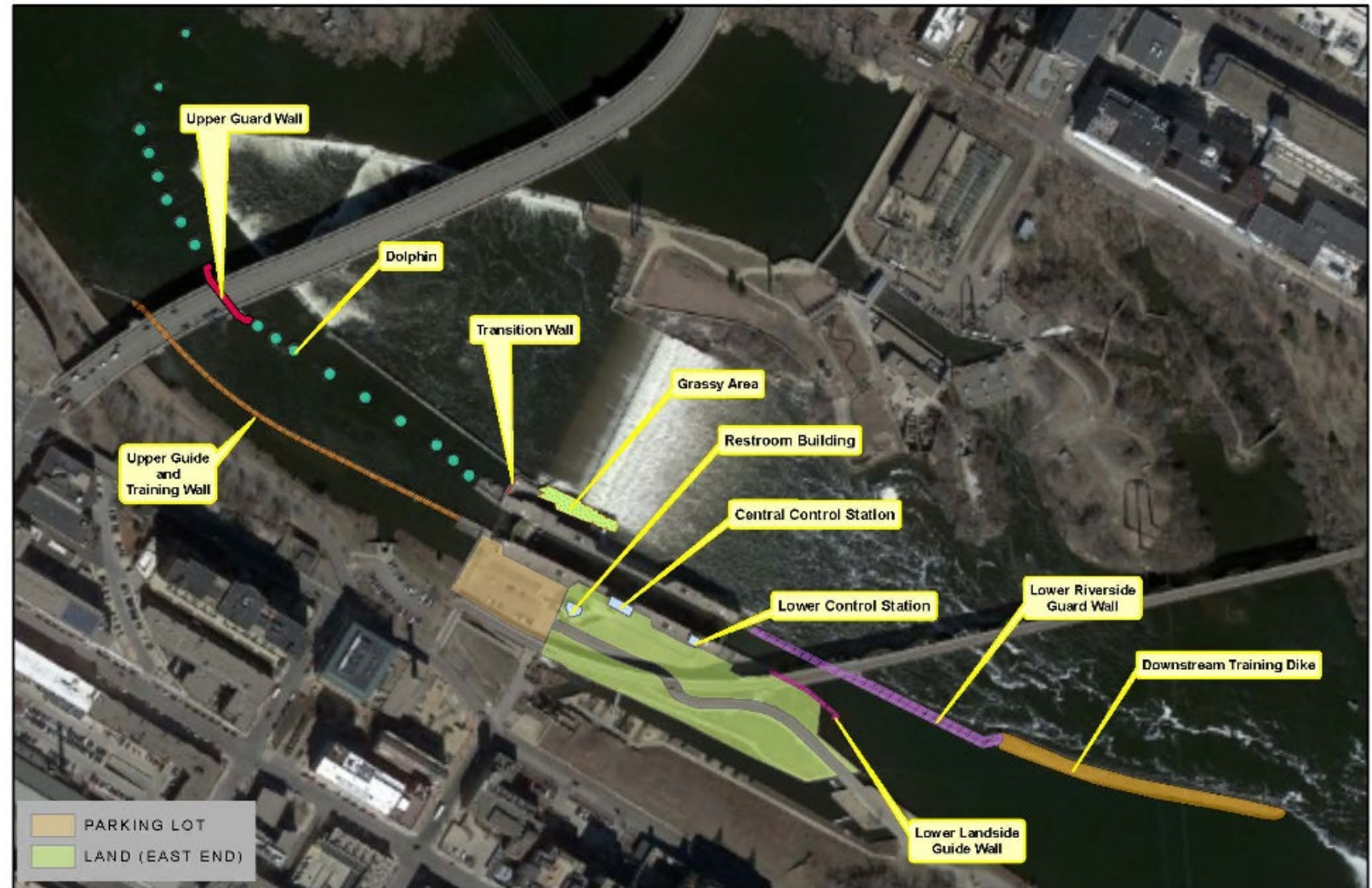




# PARTIAL DISPOSAL – WITH CORPS PAYING O&M COSTS



Alternative 2 – The Corps would retain operation and maintenance and funding responsibilities for features needed to operate the flood gate. Other features that are not integral to flood operations could be disposed of. Features that could be disposed of are as shown.



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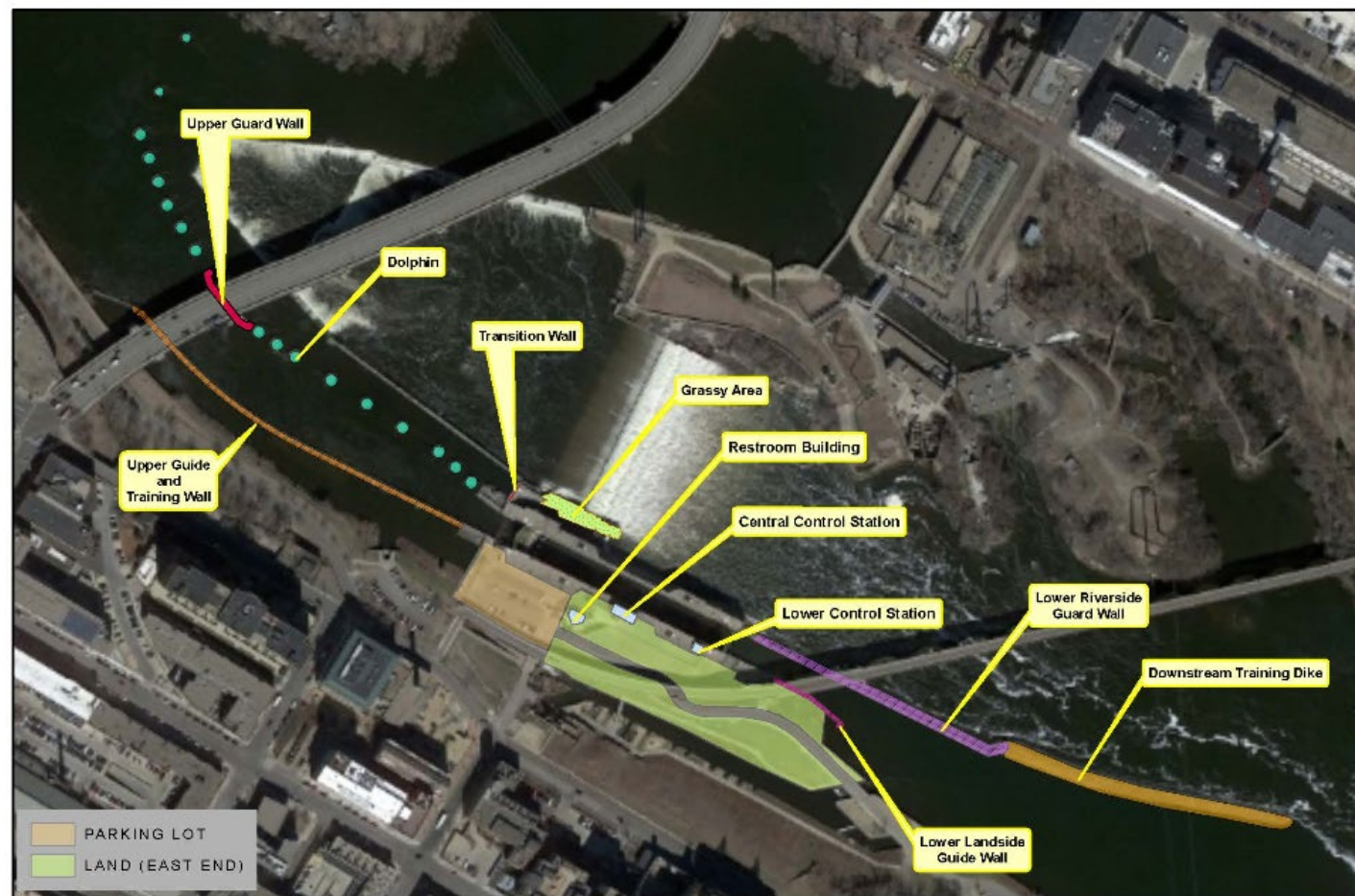


# PARTIAL DISPOSAL – WITH LOCAL SPONSOR PAYING CORPS O&M COSTS

71



Alternative 2a – The Corps would retain operation and maintenance responsibilities for features needed to operate the flood gate, but a project partnership agreement would be signed, and a local sponsor would provide the funding for the Corps operations. Other features that are not integral to flood operations could be disposed of. Features that could be disposed of are as shown.



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# RELATIVE FEDERAL COSTS

The No Action alternative yields the least benefit to the Federal government, with a present-day value of future costs equal to \$6.9 million for operation, maintenance and inspection conducted over a 50 period.

Alternative 1, yields the most benefit to the Federal government, with a present-day value of future costs (near-term disposal costs) of \$665k.

Alternative 1a yields similar benefits to the Federal government as Alternative 1, depending upon the incentive that is offered to the new owner.

Alternative 2 yields very little benefit to the Federal government, with a present-day value of future costs equal to \$6.356M (very little savings over No Action).

Alternative 2a yields more benefit to the Federal government, with a present-day value of future costs equal to \$1.14M and all other future Corps costs borne by a local sponsor.



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# RELATIVE IMPLEMENTABILITY



The No Action alternative is not desirable from the Federal standpoint as it does not achieve the objective of reducing cost, and it does not allow others to utilize the site for other purposes.

Alternative 1, is the most desirable from the Federal standpoint, as it reduces the future Federal costs and enables others to utilize the site for other purposes. It may be hard to implement, however, due to reluctance by others to own the concrete structures.

Alternative 1a is also desirable from the Federal standpoint. While it may cost more initially to offer a monetary incentive to a new owner, it gets the property out of Federal ownership quickly.

Alternative 2 is not desirable from the Federal standpoint as it does not achieve objective of disposal and does not appreciably reduce future Federal costs.

Alternative 2a is not desirable from the Federal standpoint as it does not achieve objective of disposal and would require a new authorization and partnership with a non-federal sponsor to fund the cost of future Corps operation and maintenance of the site.



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# STUDY CONCLUSIONS



The draft report concludes that the project no longer serves its authorized purpose(s) and that continued operation and maintenance of the site is not in the Federal interest.



Therefore, the alternative which disposes of the project the quickest is the preferred plan. The alternative that meets this criteria is Alternative 1a, full disposal with a monetary incentive for the new owner. This alternative is not expected to have any significant environmental effects.



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# THE TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN



After evaluation and comparison of alternatives, the tentatively selected plan is the deauthorization of the project and complete disposal of the property combined with a monetary incentive paid to the new owner as a means of expediting the disposal.

The TSP recommends:

- Congress deauthorize the project
- Ending the Corps' primary navigation mission & any secondary missions including recreation
- Complete disposal of the property (exclusive of what may be conveyed to the city of Minneapolis under WRDA 2020 – see following slide)
- Granting the Secretary of the Army authority for two years in which to negotiate the terms of the transfer of property
- Authorizing a monetary incentive to expedite the disposal



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# HOW DOES THE TSP MESH WITH WRDA 2020?

- The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of December 27, 2020, Section 356, authorizes the Secretary of the Army to convey upon request lands adjacent to the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock to the city of Minneapolis (or its designee).
- WRDA 2020 does NOT change the Corps' tentatively selected plan, which recommends deauthorization and disposal of ALL federally-owned property at Upper St. Anthony Falls.
- The report acknowledges WRDA 2020 and indicates that disposal of these lands is separate from the disposal of the rest of the site.
- The monetary incentive would NOT be offered for the lands conveyed under Section 356.



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# DOES THE STUDY COMPLY WITH WRDA 2018?

- The study considers dam removal.
- The study considers partial disposal.
- The study offers the opportunity for public input.
- The draft study has been published and the final study will be published.
- A study for Upper St. Anthony Falls has been completed in advance of the study for Lower St. Anthony Falls and lock and dam 1.
- The TSP is compatible with visions and anticipated future efforts by others to improve the natural and human environment and increase recreational opportunities at the site, which are separate from the Federal disposal action.



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# WHY DOES THE CORPS NEED FEEDBACK ON THE DRAFT REPORT?

78



- The National Environmental Policy Act and regulations require that the impacts of federal action be assessed and presented to the public for the public's review and comment.
- Section 1168 of WRDA 2018 requires that disposition studies be carried out in a transparent manner, including providing opportunities for public input, and publishing the final study.



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# WHAT FEEDBACK IS THE CORPS LOOKING FOR?

79



- Comments on the accuracy of the Environmental Assessment.
- Comments on report recommendations.
- Statements of interest in future ownership.



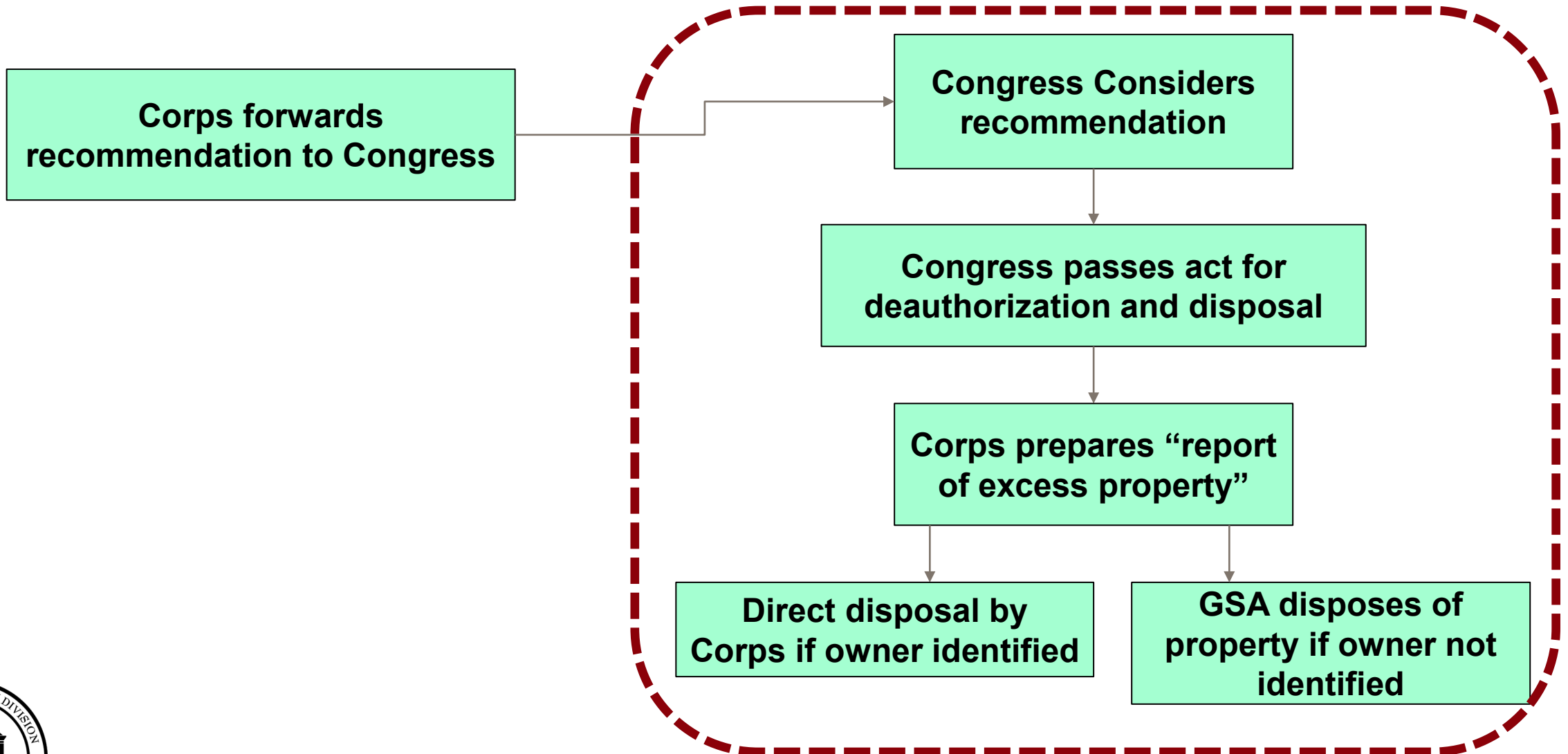
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# IF CORPS RECOMMENDS DISPOSAL – HOW IS THE PROPERTY HANDLED?

80



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# DISPOSAL OF FEDERAL PROPERTY - GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (GSA) PRIORITIES

81



If no interested party steps forward, or if Congress does not specify to whom the property should be transferred, GSA has a priority list of who the property is offered to, as dictated by Federal law:

1. Other Federal Agencies

2. Consult with Department of Housing and Urban Development for homeless use (McKinney-Vento Act).

3. Negotiated sale to State or Local government or non-profit for a public purpose

4. Public auction or sealed bid.



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# IDENTIFYING INTERESTED PARTIES



- One purpose of the public review and comment period for the Draft Disposition Study report is to solicit feedback from potentially interested future owners.
- During the public review period of this Draft Report, all interested future owners are encouraged to submit a written statement of interest.



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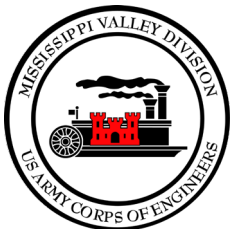


# SUBMIT STATEMENTS OF INTEREST IN OWNERSHIP TO:



Statements of Interest in future ownership are recommended to be in the form of a signed letter submitted to the St. Paul District Engineer. Statements of interest would be appreciated by March 18, 2021. Statements of interest after this date will still be considered but may not be included in the final report document. Priority will be given to statements of interest consistent with the Tentatively-Selected Plan.

District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Paul District  
ATTN: Regional Planning and Environment Division North  
180 Fifth Street East, Suite 700  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1678



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# SUBMIT COMMENTS BY MARCH 18, 2021 TO:



Comments on the draft report and integrated environmental assessment would be appreciated by **March 18, 2021.**

Email to:

[MplsLocksDisposition@usace.army.mil](mailto:MplsLocksDisposition@usace.army.mil)

You may also submit written comments to:  
St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
ATTN: Regional Planning and Environment Division North,  
180 5th St. E., Suite 700,  
St. Paul, MN 55101.



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# WHEN WILL THE PUBLIC MEETING BE?



Corps will be holding one or more virtual public meetings summarizing the report prior to the comment deadline. Additional details on these meeting(s) will be posted on the District's website: <https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/>

Please visit the disposition study webpage to keep informed of any announcements:

<https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/MplsLocksDisposition/>



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# IF I AM NOT ABLE TO ATTEND THE VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING, WHERE WILL I BE ABLE TO FIND A RECORDING?

If you are not able to attend, the meeting will be recorded and available for future review. A link will be posted on the Disposition Study webpage at:

<https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/MplsLocksDisposition/>



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# WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER THE PUBLIC MEETING?



The public comment period will conclude on March 18, 2021.

The Corps will consider comments and input from the public, resource agencies and interested future owners.

The Corps will finalize the report in the summer 2021 and will forward the report for further action by Congress.



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# WHERE CAN I FIND A COPY OF THE DRAFT REPORT?

88



The draft Disposition Study report is available on the website:

<https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/MplsLocksDisposition/>



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# FUTURE STUDIES STILL TO COME



The disposition study for Lower St. Anthony Falls lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 will start in the Fall of 2021.



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