

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

Public Notice

Project: Draft Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam,
Disposition Study

Date: June 10, 2025

Expires: July 14, 2025

In Reply Refer to:

Regional Planning and
Environment Division North

1. Project Proponent. St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 332 Minnesota St. Suite E1500, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1678.

2. Project Authority. The disposition study is authorized under the authority of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611) investigating the modification of completed projects or their operation when found advisable due to significantly changed physical or economic conditions and for improving the quality of the environment in the overall public interest.

3. Project Location. The disposition study is for Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam (USAF LD) located in Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota (Figure 1). The study area includes federal structures associated with the operations and maintenance of USAF LD.

USAF LD is located on the right descending bank of the Mississippi River in Minneapolis, Minnesota, at Upper Mississippi River mile 853.9 (left and right orientation on rivers is determined facing downstream). USAF LD is part of a larger damming surface across the Mississippi River that also includes nonfederal structures on the left descending bank that act to maintain the upstream water elevation. The damming surface includes the lock chamber, the horseshoe dam, spillway, the Xcel Energy hydroelectric facility and the University of Minnesota St. Anthony Falls Laboratory. Of the damming surface elements, only the lock chamber and two short segments of the dam are part of the USAF LD that is federally owned and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)-operated and maintained (Figure 2). USACE operates and maintains a Tainter gate as part of the USAF LD to mitigate effects of the structure on upstream water surface elevation during high flows.

The primary and sole authorized purpose of the USAF LD is navigation. The lock was ordered closed to navigation by Section 2010 of the Water Resources Reform and Redevelopment Act of 2014 (WRRDA 2014) but continues to be an authorized federal project that USACE is required to operate and maintain for its authorized purpose. WRRDA 2014 also specifically allows USACE to operate the Tainter gate.

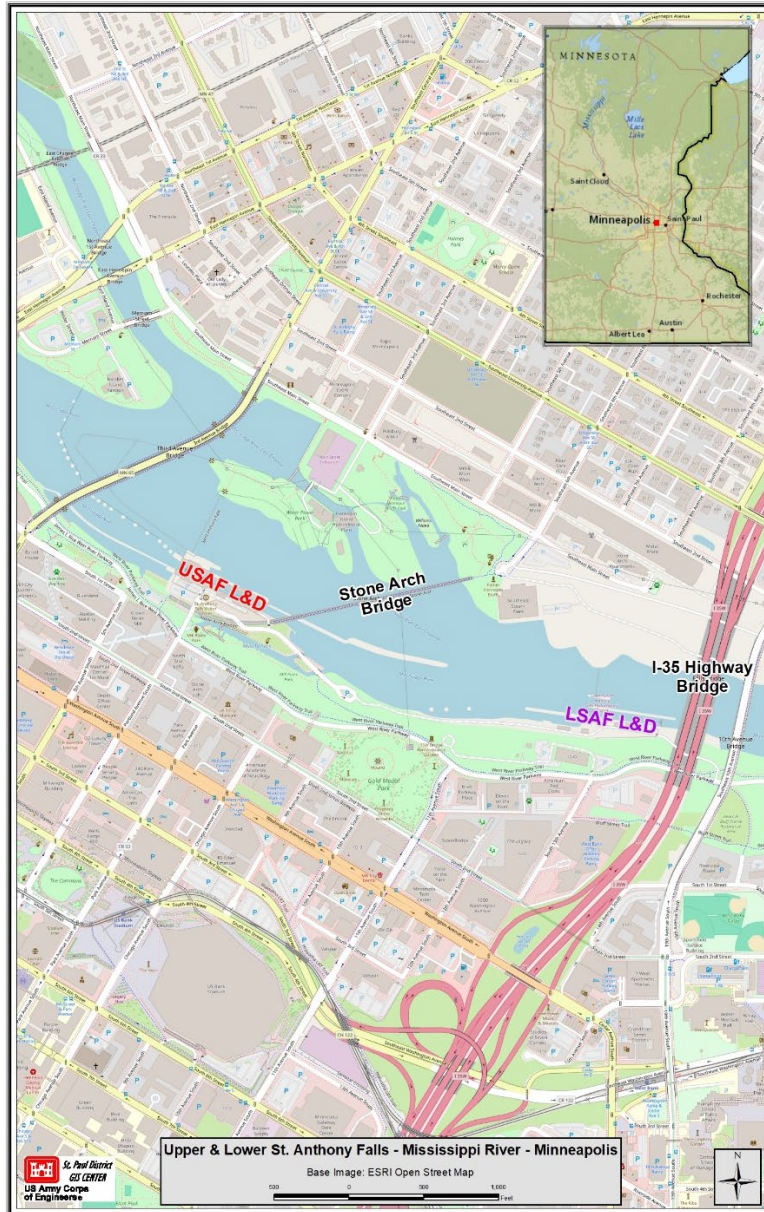


Figure 1. Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam

4. Summary of the Proposed Disposition Study.

This integrated disposition study report and environmental assessment (EA) presents the results of a USACE disposition study to evaluate whether USAF LD should be deauthorized and if the associated real property and government-owned improvements should undergo disposal. Disposal is defined as any authorized method of permanently divesting the Department of the Army of control of and responsibility for real estate¹.

¹ USACE Interim Guidance on the Conduct of Disposition Studies. August 22, 2016

This study was conducted to assess if the USAF LD as a federal project is serving its authorized purpose, and if not, whether sufficient federal interest exists for the federal government to continue to own, operate and maintain the project. The study evaluates and compares the positive and negative impacts of continued operation (such as its maintenance, repair, replacement and/or rehabilitation), or lack thereof. A draft integrated disposition study report and EA for this study area was issued by USACE in 2021. Due to subsequent changes in law and additional considerations, USACE has revised the draft disposition study report and EA; this draft supersedes the prior draft.

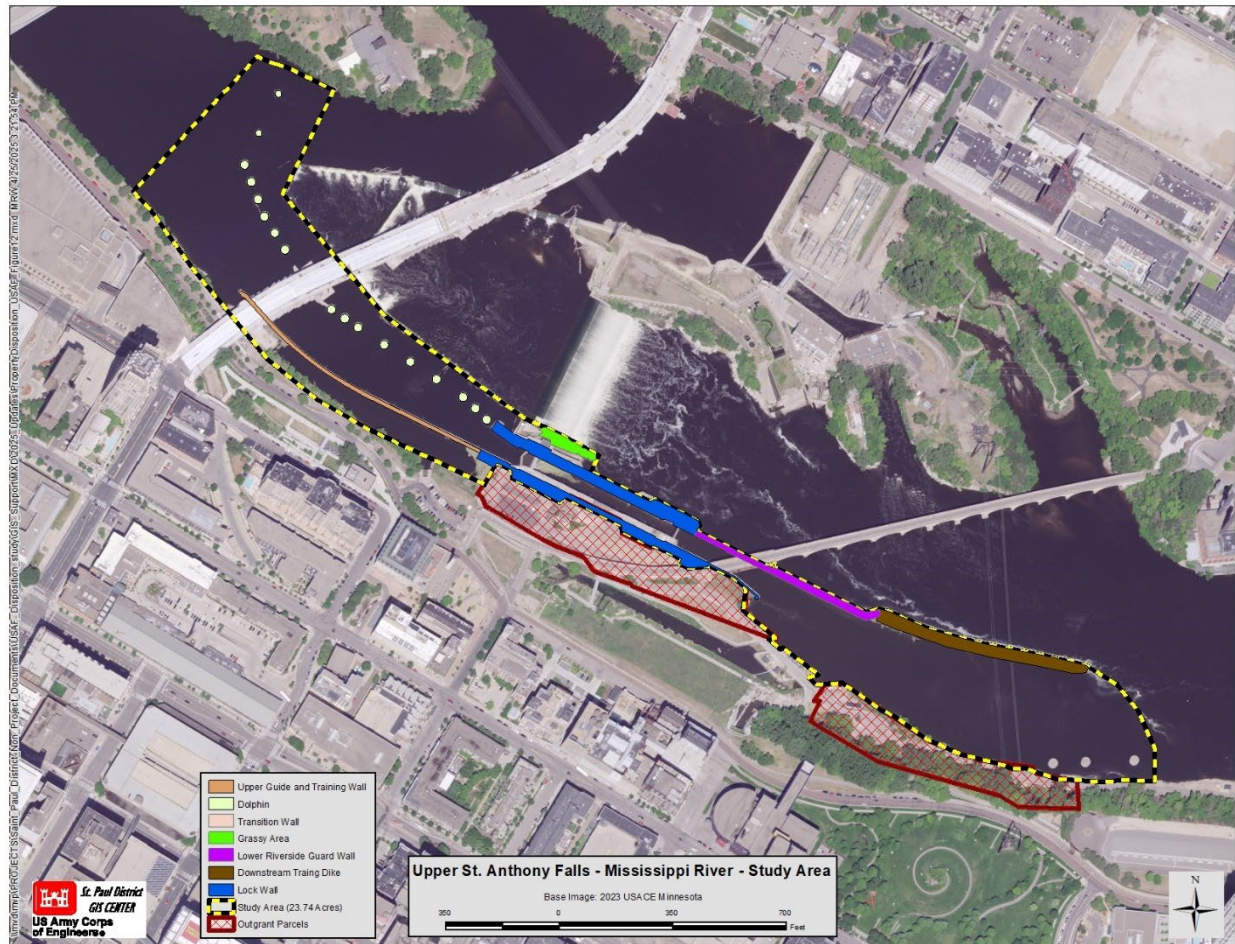


Figure 2. Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam – Study Area

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, results from this public comment period will be compiled in an integrated final report and EA. The final report may be the basis for Congressional action to deauthorize the project or change the project authorization. The Water Resources Development Act of 2022 prohibits the Secretary of the Army from recommending deauthorization and disposal of USAF LD until such time as a willing and capable nonfederal public entity is identified to assume ownership of the lock and dam. As long as the project remains authorized, USACE will maintain ownership of the project lands and improvements required for the project's operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation and replacement.

5. **Schedule.** Comments from the public will be accepted until July 14, 2025. A final report is anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2025.

6. **Permits/Coordination.**

a. General. The disposition study is being performed in coordination with State and Federal agencies including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, National Park Service, Coast Guard, Housing and Urban Development, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, General Services Administration, Department of Transportation, Geological Survey, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Additional parties at the local level are also being engaged.

b. Federal. A draft EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be prepared and coordinated in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

7. **Summary of Environmental Impacts.** The disposition study does not include a proposed action and would result in no effects to environmental and historic resources.

8. **Report.** The purpose of this public review is to provide the public a draft disposition study report and EA that describes the study results and the potential environmental impacts under action alternatives. This report will include a draft FONSI and letters of coordination from government agencies.

9. **Comment.** If you have any comments on the revised draft disposition study with integrated EA, they should be provided before the expiration date of this notice. Persons submitting comments are advised that all comments received will be available for public review and may be posted on a public website. Comments by mail should be submitted to the following address:

**District Engineer, St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
ATTN: Regional Planning and Environment Division North,
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1678.**

Comments by email should be submitted to MplsLocksDisposition@usace.army.mil. Additional details on the disposition study are available at <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/MplsLocksDisposition/>.

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