

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

Public Notice

Project: Upper St. Anthony Falls Outgrant Environmental Assessment

Date: 27 November 2023 **In Reply Refer to:**
Expires: 29 December 2023 Regional Planning and
Environment Division North

1. **Project Proponent.** St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers, 332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.
2. **Project Authority.** The proposed action is authorized under 16 USC 460d.
3. **Project Location.** The proposed action would involve a portion of the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam (USAFLD) property in Hennepin County, Minnesota (Figure 1).

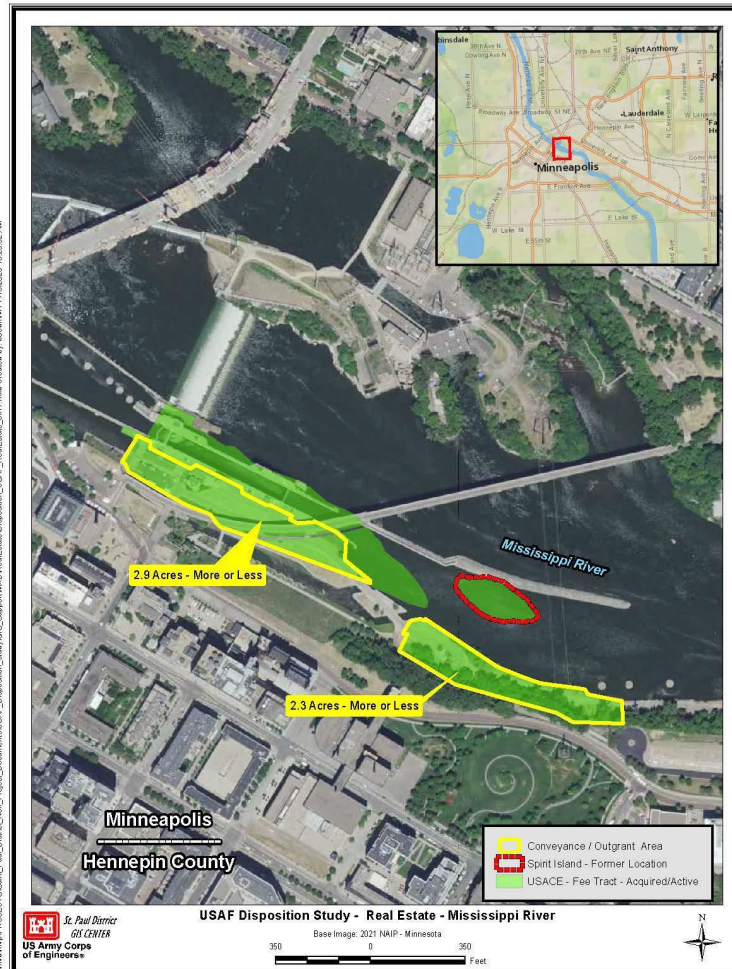


Figure 1. Property Considered for Outgrant.

4. Summary of the Proposed Project. The proposed alternative would involve the issuance of an outgrant consisting of a lease for a 5.2 acre section of the USAFLD property to Owámniyomni Okhódayapi (formerly Friends of the Falls or FOF), a qualified non-profit organization for a period of up to 25 years. Activities associated with this lease will include cultural and environmental interpretive programming, tours, and special events. Because Congress has directed that real property at the site be conveyed and/or outgranted to the City of Minneapolis (City) pursuant to Section 356 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020, the proposed outgrant to Owámniyomni Okhódayapi may be amended, modified or terminated as needed to carry out Section 356. The City has confirmed that an outgrant to Owámniyomni Okhódayapi would not conflict with conveyance or outgrant to the City or its designee at a later date.

5. Schedule. The proposed outgrant would be issued in 2024 for a duration of up to 25 years.

6. Permits/Coordination.

a. General. The proposed action is being coordinated with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, and Tribes concurrent with release of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA).

b. Federal. A Draft Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact was prepared and is being coordinated in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. Coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service is occurring during the planning process.

7. Summary of Environmental Impacts. The proposed action would have minimal or no effects on most resources. Exceptions to this are noted for recreation and community cohesion, where short-term minor beneficial effects are anticipated. If granted, the outgrant would not change the National Park Service's services at the site. The outgrant would also include conditions to ensure no interference with Corps operations and maintenance at the site.

8. Report. A Draft Environmental Assessment that describes the project and the environmental impacts in detail is available to the public and can be viewed at <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Home/PublicNotices.aspx>. The report includes a description of the proposed action, map, and a Draft Finding of No Significant Impact.

9. Review and Comment. If you have any comments on the environmental assessment 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, to include the possibility of posting on a public website. Questions on the project or comments on the Environmental Assessment can be directed to David Potter at (651) 290-5713 or at david.f.potter@usace.army.mil. Please address all formal

written correspondence on this project to District Engineer, St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers, ATTN: Regional Planning and Environment Division North, 332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

Jonathan Sobiech
Deputy Chief, Regional Planning and
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