



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**®

St. Paul District

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**Public Affairs**

# Corps Facts

## District Missions

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### **Disaster Response**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may provide help to save human life, prevent immediate human suffering or mitigate property damage. Assistance is limited to the preservation of life and the protection of public property, to include public and private facilities that provide public services. During natural disaster and other emergencies, the Corps provides drinking water and ice, cleans up debris, provides auxiliary power, makes repairs to and may provide temporary housing or roofing. Additionally, the Corps provides technical advice to state and federal officials by inspecting and assessing damaged areas.

### **Flood Control**

When a storm hits, Corps' built and maintained dams and reservoirs hold excess water to prevent or reduce downstream flooding. Additionally, reservoirs provide water supply storage for communities and protect ecosystems for fish and wildlife. These flood control structures also provide fun, safe places to play, since many of them are also used as recreation areas. In cities near waterways, floodwalls, levees and diversion channels, all work to keep storm water out of homes, schools and businesses. The Corps also helps reduce flood damage by preventing additional construction in areas most prone to floods.

### **Navigation**

The Corps maintains navigation channels, much like road crews maintain highways, and builds breakwaters or jetties to protect homes and businesses from crashing waves. Improvements include deepening and widening river channels, so commercial ships and other watercraft can move safely and easily. To achieve a nine-foot channel on the Upper Mississippi River, the construction of a system of navigation locks and dams was authorized in 1930. The St. Paul District has jurisdiction over the 13 uppermost structures – No. 10 in Guttenberg, Iowa, to Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam in Minneapolis.

### **Environmental Management**

The St. Paul District is a partner in the federal government's Upper Mississippi River Environmental Management Program. This program is intended to ensure the coordinated development and enhancement of the Upper Mississippi River system, with primary emphasis on habitat restoration and protection projects. Habitat projects include dredging backwater areas and channels, constructing dikes, creating and stabilizing islands and controlling side channel flows. In this district, the projects are located along the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers from Guttenberg, Iowa, to Minneapolis, a distance of 250 river miles.

### **Regulatory**

A Corps' permit is required to do any work in, over or under a navigable water of the United States. These waters include many of the larger rivers and lakes, such as the Minnesota, St. Croix and Mississippi rivers, as well as Lake Superior and the Mississippi headwaters lakes and wetlands. The St. Paul District's regulatory jurisdiction covers the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

### **Recreation**

The Corps is the nation's largest providers of outdoor recreation, operating more than 2,500 recreation areas at 463 projects (mostly lakes) and leasing an additional 1,800 sites to state or local governments. The Corps hosts 360 million visits a year at its lakes, beaches and other areas and estimates that 25 million Americans (one in 10) visit a Corps' project at least once a year. The St. Paul District maintains 49 recreation areas open to the public.