## Proudly Serving Chicago Since 1833

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Chicago District mission is to provide valued, world class leadership, engineering services, and management capabilities to the diverse stakeholders and partners within the greater Chicagoland metropolitan area and the nation.

In 1833, Army engineers began construction of a harbor at the mouth of the Chicago River, creating an important shipping center. From 1844 to 1915, the Corps of Engineers constructed and improved harbors along the Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin shorelines. From the 1940s through the 1970s, the district was involved in a variety of military and civil construction projects including NIKE missile bases, the military facility at O'Hare, widening the Cal-Sag navigation channel and constructing Burns Harbor. In the 1980s, the Chicago District took over operation and maintenance of the Chicago Harbor Lock and expanded its interagency support to include providing construction assistance to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's wastewater treatment Construction Grants Program and Superfund. In the 1990s, the Chicago District began several major flood risk management projects in Illinois and Northwest Indiana, directed the emergency relief effort for the Great Chicago Tunnel Flood, developed an enhanced aquatic ecosystem restoration program and started addressing aquatic nuisance species issues.

Today, the Chicago District is responsible for water resources development in the Chicago metropolitan area, an area of about 5,000 square miles with a population of about nine million, through a variety of projects including flood risk management and storm damage reduction, navigation, aquatic ecosystem restoration, emergency management and interagency and international services.

Col. Frederic A. Drummond Jr. was commissioned into the Army Corps of Engineers in 1989 and became the 63rd Chicago District Engineer in June 2011.

## District Boundaries

## For More Information

For more information about the Chicago District, please visit www.lrc.usace.army.mil or call the public affairs office at 312-846-5330.

Social Media:

www.facebook.com/usacechicago

www.youtube.com/ChicagoUSACE

www.flickr.com/photos/usacechicago

Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study:

www.glmris.anl.gov

www.facebook.com/glmris

www.twitter.com/glmris

11/2012

US Army Corps of Engineers®

Hofmann Dam removal

Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal Electric Barriers

McCook Reservoir

Chicago Lock

BUILDING STRONG®

Chicago District

## Flood Risk Management and Storm Damage Reduction

The Chicago District partners with communities throughout the region to help manage flood risk through structural and non-structural solutions including levees, floodwalls, reservoirs, floodproofing and floodplain restoration.

The McCook Reservoir Project is a 10 billion gallon reservoir that will capture combined sewer overflows that cause flooding and watercourse contamination in Chicagoland and benefits Chicago and 36 suburbs, including 1.5 million structures and 3 million people. The Little Calumet River Flood Control Project provides a 200-year level of flood protection consisting of new levees and floodwalls, rehabilitation of existing pump stations, a flow-control structure, floodproofing and a flood-warning system.

USACE provides safe and reliable projects that reduce economic damages and prevent loss of life from both inland flooding and coastal storms. The Chicago Shoreline Project provides storm damage protection to the Lake Michigan shoreline and, in particular, to Lake Shore Drive, a major transportation artery in the city. The existing shoreline structures, built in the early 1900s, had deteriorated and no longer functioned to protect against storms, flooding and erosion. The project also provides safe access to the water's edge and preserves unobstructed views of Lake Michigan.

## Navigation

The Chicago District maintains seven major harbors on the Illinois and Indiana shores of Lake Michigan, dredges to remove sediment and maintain navigation depth, collects hydrographic survey data, performs maintenance of breakwaters and operates and maintains the Chicago Lock, one of the busiest in the nation.

*Chicago Shoreline Project reconstructs nearly 10 miles of shoreline protection.*

## Environment

USACE incorporated ecosystem restoration into its Civil Works program in response to the increasing national emphasis on environmental restoration and protection. Ecosystem restoration efforts involve a comprehensive examination of problems contributing to system degradation and the development of alternative plans for their restoration.

Protecting and restoring streams, lakes and wetlands is critical due to their role in providing habitat for fish and wildlife, as well as the extensive value they provide to the public.

The Chicago District has integrated aquatic ecosystem restoration measures into flood risk management projects and has numerous stand-alone projects. By the fall of 2012, through stand-alone projects, the Chicago District had restored/protected over 2,600 acres of habitats and produced over 58 miles of free flowing river.

As a member of the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee, USACE is working to prevent Asian Carp from establishing sustainable populations in the Great Lakes.

The Electric Dispersal Barriers deter the inter-basin passage of Asian carp and other aquatic nuisance species via the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal through the use of pulsed direct current in the water from steel electrodes secured to the bottom of the canal that discourages fish from crossing. The Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study is evaluating a range of options and technologies to prevent the transfer of aquatic nuisance species between the two basins.

## Regulatory

Through the Regulatory Program, USACE is committed to protecting the nation's aquatic resources, while allowing reasonable development through fair, flexible and balanced permit decisions. USACE evaluates permit applications for essentially all construction activities that occur in the nation's waters, including wetlands. The Chicago District Regulatory Branch, within jurisdiction, ensures compliance with issued permits, restores sites affected by unauthorized work and deters any future un-permitted activities.

## Emergency Management

The Chicago District provides emergency response to natural disasters, such as flood control and coastal emergencies, and provides emergency support to other agencies, particularly the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region V. Tasks include disaster preparedness; emergency operations; rehabilitation of flood control works threatened or destroyed by flooding; emergency clean water supply provisions and post-flood temporary construction and repairs to essential public utilities and facilities. Recent efforts include the Joplin, Mo. tornado and Hurricanes Irene and Sandy.

## Interagency and International Services

IIS is the USACE program that provides technical assistance to non-Department of Defense federal agencies, state and local governments, tribal nations, private U.S. firms, international organizations and foreign governments. USACE provides engineering and construction services, environmental restoration and management services, research and development assistance, management of water and land-related natural resources, relief and recovery work and other management and technical services. USACE also provides Overseas Contingency Operations Support.

*Northerly Island Project restores 40 acres of coastal habitat along southern Lake Michigan, creating habitats for resident and migratory species of insect, fish, amphibian, reptile and bird.*

*The Red Mill Pond Project restores and preserves high-quality wetland habitat over approximately 160 acres in the headwaters of the Little Calumet River.*

*Indiana Harbor and Canal Confined Disposal Facility Project includes dredging and safely confining thousands of yards of sediment to restore navigation depth.*