US Army Corps of Engineers ®
Rock Island District

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Peoria Riverfront Development (Ecosystem Restoration) Upper Mid-sized Island Critical Restoration Project (September 2011)

Description

The Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District (District) and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IL DNR) completed the feasibility study phase of the Peoria Riverfront Project (Project) in 2003; the Planning, Engineering, and Design Phase was initiated in January 2004 following receipt of State of Illinois funds. The principal goals of the Project are to improve depth diversity and enhance aquatic habitat in Peoria Lake. The recommended plan includes dredging approximately 200 acres within Lower Peoria Lake to create deepwater habitats and constructing three islands with a total area of 75 acres. In September 2004, approval was given to construct the Upper Mid-sized Island (55 acres of dredging with a 21-acre island) as a Critical Restoration Project under the Illinois River Basin Restoration Authority [Section 519, Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2000, as amended]. The State of Illinois provided construction funds in 2006 with Federal funds provided in late 2008. The WRDA of 2007 authorized the construction of the Lower Islands (145 acres of dredging with a 54-acre island).

This Project initiated the construction phase of the Illinois River Basin Restoration Program. In November 2010, construction was completed on the Waubonsie Creek Fish Passage Critical Restoration Project in Kane and Kendall Counties. Fourteen additional Critical Restoration Projects are in various stages of planning and design, including two projects waiting construction at Pekin Lake. Section 519 of WRDA 2000 authorized: (1) a Comprehensive Plan to develop and implement a restoration program and a long-term resource monitoring program, and to evaluate new technologies and innovative approaches; and (2) construction of critical restoration projects. These efforts relate to the state's *Illinois Rivers 2020* initiative, a proposed 20-year Federal/State effort to restore and enhance the 30,000 square-mile Illinois River Basin. The Comprehensive Plan was approved by HQUSACE in May 2007 and forwarded to Congress.

History/Significance

Peoria Lake, the largest bottomland lake in the Illinois River valley, reflects changes similar to other lakes. There are 60 backwater lakes along the Illinois River. The Illinois State Water Survey has estimated that average volumetric loss due to sedimentation of all backwater lakes since 1903 is 70%, with several approaching 100% loss. The oldest complete survey of the Illinois River system was done in 1903. This loss of aquatic habitat is viewed as the greatest threat to the Illinois River as concluded through a state-wide planning process that resulted in the *Integrated Management Plan for the Illinois River* in 1997. Since 1903, the volume of Peoria Lake below elevation 440 feet has decreased by approximately 61%. Elevation 440 is considered “flat pool” for Peoria Lake. The elevation is a function of the height of Peoria Lock and Dam. Areas

outside of the navigation channel have experienced sedimentation that is even more rapid. The loss of backwater lake depth and volume has severely impacted off-channel overwintering, spawning, and nursery habitats for fish. Shallow water areas are subject to wave action that re-suspends sediment, further limiting fish, aquatic vegetation, macro invertebrate, and mussel production.

In Peoria Lake, sedimentation has resulted in the loss of deeper, off-channel parts of the lake from an estimated maximum of 8 feet to 1 to 2 feet in recent years. Off-channel areas will remain shallow and subject to re-suspension of sediment by waves if no action is taken. This transformation of Peoria Lake into a narrow navigation channel with bordering shallow, wind-swept areas will negatively impact fish and wildlife habitat and also reduce aesthetic values and recreation opportunities.

Project Timeline

- 1996 - United States House of Representatives Resolution 2500 of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure requests a feasibility study of the Peoria Lake area.
- 1997 – A Section 905(b) Reconnaissance Report is completed which recommends a feasibility study to assess measures to reduce existing sedimentation in Peoria Lake to create and restore aquatic habitats and reduce future sediment deposition in the Farm Creek Delta.
- May 2000 – A study newsletter notifying residents of the study's initiation and upcoming open house was mailed to nearly 700 addresses.
- June 2000 – A public open house was held in Peoria to execute the Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement between the IL DNR and the District. The IL DNR and the District provided Study information to the 70 members of the public who attended the open house.
- November 2000 - A study newsletter was mailed to over 700 addresses providing study background, purpose, a study update, a summary of the June open house, and an invitation to a November 29, 2000 Open House. The November Open House was held in Peoria with information regarding the study made available to 72 attendees
- June 2002 - A study newsletter was mailed to over 800 addresses announcing a public meeting to present the study results to the public. The public meeting was held in Peoria with 77 people attending.
- December 2002 – Statement of Findings and Findings of No Significant Impact signed.
- July 2003 – The Report of the Chief of Engineers is signed.
- April 25, 2006 – A Project Cooperation Agreement between the IL DNR and the Corps, Rock Island District for construction of the Upper Mid-sized Island Critical Restoration Project was executed.
- April 24, 2009 - The public was invited to attend a ceremony held at the Peoria District Gateway Building to commemorate the initiation of construction and the contract award

Construction

The contract for the Peoria Riverfront Development, Illinois (Ecosystem Restoration) Upper Mid-sized Island Critical Restoration Project, Stage I was awarded March 2009 to Midwest Foundation Corporation of Tremont, Illinois for $3,528,320. Stage II was awarded in March 2010 to Midwest Foundation Corporation for $4,634,521. The dredging and island construction is currently taking place immediately north of the McClugage Bridge. Construction is anticipated to be complete in 2013.

Lower Island Design

The District and the IL DNR signed a Design Agreement in July 2011 for the Two Lower Islands with Flowing Side Channel. Approximately two-thirds of the funds necessary for the design effort have been provided by Congress. If the remaining funds are provided, design efforts could be completed by the summer of 2012. Construction will be subject to further appropriation of construction funds by Congress.

Point of Contact

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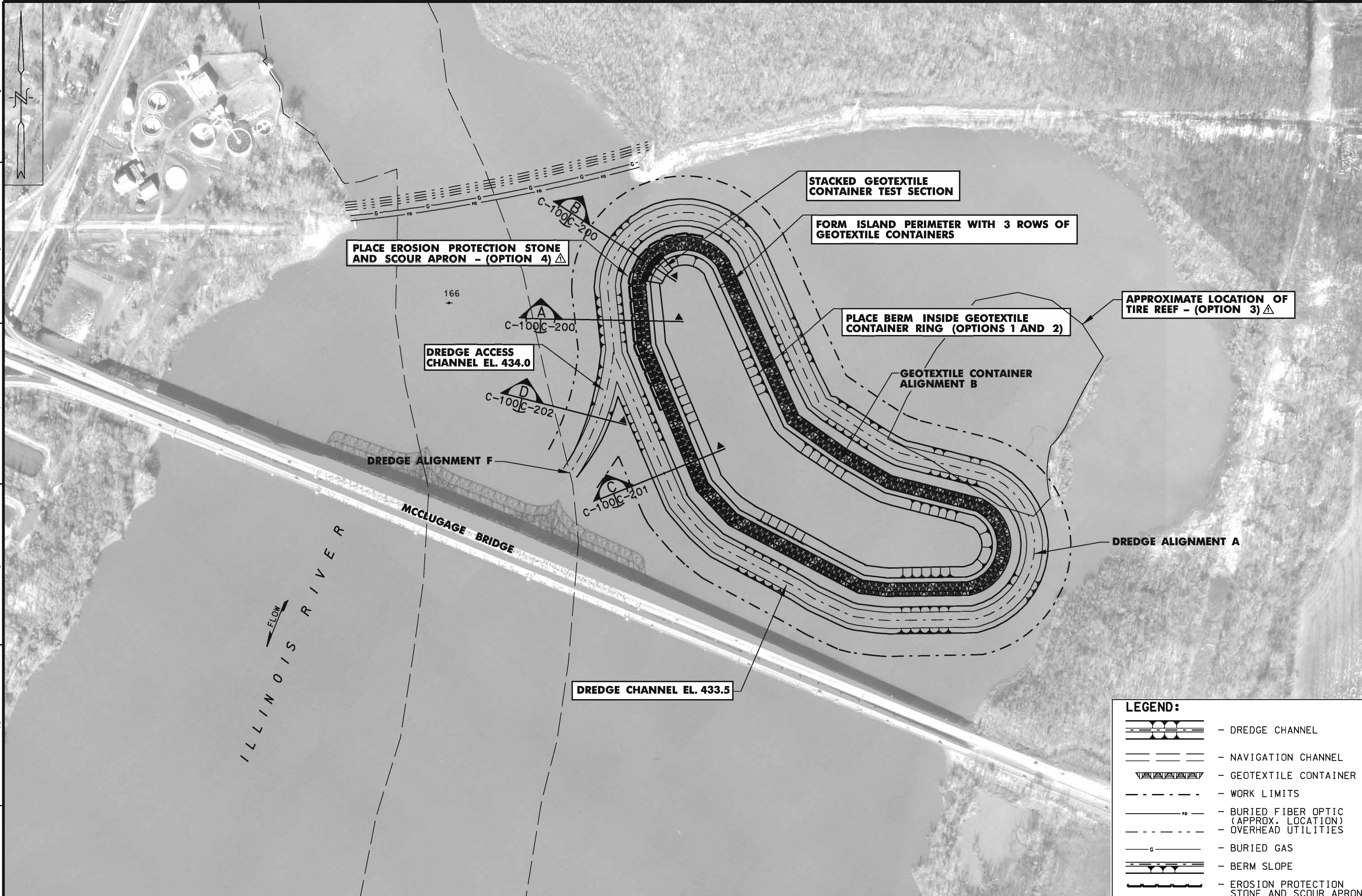

200 0 200 400
SCALE IN FEET

SITE PLAN

US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District

Symbol	Description	Date	Approved
1	AMENDMENT #6 - TEXT CHANGES	25FEB09	TNH/HLA

Revisions

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

Designed By: RSK	Drawn By: SDB	Checked By: TNH	Reviewed By: HLA
Date: 20NOV2008	Scale: AS SHOWN	Project Code: PA07	Solicitation Number: W912EK-09-R-0010

PEORIA RIVERFRONT ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT STAGE I

SITE PLAN

Sheet Reference Number: **C-100**

Sheet 7 of 14

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OPTION G
CONSTRUCT
ROCK CLOSURE
STRUCTURES
(SEE C-104)

OPTION E - DREDGE
BACKWATER AREA 2
TO EL. 434.0
(SEE C-106)

BASE BID DREDGE ALIGNMENT A
TO EL. 430.0 AND CONSTRUCT
POTHOLES.
(SEE C-101)

A
C-100 C-300

BASE BID AND OPTIONS A, B, D AND E -
FILL INTERIOR OF ISLAND USING
MECHANICALLY DREDGED MATERIAL

BACKWATER AREA 2

B
C-100 C-300

OPTION C - DREDGE ALIGNMENT C AND
FILL NEW GEOTEXTILE CONTAINERS
ON ALIGNMENT D WITH DREDGED
MATERIAL (SEE C-103)

BACKWATER AREA 1

EXISTING
ACCESS CHANNEL
(SEE R-001)

OPTION A - DREDGE ALIGNMENT B
TO EL. 430.0 AND CONSTRUCT
POTHOLES.
(SEE C-102)

C
C-100 C-301

EXISTING CHANNEL
(SEE C-300 AND C-301)

OPTION D - DREDGE
BACKWATER AREA 1
TO EL. 434.0
(SEE C-106)

MCCLUGAGE BRIDGE (U.S. HIGHWAYS 24 AND 150)

APPROX. LOCATION OF
EXISTING TIRE REEF
(SEE C-104)

OPTION F CONSTRUCT
ROCK JETTIES (TYPICAL)
(SEE C-104)

OPTION B - DREDGE ALIGNMENT C
TO EL. 430.0 AND PLACE
DREDGED MATERIAL ON
INTERIOR OF ISLAND
(SEE C-103)

ILLINOIS RIVER
FLOW

SITE PLAN

200 0 200 400
SCALE IN FEET

US Army Corps of Engineers
Rock Island District

Symbol	Description	Date	Approved
	Revisions		

Date: 2010/01/29
Scale: AS SHOWN
Project Code: IW112
Solicitation Number: W912EK-10-R-0029

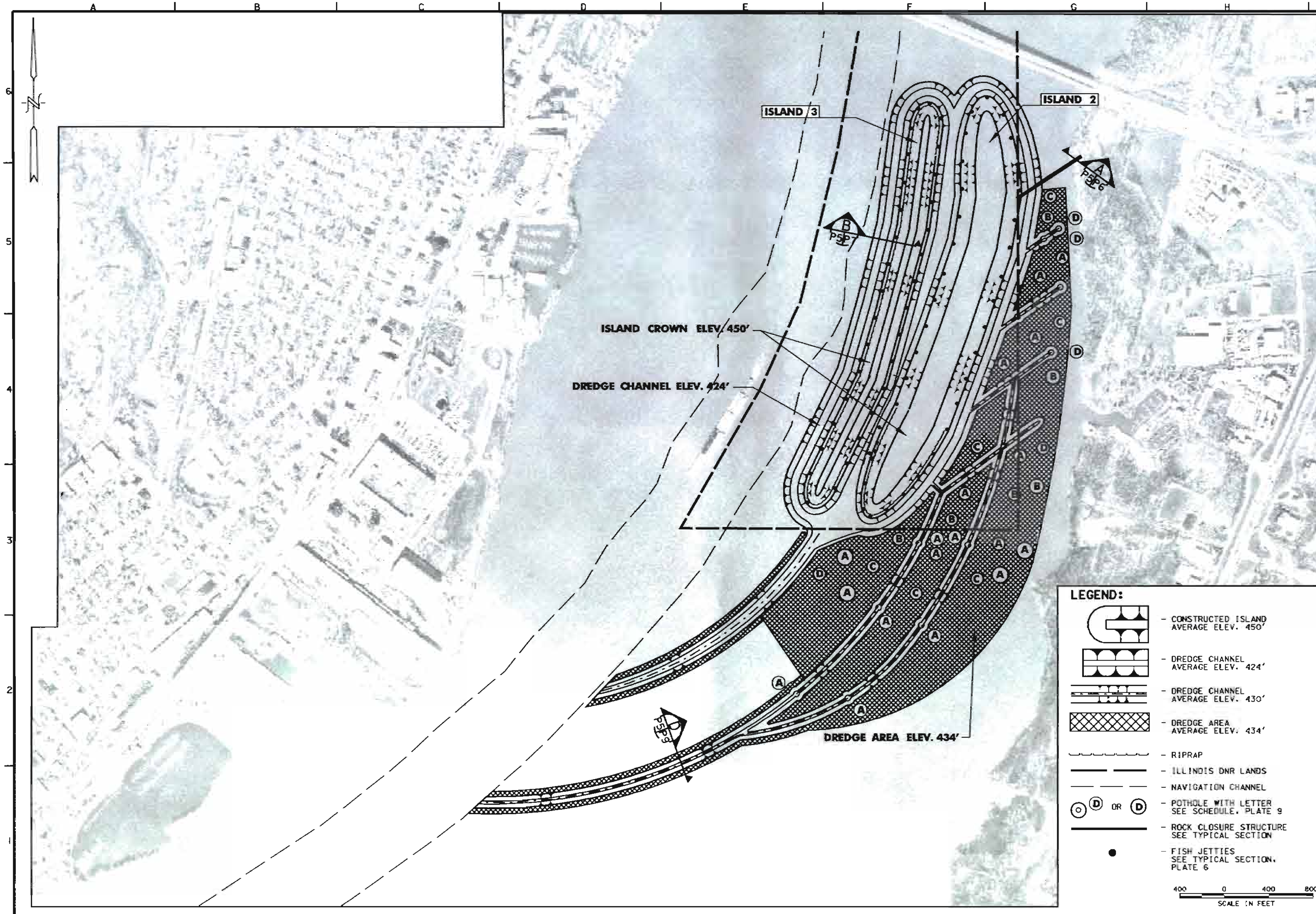
Designed By: TNH
Drawn By: JMF
Checked By: HLA
Reviewed By: KNM

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS RIVER BASIN
ILLINOIS RIVER - RM 166.0 - 168.0
TAZEWELL COUNTY, IL
PEORIA RIVERFRONT ISLAND
SECTION 519, STAGE II

SITE PLAN

Sheet Reference Number:
C-100
Sheet 9 of 22



US Army Corps of Engineers
Rock Island District

Symbol	Description	Date	Approved
	Revisions		

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

Designed By: MJT	Date: 22 NOV 2002
Drawn By: TPO/SDB/NPP	Scale: AS SHOWN
Checked By:	Project Code: PA06
Reviewed By: RAL	Solicitation Number: DACW25-XX-B-XXXX

PEORIA RIVERFRONT ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY

ISLANDS 2 & 3 ISLAND PAIR

PLATE 5

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