

Prairie du Rocher | Modoc | Edgar Lakes LEVEE DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN



OUR VISION FOR THE NEXT 300 YEARS

*The Prairie du Rocher | Modoc | Edgar Lakes Levee District
and its community partners will work to ensure
the long-term viability of the region protected by the levee system.*

2020



Prairie du Rocher | Modoc | Edgar Lakes

LEVEE DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN

Acknowledgments

This plan was made possible by the diligent work of these organizations and individuals. Thank you all very much for your valuable input.

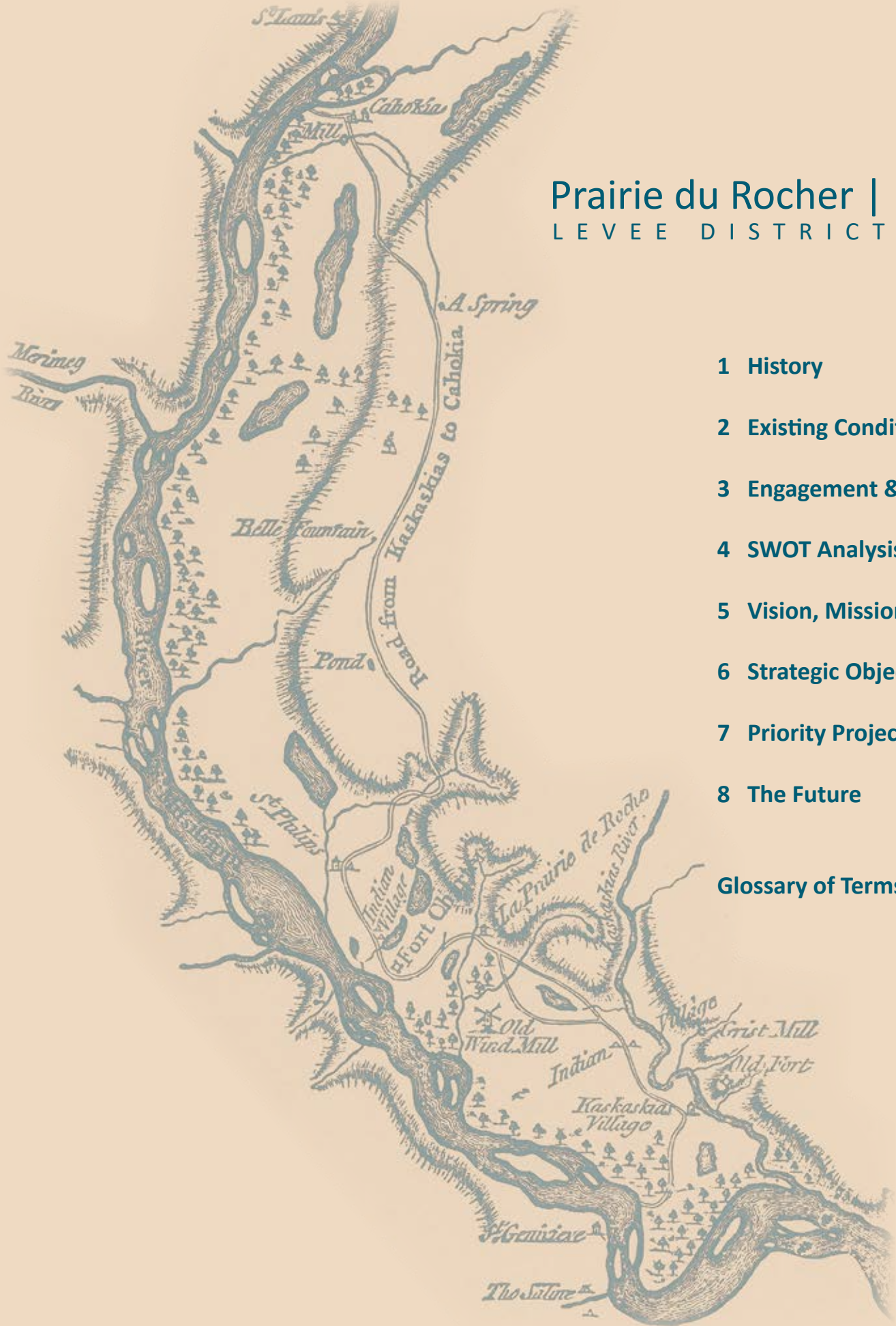
The Prairie du Rocher | Modoc | Edgar Lakes Levee System Steering Committee of the Community Foundation of Prairie du Rocher

- Ray Cole, *Village of Prairie du Rocher, Chairman*
- Stephen Gonzalez, *Prairie du Rocher, Modoc, Edgar Lakes Levee System Commissioner, Vice Chairman*
- Amy Barbeau, *Prairie du Rocher Chamber of Commerce, The Community Foundation of Prairie du Rocher*
- Katie Cayo, *Randolph County Farm Bureau*
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- The Village of Prairie du Rocher
- The Prairie du Rocher Chamber of Commerce
- The Community Foundation of Prairie du Rocher
- The Community of Modoc
- The Kaskaskia Regional Port District
- The Randolph County Farm Bureau
- The Randolph County Progress Committee
- The Randolph County Commissioners
- Les Amis du Fort de Chartres
- The Community Foundation of Randolph County
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1 | HISTORY



Above: Bluffs of Prairie du Rocher
Below: Historic Creole House built in 1753



Below: Opening ceremonies at Fort de Chartres for the annual Rendezvous Celebration.



THE PRAIRIE DU ROCHER | MODOC | EDGAR LAKES LEVEE DISTRICT

Each year, thousands visit this area rich with French culture and traditions, helping to bring more than \$35 million dollars in tourism revenue to Randolph County. Prairie du Rocher is one of the oldest original French villages in America still in existence. The significance of the Fort and Village to American history is important. It was once the western boundary of the United States.

In 1720, the French built Fort de Chartres (the Fort) proximate to the Mississippi River for military protection. In 1722, the nearby Village of Prairie du Rocher (the Village), translated as “Prairie by the Rock”, was founded, primarily by French Canadians. The Village is below the limestone cliffs (bluffs) at the eastern side of the Mississippi River in Randolph County, Illinois. Ste. Genevieve, Missouri is directly across the Mississippi River. Fort de Chartres and Prairie du Rocher are located in the American Bottom and both were considered a center of trade and government in the French Colonial period.

In the 1950s, a 16.5-mile-long levee system was constructed to provide flood protection to 16,570 acres of farmland and residential, commercial and industrial properties, in and around the community of Modoc and the Village of Prairie du Rocher.

While the levee system was built by the federal government, it is maintained (sponsored) by the Levee Commissioners of the Prairie du Rocher|Modoc|Edgar Lakes Levee District.

In 1966, the Fort and its associated buildings were placed on the National Register of Historic Places, along with the Village of Prairie du Rocher, and recognized as a National Historic Landmark.

In 1974, the Fort was named one of the contributing properties to the new French Colonial Historic District, along with other area French-influenced sites, including the Creole House, the Pierre Menard Home, the Kolmer Site (a former Indian village), and the site of Fort Kaskaskia.

In 1985, The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) identified Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) in the Village of Prairie du Rocher when FEMA issued a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). FEMA’s newly modified Base Flood Elevations (BFE) revise the Flood Insurance Rate Map for the community and will increase flood insurance premiums.

The Prairie du Rocher Modoc Edgar Lakes Levee system is currently deemed Zone “AR” by FEMA. “AR” means Special Flood Hazard Areas formerly protected from the one percent annual chance flood by a flood control system that has been subsequently decertified. Zone AR also indicates that the former flood control system is being restored to provide

protection from the one percent annual chance or greater flood. For Prairie du Rocher to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the community must use the modified Base Flood Elevations (BFE) to administer the flood plain management measures of the NFIP. The modified BFE are used to calculate the appropriate flood insurance rates.

In 1999 and again in 2002, modifications were made to the levee system, including raising the levee height. The system protects nearly \$100 million dollars in property value. The levees survived the Great Flood of 1993 and several subsequent floods of record since, including the extended 2019 flood.

HISTORY TIMELINE

- 1720** Original Fort de Chartres built by French- made of upright logs
- 1721** Parish Church - Saint Anne du Fort de Chartres established
- 1722** Founding date of Prairie du Rocher
- 1735** Melliere home built in Prairie du Rocher - still in existence
- 1753** Historic Creole House built- still in existence
- 1767** Records and sacred vessels of St. Anne’s church transferred to St. Joseph’s church, which is the only true French parish in the diocese of Belleville.
- 1753-56** New Fort built of stone
- 1765** French surrender Fort to the British
- 1772** The Great Flood - British abandon the Fort
- 1818** Illinois becomes a state
- 1858** Cornerstone of current St. Joseph’s church structure laid
- 1913** Illinois legislature designates Fort de Chartres a state park
- 1948** Construction begins of 16.5 mile levee system to protect 16, 570 acres of farmland, the community of Modoc and the Village of Prairie du Rocher.
- 1966** Fort de Chartres and Modoc Rock Shelter added to National Registry of Historic Places. Also listed as National Landmarks
- 1973** Creole House added to National Registry of Historic Places
- 1974** French Colonial District created encompassing 22 square miles in and surrounding Prairie du Rocher. Added to the National Registry of Historic Places along with Kolmer Site (ancient Indian village between Prairie du Rocher and Fort de Chartres)
- 1985** FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) established flood insurance rate map and identified areas in Prairie du Rocher as special flood hazard areas.
- 1993** The Great Flood of 1993 - levees held against “500 year flood”
- 1999** Modifications made to levee including raising of levee height
- 2004** Levee accredited- “certified”
- 2005** Hurricane Katrina hits New Orleans and FEMA changes policies for accreditation
- 2016** Levees deemed unacceptable due to possible under seepage. Scheduled for decertification with completion of new flood zone maps.
- 2019** Levees held against extended high water event



Above: Steam engine stops in Prairie du Rocher
Below: Historic Market Street, Prairie du Rocher



Below: Rare WWI German Artillery





Above: Melliere Home built in 1735 in traditional French Style.
Below: Sacred vessels received as a gift from King Louis XV of France in the early 1700s.



Above: Recreation of Calvary along old King's Road.
Below: Summer Kitchen of the Lee-Brickey Mansion
Bottom: Powder Magazine at Fort de Chartres



THE LAND OF THREE FLAGS

The French Colonial Historic District

The French Colonial Historic District encompasses a major area of 18th-century French colonization in southwestern Illinois, including much of the town and river bottom lands that reflected French colonial land-use methods and the area's broader historical patterns. The district is anchored by Fort de Chartres and Fort Kaskaskia, two important French settlements and military posts in what was then the Illinois Country.

In 1722, French settlers founded Prairie du Rocher. Ste. Geneviève is the oldest permanent European settlement in Missouri founded around 1740 by settlers and Prairie Du Rocher migrants from Illinois Country just east of the Mississippi River. The Kaskaskia village site also is within the district. It includes the Pierre Menard Home, the only surviving building from Illinois' first state capital; over a dozen French houses in Prairie du Rocher including the poteaux-sur-sol, Creole House (1800) and the Melliere Home (1735). Many family surnames of the original French settlers from the early 1700's still survive today within the village. Families like the Mellieres, Godiers, and Barbeaus, can trace 300 years of lineage.

The construction of the Creole House was completed by one of Illinois' earliest American settlers; only about eight hundred Americans lived within the bounds of the present state of Illinois in 1800, including just one hundred within present-day Randolph County. The Creole House remains in use by the Randolph County Historical Society, which hosts historical events at the property. In addition to the French sites, the district also includes several archaeological sites, including the Modoc Rock Shelter, the Kolmer Site, the Waterman Site, and the Henke Site. The French Colonial Historic district was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

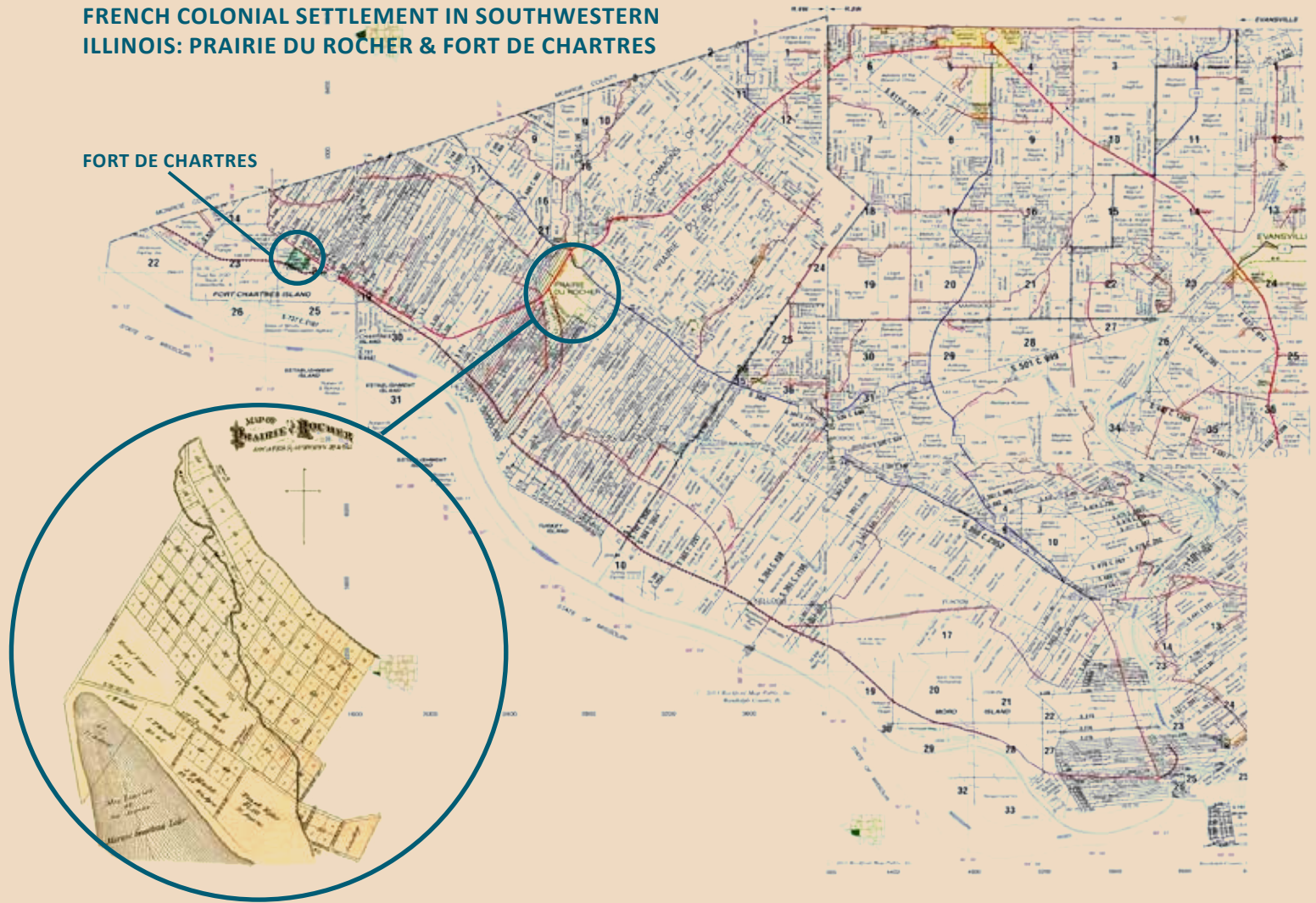
Dating back to 1721, the parish church of St. Anne du Fort de Chartres had its first recorded baptism in September of that year. In 1767, the records and sacred vessels of St. Anne were transferred to St. Joseph's church in Prairie du Rocher. These sacred vessels were a gift from King Louis XV to the parish. St. Joseph is the only true French parish in the diocese of Belleville founded under the patronage of the King. This is significant. It was never used as an Indian mission as the others were in Kaskaskia and Cahokia. The corner stone of the current church structure was laid in 1858.

In 1720, the original Fort de Chartres was built across the Mississippi from the site of rich lead deposits. It was built of upright logs and was difficult to maintain thus, a new stone fort was built between 1753 and 1756. In 1765, two years after the Treaty of Paris ended the French and Indian War, the Fort was surrendered to the British. It was abandoned in 1772. Its massive stone walls, fifteen feet high and two feet thick, were gradually plundered by locals. The powder magazine was the only original structure left when the site was purchased by the State of Illinois in 1913.

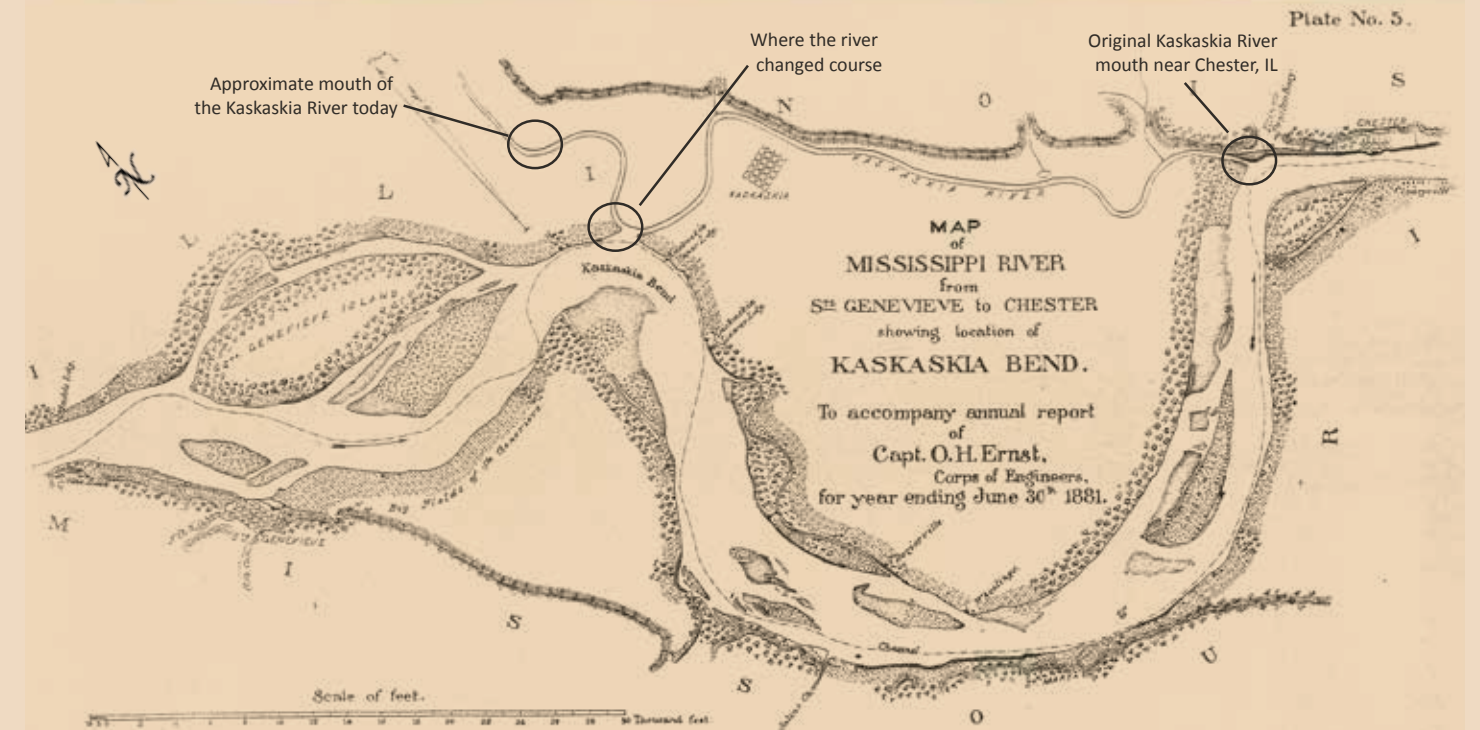
Today Fort de Chartres, rebuilt on the original stone foundation is a museum containing artifacts discovered during archaeological excavations at the Fort. Every year, there are events celebrating the cultural heritage of almost three centuries. Especially important is the annual Rendezvous, held the first full weekend in June (and on a smaller scale in November), which depicts life as it was during the 18th century.

This tradition has led to complimentary events held in Prairie du Rocher during the same weekend including the annual Rendezvous Parade.

FRENCH COLONIAL SETTLEMENT IN SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS: PRAIRIE DU ROCHER & FORT DE CHARTRES



Confluence Area Prior to Mississippi River Course Change in 1881



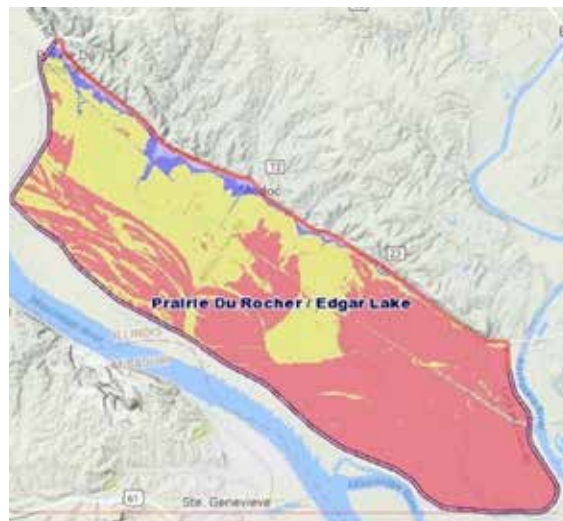
2 | EXISTING CONDITIONS



Above: Prairie du Rocher Community Park
Below: Aerial photo of Fort during high water, 2019



Below: Flood Risk Map of Levee District



Like most of the 100,000 miles of levees in the United States, the Prairie du Rocher | Modoc Edgar | Lakes Levee system is outdated and in need of upgrades. While this levee was modified in 1999 and again in 2002, floods have continually caused seepage under the levees. Soil has been moved to the land side of the levees in the form of sand boils and the levee is weakened as a result. Relief wells were designed to mitigate these effects. These wells are the originals in many cases and are decreasing in effectiveness due to age. Today, there is no current estimate of levee damage or repairs needed due to seepage, sand boils and the Flood of 2019 was the longest flood of record. A series of gravity drains, originally installed in the levee to evacuate storm water, were recently re-lined to prevent soil ingress and weakening of the levee embankment.

During heavy rain and floods, some levee embankments slide. The soil loses adherence due to water saturation and soil slides down the levee. These unmitigated slides weaken the levee.

If the levees fail, the protected homes, historically registered sites, businesses, and villages are at risk, as well as crops, wetlands, habitat, use of Illinois SR 155, and the track of the Union Pacific Railroad.

(Randolph County maintains an 'All Hazards Mitigation Plan'. In the plan are contingencies for flood stages, including procedures and warning systems.)

An April 2016 inspection of the levee system deemed it unacceptable due to possible underseepage, defective relief wells, and lack of information concerning pumps at the Edgar Lakes Pump Station. It was estimated that the cost to address these issues would be \$2.7 million.

The levee system is provisionally accredited on the effective Flood Insurance Rate Map of the National Flood Insurance Program. The accreditation will continue temporarily while this plan is finalized.

In 2016, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) completed an engineering survey on behalf of the Village. Funding came from the community (\$90,000) through the efforts of the Village of Prairie du Rocher, the Prairie du Rocher Chamber of Commerce and the Community Foundation of Randolph County.

In an executive summary, USACE officials reported, "The Prairie du Rocher and the Modoc and Edgar Lakes Levee system has prevented Randolph County communities from flooding during numerous major flood events. However, during recent floods, uncontrolled seepage has been observed throughout the system and remains a primary concern." In further discussion regarding under seepage and the use of relief wells as a response, the Corps summarized by saying, "USACE has provided

the sponsors with guidance on where and roughly to what extent underseepage remediation is required. Many original relief wells that are no longer providing adequate under seepage relief require replacement. Additional relief wells should be installed throughout the system. Relief wells require continuous maintenance and rehabilitation to ensure their effectiveness at controlling seepage. The sponsors are currently working with community leaders to develop a plan to manage this issue."

The contents of the lengthy USACE report suggest a number of options to achieve the needed protection, while working towards levee re-certification. Ongoing efforts to mitigate the situation are also required for the district to be reinstated under the PL 84-99 plan, which provides marginal insurance for levee repairs. One option suggests a new relief well system, rehabilitating the 11 stainless wells currently in place, and abandoning the remaining 157 wells that are now unproductive. In place of these wells, the plan calls for 457 new relief wells system-wide, at an estimated cost of \$39 million dollars, and an annual maintenance cost of \$1 million dollars. This solution means future generations will face similar problems.

Another option presented by USACE was the creation of a permanent berm system around the existing levee. However due to the levee length, and the various elevations of berm required in different locations, estimates for the permanent berm solution lie in the \$59 million-dollar range (not including the acquisition cost of the approximately 256 acres of farmland that would be needed).

Corps officials confirmed that a combination of these two ideas could be used, with berms in some areas and new relief wells in others (as determined by the topography of the land.) A combined solution would put the cost somewhere between the two options and does not include the \$1 million-dollar-per-year maintenance cost.

While these costs are formidable, the cost of inaction is unthinkable.

Without protection from a fully functioning levee, Prairie du Rocher and the area inside the levee system may be inundated in future floods.



Above: Flood gates closed to protect the Village from rising water, 2019
Below: State Highway 155 closed due to high water, 2019



3 | ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH



PLANNING PROCESS & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

This draft plan will be presented in public meetings held at the American Legion in Prairie du Rocher to allow for citizen and community input before the plan is finalized.

This plan will be available on social media and websites once completed.

ENDORSEMENT OF THE PLAN

Meetings and stakeholder interviews will be conducted with the following people, entities, organizations and businesses. They will be asked to review and endorse this plan:

- United States Senator Richard Durbin
- United States Senator Tammy Duckworth
- United States Congressman Mike Bost
- Illinois State Senator, Paul Schimpf
- Illinois State Representative, Nathan Reitz
- The Randolph County Commissioners
- The Prairie du Rocher Modoc Edgar Lakes Levee Commissioners
- The Village of Prairie du Rocher
- The Prairie du Rocher Chamber of Commerce
- The Community of Modoc
- The Randolph County Progress Committee
- The Community Foundation of Prairie du Rocher
- The Kaskaskia Regional Port District
- The Community Foundation of Randolph County
- Randolph County Emergency Management
- The Randolph County Sheriff's Office
- The Randolph County Historical Society
- Les Amis du Fort de Chartres
- The Kaskaskia Cahokia Trail Coalition

Above: Members of the Les Amis du Fort de Chartres address Randolph County Commissioners
Below: Historic garden at Fort de Chartres



Below: Local youth had a lemonade stand to raise money for levee



Above: Village of Prairie du Rocher
Below: Rendezvous set up



Below: Fort de Chartres



4 | SWOT ANALYSIS

What is SWOT?

SWOT analysis is a planning procedure incorporating these factors:

Strengths,
Weaknesses,
Opportunities and
Threats.

Strengths

- **History**
 - One of the last and oldest original French Villages still in existence in America (est. 1722). Tri-Centennial recognition to be celebrated in 2022 making Prairie du Rocher one of a rare and elite group of places to reach 300 years of continuous habitation.
 - French Colonial Historic District (est.1974) encompassing 22 square miles in and surrounding Prairie du Rocher is listed on the US National Register of Historic Places. Other sites within the levee district included on the list include the Modoc Rock Shelter and the Creole House.
 - Nearby and also listed on the National Register of Historic Places is Fort de Chartres sites I,II,III, and IV (also listed as a US National Landmark), the Kolmer site, and the Menard Home (also a US National Landmark).
 - Other sites within the levee district of historical significance include The Melliere home (1735), the Jesuit Windmill site (1720s), Lee-Brickey Mansion site, Church of St. Anne site (1721), St. Anne/ St. Joseph's cemetery (early 1700s), St. Joseph's Church, parts of the original Kaskaskia Cahokia Trail (1600s), and many more.
 - Connected heritage with Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park.
- **Technology**

The services of Harrisonville Telephone Company deliver ultra high-speed, fiber optic internet, enhancing business to thrive within the levee system.
- **Community & Business**
 - A large and active Chamber of Commerce with nearly 100 members United community - rural and village as one voice
 - Multi-cultural: French and Native American heritage and traditions
 - Quarry and Mississippi Lime Company
 - Agribusiness - 16,500 acres in farm crops
 - Union Pacific Railroad - 2-track mainline
- **Tourism**
 - Recently named Best Holiday River Town (10 state area- 1st in size, 3rd overall)
 - Unique and scenic local destinations including Fort de Chartres, Creole House, Conner House Bed & Breakfast (home built in1902)
 - Rendezvous and other Fort de Chartres events provide 50,000 visitors per year
 - River ferry connection with Ste. Genevieve
 - Illinois Ozarks
 - Maple Hollow Historic property-former site of Lee-Brickey mansion

- Scenic bicycle and motorcycle routes
- Mississippi and Kaskaskia River Connections
- Scenic Mississippi river bluffs
- Jerry F. Costello Lock & Dam

Weaknesses

- Funding
- Stifled Business and housing growth
- Vacillation of federal agencies ... moving the standards, resulting in the consensus that FEMA believes the region is expendable
- Limited population
- Lack of State of Illinois maintenance on State facilities - Edgar Lakes Pumping Station

Opportunities

- Establish the Prairie du Rocher - French Colonial District National Historical Park or expand the Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park to include Prairie du Rocher - French Colonial District as a unit of the park.
- Preserve and share the area's history
- Increase awareness of the community and its culture
- Partner with Ste. Genevieve for tourism and interpretation
- Increase and build upon community engagement
- Continue and grow special events
- Expand use of Kellogg Dock - Riverboats could dock at Kellogg Dock or the Lock and Dam bringing hundreds of visitors each year to local businesses
- Unique communications technology to facilitate business development
- Continue and expand community partnership with Illinois Department of Natural Resources for the Fort
- Continue the custom practiced in Prairie du Rocher since settlement in 1722, La Guiannée, caroling on New Year's Eve
- Continue and expand historic events: Rendezvous and the 12th Night Ball

Threats

- Federal agencies with loss of levee accreditation and lack of consistent federal standards
- Lack of investment
- Community frustration
- Floods
- Future increase in costs or total loss of flood insurance
- Loss of National Historic Landmarks
- Depletion of community vibrancy and cultural heritage
- Demise of the community



Above: Measuring silt levels in relief wells
Below: Historic mansion built in 1902 becomes Conner House Bed & Breakfast



Above: St. Joseph's Church built in 1858
Below: Levee repairs north of the Fort, necessary in 2019



Below: Annual French Tradition - The 12th Night Ball



5 | VISION, MISSION, & VALUES



Above: Village Hall, Prairie du Rocher
Below: Community unites in 2019 to fill sand bags



Below: Prairie du Rocher Community Consolidated School District 134 (K-8)



VISION

The Prairie du Rocher | Modoc | Edgar Lakes Levee District and its community partners will work to ensure the long-term viability of the region protected by the levee system.

MISSION

To assist in the certification and the continued integrity of the levee system at the 100-year level of protection. Enriching the quality of lives within the levee district by promoting community development and historic preservation.

VALUES

- Long term and sustainable preservation of our history**
 The community partners will make decisions that circumvent short-term gains in favor of sustained community and economic growth.
- Collaboration**
 The community partners will work to collaborate with our partners to help ensure collective success.
- Stewardship**
 The community partners are ever mindful of the ecological significance of the levee district, its wetlands, wildlife, and its agricultural contributions to the regional economy.
- Visibility**
 The community partners will promote the historical, community, and agricultural importance of the Levee District to elected officials, businesses, and the public.
- Community Engagement**
 The community partners will engage the Villages of Prairie du Rocher and Modoc, as well as Randolph County and the region, to promote open discussion concerning the levee district.
- Innovation**
 The community partners will follow best practices and consider new technologies as they emerge.
- Accountability**
 The Levee District is a steward of the public trust through fiscal responsibility, open discussion, and a fully engaged board of commissioners. The community partners will work to help ensure accountability.

- Longevity**
 Having persisted through the Great Flood of 1993 and several floods-of-record including the extended flood of 2019, the community partners will continue to preserve the legacy of previous generations and the viability of future generations.
- Nurturing Environment**
 The community partners will work to help the nurturing environment and the lineage of families that permeates the district.
- Tourism**
 The community partners will work to help promote tourism in the district and the region.
- National Significance**
 Recognize the National significance of Prairie du Rocher and the French Colonial Historic District as one of the oldest original French villages in America still in existence.



Above: Fertile soil provides strong agribusiness
Below: Prairie du Rocher under the guiding light of protective star



Below: The community works to stabilize the sand boil, 2019



6 | STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES, GOALS, & ACTIONS



Above: Community Library was established
Below: Maple Hall historic fenceline abloom



Below: Arpent Run at Fort du Chartres



CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION GOALS

- Public Law/PL-8499 Certification
- Engage state and federal government representatives for funding.
- Recertify levee to 100-year status and secure funding for maintenance.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- Underscore the monetary land and crop value, and the productivity index of the more than 16,500 farmland acres within the levee system.
- Promote the importance of businesses such as Harrisonville Telephone Company, Gateway FS Farm Services, Buena Vista Bank, Conner House Bed & Breakfast, stores, restaurants and services.
- Emphasize the importance of assets such as Kellogg Dock, the Jerry F. Costello Lock & Dam, the Union Pacific Railroad, river cruise boats, and the Modoc Ferry.
- Stabilize and increase residential and commercial property values.

TOURISM GOALS

- Market the historic significance of the region as one of the last original French villages in the United States.
- Reach out to the French consulate to create networking and funding opportunities, that could develop avenues to connect our French history with current French resources.
- Establish the Prairie du Rocher - French Colonial District National Historical Park or expand the Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park to include Prairie du Rocher - French Colonial District as a unit of the park.
- Celebrate Tricentennial with a year of events.
- Seek to attach the region to the Ste. Genevieve National Park.
- Invite riverboats and passengers to stop at Modoc or the Lock & Dam, the Village and Fort de Chartres.
- By using Main Street America standards, and preemptive to the riverboat visits, define the Village as a historic site with appropriate façades, transportation, and musical and costume themes.
- Co-market the Fort and Village with the Kaskaskia Cahokia Trail Coalition.
- Market the region by accentuating the bluffs, autumn colors, the February eagle season and Eaglefest, and as a bicycle and motorcycle destination.
- Develop Maple Hall Property as part of the heart of the community.
- Establish and network with a sister city with a location in modern day France with similar backgrounds and history.

MARKET THE REGION GOALS

- Market the region comprehensively to both internal and external customers.
- Utilize primarily electronic and social media.
- Establish a systematic media release program to local, state, and national electronic and print sources.



Top Left: French history in action - La Guianee, caroling on New Year's Eve is a tradition originating in Medieval France

Top Right: Annual Rendezvous Parade

Above: Mural of Maple Hall property with former Lee-Brickey Mansion

Below: Prairie du Rocher translates to "Prairie by the Rock"

7 | PRIORITY PROJECTS & INITIATIVES



Above: Prairie du Rocher welcomes everyone since 1722
Below: Current day Market Street - Prairie du Rocher



Below: Scout building with Fort mural



OVERVIEW

Recommendations for priority projects and initiatives to meet the vision set forth in this document have been developed and are structured to build upon existing investments and efforts by the partnering organizations. Many of these overlap and will be clarified further upon implementation.

It must be noted that the following strategic initiatives are dependent on additional partnerships being developed and nurtured, dedicating appropriate human and financial resources, and the support and commitment of local communities, businesses, agencies, and local authorities.

LEVEES & INFRASTRUCTURE

- Replace 10 to 15 percent of the 177 levee relief wells each year, with a goal of replacing all of the wells within 10 years.
- Lobby state politicians to compel the Illinois EPA to revise the standard on relief well functionality.
- Pursue a new and independent engineering study of the levee system.
- Lobby federal politicians to compel the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to modify their levee standards and standards on impoundment pools so that the levee system can achieve 100-year certification.

COMMUNITY & BUSINESS (ECONOMIC) DEVELOPMENT

- Charter a non-profit, (community cooperative) 18th Century, French artisan shop with an information/education component.
- Create incentives for new business startups, and with assistance from the Small Business Development Center, help start new businesses in the Village.
- Adopt a plan to help occupy abandoned buildings either with new businesses or façades.
- Establish storefront/façade guidelines to standardize the community's appearance.
- Consider applying or adopting Main Street America guidelines.
- Support community development.
- Support and grow partners for community events.
- Develop a "Live, Shop, & Celebrate Local" campaign.

Web & Social Media Presence

- Direct creation and maintenance of a website and social media channels that display and promote the village, the fort and the historic district.

Tourism Promotion

- Establish the Prairie du Rocher-French Colonial District National Historical Park, or through a partnership with Ste. Genevieve, expand the Ste. Genevieve National Park to include Prairie du Rocher-French Colonial District as a unit of the Park. This would create a French Colonial National Park centrally located in the United States, preserving 300 years of history for future generations.
- As a National Park, funding potential is available through the Federal Department of Transportation that could potentially be used for needed improvements.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

As a lead organization an Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) can adopt standards for all historic village development and direct marketing efforts on behalf of the village, the fort, and the historic district. The board of directors of the HPC may include personnel from the chamber of commerce, village government, the Randolph County Tourism Committee, the Randolph County Historical Society and any other citizens who have a passion for historic preservation.

- Adopt hospitality standards and procedures for riverboat visits, fort events and seasonal visitors.
- Adopt tour standards and procedures, including French habitat and other historic points of interest with partnership of the Randolph County Historical Society and other groups.
- Direct creation and maintenance of website and social media channels that display and promote the village, the fort and the historic district.
- Promote riverboat visits at KRPD Kellogg Dock, or at Confluence Heritage Park.
- Promote bus tours to the village, the Fort, and the historic district.
- Promote ecotourism with Clifftop and other groups as partners e.g. the bluffs, the Illinois Ozarks, etc.
- Partner with the Kaskaskia Cahokia Trail Board of Directors to cross-pollinate ideas and hold joint historic and ecotourism events.



Above: Gateway FS supports agribusiness in Prairie du Rocher



Above: Carriage ride tours of the Village during La Fete de Noel
Below: Sack races at the park



8 | THE FUTURE

INTO THE FUTURE

As the next steps begin to evolve and grow, actions and recommendations will be modified to produce the highest value and most productive result. The success relies on the continuing development of partnerships, the dedication of the community, and development of financial resources to the project, and the support and commitment of many agencies, and local authorities. Above all, it hinges on the good will, involvement and investments of residents.

The most immediate need is often due to water-based storm events, and life-safety issues are in the forefront. In order to achieve the protection of resources for the future, the partners will need to first make a realistic estimate of critical needs.

Recommendations in this document demonstrate the many levels of collaboration possible for partners of an effort of this size. The range is flexible and scalable. Each may choose their own role, but as a whole, they must come together to protect and preserve this community.

Establish the Prairie du Rocher - French Colonial District National Historical Park or expand the Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park to include Prairie du Rocher - French Colonial District as a unit of the Park. By doing so Prairie du Rocher can secure the protection and preservation by providing a perennial funding source for the historic places named within the area, as well as a larger voice to advocate for the accreditation of the levee system. This step is crucial for the continued maintenance of the levee system as well as the preservation of the historic resources.

History says Prairie du Rocher is in essence where Ste. Genevieve began, and it is mutually beneficial to both communities if they are thematically joined under the auspices of the National Park Service and French Colonial theme. It is an unprecedented opportunity to provide an umbrella of tourism and prestige to the area at a level equal to that of the Statue of Liberty or the Grand Canyon, while also providing double the representation in the legislature by encompassing two states collaborating and building upon shared interests within the same theme.

By adding the potential for river boat tourists and connectivity through the region, and historic enhancements to the Village and Fort de Chartres, Prairie du Rocher can become a vibrant (and protected) tourist destination.

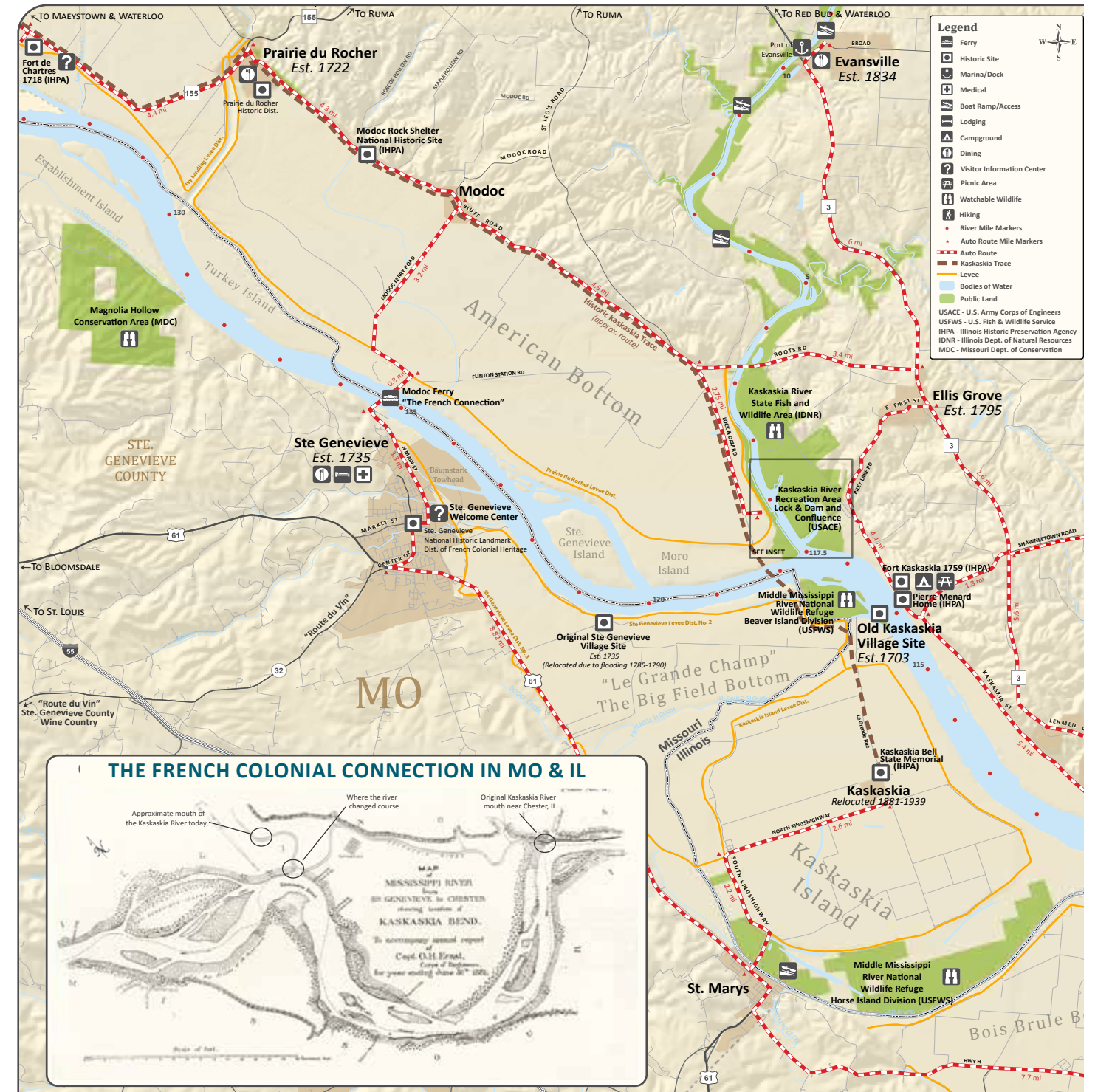
Right: The French Colonial Historic District encompasses a major region of 18th-century Fort de Chartres and Kaskaskia. The French Colonial connection is truly a bi-state theme beginning in southwestern Illinois in 1722 at Prairie du Rocher and migrating to southeastern Missouri in 1735 in Ste. Genevieve.



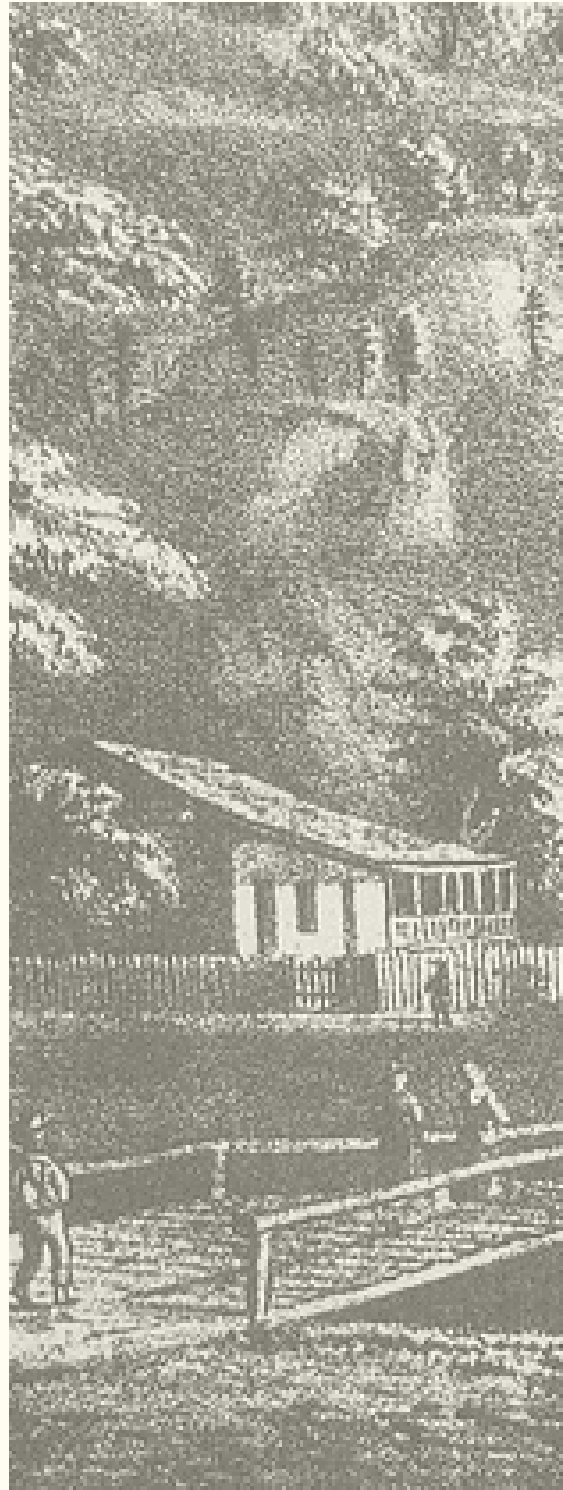
Above: Summer music program, "Party at the Park"
Below: "Tour de Bluff" bike ride



Below: Winners of annual Turtle Races during Rendezvous weekend



GLOSSARY OF TERMS



All Hazards Mitigation Plan – A plan authored and maintained by Randolph County government that outlines policies and procedures for use in the event of natural or man-made emergencies.

American Bottom – The floodplain of the Mississippi River in the Metro-East region of Southern Illinois, extending from Alton, Illinois south to the Kaskaskia River. It is also sometimes called “American Bottoms.” The area is about 175 square miles, mostly protected from flooding in the 21st century by a levee and drainage canal system.

Berm – Man-created embankment on the land side of a levee that helps mitigate flood waters. For purposes of this application, berms are installed to help minimize sand boils.

BFE – Base Flood Elevations.

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency of the United States Government.

FIRM – Flood Insurance Rate Map.

Gravity Drains – Culverts, conduits, or other similar conveyance openings through the line-of-protection (levee) that permit discharge of interior floodwaters through the line-of-protection by gravity when the exterior flood stages are relatively low. Gravity outlets are equipped with gates to prevent river flows from entering the protected area during time of high exterior flood stages.

Great Flood of 1993 – A flood along the Mississippi and Missouri rivers and their tributaries, from May to October 1993. The flood was considered to be a 500-year flood and among the most costly and devastating to ever occur in the United States, with \$15 billion in damages. (The Prairie du Rocher Modoc Edgar Lakes Levee System protected the area inside the levee from the flood of 1993.)

HPC – Historic Preservation Commission.

Levee – An embankment built to prevent the overflow of a river.

Levee Commissioners – A body of people that manages a levee district, including making assessments and arranging repairs and levee maintenance.

Liquefaction – A process by which water-saturated sediment/soil temporarily acts as a fluid. Soil liquefaction, ground failure or loss of strength that causes otherwise solid soil to behave temporarily as a viscous liquid.

National Historic Landmark – A building, district, object, site, or structure that is officially recognized by the United States government for its outstanding historical significance.

National Register of Historic Places – Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service’s National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America’s historic and archaeological resources.

NFIP – National Flood Insurance Program.

PL 84-89 Plan – The USACE has the authority under Public Law PL 84-89 to supplement local efforts to repair levees damaged by floods. To be eligible, PL 84-89 locally managed levees must meet USACE criteria.

Relief Wells – In flood control, a relief well is used adjacent to earthen levees to relieve the pressure on the river side of the levee and thus to prevent the collapse of the levee. The greater flow of water in the water source, typically during a flood, creates a pressure gradient such that more water infiltrates the soil of the levee. Water may then flow through the soil towards the dry side of the levee, resulting in sand boils, liquefaction of the soil, and ultimately destruction of the levee. Relief wells act like valves to relieve the water pressure and allow excess water to be diverted safely, for example, to a canal. Relief wells can prevent sand boils from occurring by relieving the water pressure as described.

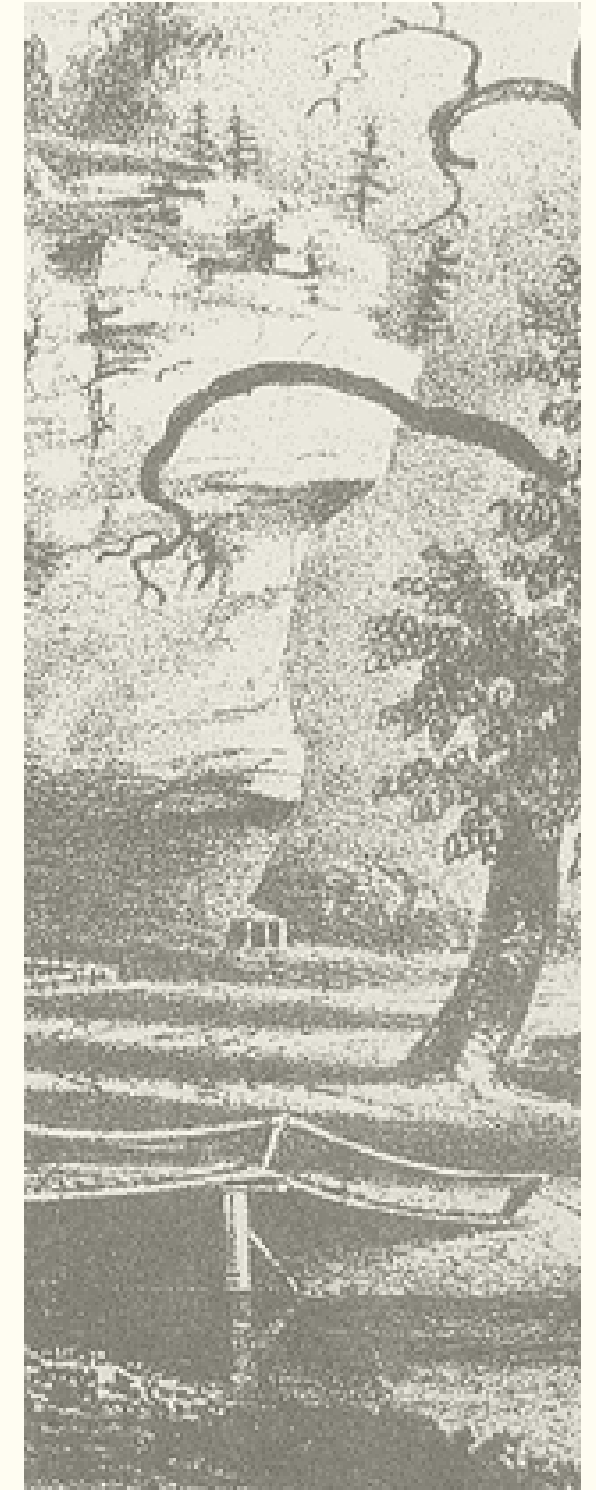
Sand Boil – Sand boils can be a mechanism contributing to liquefaction and levee failure during floods. This effect is caused by a difference in pressure on two sides of a levee, most likely during a flood. This process can result in internal erosion, whereby the removal of soil particles results in a pipe through the levee. The creation of the pipe may quickly pick up pace and will eventually result in levee failure.

SFHA – Special Flood Hazard Area.

Slides – Levee slides occur when water permeates the levee topsoil. Gravity then causes the soil and water to slide down the levee embankment.

Underseepage – Underseepage in pervious foundations beneath levees may result in (a) excessive hydrostatic pressures beneath an impervious top stratum on the land side, (b) sand boils, and (c) piping beneath the levee itself. Underseepage problems are most acute where a pervious substratum underlies a levee and extends both landward and riverward of the levee and where a relatively thin top stratum exists on the land side of the levee. Principal seepage control measures for foundation underseepage are (a) cutoff trenches, (b) riverside impervious blankets, (c) landside seepage berms, (d) pervious toe trenches, and (e) pressure relief wells.

Zone AR – AR means Special Flood Hazard Areas formerly protected from the one percent annual chance flood by a flood control system that was subsequently decertified. Zone AR also indicates that the former flood control system is being restored to provide protection from the one percent annual chance or greater flood.



For more information:

Illinois Department of Natural Resources - Randolph County Historic Sites

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(618) 284-7230 www.ftdechartres.com

Randolph County - Chester Welcome Center

10 By-Pass Road, Chester, IL 62233
(618) 826-2721 www.chesteril.com
www.edrandolphcounty.com

Village of Prairie du Rocher

209 Henry St, Prairie du Rocher, IL 62277
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Prairie du Rocher Chamber of Commerce

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