



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Improvements planned at site of Soo Locks

**DETROIT** – The Detroit District has awarded a contract for installation of a new observation deck and fencing at the Soo Locks in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

The improvements are part of the Soo Locks Facilities Master Plan, a long-range strategy for preserving the historic character and natural beauty of the Soo Locks facilities site, and for promoting sustainable development on the site.

The \$2,050,000 contract was awarded to Nomad Construction, Inc., of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., a small business. Nomad will demolish an existing concrete-and-steel observation deck overlooking the locks, construct a new one, and replace the chain link fence along the northern boundary of the Upper and Lower Canal Parks with a black wrought iron fence. The new deck will have two elevated viewing platforms, new light fixtures, and a ramp to the lower level for increased accessibility.

“These improvements will help us maintain the beauty, functionality, and historical significance of the Soo Locks,” said Lt. Col. Michael Derosier, district engineer. “Thousands of people enjoy visiting the Soo Locks, which is a National Historic Landmark. I am pleased we will help preserve this unique attraction. It is hands down the best place to observe Great Lakes shipping and learn about one of the nation’s vital transportation industries.”

The Soo Locks Facilities Master Plan includes improvements to the property adjacent to the Soo Locks. Visitors gather there to view ships, learn about the history of the locks, and visit three parks: the Upper Canal, Lower Canal, and Brady Park. Several architecturally unique buildings are among the 75 structures on the site.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, maintains a navigation system of 95 harbors, including the Great Lakes Connecting Channels that join lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, and Erie.

For more details, please contact Lynn Duerod, public affairs officer, 313-226-4680; or Mollie Mahoney, project manager, at 313-226-2033.

**To see an architect’s rendering of the new observation deck, visit our Flickr site:**  
[www.flickr.com/photos/detroit\\_district/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/detroit_district/)

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