

# Locks & Dams transformed the river from this ...



## Navigation Locks and Dams

The McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation system extends 445 miles from the Mississippi River to Tulsa, Okla. This year-round transportation corridor enables commercial shipping and the economic benefits that go with it. Little Rock District manages the Arkansas portion – 13 locks and dams and 308 miles of channel.

Before the locks and dams were built, it was not uncommon to see a nearly dry riverbed you could wade across. The locks and dams created stable navigation pools that also provide the attraction for commercial, recreational and cultural waterfront development.

The locks and dams do not provide flood reduction. Flood reduction along the Arkansas River is accomplished by 11 reservoirs in Oklahoma working together with levees in Arkansas.

Hydropower is another benefit. Little Rock District operates plants at Ozark and Dardanelle. North Little Rock and the Arkansas Electric Cooperatives built four other plants at Corps dams. Thus rain upstream generates clean, renewable electricity six times before reaching the Mississippi River.

