

ALDI Inc. – Marietta, OH Floodplain Woes



ALDI was founded by the Albrecht family in 1961 in Germany, making ALDI the first discounter in the world.

Headquartered in Batavia, IL, ALDI now has more than 1,600 stores across the United States. They have been steadily growing since opening its first US store in Iowa in 1976.

Since 2008, APD has managed ALDI's US Prototype Program. This program has included numerous redesigns over the years.

Executive Summary

A much-needed backroom expansion to an existing ALDI store was faced with two separate design challenges. Either of which could have stopped the project from being completed on time.

Challenges

The first challenge was the discovery that the store was in a floodplain. This fact was discovered during early coordination with APD's Civil Engineering Department. APD has a Certified Floodplain Manager on staff who immediately noticed this condition when looking over the project plans.

The second challenge occurred when the General Contractor began demolition work on the existing wall. The soil in this area quickly became unstable during the demolition and began to pull existing walls away from the building.

The Solution

To solve the first challenge, APD worked with the local Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) and determined that as long as the backroom addition was flood-proofed, the expansion would be approved.

A Fastlog system was designed for door openings. Fastlog is a stackable flood barrier that is reliable flood protection for openings in most buildings. This, along with the addition of CMU knee walls, and waterproofing created a flood proof system for the backroom that satisfied approval requirements.

The second challenge was addressed by providing structural stability to the structure and surrounding soils. APD's Structural Consultant coordinated with the General Contractor's consultant to design a steel sheet pile system that would alleviate the soil issues and maintain existing grading.

Results

Quick response time and open communication with the Local Jurisdiction allowed for this store to open by the start of the busy Holiday Season and avoid missed sales.

