

Project Factsheet for: Saylorville Lake Marina

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Project Location Information

Location: Saylorville Lake, Iowa
River Basin(s): Des Moines
State(s): IA
Congressional District(s): IA-3

Status

The marina's business appears to be flourishing, we haven't received any complaints recently, except regarding the condition of the boat ramp at this location. The Corps constructed a boat ramp, parking lots, and access roadways as a part of site preparations that were completed prior to leasing the site in 1977. This ramp is one of the few public boat launching sites available during high lake levels. Past investigations of the ramp have revealed that the base under the concrete surface has eroded away, creating voids and resulting in major surface cracking. Occasional work to try to find and fill the voids has kept the ramp open for use. However, a major redesign and/or renovation likely is needed. ED estimated in 2004 that it will take approximately \$865,000 to complete removal of the existing ramp and to construct another ramp at this site. The lessee is required under the terms of the lease to operate and maintain the ramp surface. However, the lessee is not expected to undertake major renovation on the government owned structure. Funding packages submitted by Saylorville Lake Project have been included in recent year budgets to perform the necessary work. However, funding has not been provided. The lessees have indicated that the ramp is a critical part of their plans for operating the marina.

In late July 2007, EC came out to re-investigate the boat ramp due to it being inundated all spring and most of the summer. The holes and cracks in the ramp are getting worse. Some holes measured nearly two feet deep. Saylorville maintenance team filled in the holes with gravel and placed asphalt down. This is only a temporary fix to avoid someone stepping into a hole. The main problem still lies with the eroded base. Estimated cost to replace the entire ramp is \$972k.

After another collapse of a concrete section of the ramp in April 2008, the boat ramp was closed to the general public for safety concerns and the structural uncertainty of the ramp. Ramp is still usable for marina operations and emergency access only. Closure of the ramps significantly impacts the marina's business, its customers and the general public. This is one of only three high water ramps on the lake.

Description

The Corps or Engineers leases approximately 140 acres at Saylorville Lake Project to a private business for the purpose of operating a commercial public recreational marina concession. Activities and services to be provided under the lease include facilities for recreational boat mooring, docking and storage; services for maintenance, storage and repair of recreational boats; and sale of marine fuel, food and beverages. In April of 2004, Saylorville Lake Marina, LLC, a group of local businessmen, was approved to assume the existing lease. After the lessee completed \$5 million dollars worth of improvements to marina facilities offered to the public, a new 25 year lease, effective January 1, 2006, was approved.

In May of 2007, the marina was sold to Saylorville Holdings, LLC. Saylorville Holdings has subleased the operation to Saylorville Lake Marina LP, a Georgia Limited Partnership.

Major Work Item (This Fiscal Year)

As part of the flood recovery funding, the marina boat ramp will be replaced in FY09.

Authority

SI - Special Interest --

Project Manager Information

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