

# Mississippi River Project - Recreation

---



As the nation's largest federal provider of outdoor recreation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) manages 12 million acres of lands and waters at Corps projects across the country. The recreation mission of the Corps is to manage and conserve natural resources, while providing quality public outdoor recreation opportunities to serve the needs of present and future generations. Many Corps projects are located near metropolitan areas and these areas are anticipating significant growth in the coming years. The only island of green for many Americans is a Corps project. The Mississippi River Project is just one of the many Corps projects near several

metropolitan areas and natural areas, with its 314 river miles of land and water; the Corps is responsible for the stewardship of these resources along the Mississippi River between Guttenberg, IA down to Saverton, MO.

## **Fishing**

The Upper Mississippi River is home to over 119 species of fish. Favorite sport fish include northern pike, walleye, sauger, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, channel catfish, bluegill and crappies. The species list also includes riverine species such as catfish, blue sucker, shorthead redhorse, and bigmouth buffalo as well as some ancient fish such as paddlefish, lake sturgeon and shovelnose sturgeon. Corps of Engineers parks usually offers both opportunities to those interested in fishing by providing boat launches and many shoreline fishing areas to the visitor. Many of the Corps boat launches charge a \$3.00 launching fee to non-registered campers through self registration vault located at the ramp. A \$30.00 annual pass good at all Corps ramps nationwide may also be purchased at fee booths, ranger offices, and from rangers on patrol. Anyone camping at any Corps park can simply place their campsite receipt on the dash of their towing vehicle for the day and forego paying the launch fee.

## **Camping on Project Lands**

What better place to spend quality time with family and friends than camping at one of the Projects many recreation areas and campgrounds. The Project offers 15 campgrounds with just over 554 campsites; six of the 15 campgrounds are Class A. Our campgrounds are located on both sides of the Mississippi River from Potosi, WI to our southernmost campground near Quincy, IL.



## **Picnic/Day Use on Project Lands**

There are 22 designated picnic areas within the Mississippi River Project. Many of our areas offer universally accessible playgrounds where kids can burn off some energy and then settle down for an afternoon lunch near the standing grills.



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Rock Island District

Mississippi River Project Office  
PO Box 534, 25549 182nd Street, Pleasant Valley, Iowa, 52767  
Phone: (309) 794-4527  
Website: [www.missriver.org](http://www.missriver.org)  
Email: [missrivermp@usace.army.mil](mailto:missrivermp@usace.army.mil)

# Mississippi River Project - Recreation (Continued)



## Boating

The Mississippi River offers amazing opportunities in boating from powerboats, sailboats, pontoon boats, personal watercraft, and paddled vessels. There are 22 boat launch ramps up and down the river that are provided by the Project. Boating activities include pleasure boating, waterskiing, tubing, sailing, windsurfing, fishing and hunting with room for each to enjoy the river.

## Hunting on Mississippi River Project Lands

With over 215,000 acres of land and water in the Project, the Mississippi River is one of the largest public hunting areas in the Midwest. This land and water is mainly owned by the Corps of Engineers, but the management for the majority of these areas falls under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge; Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge and the Great River National Wildlife Refuge. These enormous refuges have lands and waters located in the states of Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin. The majority of the lands and waters in these refuges are open to public hunting during each particular states seasons. Ducks, geese, white-tail deer, turkey, squirrels, doves and many other birds and mammals call these river areas home or use the river as a migration path, and may be pursued by hunters during the particular state hunting seasons. Many of the lands available to hunt are accessible only by boat, while others are conveniently accessed by foot. **No ATV's or off-road vehicles may be utilized on any refuge land.**



## Mississippi River Visitor Center

The Mississippi River Visitor Center overlooks Locks & Dam 15 on Arsenal Island in Rock Island, IL. Locks & Dam 15 was the first dam of the 9 foot channel project built by the Corps. The second floor of the Visitor Center is a great place to observe the river traffic from either inside or outside on the observation deck. Park Rangers are available to answer any questions you may have. The facility offers several educational displays, river floor map, aquarium with native Mississippi fish, mounted Bald Eagle, movie theater, and gift shop. The Visitor Center is ADA accessible. All services are free of charge to the public.



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Rock Island District

Mississippi River Project Office  
PO Box 534, 25549 182nd Street, Pleasant Valley, Iowa, 52767  
Phone: (309) 794-4527  
Website: [www.missriver.org](http://www.missriver.org)  
Email: [missrivermp@usace.army.mil](mailto:missrivermp@usace.army.mil)