

Mississippi River Project Shoreline Management

In 1989, the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) was developed and implemented as guidance for the management, protection and preservation of the Mississippi River's environment, while allowing a balanced use of the shoreline. It is the policy concerning private exclusive use of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) owned property from Guttenberg, IA to Saverton, MO. Private exclusive use involves placing private recreational structures (for instance boat docks) or pursuing certain activities along Corps shorelines (for instance mowing) that are limited to the individual and are usually not available to the general public. The SMP discusses conditions and restrictions of such private exclusive use.



The Mississippi River Project is currently reviewing the 1989 SMP for potential revision in 2016 concurrent to the Master Plan revision. Corps staff will be seeking input on Shoreline Management and the current SMP during the Master Plan public scoping process in 2015. Please see the “The Master Planning Process” fact sheet for additional information.

There are currently 326 Shoreline Use Permits and/or Special Use Licenses under management for shoreline and river access related private structures. This plan does not apply to the Corps administered cottage sites, residential leases, commercial marina or navigation activities. The 1989 SMP allocates the Corps-owned shoreline, Pools 11-22, into four classifications where private recreational structures/activities will either be prohibited or allowed.

- A. Limited Development Area (LDA) - The only classification where new permit/licenses may be issued to authorize private exclusive use.
- B. Public Recreational Area - Shorelines managed by a governmental entity, commercial concessionaire or non-profit organization. Private structures are prohibited within these areas.
- C. Prohibited Access Area - Shoreline areas allocated for the protection of the public's safety or security of government installations. Generally located around locks, dams, spillways or government storage areas. Private structures are prohibited within these areas.
- D. Protected Shoreline Area - Shoreline areas designated to maintain or restore aesthetic, fish and wildlife, cultural or other environmental values. These areas also may be designated to protect unstable shorelines from erosion or to prevent development in areas that are subject to excessive erosion. No private exclusive use is allowed with the exception of those authorized at the time of implementation of the SMP in 1989.



Public input is an important component to our review of the SMP. We ask that you visit our website at www.missriver.org. To submit comments and/or be added to an email list to receive updates and notifications about the plans please visit the website or contact the Project Office.

The boat dock and stairway leading to the shoreline, in the picture at left, are examples of permitted private recreational structures that are built on Corps owned property within a Limited Development Area and authorized under the Shoreline Management Plan.



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
Email: missrivermp@usace.army.mil