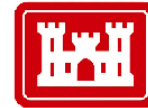




Mississippi River Project

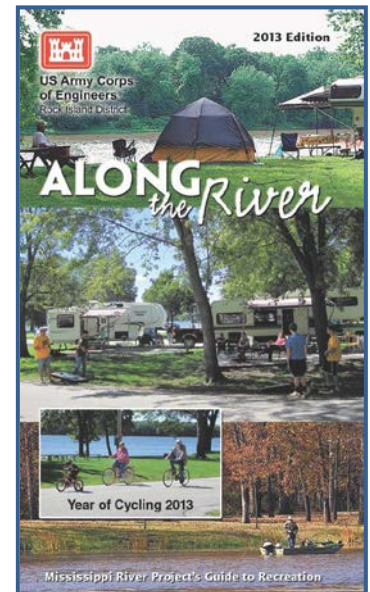


US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Welcoming the New Year

NEW 2013 ALONG THE RIVER – GUIDE TO RECREATION

Each year the Mississippi River Project publishes a new updated guide to camping and recreation areas along the banks of the Mississippi River that are managed by the project. This year's 2013 edition will be available soon and offers information on reserving a campsite, buying a boat ramp pass, campground amenities, and has a list of many things to see and do from Potosi, Wisconsin all the way to Saverton, Missouri. If you are interested in receiving a free copy of this publication please send your name and address to mvrodmn15@usace.army.mil and we will be happy to send you one.



OUTDOOR SHOW AND RV CAMPING SHOWS

If you have a love for the outdoors and winter is keeping you from participating in your favorite recreational activities then come visit with our ranger staff at the QCCA Expo Center in Rock Island, IL and get geared up for summer while the cold air is still blowing outside. The Outdoor Show will be held February 14th through the 17th and our rangers will be on hand to provide information on all the recreational opportunities our project has to offer. We will even have annual day use passes available for sale so that boaters can get ready for the season by purchasing their boat ramp sticker early. The RV Camping Show will be the following weekend February 22th through the 24th and rangers will be on site to answer questions and provide information on all our camping and recreational areas. For more information on these shows check out the website www.qccaexpocenter.com

SERVICE CONTRACTS FOR 2013 OPEN FOR BID

The Mississippi River Project has several service contract opportunities available for bid. You can stay up to date on what is available by visiting our website at www.missriver.org and click on the "Working for Us" link. If you would like to be put on a contact list for future consideration, or if you need more information on the service contract process on the Mississippi River, please contact Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist John Knoble at 309-794-4523 ([email](mailto:)), or Administrative Officer Danet Dexter at 309-794-4524 ([email](mailto:)).

RECREATION AREA

Grant River
Grant River
Cattail Slough
Fisherman's Corner
Fisherman's Corner North
Clark's Ferry
Shady Creek
Blanchard Island
Ferry Landing
Fenway Landing
Bear Creek

LOCATION

Potosi, WI
Potosi, WI
Fulton, IL
Hampton, IL
Hampton, IL
Montpelier, IA
Muscatine, IA
New Boston, IL
Oakville, IA
Canton, MO
Marcelline, IL

CONTRACT TYPES

Fee Collection
Custodial
Refuse and Custodial
Mowing and Trimming
Custodial
Mowing and Trimming
Mowing and Trimming
Mowing and Trimming
Mowing, Trimming, Refuse & Custodial
Mowing, Trimming & Refuse
Mowing, Trimming, Refuse & Custodial

Dubuque Ranger Station News

In 2012, the Dubuque field station was busy satisfying customers, maintaining parks and putting together quality events for the community. At Blanding Landing, new mulch and landscaping were completed around the shower building, and at Pleasant Creek, the addition of new vault toilets on the island. Before the recreation season, the Dubuque Ranger staff teamed up with the Veteran's Freedom Center out of Dubuque to install new recycling bins at Grant River Campground. This past summer brought out many campers until the heat wave in late June and early July. After that, we did not see normal camper visitation until Labor Day.

This past year was also a great year for our annual events. In January, 3,500-4,000 people were in attendance for the Eagle Watch at the Grand River Center. The day before the Dubuque area experienced blizzard like conditions and after the snow settled as many as 70 bald eagles could be seen throughout the day at Lock and Dam #11. In early May the 21st annual ecology meet was held at Eagle Point Park. The weather was perfect and a record 35 schools registered to participate. In late September, we celebrated our 2nd annual National Public Lands Day. Boy Scout troop 25 from Dubuque came out and helped us create a new net and court for volleyball and badminton and put the finishing touches on the new horseshoe pits.

All in all it was a good year for the Dubuque Field Station. Safety was our number one priority, and we are glad to report of no major accidents or incidents. We thank everyone who continually come out and recreate in our parks, and for sharing with others about the quality experience that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provides along the river!



DUBUQUE BALD EAGLE WATCH **SATURDAY, JANUARY 19TH, 2013**

- Outdoor viewing at Lock and Dam 11 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- Live Eagle & Bird of Prey Programs by the World Bird Sanctuary at 9:30 AM, 12:15 PM & 3:00 PM
- David Stokes will present on Animals that Share a Habitat with Eagles at 11:00 AM and 1:45 PM
- Indoor Exhibits from 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM at the Grand River Center - Port of Dubuque
- Trolley rides from Grand River Center to the National Mississippi River Museum and the outdoor viewing area.
- For more information call: 563-582-0881

Thomson Ranger Station News

The Thomson Ranger Station experienced an eventful 2012 recreation season. This past year the Thomson Causeway Recreation Area opened on time with all construction projects completed. The improvements to the sanitary and restroom facilities were highly appreciated by our customers and gave the park a much needed facelift. The project included renovation to two existing shower buildings, completion of a new shower building, construction of a three lane dump station, addition of a walk up dump station, and connects to city sewer and water. These face lifts will enable our visitors to have modernized facilities for years to come.

An impressive natural event occurred this past year... No flooding! The dry spring was much appreciated as our ranger staff was able to complete many tasks this season ahead of schedule. Tree trimming and hazard tree removal is a continuous process as the year progresses. Sign maintenance and repairs are a challenge that the rangers stayed after to keep up to specs, as well as, the many day to day projects that help keep the

parks looking in shape. The rangers were not the only ones who were able to spend more time in the parks this year. It was a very busy year for campers, boaters, fisherman, hunters, and all recreation users alike.

Seasonal interpretation programs were a success again this year. Each year the Mississippi River Project focuses on promoting Water Safety at all of our recreation areas. Rangers can be found providing programs, Lock and Dam Tours, answering questions or performing courtesy boat inspections. Each weekend campground programs were held at Thomson Causeway and Fisherman's Corner. Every year the Thomson Ranger Office organizes an array of special interpretive events: Eagle Watch, Wood Duck Nesting House Cleanouts, Earth Day, Photo Contest, Thomson Causeway Camper Craft Show and Trick or Treat in the Park. In 2012 Thomson Rangers prepared 102 programs for over 3800 participants in events designed to encourage participants and visitors to get outdoors.

For the upcoming year we hope to build upon the success we achieved in 2012. With Mother Nature's cooperation we hope to pack the parks again this year with campers, boaters, fisherman, hunters and visitors of a likes while providing quality programs. If you have any questions regarding upcoming activities at the Thomson Ranger Office, please contact us.

CLINTON BALD EAGLE WATCH

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5TH, 2013

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Mississippi River Project, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Clinton Community College and the Stewards of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge will be hosting the 29th Annual Bald Eagle Watch on Saturday January 5, 2013. Educational programs and environmental exhibits will be held at the Clinton Community College. Clinton Community College is located at 1000 Lincoln Blvd, Clinton, Iowa. Eagle viewing will be held at Lock and Dam #13 in Fulton, Illinois off Illinois Highway 84.

The event will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. to view exhibits and education programs. This year's schedule is as follows:

9:45 a.m. – Welcome to Eagle watch.

10:00 a.m. – “Live Birds of Prey Program” – presented by Wildlife Prairie State Park of Hanna City, IL.

11:15 a.m. – “Native American Dance, in Honor of the Bald Eagle” – Rudy Vallejo, Member of the Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas presenting

12:30 p.m. – “Listen to the Eagles Message” – DVD produced by S.O.A.R.

1:00 p.m. – “Live Birds of Prey Program” – presented by Wildlife Prairie State Park of Hanna City, IL.

The programs and exhibits will feature a live bald eagle, live birds of prey, conservations groups, artists, drawings for door prizes and refreshments.

RC Smith of Morrison, Illinois, will provide a courtesy bus shuttle between Clinton Community College and Lock and Dam #13 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The shuttle will begin at 10:00 a.m. and run every half hour until 2:30 p.m. For more information please contact the Thomson Park Rangers at (815)259-3628 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (815)273-2732



Photo by Stan Bousson

Mississippi River Visitor Center News

The year 2012 was a good one for the Mississippi River Visitor Center. Just by walking into the building visitors will see many of the new and improved spaces that were worked on this past year. As you enter the front doors of the Visitor Center your attention immediately goes to the “Follow Us Along the River” display which was installed this past year in several pieces. This new design to the main lobby area includes a satellite image map of the entire Mississippi River Project which has been laid into the floor. This map showcases all 26 of the Project's recreation areas from Potosi, WI to Saverton, MO and informational signs placed throughout the lobby provide additional information on each of the sites.



As you turn the corner and head up the stairs you will see the next display created specifically for the Visitor Center by some very talented students. This project was completed via a partnership with the FFA chapter from Benton, PA. These students created rustic carvings of 24 different native species of fish from the Mississippi River that were then donated to the Visitor Center and mounted on drift wood for display. Each fish was not only carved but also hand painted by the students to give them the detail needed for each species.

When you reach the top of the stairs you will spot another new addition to the space... an American Bald Eagle! This mounted eagle has been on display for many years at the Visitor Center but was always enclosed in a glass case in a back corner of the display room. Now the eagle has been set free for everyone to see and sits high on a tree branch overlooking all who enter the facility.

Inside the main upstairs display area visitors will also see improvements that were made this past year. Two new monitors were installed to display information about towboats passing through the locks and to monitor live wildlife web cams such as the Bald Eagle cam. A new "Sights and Sounds" interactive display lets visitors not only see images of the river both past and present but also hear the sounds of the river as well.

In 2013 we hope to continue to develop more spaces and create new displays for visitors to enjoy. In the meantime if you happen to be traveling through the Quad City area, stop by for a visit to check out the new displays. We are free of charge and open every day from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. We look forward to seeing you soon.

QUAD CITY BALD EAGLE DAYS

DATE: FRIDAY JANUARY 11, 2013 – SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2013

**TIME: FRIDAY 4:00 – 8:00 PM, SATURDAY 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM,
SUNDAY 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

LOCATION: QCCA EXPO CENTER, 2621 4TH AVE. ROCK ISLAND, IL

**COST: ADULTS \$5.00, KIDS \$1.00, KIDS 5 AND UNDER FREE
(FRIDAY NIGHT 4:00 – 8:00 KIDS UNDER 18 FREE)**

INFORMATION: 309-788-2543



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project would like to invite you to the Annual Quad City Bald Eagle Days January 11-13th, 2013. Come see a live eagle presentation given by the World Bird Sanctuary of St. Louis or check out one of the other live animal shows presented by the Pella Wildlife Company and Niabi Zoo. This is a family friendly event that can last all day with many booths to see and hands on activities for the kids. An of course don't miss out on your chance to view these beautiful birds in the wild on one of the guided bus tours along the Mississippi. These outdoor eagle viewing tours will take you on a trip around the Quad City area and show you the many places to see these majestic birds.

HISTORIC CLOCK TOWER AND EAGLE WATCH TOURS

DATE: SATURDAY, JANUARY 19 THROUGH SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2013

TIME: 9:00 AM & 12:30 PM

LOCATION: MISSISSIPPI RIVER VISITOR CENTER – ARSENAL ISLAND

COST: FREE – RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

INFORMATION: 309-794-5338

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project announces that the Visitor Center at Locks and Dam #15 is inviting guests to come participate in a Historic Clock Tower and Eagle Watch Tour. Relive the early days of the Rock Island Arsenal as you climb your way up the historic corridor of the Clock Tower Building which has been a Quad City landmark for over 100 years! Waiting at the top is a spectacular view of the Mississippi where you could have the opportunity to see Bald Eagles who visit our area during the cold winter months. Visitors are invited to join these tours every Saturday and Sunday beginning January 19 and running through February 10. There will be two tours offered each day that will begin at 9:00 am and 12:30 pm. The tour will be approximately 1½ hours long and be guided by a Visitor Center Park Ranger. The tour will begin at the Mississippi River Visitor Center, located on the west end of Arsenal Island at Locks and Dam #15.

This program is free of charge and everyone is invited to attend. **Advance registration is recommended.** An adult must accompany children under 12 years of age. **All persons over age 16 must carry a photo ID to enter the island. Vehicles are subject to search and participants should allow 15 minutes extra to ensure proper arrival time for the tour.** For more information or to sign up for the program, please contact the Visitor Center at (309) 794-5338.

Muscatine Ranger Station News



How would you describe the Mississippi River Project's, Muscatine Ranger Station, 2012 recreation season? If you ask us, we would say it was not normal, because yearly flooding and cleanup along the river's shorelines and recreation areas has in fact become the norm in most years with the Corps along the river.

It was a very pleasant and welcomed experience in 2012, because there were no high water events to have to prepare for and to clean-up after. With that said, we did have a drought to endure, and low river levels to contend with. Our visitors found themselves walking further and further to get to their fishing spot along the campground's shorelines. Oftentimes, camper's air conditioners were running non-stop to keep cool, and boaters took to the

water to cool off. Park rangers encouraged lifejacket (PFD) use while on or near the water to keep people safe.

These hot and humid conditions, made it possible to get some bigger projects done within the recreation areas. For example, a new dump station at Shady Creek was installed to solve some issues with the aging septic vaults. Other areas of the park had trees removed to encourage grass growth by allowing the sunlight to reach the ground. Future plans include planting a larger diversity of tree species within Shady Creek to improve groundwater uptake. Finally, if you haven't been to Lock and Dam #16 lately, you will see a new set of metal stairs installed, replacing the aging concrete stairs previously located there.

Some other projects that were able to be completed this past summer included partnering with the Port Louisa NWR's Youth Conservation Corps to remark security gates at all of our recreation areas. In its 9th year, the

Eastern Bluebird nest box project, had 3 successful nests with 11 fledglings! A program that was new for 2012 started at Fisherman's Corner several year ago and now operating in our parks is called the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) campsite. This site enabled active military personnel and their families to utilize this campsite free of charge. Looking ahead, a new opportunity being offered to our visitors on the River Project in 2013 is the "Exploration Backpacks" Program. This free of charge nature backpack checkout program will be available to children and their parents to learn more about their outdoor environment while recreating in our parks.

We're looking forward to the 2013 recreation season and hope you are too. Whether it's a normal or not so normal year ahead, we'll continue to provide the services you have come to expect and incorporate some new opportunities for our visitors. Thanks for camping with us, we'll see you in the spring!

VOLUNTEER NEEDED AT CORPS OF ENGINEERS PARK



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi River Project is looking for a fulltime Volunteer Campground Host at Blanchard Island Recreation Area. The position will run through the summer and end on October 15, 2013. The campground host is responsible for the daily tasks of greeting park visitors, informing campers of self-registration procedures, cleaning the restrooms daily, cleaning out fire rings weekly, and informing the park rangers of maintenance needs. Volunteers will not collect nor handle money. Hosts will provide an average of 21 hours of volunteer service per week and may serve for the entire recreation season.

The volunteer selected for this position is provided a campsite with water and electric. A dump station is located in the park for use by the volunteer. Blanchard Island Recreation Area is located along the Illinois side of the Mississippi River just south of Muscatine, Iowa.

If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please contact the Mississippi River Project's Muscatine Park Rangers by calling (563) 263-7913 or by emailing Cynthia.R.Klebe@usace.army.mil or Kevin.J.Zidarich@usace.army.mil.

MUSCATINE BALD EAGLE WATCH SATURDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 2013

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project invites the public to enjoy a day of eagle viewing. The annual Bald Eagle Watch will take place Saturday, January 26, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Locations include Pearl City Station in Riverside Park, 100 Harbor Drive, Muscatine, Iowa 52761 and the Muscatine Power Boat Club located at 35811 102nd Ave W, Illinois City, Illinois 61259 and at Lock and Dam 16.

Spotting scopes will be available for viewing the eagles from Pearl City Station and the Muscatine Power Boat Club. Park rangers from the Corps of Engineers, naturalists from the Muscatine County Conservation Board and volunteers will be available to assist with the scopes and answer questions. Learn more about birds of prey as naturalists from Wildlife Prairie State Park near Peoria, Illinois present live bird programs at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. inside Pearl City Station. Representatives from local organizations will be available to share information about conservation and the environment. A craft area will be available for kids to make eagle puppets and color pictures of eagles. The Pearl City Station and Muscatine Power Boat Club buildings will be open to warm up and enjoy some hot chocolate and coffee. All activities for this event are free. For more information, please contact the Muscatine Park Rangers at 563-263-7913.

Quincy Ranger Station News

The 2012 recreation season was somewhat of a unique one for the Quincy Field Station for a couple of reasons. First of all, we went the entire year without a single flood event! This is a rarity for this stretch of the river. For example, in 2010, this area experienced a flood event that lasted from March until September, with the water never receding anytime in between. When the rangers were finally able to get back into the parks, the rest of the year was spent removing snags from campsites and pushing silt off of the boat ramps. There are many tasks that are extremely difficult, if not impossible, to do when the parks are underwater for the majority of the year.

This year, the Quincy Park Rangers were fully staffed and were able to spend valuable time working on maintenance in the park when they would normally be cleaning up after a flood. Some of the maintenance tasks that were accomplished include; tree trimming, hazard tree removal, and stump grinding. In addition, the rangers were able to grade and seed several large areas in multiple parks to help the parks drain after high water. With the help of the Mississippi River Project's Maintenance Crew, the Rangers removed several outdated restrooms and installed new ones at both Bear Creek and Canton Chute. The Maintenance Crew also helped to raise the picnic shelter at Bear Creek to better protect it from flood waters.

The rangers were not the only ones who were able to spend more time in the parks this year. It has been a very busy year for campers, boaters, fisherman, hunters, and all recreation users alike. This past September, The Canton Chute Recreation Area was home to the First Annual Quincy Five Miler Human Powered Boat Race. The event was a huge hit drawing in roughly 75 canoes and kayaks. The race was roughly five miles long and ended at the South Side Boat Club in Quincy. There were a wide variety of participants ranging from avid kayak racers to recreational canoeists. The race was a great success!

KEOKUK BALD EAGLE DAYS

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

JANUARY 19-20TH, 2013

- Indoor programs and Environmental Fair at the River City Mall, Keokuk, Iowa
- Live Eagle Programs Saturday 9:00-3:00 and Sunday 10:00-3:00
- Outdoor viewing along the River Front
- For information call: 1-800-383-1219 or 217-228-0890

QUINCY BALD EAGLE WATCH

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 2013

- Outdoor viewing at Lock and Dam 21 from 9:00 - 4:00
- For more information call 217-228-0890



Natural Resources News

The Upper Mississippi River Systemic Forest Stewardship Plan was completed in August of 2012. The plan was developed to provide a guide for the sustainable management of Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS) forests, including opportunities for their restoration, and to ensure that the UMRS maintains its recognition as a nationally treasured ecological resource. Mississippi River Project staff served on a Product Delivery Team (PDT) also consisting of members from the three UMRS Corps of Engineers Districts, five UMRS States, multiple Federal Agencies, non-governmental organizations, and additional stakeholders to develop the document. The Plan establishes a foundation for the Corps and these partner agencies and stakeholders to more effectively collaborate on and implement environmental stewardship activities in UMRS forests in public

ownership. It includes information on the current status of forest on public lands, trends in forest conditions, desired future conditions, system-wide goals, floodplain restoration tools, identifying data needs and actions.

The plan is available download at the Our Mississippi website: www.ourmississippi.org Please call 309-794-4528 if you have any questions regarding the plan.

Mississippi River Project Environmental Stewardship Team hosted its 32nd Annual Forestry Coordination Meetings to gather with managing partner agencies regarding sound forest management on project lands. The area of interest includes 54,000 acres of primarily forested shoreline and islands that stretch over 314 river miles. Participants included US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Department of Conservation and all three Upper Mississippi River Corps Districts. Most of the lands are within a Cooperative Agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and State Agencies for wildlife habitat management. Participation from partnering Federal and State agencies continues to steer the forestry program as it has since 1980 in a cooperative fashion to manage the forested resource with wildlife habitat and forest sustainability being the primary goals.

Mississippi River Project led two separate meetings, both having a similar focus, on collaborative multiagency management of bottomland floodplain forested areas in pool 21, Quincy, IL. The meetings overall objectives looked at forest management options and implementation, wildlife management, invasive species, and floodplain forest inventory and monitoring. The first meeting entailed a joint meeting amongst Iowa and Illinois Society of American Foresters Chapters that encompassed over 50 forestry professionals from the public and private sector. The second meeting encompassed Rock Island District's Annual Environmental Stewardship Meeting with participants from Saylorville Lake, Coralville Lake, Lake Red Rock, Mississippi River Project, and Farm Creek Project. Included were field trips to Ward Island, Cottonwood Island, Long Island, and Mill Creek to observe and discuss lessons learned at previous forest restoration areas.



Inventory and monitoring of floodplain forested lands and associated neo-tropical avian communities continue to be a priority. Neo-tropical avian surveys were conducted at previous timber harvest areas for the 30th consecutive year at Huron Island and 27th consecutive year at Pleasant Creek. Forest inventory and permanent plot data collection including tree growth, forest structure, forest health, regeneration, soil structure, and sedimentation continues to be gathered to document long term forest trends to assist with decision support analysis and management applications.

If you would like to be removed from our e-mail list please print "unsubscribe" in the subject line in a reply to us.

**Thank you,
Park Ranger Staff**

P.O. Box 2004 Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

(309) 794-5338 E-mail - mvrodmn15@usace.army.mil Website - <http://www.missriver.org>