



Mississippi River Project



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Winter Recreation Along the River

Although the temperatures may drop and the campgrounds “close” for the season it does not mean that recreation along the Mississippi River has to stop. There are still many outdoor and even indoor recreational opportunities available to those who don’t mind the cold. This time of year we see many new users at our day use and boat ramp areas launching for late fall and winter hunting. Many fishermen also enjoy cool weather angling because different species of fish tend to bite as the water temperatures drop. Once we get colder temps for an extended period of time ice fishing also becomes a popular activity in many of the backwater areas along the river.

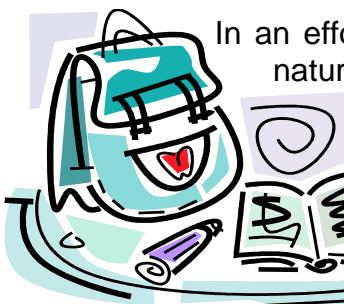
For those visitors equipped for camping without electricity or water provided at the site we have many riverside areas to offer. All but two of our campgrounds Fisherman’s Corner and Clark’s Ferry allow free primitive camping during the off season. These campgrounds will not have running water anywhere within the park so be sure to bring what you need when visiting. Many of our recreation areas also have great access to trails designed for hiking, biking or even snowshoeing in the great outdoors. These trails can be great for wildlife watching and especially eagle watching once the birds have migrated into the area.



As for indoor recreation don’t forget about our Visitor Center located on Rock Island Arsenal Island at Locks and Dam 15. The Mississippi River Visitor Center stays open year round from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM seven days a week. The facility offers a great view of boats locking up and down the river and also provides a warm indoor location for eagle viewing on even the coldest of days.

If you would like information on any of these winter recreational opportunities please feel free to call us at 309-794-5338 or e-mail mvrodmn15@usace.army.mil and we would be happy to help you out.

NATURE BACKPACKS COMING TO CORPS PARKS



In an effort to provide an opportunity to encourage children to learn more about the natural world, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project has created the Nature Backpack Program.

Backpacks will be available at the fee booths in the following Class “A” parks: Grant River, Blanding Landing, Thomson Causeway, Fisherman’s Corner, Clark’s Ferry, and Shady Creek. The backpacks

will also be available for nature adventures at the Mississippi River Project Office, the Mississippi River Visitor Center, and at the Quincy Ranger Station. The nature backpacks contain many different indoor and outdoor activities to engage children between the ages of 5-12. Some fun outdoor activities include a nature scavenger hunt, bug and bird watching, and how to make a whistle from just a blade of grass. Did you know you can tell the temperature by listening to a cricket? The backpack includes many different tools to entice young nature lovers to explore their surroundings including binoculars, a nature book, bug boxes, and a magnifying glass. The nature backpack also includes fun indoor activities such as coloring and drawing pages, word finds, crossword puzzles, and amazing facts. Did you know an earthworm has five hearts? Or Pileated Woodpeckers hammer their heads into a tree up to 20 times a second? Anyone interested will be able to check out on loan a backpack for the day. More information on how to check out backpacks will be available in the spring when the Class "A" parks are preparing to open for the season.

Dubuque Ranger Station News

WINTER CAMPING

Grant River and Blanding Landing Recreation Areas closed on October 28th, however, free winter camping is still available within the park as weather allows. Free winter camping is also welcomed at Pleasant Creek Recreation Area. Water and electric are not available for winter camping and the 14 day stay rule still applies. Feel free to give the Dubuque Park Rangers a call at 563-582-0881 if you have any questions about winter camping in our parks.



DUBUQUE BALD EAGLE WATCH SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

- Outdoor viewing at Lock and Dam 11 from 9:00–4:00
- Live Eagle & Bird of Prey Programs by the Illinois Raptor Center at 9:30, 12:15 & 3:00
- David Stokes – presenting Animals that Share a Habitat with Eagles at 11:00 & 1:45
- Indoor Exhibits from 9:00 - 4:30 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 starting at 10:00am until 3:00pm.
- For more information call the Dubuque Ranger office: 563-582-0881

Thomson Ranger Station News

WINTER CAMPING

Thomson Causeway closed on October 28th, however, free winter camping is still available within the park as weather allows. There is no winter camping allowed at Fisherman's Corner Recreation Area. Free winter camping is also welcomed at Bulger's Hollow and Lock and Dam 13 Recreation Areas. Water and electric are not available for winter camping and the 14 day stay rule still applies. Feel free to give the Thomson Park Rangers a call at 815-259-3628 if you have any questions about winter camping in our parks.

TRICK-OR-TREAT A GREAT SUCCESS

Trick-or-Treat at the Thomson Causeway on Oct. 20th was again a great success this year. The weather was good as visitors got out and enjoyed the fun along the river. All sites within the campground were full for the evening and 375 youth participated in the trick or treat festivities. The Causeway was packed with an estimated 525 people taking part including the campers, parents, and youth. The Thomson Park Rangers look forward to continuing this tradition and hope that everyone who attended had a great time.



CLINTON BALD EAGLE WATCH SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

- Outdoor viewing: Lock & Dam 13, 8:30-3:30
- Live Bird and Nature Programs: Clinton Community College, 9:30-2:00
- Exhibits: Clinton Community College from 8:00-2:00
- Free bus service from college to the outdoor viewing area.
- For more information call the Thomson Ranger office: 815-259-3628.

Mississippi River Visitor Center News

MISSISSIPPI RIVER PROJECT EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Ricky Coppula – Natural Resource Specialist Pathways Intern



My name is Ricky Coppula and I just recently started working for the Corps of Engineers, Mississippi River Project as a Pathways Program Intern. I started out working for the Corps at the Rock Island District Headquarters in the regulatory section and spent 6 months there before transferring to the Mississippi River Visitor Center. I am currently a senior at Augustana College in Rock Island, IL working towards a degree in environmental studies with a minor in geography. I am originally from the Quad City area but also spent time living in Glendale, AZ at Luke Air Force Base during my 4 years working as a munitions systems specialist in the Air Force. In my spare time I like playing video games, watching horror movies, listening to metal and 80's music and following Chicago Bears football.

QUAD CITY BALD EAGLE DAYS

FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JANUARY 11-13

- QCCA Expo Center, 2621 4th Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois
- Hours: Friday 4:00-8:00, Saturday 10:00-8:00 , Sunday 10:00-5:00
- Live Eagle & Bird of Prey Programs by The World Bird Sanctuary
- Special Attractions - Pella Wildlife Company and Niabi Zoo.
- For more information contact the Mississippi River Visitor Center 309-794-5338 or the QCCA 309-788-2543

EAGLE WATCH / CLOCK TOWER TOURS JANUARY 19 - FEBRUARY 10, WEEKENDS ONLY

- Combination eagle watches and historical clock tower tours
- Saturday and Sunday times are: 9:00-10:30 AM and 12:30 – 2:00 PM
- Reservations required. Group size is limited.
- For more information or to make reservations call the Visitor Center: 309-794-5338



Muscatine Ranger Station News

WINTER CAMPING

Shady Creek Recreation Area closed on October 28th, however, free winter camping is still available on the first eleven sites. There is no winter camping allowed at Clark's Ferry Recreation Area. Free winter camping is also welcomed at Andalusia Slough, Blanchard Island, and Ferry Landing Recreation Areas. Water and electric are not available for winter camping and the 14 day stay rule still applies. Feel free to give the Muscatine Park Rangers a call if you have any questions about winter camping in our parks. Our number is 563-263-7913.



MUSCATINE BALD EAGLE WATCH SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

- Outdoor viewing from 9:00 to 3:00 at Pearl City Station, Lock & Dam 16, and Muscatine Boat Club
- Live Eagle programs at 9:30 & 11:00 at the Pearl City Station in Riverside Park
- Environmental exhibits inside the Pearl City Station
- For more information call the Muscatine Ranger office: 563-263-7913

Quincy Ranger Station News

As we enter the full swing of fall, the Quincy Field Station area becomes a hot spot for many outdoorsmen. The Quincy Park Rangers have been fielding calls from around the country from anxious hunters who are looking for a chance at a trophy whitetail in one of the many public use areas in and around the Quincy area.

Just last week, a traditional longbow hunter from West Virginia called to make sure that campsites would be available for him at the Bear Creek Campground in the next couple of weeks.



Deer hunters are not the only ones taking advantage of the recreational opportunities in this area. Waterfowl hunters have been busy getting their blinds and boats outfitted for the upcoming waterfowl season. Fall mushroom hunters have been out in full swing looking for the elusive Hen of the Woods, Lion's Mane, and many other mushrooms. As the festivities of summer close for another year, the opportunities of fall are just starting to unfold.

KEOKUK BALD EAGLE DAYS

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JANUARY 19-20

- 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 more information call the Keokuk Chamber of Commerce: 1-800-383-1219

QUINCY BALD EAGLE WATCH

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

- Outdoor viewing at Lock and Dam 21: 9:00 - 4:00
- For more information call the Quincy Ranger office: 217-228-0890

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,

Natural Resource Management Staff

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

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