



Mississippi River Project



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Fall on the Mississippi

As the days get shorter and the nights get cooler sitting around a campfire can be a great way to enjoy the outdoors before the snow begins to fly. Camping along the river is beautiful this time of year with the trees changing colors and many species of birds making their way down the migratory flyway headed for warmer weather. Many of our campgrounds will be staying open this fall until October 28th so you still have time to get out and enjoy the sights and sounds along the Mississippi River.



A NEW LOOK FOR THE PROJECT WEBSITE



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers headquarters in Washington D.C. has recently launched efforts to create a more streamlined experience for users on our websites. The new sites are being made available to the public as they are migrated to a new system by district.

The Rock Island District is currently working on updating its websites and our Project will also be changing to this new format. We expect the new sites to launch as early as the end of October, and our current website link, www.missriver.org should not change. You may however need to update any

pages you have bookmarked as these links may no longer route you to the proper site.

If you would like to preview the new look, feel free to check out the US Army Corps of Engineers headquarters website at <http://www.usace.army.mil/>

A HUNTING WE WILL GO!

Many people do not equate the Army Corps of Engineers or the Mississippi River with hunting, but the river is actually a hunter's paradise. Many species of waterfowl and upland game call the Mississippi River bottomlands their home, if not all year, at least for a part of the year.

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. State seasons and regulations apply on all federally managed lands and waters, so be certain of the state you are hunting in when hunting on federal areas.



With over 93,000 acres of land and water in the Rock Island District and much of it open to hunting, 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 Wildlife and Fish Refuge. This enormous refuge has lands and waters located in the states of Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin. The majority of the lands and waters in this refuge are open to public hunting during each particular states 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.** Remember too that the Mighty Mississippi River commands respect. Areas where your fishing boat could maneuver easily yesterday may not have sufficient water to float a fully loaded duck blind today. Also check the weather forecast and be prepared for drastic changes in wind direction and speed. Have an emergency plan and an emergency kit whenever heading out on the river. A cell phone is also a great tool in dealing with unexpected situations you may find yourself in where you need to notify authorities or loved ones of your location or problems encountered.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has specific regulations, closed areas, and other restrictions on certain portions of the refuge. You may even find refuges inside of refuges, such as the Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge near Savanna, IL. Inside these protected areas, restrictions on access and public use are set to give wildlife, mainly waterfowl, a safe haven during stressful times of the year. You may also find regulations pertaining to one certain species of animal only on certain stretches of the river. To find out if the area you are interested in hunting is subject to any restrictions, please contact one of the Fish and Wildlife refuge offices listed below. Happy hunting!

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE OFFICES

McGregor District (Pools 9, 10 and 11)
 P.O. Box 460
 McGregor, IA 52157
 (563) 873-3423

Savanna District (Pools 12, 13, and 14)
 7071 Riverview Road
 Thomson, IL 61285
 (815) 273-2732

UPCOMING EAGLE WATCHING EVENTS

It is hard to believe that it will be 2013 in just a few months but with the New Year comes Eagle watching season here on the Upper Mississippi River. Here is a listing of 2013 events to put on your calendar. More specific information about each of these events will be included in later newsletters to keep you updated.

<p>Dubuque Bald Eagle Watch Saturday - January 19</p>	<p>Clinton Bald Eagle Watch Saturday - January 5</p>	<p>Quad City Bald Eagle Days Fri. Sat. Sun. - January 4 - 6</p>
<p>Muscatine Bald Eagle Watch Saturday - January 26</p>	<p>Keokuk Bald Eagle Days Sat. & Sun. - January 19 - 20</p>	<p>Quincy Bald Eagle Watch Saturday - January 26</p>
	<p>Mississippi River Visitor Center Eagle Watch / Clock Tower Tours January 12 - February 10 Weekends Only</p>	

MISSISSIPPI RIVER PROJECT EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Cory Wildermuth – Maintenance Worker

My name is Cory Wildermuth and I have been working for the Corps of Engineers, Mississippi River Project for three years now. I started out working at Lock and Dam 19 in Keokuk, IA and have since moved into the Recreation and Natural Resource Management section working for the maintenance crew. I spent 6 years in the US Air Force working in aircraft structural maintenance which has taken me around the world while I was stationed in California, Korea, England and one tour in Afghanistan. I grew up in Port Byron, IL and spent a great deal of time working on our family farm and trucking company. In my spare time I pretty much like to do anything that involves being outdoors. I enjoy riding motorcycles, going camping, and fishing.

Dubuque Ranger Station News

RECREATION AREAS DURING THE WINTER SEASON

Although many of the campgrounds along the Mississippi River close down during the winter due to weather and accessibility issues, there are some that remain open with limited services for campers wishing to rough it in the off season. Running water and electrical service will be turned off at Grant River and Blanding Landing recreation areas this year on October 28th. Visitors are still welcome to use the campsites at these areas at no charge during the off season. Pleasant Creek will stop collecting camping fees on October 15th. The boat ramps at all three of these recreation areas remain available and day use fees will be charged through November 30th.

Thomson Ranger Station News

HALLOWEEN TRICK-OR-TREAT IN THE PARK

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project will be hosting the annual Trick-or-Treat in the Park on Saturday, October 20th, from 4:00p.m. - 6:00p.m. at the Thomson Causeway Recreation Area. Trick-or-Treat in the Park is a fun fall program started several years ago by avid campers looking to celebrate the Halloween season.

There are a few guidelines that visitors are asked to follow:

- Children age 12 and under are to be accompanied by an adult.
- Trick-or-Treaters should only visit sites displaying trick-or-treat signs.
- To ensure visitor safety, traffic will be restricted throughout the camping loops during the event.



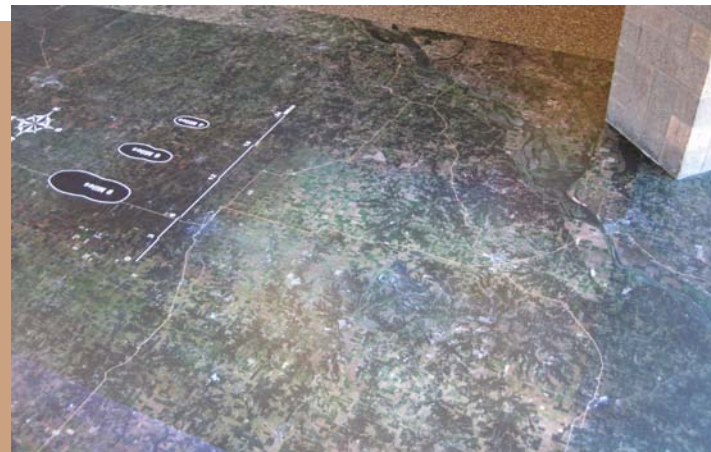
The Thomson Causeway Recreation Area is located on the west side of Thomson, Illinois on Lewis Avenue off Main Street. There is no charge for this program, and both campers and non-campers are welcome to attend. For more information on this program, contact the Thomson Ranger Office at 815-259-3628.

RECREATION AREAS DURING THE WINTER SEASON

Thomson Causeway and Fisherman's Corner will close for the season on October 28. The Thomson Causeway will remain open for use in a primitive status during the off season. No water or electricity is available during this time. Bulger's Hollow will stop collecting camping fees on October 15. The boat ramps at Big Slough, Cattail Slough, Thomson Causeway and Lock & Dam 13 continue to be accessible and day use fees will be collected through November 30.

Mississippi River Visitor Center News

MAPPING THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER PROJECT



The Locks and Dam 15 Visitor Center floor map display work has been completed. This concept, borrowed from several other VC's and museums around the country, is a culmination of work between our Visitor Center staff and Forestry staff.

The map encompasses all waters and lands on the Mississippi River Project and some tributaries, highlights recreation areas and locks and dams, plus shows visitors the relationship

between the river and surrounding communities. It is complete with a scale and also a "footprint scale", so visitors can walk their way from one location to the next and get a rough estimate of distances on our 300+ mile long project. Please stop in sometime and see this great new addition to the VC in person! We are located on the Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, IL 61204. We are open seven days a week from 9:00 a.m.-5:00pm. Please call us for more information at 309-794-5338.

BICYCLE TOUR OF HISTORIC ARSENAL ISLAND

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project announces that the Visitor Center at Locks and Dam 15 is inviting guests to a bicycle tour of historic Arsenal Island.

Did you know that the town of Davenport was named after a murdered Colonel, or that hundreds of people died while in prison on the Island? The answers to these questions and many more can be found on this relaxing informational ride.

This six-mile ride will be held on Saturday, October 13th from 9:30-11:30 AM. Historic points of interest include Colonel Davenport's Home, the old Moline Lock, Arsenal Quarters #1, the Confederate Cemetery, and many more. The tour will begin and end at the Mississippi River Visitor Center, located on the western end of Arsenal Island at Locks and Dam #15. This tour is free of charge and is limited to 15 bicyclists. Advance registration is required. Helmets are mandatory. Training wheels are not allowed. An adult must accompany children under 12 years of age. For more information, or to sign up for the tour, please contact the Visitor's Center at (309) 794-5338.

HISTORIC CLOCK TOWER TOUR

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 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 River.

Visitors are invited to join this tour on Saturday, October 20th from 10:00 – 11:30 AM. 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 western end of Arsenal Island at Locks and Dam #15. This program is free of charge and everyone is invited to attend. Advanced registration is required. An adult must accompany children under 12 years of age. For more information, or to sign up for the program, please contact the Visitor Center at (309) 794-5338.



Muscatine Ranger Station News

RECREATION AREAS DURING THE WINTER SEASON

Clark's Ferry will close for the season on October 8 and Shady Creek will close on October 28. Shady Creek will remain open for use in a primitive status during the off season. No water or electricity is available during this time. Blanchard Island and Andalusia Slough will stop collecting camping fees on October 15. The boat ramps at Clarks Ferry and Shady Creek continue to be accessible and day use fees will be collected through November 30.

Quincy Ranger Station News

QUINCY 5-MILER

The Quincy Rangers helped host the first human powered boat race in over 60 years, and was a huge success, with nearly 75 participants. The Quincy 5-Miler started at Canton Chute Recreation Area went through "the cut" and into the Quincy Bay to finish at the Southside Boat Club. Everyone was able to safely complete the course where they were greeted with awards, food and beverage at the finish line. The Quincy Rangers are looking forward in assisting with the event in the future, as it will most likely be an annual event.

The Quincy 5-miler marked the end of the recreational boating season for the Quincy area and the Rangers are looking to accommodate another type of recreation popular on the river this time of year. Hunters from all over the state and beyond come to this particular area of the state in hopes of harvesting a whitetail. The phone lines have been ringing steadily from curious hunters on what to expect this year and locations to hunt and lodge. Bear Creek has become a hunter favorite to set up deer camp in hopes of harvesting that once of a lifetime trophy buck that gives this geographical area the title "whitetail capitol of the world."



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>