

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 Corps of Engineers owned property from Guttenberg, Iowa to Saverton, Missouri. 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 2018-19. Corps staff will be seeking input on Shoreline Management and the current SMP through open houses, online input forms, and by email or mail. Open house dates will be published on MissRiver.Org.

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 SMP allocates the Corps-owned shoreline, Pools 11-22, into four classifications where private recreational structures/activities will either be prohibited or allowed. The following shoreline classifications will be updated concurrent to the changes in the Mississippi River Project Master Plan land use classification and map updates:

- 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 critical in the SMP update process. We ask that you visit our website at www.missriver.org for the latest information on this plans. To submit comments 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 a private recreational structure that are built on Corps of Engineers owned property. Therefore, these two structures would be permitted and regulated in part through the Shoreline Management Plan.



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