

**Lake:** Carlyle Lake

**Partners:** USACE; City of Carlyle; Illinois Department of Transportation; Illinois Department of Natural Resources

**Partnership Type:** Challenge Partnership Agreement

**Corps POC:** Robert S. Wilkins, Project Operation Manager

**Story:** The Carlyle Lake Multi-User Trail is a 10.3 mile trail that is unique because of its close proximity to the City of Carlyle allowing a connection route to the City and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Carlyle Lake Project. The trail is the perfect venue for fitness based recreational activities and has one of the most scenic views in Clinton County. The trail is open to non-motorized use such as walking, running, and bicycling and is generally flat, offering an easy ride for all skill levels. The trail is well marked and signed to provide an overall safe experience for those recreating on the trail.



The Carlyle Lake Multi-Use Trail was constructed over a period of years beginning in 2004 through a series of Challenge Partnership Agreements between the City of Carlyle and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers including leveraging a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation. The multi-use trail has 0.87 miles of trail located on City of Carlyle property and connects with the remaining 9.43 miles of trail located on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property. The connection routes between the City of Carlyle and the Carlyle Lake Project are invaluable not only to the citizens of Carlyle and lake visitors as a way to stay fit and maintain a healthier lifestyle, but also provides a positive economic impact to Carlyle businesses.

The trail travels through areas filled with historical landmarks and various habitats ranging from lake, forested, agricultural fields, restored prairie, and wetland restoration areas. The surfaces of the trail are a combination of asphalt, concrete, and crushed rock. Over 7 miles of the multi-use trail travels over earthen levees giving users a unique elevated view of the scenic landscape.

In 2010, an Illinois Department of Resources Greenways and Trails planning grant was received to investigate and determine the most suitable and appropriate route to circumnavigate Carlyle Lake. A plan was created to identify additional segments that could be completed in the future to broaden and enhance the Carlyle Lake Multi-Use trail system.



In 2011 through a Challenge Partnership Agreements between the City of Carlyle and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers made improvements to an existing 1.5 mile section of the multi-user trail, now named (The Kaskaskia River Walk). The trail is located below the Carlyle Lake Main Dam, and allows users to travel along the Kaskaskia River. Enhancements to the trail include the installation of interpretive displays, signs, benches, bike racks, along with the construction of an accessible fishing pier and resurfacing an existing 1/10 of a mile City Park Trail that will be a connection route from the Carlyle City Park to the West Spillway.

Today, the Corps continues to seek new partnerships to leverage funds that will improve and establish segments of the Carlyle Lake Multi-user Trail System.

