

# **Volunteer Handbook**



## **Coralville Lake Flood Control Project U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District**



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers** ®  
Rock Island District

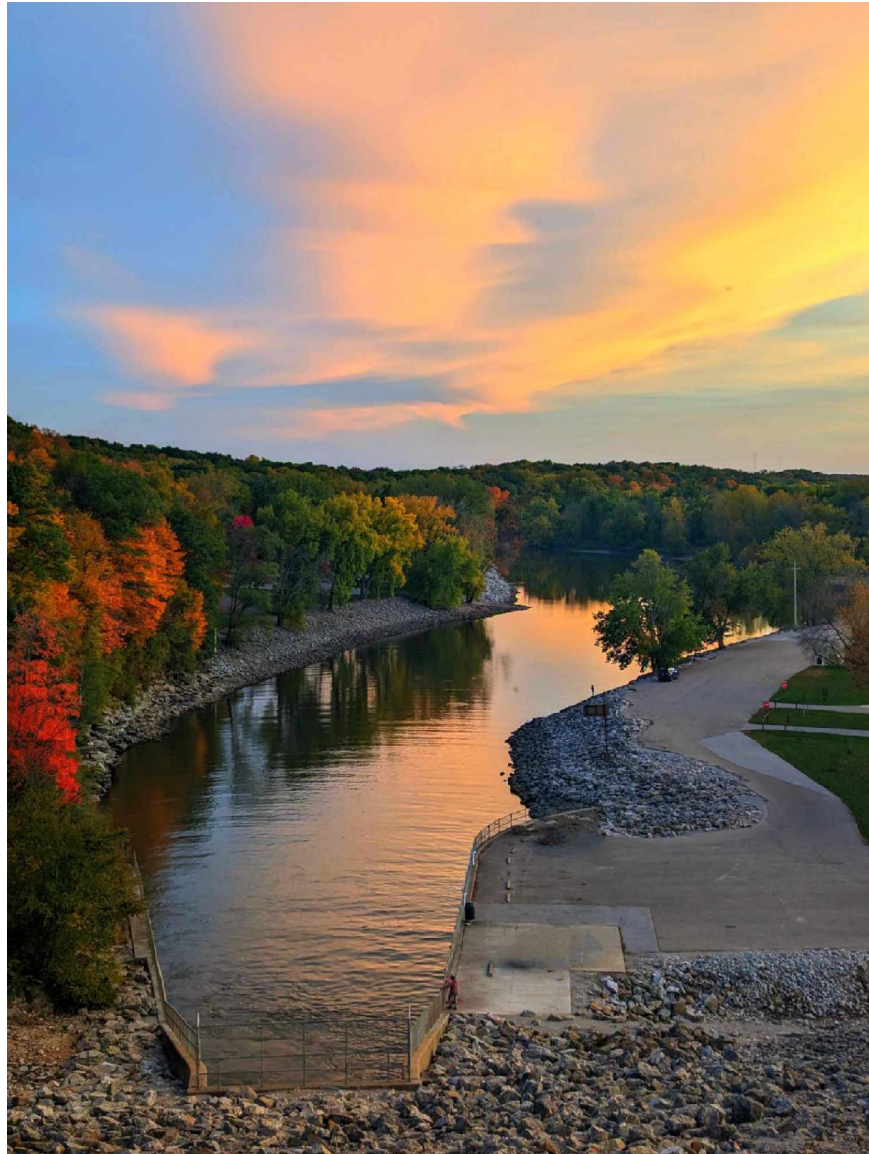


**U.S. ARMY**

**Volunteer Coordinator: Park Ranger Colton Johnson**

# **Forward**

This volunteer handbook was developed to provide volunteers with a broad understanding of the Coralville Lake Project's Volunteer Program. The information in this handbook will help you become oriented in your position and will provide the answers to many questions about the Coralville Lake Project and your role as a volunteer.



(Photograph of the Iowa River south of the Coralville Lake dam)

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# Introduction



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Rock Island District, would like to welcome you to the Coralville Lake Flood Control Project (Coralville) Volunteer Program. We are grateful that you have decided to donate your talents and time to our project. Inside this handbook you will find information regarding key aspects of our volunteer program, basic orientation to the project and its personnel, and useful references for your time as a volunteer. This volunteer handbook has been developed to ensure that you have an enjoyable and productive experience here at Coralville.

As a volunteer, you become a part of the Corps. The Coralville Lake volunteer program consists of five full - time position types, the Sugar Bottom Park Attendant, Dam Complex Park Attendant, the West Overlook Day Use (WODU) Volunteer, Visitor Center Volunteer, and the Mehaffey Boat Ramp Volunteer, along with a variety of event volunteers and volunteer groups from the local community. The general public will view you as a Corps employee when you are wearing the volunteer uniform. Please be aware that you are a part of the entire volunteer program and not just a volunteer with a specific function. The program that you are volunteering for is a very worthwhile program and we want you to have fun with it. We also appreciate any input you may have towards improving the program. We think that you will find it a very rewarding experience. The Corps greatly appreciates your volunteer efforts.

## **Supervisory Controls**

The Coralville staff may answer general questions that you may have concerning recreation areas, rules and regulations, and the general area. Specific questions, comments, and/or concerns about the volunteer program should be directed towards your designated volunteer coordinator or a designated primary person of contact (POC). The current volunteer coordinator at the Coralville Lake Project is Park Ranger Colton Johnson.

## **Commitment**

People volunteer for many reasons. Hopefully, you have discussed your reasons with your volunteer coordinator and how you expect to benefit from the experience. If not, make sure to take the time to do so. Because volunteering should be a benefit both to you and to the project; we want to make sure that you achieve your objectives. You and your coordinator will discuss your work schedule once you arrive on the project. That discussion should include the hours per week worked by each volunteer. Please, honor that commitment. If you need additional time off, talk with your volunteer coordinator they will do their best to work out the situation to benefit both parties.

## **Disciplinary Actions**

The Corps will work with the volunteer to try and resolve any issues. If problems arise with a volunteer's performance or conduct, a meeting will be set up with the volunteer coordinator to discuss the issues. At the end of the meeting actions will be developed to correct the problem. A volunteer may be placed on probationary status until the issues have been corrected. If performance and/or conduct problems cannot be resolved, the Corps may terminate the volunteer agreement.

## **Volunteer Site Conditions**

The summer hosts will be provided a camping site with water, electric, septic, a small storage shed, and a landscaped site. The host campsites will be identified as "Volunteer Host" for the benefit of the public. Volunteers will furnish their own housing, such as a motor home or travel trailer. All members of a volunteer's immediate family are welcome to accompany him or her while volunteering.

# **Volunteer Orientation**

Orientation to the Coralville Lake project will provide you with a framework of information about the site, its procedures, and operations. The better you understand what the organization is and how it operates, the more independent and productive you will be. Most of the orientation information will be provided by your volunteer coordinator. Below is a list of key informational subjects that relate to your work as a volunteer at Coralville. During your orientation to the project and to your job, you will be given information about each item on the list. If after your orientation you still have questions, do not hesitate to ask your volunteer coordinator. Thorough knowledge of all phases of project operation, as they relate to the volunteer program, will help to ensure a successful and positive volunteer experience.

- Introduction to the Corps, Coralville, and the volunteer program
- Staff and volunteer introductions
- Project rules and regulations
- Volunteer uniform
- Buildings and grounds orientation – including restrooms, parking, workplace, fuel, and location of supplies

- Paperwork/explanation of necessary forms – job description, job hazard analysis, logging work hours
- Introduction to your job and who will be responsible for job guidance (volunteer coordinator)
- Safety procedures, emergency procedures, first aid
- Methods of dealing with problem situations
- Use of government equipment and vehicles
- Work schedule; how to request a schedule change and report absences
- Issuing keys/equipment

As part of our orientation, we will take you around the project on a tour to improve your knowledge of the area as a benefit to our visitors. This will likely be a vehicle tour around the popular visited areas of the project, as well as taking you through the more remote areas of the project when time allows.

## **Training**

Training will provide you with the specific job-related knowledge and skills necessary for you to do your work. As a new volunteer at the Coralville Lake Project, you will receive on-the-job training from your volunteer coordinator and other project employees or volunteers so that you can be effective and comfortable with your new responsibilities. You will also receive mandatory training on the project's UTVs/side by sides. The amount of training you receive depends on your assignment, comfort, and your experience with similar types of work. Be sure to ask questions about anything that is not clear. Keep in mind however, that Corps employees are usually very busy with routine work. Talk to your volunteer coordinator and agree on the best way to handle questions or additional training needs. It may not be possible to provide all your training in the first day or two of your volunteer assignment. Expect to receive occasional informal training throughout your service period.

## **Responsibilities/Duties**

Our volunteers frequently serve as the initial and sometimes the only contact our visitors have with the Corps, so the impression you convey is very important. Your duties will include answering questions about the project, resources, directions within the project and local areas, and presenting a friendly link between the visitor and the Corps. There are three main objectives to a volunteer's responsibilities here at Coralville; those are visual presence/passive security, visitor assistance, and site maintenance.

### **Duty Season, Days, & Hours**

Our volunteer duty season is generally from Memorial Day through Labor Day. In return for providing our volunteers a full-service camping site for the summer, we expect our volunteers to work a minimum of 21 hours per week. It is understood that you are volunteering and availability throughout the summer may vary. Schedule of hours all vary by position and will be communicated by the designated POC of volunteer coordinator.

### **Job Description: Park Attendant**

Specific duties will likely change daily due to recreation maintenance concerns. These duties will be provided to the volunteer when necessary. Below is a list of duties that may be asked of our volunteers:

1. Staff the campground fee booth during required hours on assigned days and other days as agreed to or scheduled with the Volunteer Coordinator.
2. Operate a computer, monitor, printer, mouse, keyboard, and Recreation.gov website to perform campground booth volunteer duties efficiently and effectively.
3. Utilize Recreation.gov website to check daily reservations, process check-ins and check-outs and manage reservations within volunteer authorities as needed and approved by campground Park Ranger.
4. Perform a minimum of three “rounds” during each shift to observe campsite occupancy status.
5. Provide general visitor assistance. Inform visitors of campground policies and procedures, rules and regulations (Title 36 Brochure). Volunteers will NOT do any enforcement.
6. Campground Park Attendants will not perform any campsite reservation transactions. All reservations or modification to existing reservations will be completed by the customer utilizing the website, app, or call center.
7. Campground Park Attendants will not perform any transactions for ATB or USACE passes.
8. Post applicable signage in the immediate area of the fee booth.
9. Keep the fee booth (interior and exterior) and the area immediately adjacent neat and clean. Remove trash from the interior of the fee booth daily.
10. Maintain all applicable records in accordance with project policy.
11. Notify a Park Ranger if assistance is needed during periods of heavy use.
12. Promptly report all accidents to a Park Ranger.
13. Deliver all lost and found property to a Park Ranger.

### **Job Description: WODU Volunteer**

Specific duties will likely change daily due to recreation maintenance concerns. These duties will be provided to the volunteer when necessary. Below is a list of duties that may be asked of our volunteers:

1. Conduct custodial duties at the West Overlook Day Use Area on scheduled days. Custodial duties include opening gate at WODU at 0600, cleaning of (3) vault restrooms, emptying trash cans and replacing with a new liner, cleaning the large group shelter and three small shelters, cleaning pedestal grills, cleaning picnic tables, cleaning playground, picking up litter in all areas to include beach, parking lot, mowed areas and non-mowed areas.
2. Replace campsite carsonite posts as needed.
3. Landscaping and weeding flower beds located in the Dam Complex.
4. Trail work to include invasive species removal as well as litter pick up.
5. Painting projects.
6. Emptying recycling containers at the Dam Complex dump station, Tailwater West Campground, and Tailwater East Campground on Friday and Mondays.
7. Other tasks as assigned by the volunteer coordinator.



### **Job Description: Visitor Center Volunteer**

Below is a list of duties that may be asked of our volunteers:

1. Oversee opening and closing of visitor center.
2. Maintain visitor center by operating the theater room, answering phones and visitor questions, filling brochure racks, light housekeeping, assisting visitors in the lab area.
3. Assist in educational programming when needed.
4. Track visitation and use of visitor center.
5. Assist the interpretation program lead in improving community involvement and increasing partnerships.

### **Job Description: Mehaffey Boat Ramp Volunteer**

Specific duties will likely change daily due to recreation maintenance concerns. These duties will be provided to the volunteer when necessary. Below is a list of duties that may be asked of our volunteers:

1. Check in with shift lead at beginning and end of every shift.
2. Informing public users on location and use of automated fee machine.
3. Parking assistance when needed.
4. Passing out water safety items when available.
5. Litter pickup throughout the parking lot.
6. Other tasks as assigned by the volunteer coordinator.

### **Additional Duties**

1. Report safety hazards/maintenance concerns, compliance issues, vandalism, speeding, and similar disturbances to your volunteer coordinator. Examples: report a lack of supplies, broken night-light, water leaks, missing or damaged signs, etc.
2. Provide visitors with information concerning the Coralville project. Answer information requests to the best of your knowledge. Some information is provided within this handbook to assist you with those answers. When in doubt refer the visitor to the Park Ranger staff.
3. Report all personal injury accidents and/or incidents to the Park Ranger staff.
4. Wear the volunteer shirt, vest, and/or hat when volunteering with the Coralville project to identify you as a Corps representative.
5. Maintain volunteer campsites in a neat and respectable manner.
6. Avoid engaging in any physical or verbal confrontations with the public.
7. Assist with parade display and participate in local parades
8. Clean and restock public restrooms in your designated areas.
9. Volunteers are not to be involved in regulation enforcement. This is the job of the Corps Park Rangers and local law enforcement. Volunteers are, however, encouraged to report any and all illegal activities on Corps property to the Park Ranger staff and other appropriate authorities.

\*\* The Volunteer Coordinator may request additional duties to be performed contrary to the above listed duties/responsibilities at any time.\*\*

# **Volunteer Information**

## **Log Forms**

We will provide each set of host volunteers with log forms. Please gather information on day-to-day occurrences and report customer likes and dislikes you are told through informal conversations. Volunteers shall maintain written records such as: customer comments, number of contacts, violations of regulations, safety and maintenance work items, hours worked, etc. Volunteers shall promptly report any of the following to the ranger or maintenance staff: unsafe conditions, emergencies, and/or visitor concerns of immediate nature. Comments will be collected and collaborated by the volunteer coordinator for an end of season summary and generate goals for the next year.

## **Radios**

The Coralville Lake project park rangers all have a radio that is in the frequency of county communications. Radios may be distributed to volunteer positions that require direct communication to park rangers in emergency situations. Radios must not be used inappropriately to communicate with other agencies and shall receive training from the volunteer coordinator before a radio is issued.

## **Duty Dress/Uniform**

The official volunteer uniform identifies you to the public as a representative of the Corps. Volunteers must recognize that the public will often judge the effectiveness of the Corps based upon its first impressions. Official volunteer clothing items are available and purchased with project funds including hats, hoodies, and shirts with the Corps volunteer logo. You will be issued some of these items at the start of your term.

## **Uniform Wear Standards**

Certain rules apply to overall appearance. All uniforms and uniform components must meet the following minimal standards:

- Must be clean and neat at the beginning of the workday.
- Must be free of excessive wear, including worn areas, shiny spots, holes, or missing buttons.
- Must be free of offensive odor.
- Must be clean and free of spots, stains, soil, or any other foreign substance.
- Sunglasses may be worn with uniforms but should not be worn in visitor contact situations unless necessary.

## **Conduct While in Uniform**

Although proper behavior is expected from uniformed volunteers under all circumstances, volunteers are specifically prohibited from the following activities while in uniform or wearing a readily identifiable uniform component:

- Purchasing or consuming alcoholic beverages, whether on or off duty.
- Smoking or carrying cigars, pipes or cigarettes in their mouths or chewing tobacco while in public view.
- Sleeping while on duty and in public view.

## **Personal Safety**

Your personal safety is of utmost importance to us here at Coralville Lake. You will be expected to follow Occupational Safety and Hazard Administration (OSHA) regulations and avoid risky situations. No job is so important that it cannot be done safely. If you have any concerns/situations where you feel unsafe, we will do everything in our ability to correct the situation. Do not put yourself at risk under any circumstance!

If you are injured on the job, report the injury to your volunteer coordinator or other staff immediately. Even minor injuries must be reported when they occur in case you would need medical attention at a later date. If you are in need of immediate medical attention, do that first and as soon as possible, contact your volunteer coordinator or project manager. Upon reporting the injury, you will be authorized to obtain medical treatment if required.

## **Government Vehicles**

For volunteers to operate a Government vehicle, the operator must have a valid state driver's license and complete an NSC Defensive Driving Course in accordance with Corps regulations. Each volunteer must provide a copy of their current license to the volunteer coordinator. It is your responsibility to carry your state license whenever you operate a Government vehicle. You are expected to observe all driving laws and operate in a competent and safe manner at all times. Government vehicles are to be used for official purposes only. Ensure that keys are removed from unattended vehicles and such vehicles are locked. Smoking is not allowed in Government vehicles. The use of seatbelts is mandatory. Please notify the volunteer coordinator of any maintenance needed to the government vehicles as soon as possible. Volunteers may be required to have additional endorsements or training to operate special equipment.

## **Fuel**

Fuel is available for use at the Project Office by utilizing the above ground storage tanks on the northwest corner of the building. There is a sign in sheet used for logging fuel consumption that must be completed after fueling. Gasoline must be transferred in a 5-gallon red fuel can. Diesel must be transferred in a 5-gallon yellow fuel can. Mixed fuel (50:1) must be transferred in a 2-gallon red fuel can. You will be instructed on proper mixture, handling, and transport by your volunteer coordinator.

## **Use of Government Property**

It is illegal to convert or use any government property for personal use at any time. This includes, but is not limited to, the photocopier, fax machine, computers, office supplies and telephone. Employees are authorized to make reasonable, but limited, use of government telephone systems for necessary personal calls.

## **Tobacco**

Smoking and smokeless tobacco is prohibited in all buildings and vehicles. Please be courteous to others by not smoking around entrance/exit doors. All tobacco products should be disposed of properly.

## **Mail**

It is recommended that each volunteer host setup a P.O. Box at the North Liberty Post Office. However, mail may be delivered to the project office with prior approval.

## **Keys**

Volunteers will be issued keys at the start of the season and held accountable for those keys throughout the season. The keys will be turned in at the end of the season. Please notify the volunteer coordinator if any keys are misplaced or broken.

## **Miscellaneous Equipment**

You must coordinate with your volunteer coordinator prior to obtaining any equipment. All other equipment is not supposed to be used for personal gain. The equipment that is provided to you accompanies a specific task. Please use the equipment for that task and return the equipment.

## **Monthly Meetings**

Suggestions are always welcomed whether they are positive or negative. We will conduct monthly meetings to generate ideas and improvements that can be made to enhance the volunteer program at the Coralville Lake project. Feedback from volunteers is required to continually improve the program. Please provide comments in writing with a thorough explanation of specific situations to your volunteer coordinator.

## **Evaluation**

A volunteer's work, similar to other Corps employees, is periodically evaluated. Most evaluations with your volunteer coordinator will be informal and occur throughout your term of service. A formal written evaluation can be provided to you at the close of your service upon request. Take the time to review the Volunteer Assessment of project and staff form located in this handbook. You will be asked to complete a copy of this form at the end of your service period. In addition to periodic evaluations, you will have an opportunity to discuss your assignment and progress with your volunteer coordinator. This usually takes place after the first few weeks of your term. As well as your service on your assigned duties, the Corps expects the following from its volunteers:

- Willingness to work, following of regulations and accepting of supervision.
- Flexibility that allows for unexpected changes, delays or problems that occur from time to time.
- The ability to get along in a cohesive manner with project visitors, staff, fellow volunteers and members of the community.
- Willingness to accept and respond to constructive criticism as a means of improving the volunteer program and project operations.
- Conduct an appearance that meets the same high standards as those set for Corps employees.

## **Conflict Resolution**

In the previous section, you read that maintaining good-natured relations with project staff and other volunteers is one of your important responsibilities. Usually, this is very easy to do. Most volunteers enjoy their interactions with others at the project. You are, however, interacting with people of different backgrounds, beliefs and interests. Working closely with others in such an environment may occasionally challenge one's tolerance for diversity. If you find yourself uncomfortable working with one of your colleagues – or suspect they may be uncomfortable with you – please do not keep your concern to yourself. Explain your situation to your volunteer coordinator. Given prompt attention, teamwork concerns can usually be resolved to the satisfaction of all. The project staff will appreciate your recognition of the problem and interest in resolving it successfully.



## **Pets**

Pets are welcomed in most areas of the Coralville Lake project including volunteer campsites. Please note that no matter how friendly your pet may be some people are not fond of animals. Respect other people's space by having your pet on a leash. For safety reasons, pets are not allowed in Government Vehicles or on Government Vessels due to potential distractions they may cause, and other problems associated with pets. Pets may be allowed off-leash in non-designated recreation areas such as the floodway. Do not allow your pet to chase wildlife. Pick up excrement around the camp pads. Finally, if your pet becomes a problem; i.e., biting or excessive barking, you may be asked to leave.

## **Wildlife and Pests**

Coralville Lake project areas include various mammals such as squirrels, coyotes, river otter, beaver, mink, groundhogs, and deer. Please do not feed the wildlife. There are venomous spiders existing in the area. Yellow jackets, bees, and wasps are sometimes numerous in the area as we have nest boxes located behind the project office. If you have an allergy, please notify volunteer coordinator and have your appropriate medication with you.

# **Local Area Information**

The Coralville Lake Project is located approximately 6 miles from North Liberty (population 20,279 in 2020) and is connected to the Iowa City Metropolitan Area (population 171,491 in 2017). Grocery stores, restaurants, gas stations, banks, pharmacies and hotels are located within both the North Liberty, Coralville, and Iowa City communities. Hospital services are available in Iowa City. Iowa City is home to the University of Iowa, which is the oldest college in Iowa.

By road, the Coralville Lake Project is within 5 hours of Madison, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Chicago, Des Moines, and St. Louis. The areas' largest newspaper is the Iowa City Press-Citizen.

## **Area Attractions**

There are many things to do and see in the Iowa City Area. The biggest attraction to the area is the University of Iowa's athletic teams, known as the Iowa Hawkeyes. Sporting events throughout the year will draw large crowds from the entire state Iowa. During Football season, you will see many people camping throughout the dam complex area at Coralville Lake. Other major attractions are the areas many recreation opportunities. Cycling paths can be found along the Iowa River and throughout the metropolitan area. Hiking trails area also located at Lake McBride and Coralville Lake with all levels of hiking difficulty.

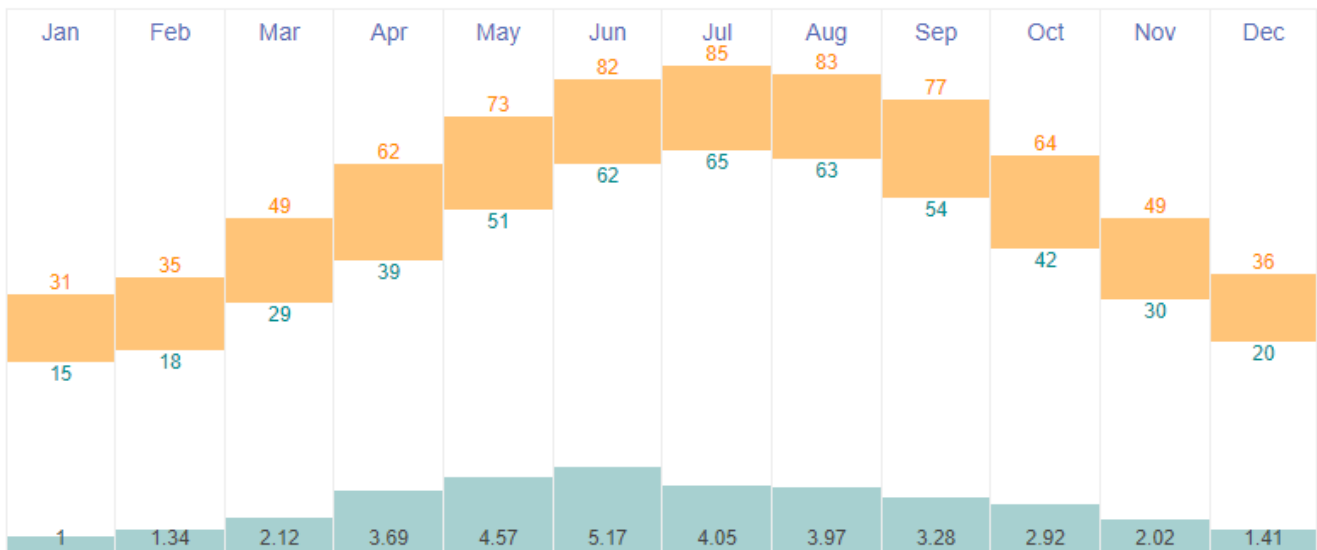
There are two public golf courses within city limits. Finkbine Golf Course is an 18-hole course owned by the University of Iowa. Pleasant Valley Golf Course is a public 18-hole course located south along the Iowa River.

## Weather

Eastern Iowa has weather consistent to the normal Midwest climate with cold winters, hot summers, and short shoulder seasons in-between. The summer season gets very hot during the months of June through August with peak heats reaching 100 (°F). Iowa City has a humid continental climate, hot-summer subtype. Average monthly temperatures range from about 22.8 °F in January to 75.8 °F in July. Average monthly precipitation is lowest in winter and peaks significantly from May to August, with June being the average wettest month. Showers and thunderstorms are common from May to September, and can be severe, especially from May to July.

In winter, snowfall is moderate, occasionally heavy in single storms. Snow cover is occasional in drier and/or warmer winter seasons, but (rarely) can be continuous in the coldest seasons. Overall, Iowa City's tornado risk is lower than that of areas to the south and southwest, such as Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri.

The data represented in the chart below are from 1992-2021:



Climate data for Iowa City, Iowa (1991–2020 normals, extremes 1893–present)													[hide]
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °F (°C)	68 (20)	76 (24)	88 (31)	93 (34)	105 (41)	105 (41)	109 (43)	108 (42)	101 (38)	94 (34)	81 (27)	74 (23)	109 (43)
Mean maximum °F (°C)	51.8 (11.0)	56.8 (13.8)	72.7 (22.6)	82.3 (27.9)	88.6 (31.4)	93.2 (34.0)	95.4 (35.2)	94.7 (34.8)	91.0 (32.8)	84.3 (29.1)	69.3 (20.7)	55.8 (13.2)	97.2 (36.2)
Mean daily maximum °F (°C)	29.3 (−1.5)	34.3 (1.3)	47.9 (8.8)	61.6 (16.4)	72.2 (22.3)	81.0 (27.2)	84.4 (29.1)	82.4 (28.0)	76.3 (24.6)	63.2 (17.3)	47.5 (8.6)	34.4 (1.3)	59.5 (15.3)
Daily mean °F (°C)	20.5 (−6.4)	24.9 (−3.9)	37.2 (2.9)	49.4 (9.7)	60.6 (15.9)	70.0 (21.1)	73.5 (23.1)	71.3 (21.8)	64.0 (17.8)	51.6 (10.9)	37.5 (3.1)	26.0 (−3.3)	48.9 (9.4)
Mean daily minimum °F (°C)	11.6 (−11.3)	15.5 (−9.2)	26.6 (−3.0)	37.1 (2.8)	48.9 (9.4)	59.0 (15.0)	62.5 (16.9)	60.2 (15.7)	51.6 (10.9)	39.9 (4.4)	27.6 (−2.4)	17.5 (−8.1)	38.2 (3.4)
Mean minimum °F (°C)	−9.5 (−23.1)	−3.1 (−19.5)	8.1 (−13.3)	24.7 (−4.1)	36.0 (2.2)	48.9 (9.4)	54.9 (12.7)	52.5 (11.4)	38.9 (3.8)	26.1 (−3.3)	13.0 (−10.6)	−1.6 (−18.7)	−13.6 (−25.3)
Record low °F (°C)	−32 (−36)	−32 (−36)	−17 (−27)	10 (−12)	24 (−4)	37 (3)	40 (4)	38 (3)	20 (−7)	4 (−16)	−6 (−21)	−27 (−33)	−32 (−36)
Average precipitation inches (mm)	1.14 (29)	1.40 (36)	2.33 (59)	3.86 (98)	5.05 (128)	5.49 (139)	4.56 (116)	4.32 (110)	3.45 (88)	3.00 (76)	2.27 (58)	1.60 (41)	38.47 (977)
Average snowfall inches (cm)	7.6 (19)	7.5 (19)	3.2 (8.1)	0.5 (1.3)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	0.4 (1.0)	1.1 (2.8)	7.2 (18)	27.5 (70)
Average extreme snow depth inches (cm)	7.4 (19)	6.4 (16)	2.8 (7.1)	0.5 (1.3)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	0.1 (0.25)	1.0 (2.5)	4.6 (12)	9.7 (25)
Average precipitation days (≥ 0.01 in)	7.4	7.0	8.7	11.4	12.6	11.2	8.8	8.9	8.4	9.0	7.6	8.2	109.2
Average snowy days (≥ 0.1 in)	4.0	3.5	1.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.6	4.0	14.1

## **Contacts List**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District  
Coralville Lake Flood Control Project  
2850 Prairie Du Chien Rd. NE  
Iowa City, IA 52240  
319-338-3543 Telephone

Johnson County (Dispatch)  
319-356-6800 (non-emergency)  
911 – (Emergency)

Ranger 1 Phone  
319-330-5401

Coralville Lake Employees Work Telephone Numbers:  
Justin Kerwin (Supervisory Park Ranger) 319-270-5521  
Colton Johnson (Volunteer Coordinator) 319-330-7246  
Zach Scriver (E.S. POC) 319-359-9089  
Darren Schneider (Park Attendant POC) 319-432-5578



# **Project Information**

## **Purpose and Significance**

This project provides protection to Iowa City and the adjacent areas from recurring flood damage from the Iowa River.

The Iowa River is one of several southeastern flowing streams that drain the eastern one-half of Iowa to join the Mississippi River along the state's eastern boundary. Record floods that swept the nation in the early 1930's prompted Congress to establish the Flood Control Act of 1938. In an attempt to reduce flooding on the Mississippi River, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was authorized to construct several dams on tributary rivers, including the Iowa River. In addition to moderating stream flows on the Iowa River, Coralville Lake's less evident, but equally important, role is in the comprehensive flood control system for the Mississippi River. At a location several miles upstream from Iowa City, construction of the dam began in 1949, was delayed by the Korean Conflict and was finally completed in 1958. Coralville Dam regulates runoff from 3,084 square miles of land upstream providing flood protection to 1,703 square miles of Iowa River Valley below the dam. During drought conditions, water stored in the lake is released at a minimum rate of 150 cubic feet per second (cfs) to provide a sufficient flow to meet downstream domestic and industrial water needs.

The US Army Corps of Engineers has a tradition of naming a dam or lake after the first town downstream from the dam. The city of Coralville is the first town downstream from the dam on the Iowa River, therefore the name, Coralville Lake. Naming of the town goes back to 1866 when famous naturalist Professor Louis Agassiz traveled to the end of the rail line and then, before lecturing on his theory of multiple glaciations, first drew attention to "the ancient fossilized coral reefs of the Iowa City area" that were discovered while digging a foundation for a mill. The town then decided to call itself Coralville.

## **Project Information**

The Coralville Dam is 1,400 feet long and 100 feet high. An emergency spillway, 500 feet wide, was connected to the dam at the western end to allow for the release of any flow that exceeds the capacity of the dam's outlet gates or the reservoir itself. The lip of the spillway is 31 feet below the top of the dam, at an elevation of 712 feet above sea level.

## **Outlet Works**

The dam's outlet control structure at Coralville Lake consists of three concrete bays divided by piers. The structure is designed to pass flows in the Iowa River as low as 150 cubic feet per second (cfs) and up to 20,000 cubic feet per second. Vertical lift gates which drop down from the overhead gallery of the structure control flows through the bays.

## **Activities and Recreation**

The Coralville Lake Project is a popular recreational area averaging 1.3 million visits per year (2023).

There are various fishing opportunities available at the Coralville Lake project. Coralville Lake is home to Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Walleye, and Channel Catfish. The South side of the dam is a very popular spot for people to fish the Iowa River. Channel Catfish and Flathead Catfish are often caught in the Iowa River and near the dam outlet.

There are many opportunities to view wildlife on this project. Some of the mammals here are deer, coyotes, red fox, rabbits, mink, beaver, river otter, and ground squirrel. Not to mention many different species of birds.

The Coralville Lake project also issues various special use permits throughout the year to various groups and individuals who use our project lands for special events and activities. Some examples would be the military training exercises, the Iowa Trail Run Series, the core4 Gravel Bike Race, and the Holiday Lights Display.

Along with the special use permits, Coralville Lake also issues firewood permits to local residents usually after storms and flooding events. Permits may be available to the public to harvest the firewood for personal use when there are large quantities.

Most Coralville Lake recreation areas are operated by the Army Corps of Engineers. These areas include Linder Point Campground, Tailwater West Campground, Tailwater East Campground, West Overlook Campground, Cottonwood Campground, Sugar Bottom Campground, Sandy Beach Campground, Turkey Creek Day Use, East Overlook Day Use, West Overlook Day Use, Squire Point, Sugar Bottom Day Use, and Mehaffey Boat Ramp

## **Information about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

The Corps of Engineers is the nation's largest provider of outdoor recreation, operating more than 4,300 recreation areas at 420 lakes in 43 states and leasing an additional 1,800 sites to state or local park and recreation authorities or private interests. Fifteen billion dollars is spent by Corps Lake visitors on trip related expenses such as gas, food, and lodging and recreation equipment each year adding 600,000 jobs to the nation's economy. "If you build it, they will come" turned flood damage reduction projects into recreation destinations overnight. Eighty percent of Corps lakes are located within 50 miles of major metropolitan areas.

## **Navigation**

Navigation was the Corps of Engineers' earliest Civil Works mission, with Federal laws dating back to 1824 authorizing the Corps to improve safety on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Today, the Corps maintains more than 12,000 miles of inland waterways, operates 235 locks and maintains 300 commercial harbors, through which 2 billion tons of cargo pass each year.

## **Flood Risk Management**

The Corps was first called upon to address flood problems along the Mississippi River in the mid-1800's. The Corps began work on the Mississippi River and Tributaries Flood Control Project in 1928, then the Flood Control Act of 1936 giving the Corps the mission to provide flood protection to the entire country.

## **Hydropower**

The Corps was first authorized to build hydroelectric plants in the 1920s. Today the Corps operates 75 power plants, producing one fourth of the nation's hydro-electric power—or three percent of its total electric energy, making us the Nation's fifth largest electric supplier.

## **Environmental**

The Corps of Engineers carries out environmental and natural resource management programs at its projects, managing thousands of square miles as forest and wildlife habitat, monitoring water quality at its dams, operating fish hatcheries in cooperation with State wildlife agencies, and in some cases restoring the environment at projects built in earlier days.

## **Recreation**

As far as fishing and boating; the Corps hosts 33% of all freshwater lake fishing in the United States. Our lakes have 56,000 miles of shoreline with over 3,800 boat launch ramps.

## **Camping**

There are over 90,000 campsites available at Corps properties nationwide.

## **Hiking**

Corps parks include roughly 4,300 miles of trails that are ideal for hiking and observing wildlife. The Corps hosts about 360 million visits a year at its lakes, beaches and other areas. It is estimated that 25 million Americans (one in ten) visit a Corps project at least once a year.

## **Volunteers**

You are valuable to us! The value of the work that volunteers do is incredible. Among the many tasks Corps volunteers do, some common ones include serving as campground hosts, staffing visitor centers, conducting interpretive programs, assisting maintenance personnel, restoring fish and wildlife habitat, and maintaining project trails. Nationwide during 2018, nearly 32,000 volunteers contributed over 1.6 million hours of work with an estimated value of over \$40 million! Your dedication, time, and work are greatly appreciated!

**Thank you for supporting Coralville Lake!**





# Volunteer Assessment

Volunteer's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Using a scale of 1 to 5 please rate the following categories

1 = below average/needs improvement 3 = Average 5 = Excellent N/A = Not applicable

Staff Support _____	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Staff Supervision _____	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Staff Attitude _____	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Working Climate _____	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Training Received _____	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Job Assignment _____	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Interest in volunteering at Coralville again____	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Utilization of your talents on the job_____	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Satisfaction _____	1	2	3	4	5	N/A

Reason/s for volunteering:

Additional comments for improving the volunteer program: