



# MVD WATER SAFETY INITIATIVES FALL 2020 REPORT

## ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (MVR)

### Coralville Lake

Life jacket loaner stations were kept stocked and ready until the close of the recreation season on 18 October 2020.

Coralville staff has begun the process of purchasing a new Water Safety trailer.

Park Rangers began including a "water safety tip of the day" on daily phone recordings.

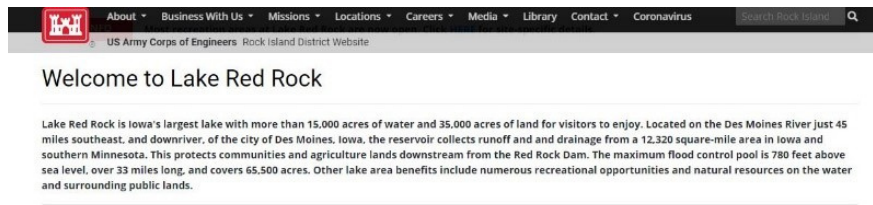


**Water Safety Tip of the Day:** Since most drowning victims had no intention of being in water and since most people drown within 10 to 30 feet of safety, it is important that you and your family learn to swim.

### Lake Red Rock

Lake Red Rock updated safety information on their project website. Messages focused on hunting safety and safe social distancing.

The Lake Red Rock team continues to utilize social media and #USACEeducates including creating four water safety posts to share on their Facebook page and with their District Water Safety Team.



Many projects utilized water safety messaging on social media including this Twelve Days of Water Safety graphic.

## Saylorville Lake

Saylorville continued a robust virtual water safety campaign including creating cold water safety facebook posts for the month of December. The team is also preparing for winter and next season's water safety efforts. All event efforts are dependent on the status of COVID and recommended gathering guidelines.

## Mississippi River Project

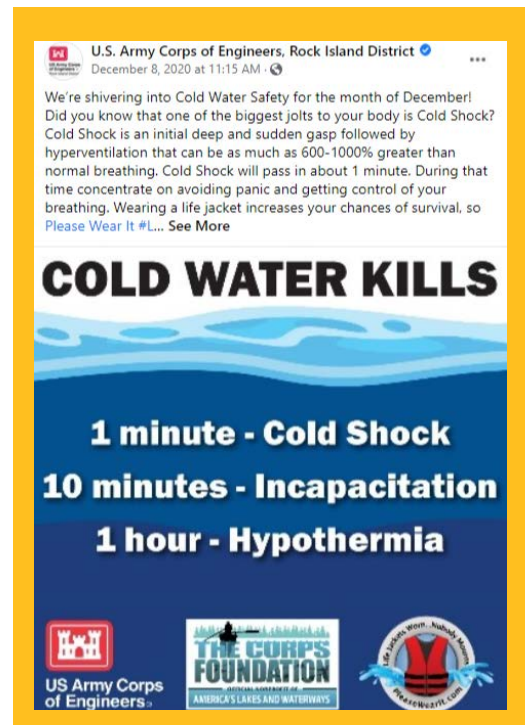
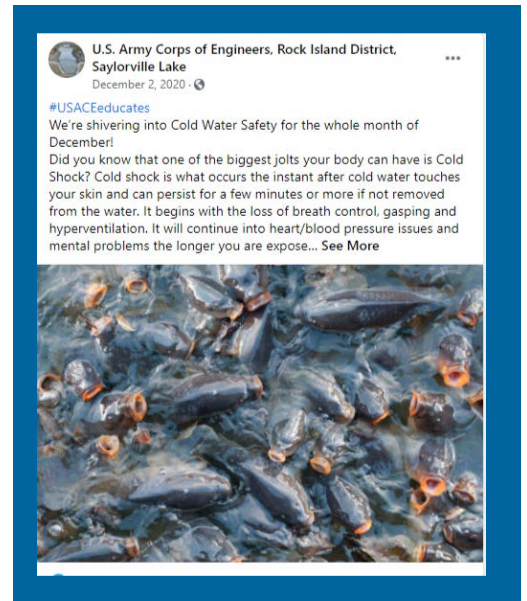
The Mississippi River Project also highlighted Cold Water Safety through Facebook posts for the month of December. The project is also preparing for winter and next season's water safety efforts. All event efforts are dependent on the status of COVID and recommended gathering guidelines.

## Illinois Waterway Project

Starved Rock Magazine will include an article on safe eagle watching during the winter months. The article was written in October 2020 and will be published January 2021.

147 students from six local schools received their Every Kid Outdoors passes in addition, they received water safety fun books.

The Illinois Waterway Project is working on 2021 water safety social media messages.



# ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

## Carlyle Lake



Park Rangers participated in the annual Christmas in Carlyle Parade. Water safety banners decorated the sides of a truck with Bobber the Water Safety Dog and a Carlyle Ranger waving to approximately 400 members of the public along the parade route.

Recreation areas transitioned to fall with Rangers changing out summer water safety billboards with winter weather safety messages related to hunting, hypothermia, and the dangers of lake ice.

Winter water safety messages were displayed on digital reader boards located along Highway 127.

An ad to promote water safety while hunting was printed in the 2020 Breese Journal Hunting Guide.



## Rend Lake

The Rend Lake Project Office, the Rend Lake Area Tourism Council, and the Southern Illinois Media Group partnered to produce Rend Lake Adventures this recreation season, Rend Lake Adventures is a monthly publication that has been produced, in several different formats, for the past 15+ years. The Rend Lake Adventures is distributed each month to local businesses, campgrounds, and the Rend Lake Visitor Center, and serves as the perfect means of getting educational information, upcoming events, current happenings, and water safety messages to audiences that frequent Rend Lake.



Boat Ramps at Rend Lake got some new artwork thanks to Rend Lake Volunteer, Maddie Burgess, who painted a water safety message on the Corps of Engineers managed boat ramps using the water safety message stencil provided by the Corps Foundation.



Park Rangers, administrative staff, and contractors wearing the face covering bandana provided by the Corps Foundation. Safety took on many different looks during 2020.



### Wappapello Lake



The Greenville Jack O'Lantern Jubilee was held in October in partnership with campers and the Wappapello Lake Area Association (WLAA). Campers decorated campsites and provided candy and refreshments for the visitors. The Corps and WLAA staffed a water safety booth with bags containing crafts and water safety giveaways.

During the 29th Annual Old Greenville Days Wappapello Lake staff and volunteers made 1500 direct water safety contacts.

Wappapello Lake hosted the 28th Annual Festival of Lights 27 Nov 2020-3 Jan 2021. This free community-oriented event allows businesses, organizations,

groups and individuals to celebrate the holiday season by decorating a campsite. Displays included Santa on a personal watercraft sporting a life jacket and other water safety messages.

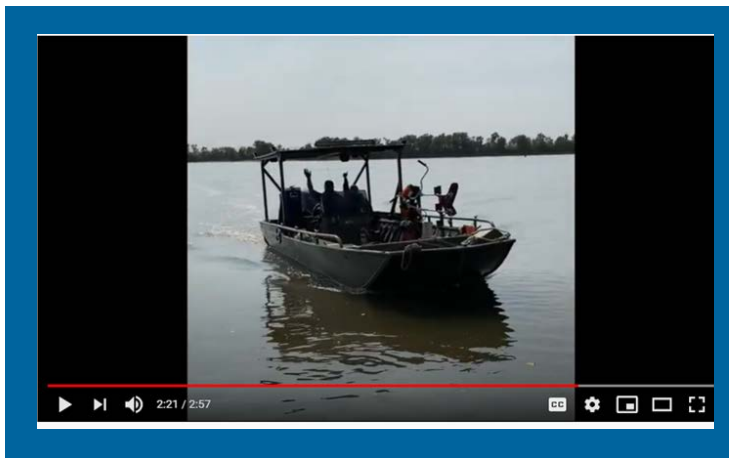


## Rivers Project Office/National Great Rivers Museum

In partnership with the Audubon Center at Riverlands and the Mississippi River Water Trail Association (MRWTA), the Rivers Project hosted various paddling programs throughout the kayaking season as a part of the Riverlands Wellness Series. Programs began with discussions on water safety guidelines and basics of paddling. Riverlands educators and MRWTA led program participants on a guided kayaking lesson while interpreting the diverse wildlife that can be viewed along the Mississippi River. In total, 9 paddling programs were delivered on 19 Sept., 22 Sept., and 10 Oct. reaching 63 visitors.



Rangers have hosted a variety of virtual educational and interpretive programs that included water safety. Interpretive videos and social media outlets have been utilized to highlight safe boating procedures and water safety messaging. “What Do Park Rangers Do? (Mississippi River Edition)” was created for Kreitner Elementary School to showcase careers within the USACE and included water and boating safety information.



MG Diana Holland toured the Melvin Price Locks and Dam, National Great Rivers Museum, and Audubon Center at Riverlands in late September 2020.



# VICKSBURG DISTRICT (MVK)

## Josi Tyler - MVK Water Safety Award Winner for 2020

Congratulations to Lake Ouachita Natural Resources Specialist, Josi Tyler! She was awarded the Vicksburg District Water Safety PDT's annual Water Safety Award for 2020. She went above and beyond the call of duty to rescue a 19 year old male who was about to drown on July 22, 2020 in Tompkins Bend Recreation Area.



### Bayou Bodcau

Louisiana Field Office at Bayou Bodcau created a new online interactive map that integrated water safety messages and links to Corps water safety websites. The examples to the right show how clicking on a boat ramp icon pops up a water safety message with site information. The site went live 1 Nov 2020.

**Ivan Lake Boat Ramp**  
Hardened

**Life Jackets Worn...  
Nobody Mourns  
PleaseWearIt.com**

This is a two lane concrete boat ramp with a wooden boat dock next to it. It is located on Ivan Lake, a 520 acre body of water that is managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

[Boat Inspection Checklist](#)

**COURTESY BOAT INSPECTION CHECKLIST**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ranger: \_\_\_\_\_

Boat Owner/Operator Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Location of Inspection: \_\_\_\_\_

ANY RED FLAGS?  Intoxication;  Gasoline Odor

Registration # \_\_\_\_\_ Current Registration \_\_\_\_\_ (Optional except "Red Flags")

Inboard \_\_\_\_\_ Outboard \_\_\_\_\_ Vessel Length \_\_\_\_\_

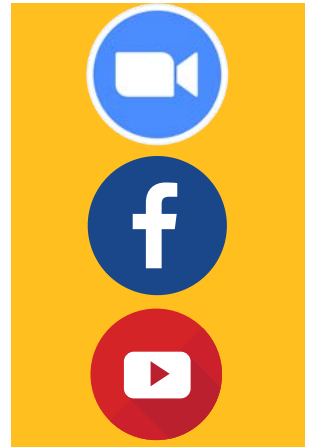
1. There should be one wearable type U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket readily accessible for every person on board.
2.  Children 16 years of age & under must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket while underway on boats less than 26'.
3.  "Each person on board must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket while underway on a boat less than 16'."
4. Throwable PFD - "In addition to the above requirements, boats 16' or longer must have one U.S. Coast Guard-approved Type IV PFD on board & readily accessible".
5. Noise-making Device (whistle, horn, etc.) required on all vessels 16 feet and over. (Recommended on all vessels)
6. Capacity of Vessel \_\_\_\_\_ Number of people on board \_\_\_\_\_
7. U.S. Coast Guard Fire Extinguishers. Mechanically propelled boats less than 26' = one B-1 Fire Extinguisher. 26' to 40' = two Fire Extinguishers. Over 65' = Federal Standards.
8.  Recommended Items for safety & well being: paddle \_\_\_\_\_, First Aid Kit \_\_\_\_\_, cell phone \_\_\_\_\_, flares \_\_\_\_\_, spotlight \_\_\_\_\_.
9.  Thank you. A Safety Tip. Handout materials.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

# VICKSBURG DISTRICT (MVK)

## Louisiana Field Office

The Louisiana Field Office held a Virtual Interpretive Outreach Meeting to discuss ways to reach the public and schools using links to the Corps Gateway and the National Water Safety Webpage. The Vicksburg District Public Affairs Office provided advice in creating photographs and interpretive outreach videos and offered informative guidance in the use of available virtual interpretive media platforms.



## Lake Ouachita



Park Rangers from Lake Ouachita participated in a Zoom career program for Lakeside Middle School. During the virtual program, Rangers talked about the duties of being a Park Ranger and highlighted the importance of water safety and wearing a life jacket to students.

Louisiana fishermen utilized one of our newest water safety items. They were able to snag some largemouth bass using their Life Jacket Worns....Nobody Mourns fishing lure keychain.



# NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT (MVN)

The New Orleans District has continued its successful winter water safety initiatives including vehicle and boat patrols to ensure hunters return to their families. No lost hunters have required rescuing this year.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### National Water Safety Photo Contest DEADLINE 31 January

The 2019-2020 USACE National Water Safety Photo Contest contest deadline is 31 January 2021. Contest entries must be sent to your National Water Safety Committee Division Representative and can be sent at any time up until the deadline of 31 January 2021.

Contest details can be at the link below.

<https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/watersafety/photos.cfm>.

### National Water Safety Product Order DEADLINE 31 January

The USACE National Water Safety Product Catalog and Order Form was sent out 8 December 2020. Orders will be accepted until 31 January 2021 and products will be shipped out in February/March 2021. Orders are processed on a first-come first-serve basis, so get your order in as soon as you can ! All of the products are provided to you at no cost to supplement your water safety program. If you did not receive the product order form email sent 8 Dec please email [Amanda.L.Kruse@usace.army.mil](mailto:Amanda.L.Kruse@usace.army.mil) to be added to the MVD water safety email list.

