



MVD WATER SAFETY INITIATIVES WINTER 2021 REPORT

ST. PAUL DISTRICT (MVP)

Cross Lake

CROSSLAKE WINTERFEST

Bobber and Park Ranger Melissa Phelps spoke with kids about water safety and wearing a life jacket, making 30 direct contacts during Winterfest's Cabin Fever event which allows families to enjoy a variety of activities indoors and outdoors. Crosslake also participated in Winterfest's Soupfest. Park Rangers and volunteers distributed 200 water safety themed bags, including water safety swag and a water safety themed take-home coloring contest.



Bobber promotes water safety during Cabin Fever.

A take home coloring contest was circulated through take home bags at Soupfest, a local newspaper, area schools, afterschool coloring programs, and on the St. Paul District Facebook Page. The contest ran 5-22 February. In all, 23 drawings were turned in from children and adults. Winners were chosen from each of the four age groups. and received a new, properly fitted life jacket donated by local partners, Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway and C&C Boat Works. The artwork was water safety related, featuring Paul Bunyan and Bobber.



Take home coloring contest winning submissions.

Park Rangers updated a wall display in the Crosslake Community Center with various USACE related material. This quarter the team created a unique water safety message with a boat and the 5 steps to checking a life jacket. This display has had approximately 1,050 people walk past it during the month of February and will stay active for the next two months.



Cross Lake Continued

Crosslake designed and oversaw the installation of a children's themed water safety door cling on the main entrance doors to the Boys & Girls Club, within the Walker Area Community Center. An average of 70 children utilize this facility each day. The door cling will be on display until July of 2022. Bobber and Park Ranger Melissa Phelps, made an appearance for a photo opportunity and talked to 13 kids about water safety during their visit!



Lake Ashtabula

Lake Ashtabula partnered with Grand Forks Safe Kids to distribute water safety education materials and bags to 1400 students in the Grand Forks, ND area.

Lake Ashtabula also staffed a water safety booth at the Red River Valley Sport Show 4-6 March 2021.



Gull Lake

The Gull Lake Ranger Office has had an interactive water safety display in place since last fall. The display allows visitors the opportunity to take an "Expect the Unexpected - Wear Your Life Jacket" themed picture that they can share with family and friends. More to come as the recreation season begins!



ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (MVR)

Coralville Lake

VIRTUAL WATER SAFETY ESCAPE ROOM



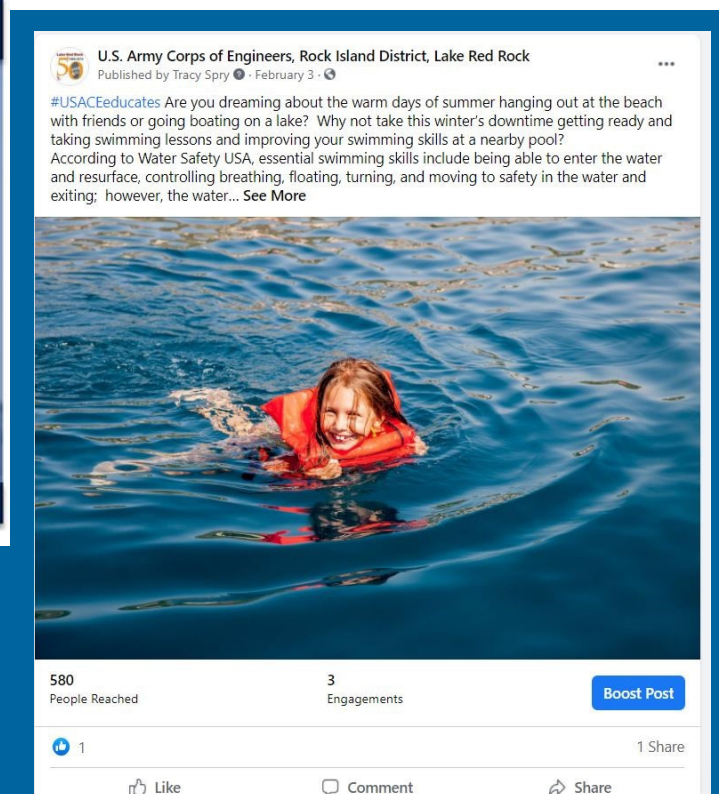
Park Ranger Shawna Polen created a virtual water safety escape room for the 2021 MVR virtual Internal NRM training. Right now this is for internal use only, but they are working to see if there is a way to make a different version that could be shared with the public! A safe, fun way to get people to interact virtually!

Check it out at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdL8ZcfMrh6eqE28F0Km9oWXI-zBFx7OVRA_e3VerhbwiFISQ/viewform?fbzx=4846965299876754104

Lake Red Rock

Water Safety message printed in new edition of Marion County Travel Guide.



Developed four #USACEeducates water safety messages to share with the National Water Safety Team and posted weekly during the month of February.

Saylorville Lake

Saylorville Lake partnered with Iowa Wild for the 2020-2021 hockey season, to help promote ice and water safety. A section banner is displayed during each home game reminding people to "Think twice before walking on ice." The Iowa Wild is an American Hockey Team affiliate of the Minnesota Wild with an audience primarily made up of 18-35 year old males. In the past, Bobber has attended games with rangers and volunteers to encourage water and ice safety while recreating. Due to COVID restrictions, Bobber and staff will not be attending any games this season.



Saylorville Lake applied for and received a free stencil from The Sea Tow Foundation to help promote water safety and eliminate Boating under the Influence boating accidents and deaths using the "Designate a Sober Skipper" message. This initiative was offered to life jacket loaner station hosts throughout the country.

A local Eagle Scout raised funds, recruited help, and planned construction of 7 life jacket loaner stations for Saylorville Lake. These loaner stations will replace existing stations at beaches and boat ramps and allow for additional stations at boat ramps that don't currently have them. The new and improved stations are much more aesthetically pleasing with large signage explaining water safety and life jacket usage. The loaner stations will be installed later this spring when the boating season picks up.



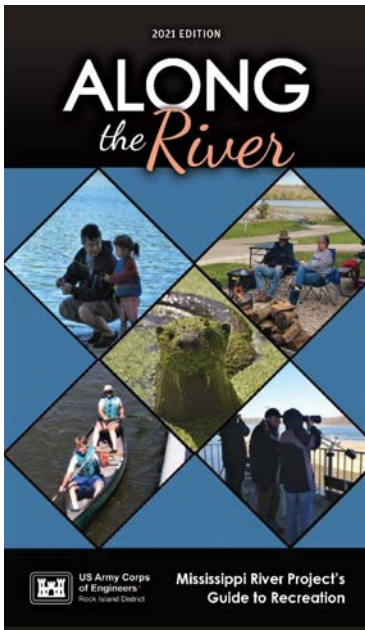


US Army Corps of Engineers
Rock Island District



THINK TWICE
BEFORE WALKING
ON ICE

Mississippi River Project



The annual Along the River recreation guides created by the Mississippi River Project was printed locally utilizing cooperating association funds. It showcases the recreation areas the USACE operates "Along the Mississippi" in MVR. There are several water safety messages and articles within the publication. Guides will be distributed to 10,000 people over the course of the year and a digital copy is available for viewing at www.missriver.org.

Facebook posts focused on close calls when on or near the water. Subjects included: boating safety around dams, how to safely go through a lock, the importance of boat kill switches and creating float plans before you head out on the water.



Illinois Waterway Project



Continuing work on the Junior Ranger App which includes water safety messages.

ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

Carlyle Lake

Utilized facebook to promote water safety. The team posted 41 Facebook water safety related messages which had 944 engagements from Carlyle's 19,375 followers.



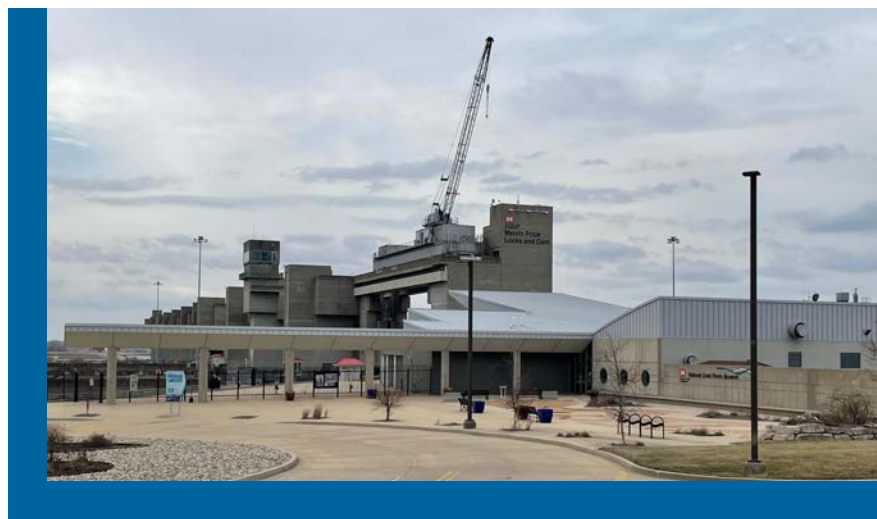
Rivers Project Office/National Great Rivers Museum

In partnership with the Audubon Center at Riverlands, Pere Marquette State Park, and Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge, USACE Rangers created a series of informational eagle watching videos featuring Bobber the Water Safety dog. These videos covered water safety messages for virtual engagement for the



Alton Audubon Eagle Ice Festival. In all, the virtual event reached over 120,000 people and was a great kick off to another eagle watching season in Alton, Illinois.

Despite being closed throughout much of the winter due to COVID-19 mitigations, the National Great Rivers Museum saw 3,831 visitors in February. The NGRM typically offers public tours three times a day, seven days a week that introduce visitors to the historical, cultural, economic, and ecological significance of the Mississippi River as well as the workings of the locks



and dams, including a closer look at the Melvin Price Locks and Dam. During these tours, Rangers or dedicated NGRM volunteers engage visitors and share the Rivers Project's and USACE missions and make sure interested visitors are aware of any upcoming water safety programming or other outreach events in which they may participate.

Wappapello Lake

The 29th Annual Festival of Lights Auto Tour was held 27 Nov 2020 – 3 Jan 2021 at the Redman Creek Campground East. This event consists of community businesses, organizations, families and individuals helping to usher in the holiday season by decorating campsites with Christmas lights, greeting signs, nativity scenes, blowups, and water safety-themed holiday displays. MVS PAO coordinated a facebook live tour to highlight the event and the staff and volunteers that support it every year. This event is done in partnership with the Wappapello Lake Area Association (WLAA), River Radio, and volunteers. Approximately 35,295 attended the Festival of Lights.



Continuing the holiday cheer, Wappapello staff participated in the 15th Annual Santa Land held 2 December 2020 at the Black River Coliseum in Poplar Bluff, MO. Wappapello Lake staff assisted in coordinating the event with Wal-Mart and the Poplar Bluff Park Department. Team members also staffed a water safety booth where they distributed water safety goody bags containing water safety giveaway items and a Christmas craft. Approximately 500 parents and children attended the event.

Leading up to Super Bowl Sunday, Wappapello Lake distributed 5,000 water safety stickers to local pizza franchises to put on pizza boxes. This safety initiative has been going on for ten years. More stickers will be distributed before Memorial Day weekend.



VICKSBURG DISTRICT (MVK)

Bayou Bodcau

Worked with District GIS to create a QR code for the Bayou Bodcau Interactive Map. The QR code will also be utilized at kiosks around the project. Working with PAO to post on Facebook and print out business sized cards to hand out to visitors. The interactive map provides links to Corps water safety sites.



Bayou Bodcau is initiating a natural resource related virtual outreach program with Benton High School AP Environmental Science class. Due to COVID, swamp tours are canceled, but staff will be mixing environmental stewardship videos with water safety videos.

Lake Ouachita

Lake Ouachita rangers set up an un-manned water safety and lake information table at the Hot Springs Boat, Tackle, and RV show held February 26-28 at the Hot Springs Convention Center. Lake maps, recreation information, boating regulation booklets, water safety brochures, Bobber trading cards, water safety coloring books, and stickers were available to the public. Approximately 500 Bobber coloring books were picked up during the show. Park rangers serviced the table each day and restocked giveaways.



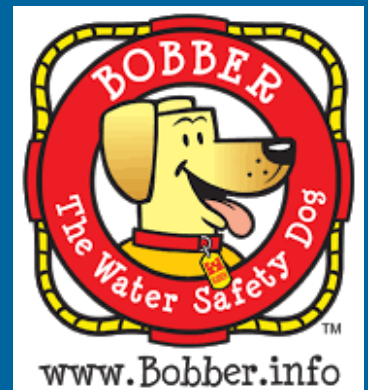
VICKSBURG DISTRICT (MVK)

Louisiana Field Office

Park Rangers participated in the Red River Paddlefish Festival at the Shreveport Aquarium 6 March 2021. They talked to more than 370 visitors about water safety and life jacket wear.



Rangers participated in three water safety programs at elementary schools in the Ouachita Black Rivers area. Although COVID-19 restrictions limited some interaction, rangers were still able to speak with over 700 students, grades k-8th, about water safety.



NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT (MVN)

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Water Safety Product Order

National Water Safety Product Orders have started to ship. All orders should be shipped by 1 April 2021. Please be on the lookout for your order. If you do not have it by 1 May please contact Amanda Kruse (amanda.l.kruse@usace.army.mil).

2019-2020 National Water Safety Photo Contest

Pam Doty will be emailing all the winners soon. 1st place category winners will receive a paddling flipchart and life jacket that can be used as educational resources to promote water safety. 1st place, 2nd place, and honorable mentions will receive a certificate along with a printout of their winning entry. Winning photos will be placed on the NRM Gateway.

Keep your cameras out! The 2021-2022 National Water Safety Photo Contest is underway! Guidelines will be placed on the NRM Gateway in the water safety section under Photos shortly.

