



MVD WATER SAFETY INITIATIVES SUMMER 2022 REPORT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MVD FY22 Fatalities

MVD had a total of 12 public recreation fatalities for FY22, all occurring before 5 July. It was a bit of a rough start, but your hard work, innovative ideas, and persistence helped us finish out the FY with no additional fatalities. Thank you for all the work and dedication that each and every one of you puts into promoting water safety throughout the year. Keep it up in FY23!

- Amanda Kruse, MVD National Water Safety Team Representative

MVD National Water Safety Team Representative

Nominations for the Mississippi Valley Division representative on the HQUSACE National Water Safety Committee are currently being accepted. Nomination information was sent out on 5 October. The person selected for this position will start their three year term on the committee 1 November 2022. Nominations need to be sent to me (Amanda.L.Kruse@usace.army.mil) by COB 24 October.

If you have any questions about the Water Safety Team or the nomination process, feel free to contact me!

2022 National Water Safety Awards

The National Boating Federation will be recognizing a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employee and team for the extraordinary work to promote water safety and save lives on our nation's waterways. This is a great opportunity to recognize an individual or team for the great things that they have done to promote water safety. Nomination criteria can be found on the NRM Gateway.

National Water Safety Photo Contest

The 2021-2022 National Water Safety Photo Contest is underway! This is an opportunity to showcase YOUR photographs and talent. Winning photographers will receive items that can be used to promote water safety. This photo contest is open to all USACE employees and volunteers including PAO and ACE-IT employees. Photos submitted must have been taken in 2021 or 2022 at a Corps of Engineers project or off-site at an event/program involving the Corps of Engineers.

Guidelines are on the NRM Gateway.

ST. PAUL DISTRICT (MVP)

Cross Lake

On July 9, 2022 and September 3, 2022, Seasonal Rangers Brady and Val made nearly 180 contacts between the two outings and handed out coloring books and other water safety materials. The project also put up a new lifejacket loaner station.



Park Rangers participated in the Annual Crosslake Days event September 22-24 held at Cross Lake. Each year Cross Lake competes in the Chili Cookoff by cooking chili in a 20-

gallon pot over the open fire. This year, over 850 visitors were served. The opportunity to host visitors at the park also allowed the project to promote water safety. Bobber the Water Safety Dog made an appearance at the event and Rangers provided bags of water safety materials to over 275 kids with an additional 75 water safety towels and coloring books handed out when the bags ran out. In total 350 water safety contacts were made during the event. This event could not be accomplished without the help and support of volunteers. 12 Volunteers donated a total of 56 hours of their time to make the event successful.



Cross Lake received dry bags from the Corps Foundation to support their adult I Got Caught Campaign. Rangers caught 50 adult visitors wearing their life jackets this year.

Leech Lake



Leech Lake Rangers focused the summer months on campground/day use water safety initiatives, utilizing bulletin boards and scavenger hunts. They also installed water safety door wraps on some of their restroom and day use facilities.



Rangers and Bobber also participated in several parades, handing out water safety materials.



ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (MVR)

Coralville Lake



Bobber the Water Safety Dog threw out the first pitch at the Cedar Rapids Kernels game on Aug. 7th. Rangers also staffed a water safety booth that made 450 contacts with free swag and literature.

New water safety paracord bracelets with whistles were purchased at the lake level to help spread the word. These bracelets offer a cord of safety if needed, an emergency sound device, and have the bonus upside of matching the park ranger uniform. 1000 of these have already been handed out at Coralville since their purchase.



Bobber the Water Safety Dog made numerous trips through the campgrounds promoting safety, handing out free swag and posing for countless pictures. 250 contacts were made during Labor Day weekend.

Fatal Vision Goggles have been used during roving interpretation to spread the message of alcohol and water safety. Adult guests are asked to don the goggles, walk to a marked item on the ground about 20 feet away, pick it up and return to the ranger for a high five. These goggles affect your depth perception and make for a fun learning tool to drive the WS message. 150 contacts have been made so far this season.



USACE at Coralville Lake brought water safety messaging to the Herbert Hoover Hometown Days on Aug. 6th. Life jacket fitting, inspections, and proper use was the focus of the booth. Free Water Safety swag was available. 85 contacts were made.

Illinois Waterway Project

Water Safety Booths were set up at local events. World Ranger Day (July 30) and Oglesby First Responder Day (Aug 2).






Several adults "Got Caught" wearing their life jackets. They received dry bags, coupons from Culvers for a free sundae, and a certificate.



2022 Boater Safety Classes Offered At Illinois Waterway Visitor Center



-  **May 7,**
9 a.m.-5 p.m.
-  **Jun. 18,**
9 a.m.-5 p.m.
-  **Aug. 20,**
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Don't miss one of the free IDNR-approved boater safety classes.

Only one 8-hour class is required to complete your certification. Anyone over the age of 12 can be certified. Students under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Did You Know... anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1998, who intends to operate a vessel in Illinois powered by a motor of 10 horsepower or more, needs to complete a boater safety class.

This class is recommended for:

- New boaters.
- Families that enjoy boating adventures, or
- Seasoned boaters who would like to brush up on their knowledge

Participants should bring their own lunch and drinks. Class materials will be provided.

Contact the Park Rangers at 815-667-4054 to register.



Illinois Waterway Visitor Center
950 N. 27th Rd
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-667-4054



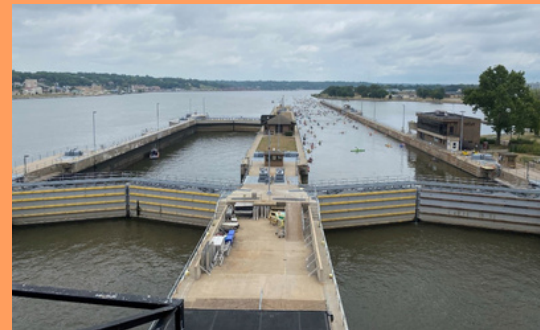
Ranger Todd Ernenputsch presented a Safe Boating class to 12 participants in August. A flyer and Press Release promoting the class were developed and disseminated via email and website.



Mississippi River Project

FLOATZILLA

Park Rangers and a volunteer helped guide paddlers going through Lock 15 during Floatzilla on August 20th. Floatzilla is an annual paddling event in the Quad Cities where participants launch from various areas on the Mississippi River and meet at a local marina in an attempt at beating the record of largest flotilla of canoes and kayaks rafted together in one spot. A total of 636 paddlers locked through successfully on that day with no major incidents. Preparation for this involved doing rescue exercising on the water with the Coast Guard Auxiliary the day before.



The Mississippi River Visitor center continues to partner with the Celebration Belle on their educational cruises. During these cruises, rangers give a brief history about navigating the Mississippi River and the differences between what kind of crew it would take to operate a steamboat vs today's modern towboats. Rangers also take the opportunity to talk about water safety and do a quick life jacket try on segment with the students.



Park Rangers and volunteers led 397 visitors on 31 locks and dam tours throughout the summer. Participants not only learn about how the lock and dam system works, but they also receive a boating and water safety message during the tours.



A life jacket try on station is now displayed at the Mississippi River Visitor Center inviting visitors to test out different sizes and styles of life jackets.

Saylorville Lake

Park Rangers shared water safety information to 4 sessions for a total of approx. 120 pre-k children at Ankeny's Safety Town event. Children learned how to make sure a life jacket fits correctly, what drowning looks like, and what to do if they see someone drowning (Reach, Throw, Row, Don't Go). Students pretended to go on a boat ride and were timed to see how fast they could put their life jackets on if their boat was sinking. They also got to participate in a life jacket relay race. Saylorville Lake has been sharing water safety during this event for several years.



On August 2nd Rangers attended National Night Out at the Polk County Sheriff's Office headquarters, along with local law enforcement to promote community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Rangers got to speak with attendees about life jackets and water safety. Attendance at the event was high and approximately 300 water safety contacts were made.

Other water safety efforts include community parade participation in Johnston and Ankeny, boat and beach patrol as well as vessel safety checks at boat ramps. Rangers spent time educating about life jacket loaner stations, alcohol restrictions, and required safety equipment.

Rangers attended Clowns at the Carousel, put on by Safe Kids of Greater Des Moines. This event is put on to educate children and families about childhood injury prevention. Each year,



thousands of children and adults enjoy a variety of fun family activities. There are inflatables, carousel rides, stage entertainment, clowns, food, and educational information for all. Rangers provided a table with water safety educational items, as well as a life jacket station to educate children and families about properly fitting a life jacket. About 400 water safety contacts were made before the event got rained out.

TEAM WORK

Saylorville Lake and Lake Red Rock joined forces this year to share a booth representing the Des Moines River Area at the Iowa State Fair. The booth was located under the grandstands in the Hall of Law & Flame and had over 7,000 people stopping by for various lake and water safety information. The booth featured a life jacket loaner station, photo op station, as well as educational water safety items.



Lake Red Rock

Bobber the Water Safety Dog and his “assistant” met with participants of the Red Rock Balloonfest’s first annual “Paddle Battle” homemade boat race to explain the importance of wearing life jackets and being safe on the water before the competition. Participants were required to wear their life jackets while their “boats” were underway.



Interpretive staff and volunteers presented two Junior Rangers camps for area 8–10-year-olds. Participants received water safety messages during their dam tour about staying away from the restricted area below the dam and also took part in a “Sink Fast” activity showing the importance of wearing a properly fitting life jacket when boating. Approximately 30 children took part in this year’s day camps. Water safety messaging regarding life jacket wear and safe paddling was also provided to approximately 12 participants at the Outdoor Adventurers day camp prior to the kayaking/canoeing activity.



Lake Red Rock continued

Water Safety Training for Staff and Service Team: During the recreation season, Red Rock staff and volunteers participated in a water safety presentation as part of their orientation/ongoing refresher training. Topics covered included the importance of wearing a life jacket, ensuring a proper fit and style for the activity, how to use a throw ring/throw bag, etc.



A critical part of operating life jacket loaner stations involves maintaining a good supply of usable life jackets. A new batch of PFDs was ordered this summer to replenish Red Rock's inventory at its six loaner stations located at the Corps-managed beaches and boat ramps. They will be used to replace jackets missing/lost through the season and swap out with older jackets. The loaner program is very popular with boaters and swimmers, and jackets are heavily utilized during the warmer months. Infant, child, youth, and adult sizes are available.



Life Jacket Zone stencils were repainted at each of the Corps-managed boat ramps. The stencils provide a reminder to wear life jackets before boaters leave shore. There are also life jacket loaner stations at each of the ramps in case they forgot to bring enough jackets.



ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

Carlyle Lake

Beach Blast and Carlyle Lake Fireworks Spectacular were held over Independence Day weekend, where visitors were able to play water safety games to win water safety related prizes. 4,000 water safety contacts were made throughout the holiday weekend.



The ranger staff at Carlyle Lake participated in the Clinton County Fair Parade. The float consisted of Bobber the water safety dog riding in the patrol boat with a park ranger while listening to the USACE Water Safety playlist on a Bluetooth speaker system. Rangers, dressed in "I Got Caught" attire, handed out water safety items to many of the estimated 4,000 spectators that attended the event. 800 Bobber coloring books and 400 water safety prize bags were distributed along the parade route.

that attended the event. 800 Bobber coloring books and 400 water safety prize bags were distributed along the parade route.



Park Rangers set up a water safety booth with games and information at the 30th Annual Cruz-In the Dam Car Show Nationals, where thousands of people gathered to view over 350 classic cars and trucks in the Dam West Recreation Area. Bobber also made an appearance to help spread water safety awareness.



also made an appearance to help spread water safety awareness.



Carlyle's I Got Caught Program continued through Independence Day Weekend and Labor Day weekend: 63 t-shirts were handed out to visitors that got caught wearing their life jacket and 12 towels and 18 dry bags were handed out to adult visitors that got caught wearing their life jacket.

Rivers Project Office / National Great Rivers Museum

Rivers Project Park Rangers participated in a variety of regional summer camp programs providing water safety programming, paddling instruction, and life jacket fitting for 300



campers. Summer camp partners include the St. Louis YMCA, Audubon Center at Riverlands, Ferguson-Florissant School District, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Rangers participated in safety demo Mondays, aided in weekly canoeing sessions, properly fit life jackets, and engaged campers in H2Olympics, water safety relay course reinforcing important water safety practices.



The Rivers Project and Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary hosted Wellness Series paddling programs throughout the summer in partnership with the Audubon Center at Riverlands and the Mississippi River Water Trail Association. Six public kayaking sessions were held engaging approximately 100 paddlers on proper water safety practices, kayaking 101 skills, and how to fit/wear a PFD.

The Rivers Project hosted The College School of Webster Groves, Missouri in partnership with Audubon Center at Riverlands and the Mississippi River Water Trail Association. 22 8th grade students and their teachers embarked on a kayaking excursion from Lincoln Shields Recreation Area downstream past Melvin Price Locks and Dam. As part of this unique recreational experience, the group was educated on the importance of water safety, how to properly paddle/navigate through lock chambers, and proper PFD practices.



In celebration of the summer holidays, the NGRM held a water safety scavenger hunt engaging over 60 children and their family members. Visitors could explore the museum on a hunt to find a variety of water and sun safety related items hidden throughout the exhibits. Scavenger hunts were then exchanged for water safety goody-bags.



Lake Shelbyville

Friends of Lake Shelbyville and Lake Shelbyville teamed up to purchase a new electronic message board for the Lake Shelbyville Project Office. The old message board was outdated and no longer would update. The sign pedestal also received a new water safety wrap!



Lake Shelbyville Adventures newspaper was published prior to Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day. 16,000 copies are distributed around the surrounding communities and business.



Lake Shelbyville Kids Fishing Tournament was held on June 4th-73 kids from ages 0-12 participated in the event. Prizes were awarded for Big Fish, Smallest Fish and Most Fish. All participants were given a water safety talk and were required to wear a life jacket.



Lake Shelbyville received a Sea Tow Foundation grant to replenish the Life Jacket Loaner Station at Dam West. Youth life jackets came in and are currently available to day use users in the area.



Lake Shelbyville teamed up with many local partners to promote the importance of wearing life jackets while swimming and boating on Lake Shelbyville. Rangers and local law enforcement have been handing out "I got caught wearing my life jacket" t-shirts as a reward to children and adults "caught" wearing their life jackets during the swimming and boating season.

Wappapello Lake

Wappapello Park Rangers provided weekend water safety programs throughout the recreation season at Redman Creek, Rockwood Point, and Peoples Creek beaches.

The project welcomed the Lake St. Louis Water Skiing Team. This event always brings a large crowd.



Installed water safety feathered flags at our beaches and boat ramps.

Water Safety Partners placed safety messages on their outdoor electronic message

boards during Labor Day Weekend (Poplar Bluff, Dexter, and Sikeston, MO).

Weekly Radio Reports ended after Labor Day Weekend (6 radio stations).

Monthly radio interviews were done at KWOC and KLID radio stations in Poplar Bluff.



Wappapello Lake received approximately 800 hundred type 1 personal flotation devices through the Sea Tow Foundation from Century Casino located in Caruthersville, MO. These life saving water safety devices were shared with two other Corps of Engineers Districts (Little Rock and Kansas City), Boys and Girls Club of Poplar Bluff, MO, Butler County Emergency Response Team, Black River Coliseum, Lakeside Marina, Chaonia Landing Marina and Sundowner Marina. This was a huge boost toward promoting water safety especially in southeast Missouri.

VICKSBURG DISTRICT (MVK)



The Vicksburg District Mississippi Lakes (Arkabutla, Sardis, Enid, and Grenada) placed a water safety ad in the MS Sportsman's Digest which has a wide distribution throughout the State of Mississippi and reaches thousands of outdoors enthusiasts.

Arkabutla Lake

Arkabutla was able to add three lifejacket loaner stations (two at an old beach area and one inside the visitor center) and new bulletin boards to provide water safety information to the visiting public. Rangers also added water safety banners inside the visitor center to promote water safety. The project has also started giving away a water safety hand towels and a cell phone dry bag to every fisherman that purchases an annual boat launch pass.



Enid Lake

Natural Resources Specialist Kyle Tedford created a crappie themed water safety logo. Enid Lake is known for its excellent crappie fishing and this logo perfectly captures crappie fishing and water safety. The project is working to get stickers and magnets with the logo to distribute to the public.



Lake Ouachita



Lake Ouachita Natural Resource Specialist, Amy Shultz, presented an environmental and missions program to a group of 20 adults for Leadership Hot Springs at Garvin Garden's. Water and Boating safety were discussed during the program.

Lake Ouachita Natural Resource Specialist Amy Shultz and Pathways student, Matthew Gunner Gilbert (AKA Bobber the Water Safety Dog) presented a water safety program for 80 Pre-K students at Langston Primary School, Hot Springs.



Lake Ouachita Natural Resource Specialists, Pam Herrin, and Amy Shultz presented a water safety and amphibian program to a group of 40 fourth grade students at Mount Ida Primary School, Mount Ida, AR.



Pathway's Student, Jesse Hollifield, worked a Career Day table and career programs at Caddo Hills School where water safety information was handed out to students.





Lake Ouachita and DeGray Lake partnered in working a Bass Pro water safety table during National Safe Boating Week from May 20th-May 27th. Over 650 water safety contacts were made during the partnership.

Lake Ouachita Natural Resource Specialists Pam Herrin, and Amy Shultz presented Backyard Critter and Water Safety program to a group of 50 students at Mount Ida Kindergarten and first grade.



During the July 4th holiday weekend, park Rangers made 1,776 direct water safety contacts during boat and land patrols in the recreation areas. Dry Bags donated by the Corps Foundation were a big hit with adults caught wearing their lifejackets throughout the summer.



Amy Shultz presented water Safety and backyard critter Programs to 30 students (pre-k- 6th grade) at St. John's summer school program.



LOUISIANA FIELD OFFICE

Ouachita - Black Rivers

Natural Resource Specialist, Robert Allen gave a PFD and water safety presentation to the James family (13 contacts) and the Savage family (21 contacts) at Jonesville Landing Recreation Area.



Natural Resource Specialists, Ben Nyegaard and Heidi Goldsmith spoke to the Union Parish Library Summer Program at Lake D'Arbonne State Park (16 contacts). Nyegaard and Goldsmith educated the youth and their parents on PFDs, water safety, and boat safety.

Red River



Natural Resource Specialists, Sarah Nix, Heidi Goldsmith, and Jesse Wisterman gave PFD and water safety presentations to Girl Scout members (33 contacts) at Camp Wawbansee.

This is a contact the Red River Project accumulated while working in the Alexandria Zoo

Earth Day Event (Spring). At Camp Wawbansee the troops were able to get into the pool with their life jackets on to practice floating on their backs and swimming.



USACE Volunteer, Douglas Buchan, spoke to the Shreveport Aquarium Summer Camp at USACE John Bennett Johnston Regional Waterway Visitor Center (30 Contacts). Buchan educated the youth on water safety, USACE missions, environmental stewardship, and cultural resources.

Bayou Bodcau

Natural Resource Specialist, Willard Hopson conducted a water safety booth at the Caddo Parish Sheriffs Fishing Derby (300 contacts). The crowd consisted of children and their parents.