

MVD

March 2024

SECOND QUARTER

WATER SAFETY INITIATIVES

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 [National Water Safety Program Gateway](#)

*MVS awarded the MVD Water
Safety Team Award*



NWS Products should be shipping out by April 1st, but you may start to receive your items sooner.

 Cape Cod Canal, MA

National Water Safety Team

Pam Doty - *Program Manager*

Toby Isbell - *Program Graphic Designer*

Julie Franco - *Safety Rep*

Romanda Walker - *Public Affairs Rep*

Robert Moreno - *Bilingual Sub-Committee Chair*

Amanda Kruse - *Special Projects Coordinator*

Chelsea Jones - *LRD Rep*

Erica Nabers - *MVD Rep*

Jenna Conner - *NAD Rep*

Tana Wilson - *NWD & POD Rep*

Emily Jones - *SAD Rep*

Pam Bowie - *SPD Rep*

Abby Jones - *SWD Rep*

Let's Highlight!
**Life Jacket
Loaner Stations!**

This issue:

MVK

MVP

MVR

MVS

New Year, Same Mission. Always wear your life jacket!

VICKSBURG DISTRICT (MVK)

DeGray Lake

1. We participated in the Hot Springs Polar Plunge and one of our new events we added this year was the Saline County Polar Plunge.
2. We assisted Lake Ouachita with the Hot Springs Boat Tackle & RV Show.
3. We assisted the Little Rock District with the 48th Annual Arkansas RV Show.
4. We are currently handing out solar eclipse glasses with the Nobody Mourns logo on them.



Louisiana Field Office

Swim For Life is a program that guarantees every second grader in Caddo Parish receives instruction in swimming and water safety. Every week a group of 80-120 second graders come to the BHP YMCA 4 days in a row, and every day they do 30 minutes of in-water instruction and 30 minutes of classroom instruction. The in-water skills are bubble blowing, rescue bounce (hopping off the bottom of the pool for air), floating, swimming, and jump-push-turn-grab.

The classroom portion includes the big water rules like asking permission and never swimming alone, the dangers of natural bodies of water, how to identify and wear the right life jacket for you, and "Reach Throw Don't Go" (which includes a dry run on the gym floor, and then getting to actually use this technique to help get someone out of the pool. It's a lot of fun and very memorable)



ST. PAUL DISTRICT (MVP)

Mississippi Headwaters Project

Staff have been providing water safety programs for local schools, in which EKO passes are also disseminated. During the visits, a water safety video is shown, "Safe Passage", followed by discussion on the importance of wearing a life jacket. We were also able to include a water safety messaging/advertising has been added to a local lake association newsletter.

Eau Galle Recreation Area

Staff at Eau Galle Recreation area coordinated with the local newspaper to have a water safety message added – printed in color!



Staff have been attending local boat and travel sport shows to pass out water safety and Corps mission information, teaming up with local public affairs and lock and dam staff.

Lake Ashtabula/Baldhill Dam

Staff have been attending local boating, travel, and outdoor recreation sport shows to pass out water safety and Corps mission information. The low head dam model, lifejackets, other interactive presentations have been featured to engage attendees at the events.



ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

St. Louis District attended their annual Park Ranger Training in Poplar Bluff, Missouri near Wappapello Lake.

Park Rangers use this training to network with other rangers in the St. Louis District, learn about upcoming program changes, project updates, complete annual refreshers, and discuss local issues and how to navigate them.

Park Ranger Tanner Canoy was awarded with the Star of Life Award. His fast reaction while patrolling saved a life at the Wappapello Lake Project.



The St. Louis District Water Safety Team was awarded the Mississippi Valley Division Water Safety Award for all their water safety initiatives and efforts in having zero drownings in FY23. This is the first year there has been zero drownings in the St. Louis District since the National Water Safety Team has been recording recreation fatalities.



ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

Carlyle Lake

The groundwork for the yearly “I Got Caught” campaign commenced in March, rallying support from nearby businesses of the Carlyle Lake Project. This season, we’ve secured 35 partners who’ve joined hands in our efforts. As part of our collaboration, each partner will have their business name prominently featured on t-shirts to be distributed among summer visitors adhering to life jacket safety protocols.



Water safety messages were displayed on the digital reader board along Illinois Highway 27 and were also prominently featured on all bulletin boards designated for day-use activities resulting in a total of 104 static unique contacts for the quarter.



Water safety messages, provided by the National Water Safety Council, were posted to the Carlyle Lake Project Facebook and Instagram pages generating a total of 43 posts with a reach of 359 (likes, comments, and shares).



ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

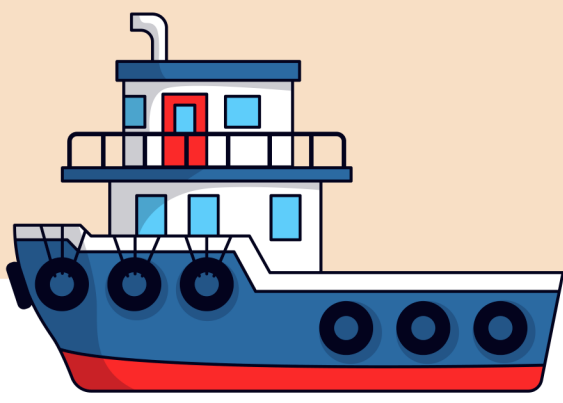
Kaskaskia River Project



Water safety message on gate directly in front of the lone entrance to the Jerry F Costello Lock and Dam generating thousands of contacts. Design bought by credit card from put-in cups.



Began process of building new lifejacket loaner stations for upcoming year, 5 new stands will be built for 2024 recreation season.



Chester lighted Christmas parade December 2nd, 2023. Thousands of spectators observed and many received water safety frisbees.



Participated in the annual Southern Illinois Conservation Fair. Approximately 200 students learned about soil erosion and water safety.

ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

Rend Lake

The Rend Lake ISOP team hosted the annual Holiday Celebration Small World Program from children ages 5 and younger. During the event, Bobber the Water Safety Dog shared Bobber activity books with all the participants while rangers reminded everyone to never play on icy lakes and ponds! 98 children and their family members attended.



The Rend Lake ISOP team participated in a career day at Sesser-Valier High School and shared the story of the “Many Hats of the Corps.” The team emphasized the role of USACE Rangers in educating the public about water safety and facilitated water safety trivia.

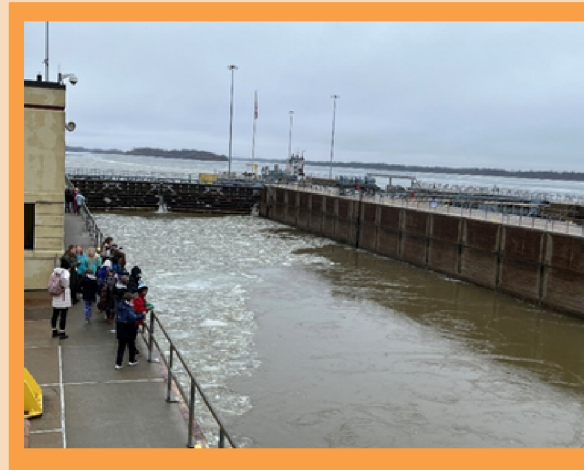


The Rend Lake Project Office/Visitor Center Facebook page continued to promote water safety through unique social media messages. The electronic marquee at the Rend Lake Visitor Center promoted water safety through unique messages.

ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

Rivers Project Office

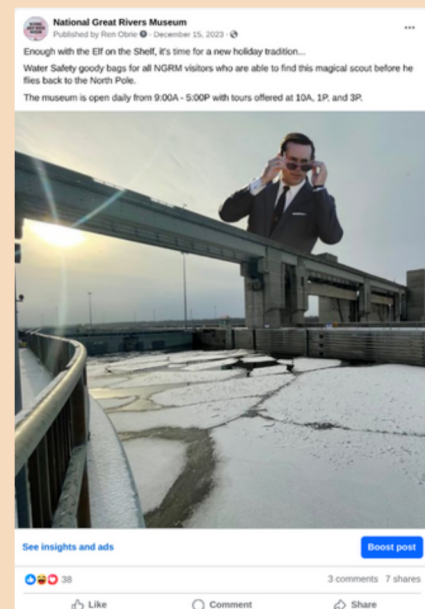
Clarksville Eagle Festival - In partnership with the City of Clarksville and in conjunction with Clarksville Eagle Days Rivers Project staff and volunteers hosted the USACE Eagle Education Day on 26 Jan. followed by a weekend of public tours at Lock and Dam #24 in Clarksville, MO. Seven regional schools totaling 250 4th grade students participated in the Eagle Education Day learning about the USACE mission including navigation, natural resource management, and water safety. The public portion of the festival took place 27-28 Jan. wherein rangers provided dam tours and staffed an educational/information booth inside the festival hub which generated nearly 900 water safety contacts.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Ice Jam at the Dam - In partnership with Meeting of the Rivers Foundation, Mississippi River Water Trail Association, and several other local organizations the Rivers Project presented the third annual Ice Jam at the Dam at the National Great Rivers Museum. On 17 February over 600 visitors attended the family-focused event. Attractions included open tours of Melvin Price Locks and Dam, live animal presentations, live music, winter-themed educational booths, and visits from Bobber the Water Safety Dog accompanied by Louie, the St. Louis Blues Mascot. Open tours of Melvin Price brought visitors to the top of the structure to learn about the Navigational Channel and how it can change when the Mississippi River freezes over in the winter. Additionally, a special water safety-themed Polar Passport was granted to children who visited the 10 educational booths.

The NGRM welcomed 9,507 visitors throughout the winter of 2023-2024. The NGRM offers 3 public tours of the Melvin Price Locks and Dam daily that introduce visitors to the historical, cultural, economic, and ecological significance of the Mississippi River and features water safety messaging. During these tours, park rangers or dedicated NGRM volunteers engage visitors and share the Rivers Project's and USACE missions. The NGRM has engaged 1,330 individuals through tours of the Melvin Price Locks and Dam. The NGRM also organized special water safety games throughout the holiday season such 'Jon Hamm on the dam' a play on the 'Elf on the Shelf' holiday tradition. Visitors who successfully located the Jon Hamm figurine in a PFD were awarded a water safety prize.



ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

Lake Shelbyville

Lake Shelbyville Environmental Stewardship teamed up with IDNR Fisheries, Lake Shelbyville Fish Habitat Alliance and the Lake Shelbyville Youth Ambassador Schools and built 75 catfish nesting boxes for channel catfish. The schools were provided the materials last fall. The students placed the boxes in various location in the lake the first part of March. Not only did the students learn about the fisheries at Lake Shelbyville they also learned the importance of Water Safety.



Unique water safety messages were added to the electronic reader board on Highway 16, in front of the Lake Shelbyville Visitor Center. These water safety messages focus on winter water safety and dangerous water temperatures.



On the first Friday of every month, Lake Shelbyville Park Ranger's join local news station WTIM to promote water safety messages and Lake Shelbyville updates.



Lake Shelbyville created multiple water safety ads to be displayed at the Roxy Movie Theater in Shelbyville, IL to play before each movie starts. Each month highlights a different water safety tip.



The Lake Shelbyville ISOP/Rec Team was part of the 2023 Mississippi Valley Division Water Safety Team of the Year Award- St. Louis District. Lake Shelbyville had zero drowning as well as the entire St. Louis District. They were each given a Commanders Coin for a job well done.

ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (MVR)

Saylorville Lake

Saylorville Lake Area Recreation Guide - The new publication of the Saylorville Lake Area Recreation Guide is now out and available for the public. Inside the recreation guide is information about the lake and recreation areas in the vicinity. However, one of the most important things in the recreation guide is the water safety ad and information about life jacket loaner stations! Each year a water safety ad is included in the guide to promote water safety, not only at Saylorville Lake but around the area as well. The article about life jacket loaner stations provides information about the loaner stations, where to find them, and how they benefit the public.



BOAT SMART FROM THE START!

Make sure your vessel has all required safety equipment before heading to the water.

- At least 1 USCG approved life jacket for each person
- USCG approved throwable flotation device
- Type B fire extinguisher
- Sound-Producing device
- Working navigation lights
- Know the vessel's capacity limits
- Obey all buoy markings

US Army Corps of Engineers
Rock Island District

www.facebook.com/SaylorvilleLake
www.pleasewearit.com



Iowa Wild Hockey Game - On January 24th Park Rangers and volunteers attended an Iowa Wild hockey game at Wells Fargo Arena in Downtown Des Moines. This provided an opportunity for rangers to promote water safety with a table in the concourse area for spectators. Water safety information and promotional items were given away at the event. Around 150 water safety contacts were made.

ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (MVR)

Coralville Lake Project

This year, Coralville Lake has again partnered with The Bird House – a local non-profit- to be the host location for the 2nd annual Holiday Lights at the Lake.

This is a drive through lighting event where all the proceeds go to the non-profit. Coralville Lake has a basic display this year of a castle and posted a water safety message at the entrance. We plan to order and include a USACE display with a WS message for following events.



Bobber the Water Safety Dog and park rangers attended 2 hockey game around the Coralville Lake surrounding area. The first was the Heartlander's in Coralville, and the second was the RoughRiders in Cedar Rapids. Bobber and rangers spoke with visitors and was on the ice for mascot games and to help get the crowd involved in the game. Over 5,750 contacts were made.

Park Rangers attended the Cedar Rapids Outdoor Show to promote Coralville Lake, deliver a water safety message, and hand out water safety promotional items. There were 1015 contacts made over the entire weekend.

We've attended (2) community events; Winterfest and Freeze Fest. At both, our booth focused on water safety, had a demonstrated ring toss activity, and handed out various water safety items. We saw 775 people between the two events.

Park Rangers attended the Cedar Rapids Outdoor Show to promote Coralville Lake, deliver a water safety message, and hand out water safety promotional items. There were 1015 contacts made over the entire weekend.





ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (MVR)

Illinois Waterway Project Distributed Water Safety information to 658 students at our 4/5th Grade Eagle Watch Weekend school program. Issued 337 Every Kid in a Park Passes to the 4th graders with additional Water Safety information.



Illinois Waterway Visitor Center
Your Best View of Starved Rock

- I&M Canal and Illinois Waterway Information
- Boat Safety Classes
April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, Aug 17
- Group Programs
- Gift Store and Navigation Charts

**Did you know that most drowning victims had a life jacket available and chose not to wear it?
Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns.**

US Army Corps of Engineers - Starved Rock Lock & Dam
950 N 27th Rd (Dee Bennett Rd), Ottawa, IL • 815-667-4054



Provided Water Safety information to the Illinois River Regional Boaters Association's Late Winter gathering. Over 100 boaters in attendance.

Provided Water Safety information to 10 High School aged Foreign Exchange students.

Presenting at the Illinois Valley YMCA to a group of 25+ seniors to provide Water Safety information. We will be the guest lecturers at their March 11th Monthly Senior Lunch program.

Illinois Waterway Visitor Center
at Starved Rock Lock and Dam
Your Best View of Starved Rock





- I&M Canal / Illinois Waterway Information
- 2024 Boater Safety Classes
Apr. 20, May 18, Jun. 15, July 20, Aug. 17
- Group Programs
- Gift Store and Navigation Charts



US Army Corps of Engineers - Starved Rock Lock & Dam
950 N 27th Rd (Dee Bennett Rd), Ottawa, IL • 815-667-4054

ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (MVR)

Mississippi River Project

On December 8, Bobber attended a Quad City Storm hockey game along with other local area mascots. Bobber greeted fans, played a mascot hockey game against kids and even got to ride the Zamboni. Park Rangers escorting Bobber handed out water safety giveaways to fans as well.



The Corps staffed a booth at the Hunting, Fishing and Outdoor Show in Rock Island, IL on February 15-18. During the show, water safety giveaways were handed out along with river charts. Upcoming boating safety classes were promoted, and America the Beautiful Recreation Passes were issued. 1,491 people stopped by the booth during the event.

The Corps staffed a booth at Quad Cities Bald Eagle Days where water safety giveaways were handed out. Participants that stopped by the booth also had the opportunity to color a feather to be added to the displayed eagle. The weekend event started on January 5th with a school event during the day. The public event opened in the evening and ran through January 7th. 3,432 people stopped by the booth during the event.



ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (MVR)

Lake Red Rock Project

During a weekly safety meeting for staff, the video Cold Water Boot Camp was shown to review the dangers of cold-water immersion and ways to increase chances of survival. One of the biggest tactics involves wearing a life jacket. While viewing the video was a review for most of the staff, the information is timely as lake/river temperatures have dipped.



RED ROCK VISITOR CENTER SCAVENGER HUNT

Get ready to explore the center and discover how many things you can find!
 Check the boxes of all the items you spot during the hunt!

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Bonus Question: How many pictures of Bobber the Water Safety Dog can you find in the Visitor Center? Note: (No pictures are hidden outside, in the theater, or in the bathrooms). Ask the Visitor Center Staff for the answer.

Ranger staff created a scavenger hunt for the visitor center to encourage youngsters to explore the facility. One task on the hunt includes searching for several small graphics of Bobber the Water Safety Dog that are hidden throughout the building. Hunters receive a Junior Ranger sticker as a reward for their efforts.



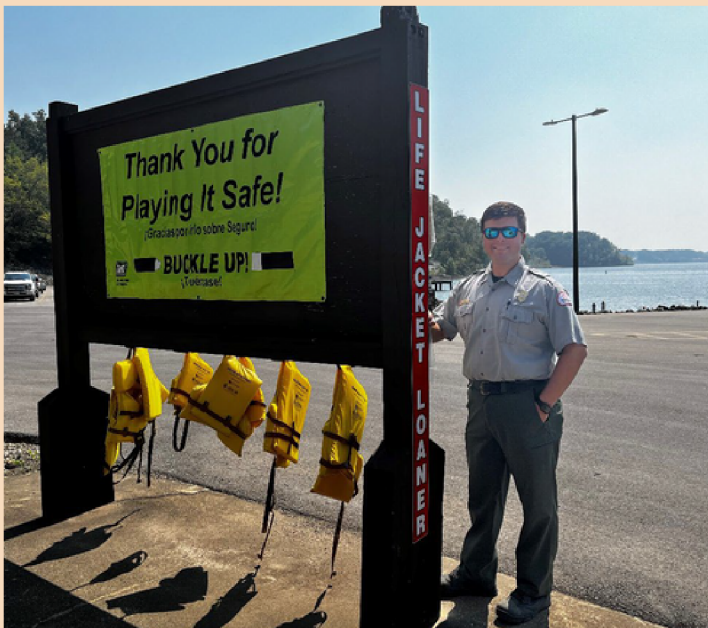
Interpretive staff utilized Bobber the Water Safety Dog coloring book graphics to create a temporary display in the Red Rock Visitor Center highlighting the Reach, Throw, Row, Don't Go message. Visitors are encouraged to try their luck with the Throw Ring Challenge – using a “Throw Ring” (water safety flier) to hook an orange cone by the display.

LIFE JACKET LOANERS OF MVD

At the National Water Safety Team Meeting in March, the team decided we would pick water safety topics to highlight in each quarterly newsletter. This quarter we are highlighting Life Jacket Loaner Stations.

Check out all these great Life Jacket Loaner Stations that our visitors utilize all over the Mississippi Valley Division. They are each unique in their own way, but achieve the same result. They all encourage our visitors to always wear their life jacket when visiting our project sites.

St. Louis District



LIFE JACKET LOANERS OF MVD

Vicksburg District



Rock Island District



LIFE JACKET LOANERS OF MVD

St. Paul District

