



MVD WATER SAFETY INITIATIVES FALL 2021 REPORT

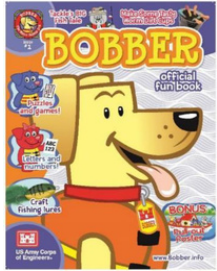
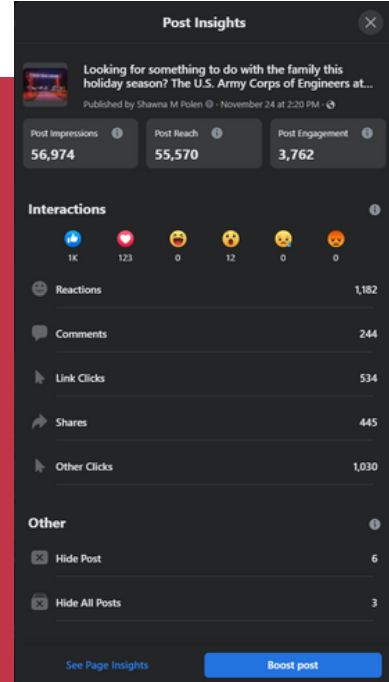
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (MVR)

Coralville Lake

This year, Coralville Lake has partnered with The Bird House – a local non-profit to be the host location for the 1st 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, but we are ordering a custom light display that will be water safety in nature. The Facebook post that was made for the event exploded with over 56K impressions.



In preparation for more National Water Safety products, Coralville is cleaning its shelves and will again be reaching out to the Iowa Children’s Hospital to donate Bobber coloring books and swag bags. It’s a great way to give the kids something fun and educational to do while being treated.



Water Safety Day Land Swimming Lessons Program at Cedar River Academy in Cedar Rapids. Ranger Polen engaged students by giving dry land swimming lessons, cause if you can’t swim on land, how can you swim in water?

Illinois Waterway Project

The Illinois Waterway was busy this fall, delivering water safety giveaways to businesses. The team also handed out 229 Every Kid Outdoor park passes, with Bobber the Water Safety Dog activity booklets and other water safety giveaways to fourth grade students in 7 schools in October and November. They also provided homeschool program incorporating water safety topics.



Mississippi River Project

Mississippi River Project Park Rangers, volunteer, Gene Sperry, and Bobber the Water Safety Dog participated in the Rock Island Arsenal's Trunk or Treat event on Thursday, October 28. The rainy weather moved the event inside, but was still well attended with over 500 participants trick or treating through Heritage Hall. Kids who stopped by the Corps table were treated to candy, coloring books, stickers, and other goodies.

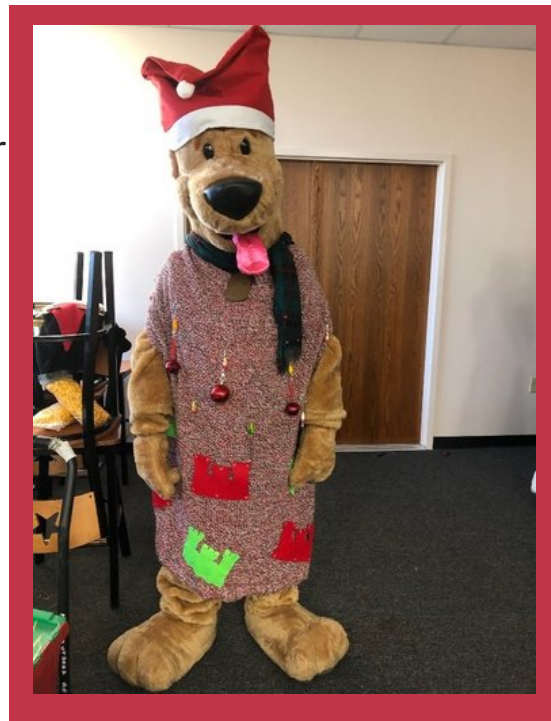


Park Rangers completed a five week Jr. Ranger Program with 63 area 3rd graders. This was the first time in a long time (due to school's COVID-19 safety regulations) that rangers were allowed to go back into a school setting to present interpretive programs. The final day students participated in a water safety program with a life jacket try on activity. Students also received a Jr. Ranger certificate, patch, badge sticker and fishing lure key chain.

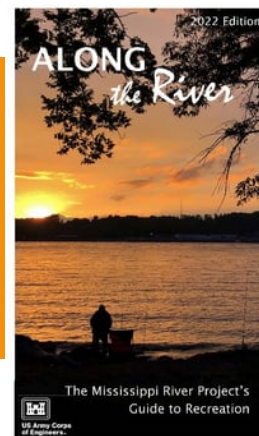


Mississippi River Project Continued...

On Friday December 3, Park Rangers and Bobber the Water Safety Dog attended a Lighting of the Trees event in Heritage Hall along with 300 other families who work and live on the Rock Island Arsenal. Families were greeted by the Rock Island Arsenal command staff and treated to caroling by the Rock Island High School Choir. After the tree was lit, families could eat a meal, watch holiday movies and participate in crafts. Santa, of course, was the guest of honor, but the Grinch, McGruff the Crime Dog, and Bobber also met with families. As always, Bobber was there to promote water safety, but also got into an ugly sweater contest with the other mascots. A winner could not be decided, but Bobber still celebrated by high fiving everyone and taking lots of pictures, even one with Santa.



The Mississippi River Project's annual "Along the River" recreation guide is nearing completion and getting ready for print. This publication will be distributed throughout the year to 15,000 people and contains multiple water safety messages inside.



Lake Red Rock



Posted six water safety related messages on Facebook.

Stocked water safety information in 24-hour information box outside the visitor center.

Included water safety message in 2022 Marion County Travel Guide.



Began preparations for 2022 Outdoor Days school event for area 5th-6th graders, which includes a water safety activity at one of the five stations.

Saylorville Lake

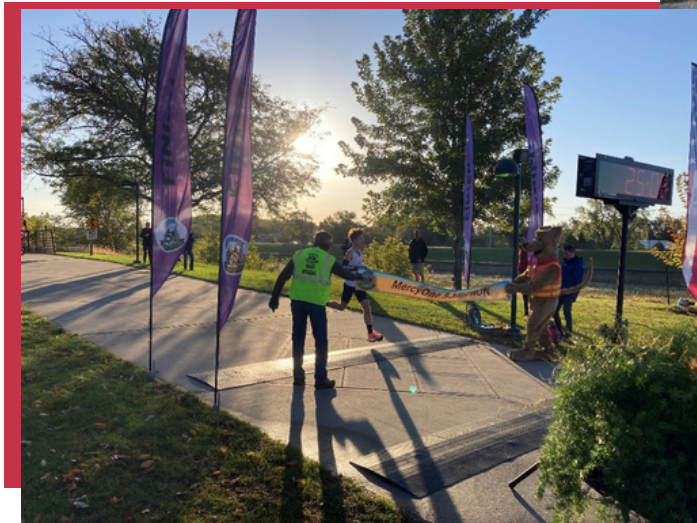
Fleet Farm, USACE Saylorville Lake, and the Iowa Wild partnered to put on a “Casting Wild” fishing event held at the Saylorville Lake Marina on 3 Oct. Natural Resource Specialist,



Emma Aalbers, provided a water safety briefing prior to attendees casting a line either from shore or rented pontoons. Due to COVID protocols, Iowa Wild’s hockey players could not be in attendance but their mascot, Crash, joined the group just in time for lunch and ice cream. Partners have started discussing a spring fishing event with hopes to have players more involved to help attract more attendees.

On 16 Oct, staff, volunteers, and Bobber the Water Safety Dog attended the IMT Des Moines Marathon to cheer on runners. There were hundreds of participants in the 1-mile walk, 5K, and kids races. Bobber held the finish line ribbon as the first male and female

participants completed the 5K race and congratulated the kids with high-fives as they finished their run. While there was no direct water safety program, Bobber’s presence at the race raised community awareness of the Corps of Engineers’ mascot and water safety program.



Saylorville Lake partners with the Iowa Wild hockey team to help promote ice and water safety. On 14 Nov, staff, volunteers, and Bobber the Water Safety Dog attended Iowa Wild's Pucks & Paws hockey game where water safety items, life jacket tips and photos with Bobber were provided to fans and their dogs. Bobber was invited to ride a Zamboni so everyone in the arena could get a glimpse of a dog wearing a life jacket.



ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

Carlyle Lake

Carlyle Lake hosted the 2021 Carlyle Lake Haunted Trail in October. Carlyle Lake staff included water safety messages along the Haunted Trail reminding visitors to always wear a life jacket. Approximately 1,340 brave souls entered the trail.



PARADE

Park Rangers Kim Hammel, Chase Becker, and Jessica Schaeffer participated in the annual Christmas in Carlyle Parade. Water safety banners and Bobber the Water Safety Dog were displayed to about 400 members of the public along the parade route.

Mark Twain Lake

The Mark Twain Lake Project Office hosted the 2021 Halloween Walk at Indian Creek Campground 15-16 October. This popular, family-friendly event includes trick-or-treating and a campsite decorating contest. Mark Twain Lake staff and volunteers distributed over 8,000 water safety promotional items and seabags during the event.



Wappapello Lake

Natural Resources Specialist Andrew Jefferson staffed a booth at the Madison County Fair held in Fredericktown, Missouri on October 2, 2021. Andrew provided goody bags containing water safety products and answered numerous inquiries pertaining to the Corps of Engineers and water safety.



Wappapello Lake hosted the 2nd Annual Jack O' Lantern Jubilee October 16, 23, and 30 in the Greenville Campground. The Wappapello Project Office partnered with the Wappapello Lake Area Association (WLAA), campers, and volunteers to create the Jack O' Lantern Jubilee. Wappapello staff manned a booth with goody bags containing water safety information and giveaway items from WLAA and other local businesses. Campers provide candy and other treats for attendees. A total of 2,756 attended this year's event. USACE staff, volunteers, and campers look forward to continuing this partnership and this great event.

The 29th Annual Festival of Lights Auto Tour event took place at the Redman Creek Campground East 26 November to 26 December. This event is done in partnership with River Radio and the Wappapello Lake Area Association. It is open to the public at no cost. This year over 30,000 visitors attended the event which includes water safety light displays.



Rivers Project Office / National Great Rivers Museum

On 18 September 2021, the Rivers Project participated in the 15th Annual Mississippi Earthtones Festival in downtown Alton, Illinois. Park rangers and volunteers alike engaged with over 500 attendees by informing on the operations and mission of Melvin Price Locks and Dam as well as safe practices on the water through a water safety trivia wheel.



The Illinois Department of Natural Resources welcomed the return of Two Rivers Family Fishing Fair at Pere Marquette State Park on 2 October 2021. The Rivers Project operated two educational booths – Environmental Stewardship and Water Safety. This annual event provides families an introduction to all things fishing and outdoor recreation. The water safety booth provided a relay highlighting life jacket sizing and hypothermia. A total of 2,500 attended with the Rivers Project booths engaging with over 900 children.



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In partnership with the Audubon Center at Riverlands and the Mississippi River Water Trail Association, the Rivers Project park rangers participated in the Riverlands Wellness Series and Audubon 10 Year Anniversary. Both events featured several public paddling programs. Sessions begin



with a discussion on water safety guidelines and the basics to kayaking on Ellis Bay, a backwater of the Mississippi River located at the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary. Rangers and educators then interpret and highlight the diverse wildlife that inhabit the sanctuary. The Wellness Series and Audubon 10 Year Anniversary brought a total of 323 visitors; 23 from Wellness Series and 300 from Audubon 10 Year Anniversary.

Rivers Project Office / National Great Rivers Museum Continued...



The NGRM welcomed 7,343 visitors throughout the fall of 2021. 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, Rangers or dedicated NGRM volunteers engage visitors and share the Rivers Project’s and USACE missions. As of November 20, tours were able to continue to go atop the Locks and Dam. Tours were previously unable to offer this experience due to construction and pandemic regulations. With the return of tours atop the Locks and Dam, the NGRM has engaged 1,963 individuals through 225 tours of the Melvin Price Locks and Dam.

In celebration of the holiday season, the National Great Rivers Museum created a fun, festive way to engage visitors with water safety this holiday season. A holiday tree was decorated in USACE colored ornaments and various water safety incentive items (whistles, bobbers, and stress balls).



As visitors admire the tree, they have a chance to find a water safety incentive item. If an item is found they have the pleasure of taking it home for the holidays!

VICKSBURG DISTRICT (MVK)

Arkabutla Lake

On 27 October 2021, Arkabutla Lake hosted its Outdoor Education Day program at the Dub Patton Day Use Area. The event has been in existence for over 20 years and brings together multiple private, local, and state organizations together to educate local students about the outdoors. This year, two local elementary schools and two additional homeschool groups were in attendance.



Each year park rangers and natural resource specialists present water safety programs to every student in attendance. This year, Park Rangers Clayton Burford and Kevin Blann spoke with 490 students about water safety.

Louisiana Field Offices

Bayou Bodcau



Life Jacket Loaner Stations were open, fully stocked, sanitized, and operational.

Inspected all life jackets, cataloged, and removed if they needed repairs. The project plans to install two new loaner stations.



Utilized camp hosts to hand out water safety giveaway materials to incoming patrons as well as recreation users in the day use areas.





Partnering with Bayou Chapter of the Ozark Society (BCOS) to re-do the canoe/kayak trail on both the outlet and inlet side of the bayou. Litter will be cleaned up, paths will be cleared and new signage will help pave the way for recreation users. Signs will include the USACE and BCOS logo and a water safety message. There will also be water safety message reminders throughout the water trails to remind patrons to wear their life jackets.




Partnering with local principals again to promote water safety through virtual water safety programs and messages. With recent increases in adolescents drownings and a lack of face to face presentations due to COVID-19, Rangers provided water safety educational videos to be played at middle and high schools during morning announcements. Planning to expand this program to other local schools after the success of our first launch.


Columbia

 Life Jacket Loaner Stations were open, fully stocked, sanitized, and operational. Inspected all life jackets, cataloged, and removed if they needed repairs.


 Planning for water safety demonstrations during Caldwell Parish School District's Ag Safety Day. (Spring 2022) This event will capture all 4th grade students in the Caldwell Parish School District.

 Working to present water safety program at Fort Necessity Elementary school. (Spring 2022).


Ouachita Black

 Presented large water safety programs at pavilions.

J. Bennett Johnston Water - Shreveport Visitor Center

 Utilized National Water Safety Program's Bobber holiday themed coloring pages for patrons to pick-up and take home at visitors centers.

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DeGray Lake

On September 25, Park Rangers coordinated Keeping DeGray Lake Beautiful Clean Up Day. At the Clean Up, 303 people participated and rangers handed out 115 water safety goodie bags.

For 2022, DeGray Lake is planning to expand their reach further north. The last two drowning victims at DeGray Lake were from northern areas. Work on creative ways to teach kids about loaner life jacket stations and hypothermia. The team is also working on better ways to get kids to interact with live water safety programs and throw bag demos.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Free Life Jackets for Loaner Stations

Available from the Sea Tow Foundation



The Sea Tow Foundation has announced that those interested can apply for life jackets that can be used to host a new life jacket loaner station, or restock an existing one at your location or in your community. All materials associated with this offer are free. As part of a grant administered through the U.S. Coast Guard's Sport Fish Restoration & Boating Trust Fund, the Sea Tow Foundation has received funding to work with organizations and communities throughout the U.S. to provide life jackets for loaner stations for the 2022 boating season. Any organization, company, or family that is interested in receiving

life jackets can fill out the application on the Sea Tow Foundation's website.

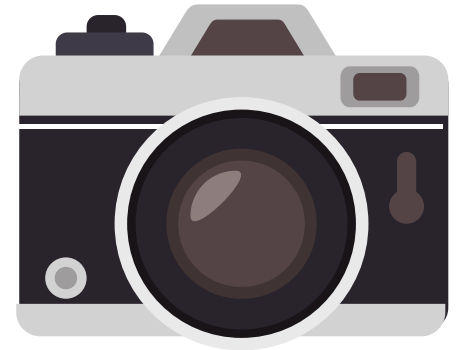
Link to application:

<https://www.boatingsafety.com/page/2022-life-jacket-grant-application>

Applications will be accepted until February 1, 2022. All applicants will be notified by March 31, 2022 as to whether they have been selected to receive life jackets.

National Water Safety Photo Contest

The 2021-2022 National Water Safety Photo Contest is underway! Guidelines are on the NRM Gateway in the water safety section under Photos. 2019-2020 Contest Winners are also on the Gateway.



National Water Safety Program Campaign Materials

Need a water safety graphic for an ad? Or are you looking to update your water safety banners? Then check out the campaign materials provided by the National Water Safety Program. Materials available include video and audio PSAs, posters, infographics, logos, rack cards, banner and billboard artwork, social media ads, websites ads, and much more! All graphics are high resolution and can be downloaded at the link below.

https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Recreation/Water-Safety/National-Water-Safety-Program/Campaign_Materials/