Welcome to our 2018 edition of Along the River!
This magazine is published annually to provide you with up to date information on the numerous recreational and educational opportunities available from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project.

Recreating along the banks of the Mississippi River can be a very enjoyable and relaxing experience. Our many campgrounds provide visitors the opportunity to enjoy the sights and sounds of the river for maybe a night or an entire week. In these areas you can expect to see people fishing, biking, cooking out on a fire, running around the playground or simply watching boats cruise by.

If you are not looking at staying the night, you might want to consider visiting one of our day use areas. These areas offer you access to the Mississippi when you are looking for it. Some of these areas might simply be a picnic area with some benches. Other day use areas have ramps to launch your boat into the river. If you are looking for something more indoors you might consider visiting the Mississippi River Visitor Center on the Rock Island Arsenal. Here you can watch towboats locking through, take a tour of the locks and dam, get information on the best places to camp and much more.

The spring and summer months are the busiest time of year in our recreation areas, but there are things to see and do no matter what season you are in. Fall brings milder temperatures, less mosquitoes and panoramic views of the vibrant colors in the trees along the river banks. If you brave the winter cold often times you will be rewarded with sightings of Bald Eagles. The turbulence water around the dams help keep the river from freezing in those areas and provide an open area for Eagles to fish. People “flock” to these area with cameras in hand hoping to score that perfect shot. Some of these areas you don’t even have to leave the warmth of your vehicle to get a great view.

With all the fun to be had in our recreation areas near the Mississippi, staying safe around this great river sometimes gets overlooked. The Mississippi is the largest river system in the United States which brings about some things to be aware of. One is a very strong current with swift moving water. Add in a windy day and you may be in for a rough day of boating. Boats, docks, trees and people can be swept away in moments. Other hazards in the river include: sandbars, wing dams, muddy water, floating debris and even the locks and dams themselves. When operating a vessel on the river, always have the required equipment as well as a properly fitted life jacket on. When near the river, be mindful of all the family and friends with you and encourage safe habits near the river. We want everyone to have a great memories made when visiting the Mississippi while staying safe at the same time.

We encourage you to experience all of our top-notch recreational facilities and natural areas, located from Potosi, Wisconsin on down the river to Saverton, Missouri. Camping, boating, fishing, hunting, hiking, bird-watching and other recreational opportunities exist all along the way. Whatever your interests are in “The Mighty Mississippi”, you will likely find it…Along the River.

The Mississippi River Project Staff

From Memorial Day to Labor Day, the Channel Cat is one of the Quad Cities’ favorite attractions.

Tickets are $8 for adults and $4 for kids all day, unlimited use. Buy your tickets on board or at Centre Station, 1200 River Drive, Moline.

Hop on at any of four landings: **John Deere Commons** (Moline, behind the TaxSlayer Center), **Riverbend Commons Landing** (Moline, next to the Celebration Belle), **Isle of Capri** (Bettendorf), or **Village of East Davenport** (Davenport, Lindsay Park Marina).

Contact us at (309)788-3360 or visit MetroQC.com/ChannelCat

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RESERVING A CAMPSITE/PICNIC SHELTER

Your Favorite Campground is as Close as Your Telephone
The National Recreation Reservation Service will reserve your campsite at Corps of Engineers campgrounds nation-wide.
Call toll-free 877-444-6777.

On Your Computer
To make your reservations online, go to: www.Recreation.gov.

What you will need to make a Reservation
Most Corps campsites are available through the www.Recreation.gov system. Reservations can be made up to 180 days in advance. You will need to give the following information to make a reservation:

› The campground name and the lake/river the campground is on.
› The campsite number (if you have one) or type of site desired.
› Arrival and departure dates for your camping stay.
› Your name, address and phone number.
› Vehicles, trailers, tents and other equipment you will be bringing.
› License numbers of all of the vehicles you will be bringing.
› Golden Age, Golden Access or America the Beautiful Passport Number (if you have one).
› Credit card number to pay for your camping stay. Certified checks or money orders are accepted for reservations made at least 20 days in advance of arrival.
› Reservations may be made at fee booths during the recreation season.

Reserving A Picnic Shelter
Select picnic shelters are reservable at many Corps of Engineers recreation areas. They are perfect for birthday parties, family reunions or other special occasions. The cost to reserve these sites is only $25. Reservable shelters are located at Grant River, Blanding Landing, Thomson Causeway, Locks & Dam 14, Andalusia Slough, Clark’s Ferry and Shady Creek.
Contact a ranger station or visit www.Recreation.gov to reserve your picnic shelter today. See page 32 for more information on the amenities available at each shelter.
CAMPING REGULATIONS

1. Camping is permitted on a “first come” basis or by reservation where taken.
2. Stays shall be limited to 14 days.
3. Equipment left unattended longer than 24 hours will be impounded, and/or removed at owner's expense.
4. Daily occupancy: One family unit or six people.
5. Campfires shall be kept under control.
6. Pets shall be on a six-foot leash, picked up after and controlled at all times.
7. Discharge of firearms, fireworks or weapons of any kind is prohibited.
8. Equipment shall be completely removed and the site cleaned before departure.
9. Injury, defacement, removal or destruction of government-owned facilities or vegetation is prohibited.
10. Motorized recreation vehicles must have a valid state registration, a licensed operator and be operated in a safe manner. They shall be used only on roadways and for the purpose of transportation into and out of the area.
11. Quiet shall be observed between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.
12. Hooking up to water is prohibited, except to fill up your tank.
13. Violation of any of the above will be cause for removal from the area and/or legal action.

*RESERVATIONS ACCEPTED — Reservations accepted through the National Recreation Reservation Service toll free at 877-444-6777, via the Internet at www.Recreation.gov or at campground fee booth. **SEASONAL.
Camping along the Mississippi River offers fantastic river views, outstanding service and great facilities. We want to make your camping experience the best it has ever been. Every park has different campsite registration procedures and the Corps of Engineers is no exception. This article outlines how to register for a campsite and a few tips to help you along the way.

**2018 CAMPING SEASON**

Overnight camping fees for Class A sites are $14 for non-electric and $20 for sites with electric. Camping fees for our Class B sites are $12 per night while Class C sites will be $10 per night. The discount passes, such as the America the Beautiful and/or Golden Age/Access passes will continue to be accepted. All Class A sites are 100 percent reserveable. Campers will still be able to “first-come, first-serve” camp, as long as the site isn’t reserved. Please call the reservation service at 877-444-6777 to check if a site is available. Making all sites 100 percent reserveable gives everyone, including the transient camper, a fair opportunity to camp. The minimum booking window to make reservations ahead of time is two days.

**CLASS A CAMPING SEASON DATES**

These areas include Grant River, Blanding Landing, Thomson Causeway, Fisherman’s Corner, Clark’s Ferry and Shady Creek. The season dates are opening May 1 and closing on the fourth Sunday of October.

- **When you arrive at the campground:** Stop in the entrance station (if open) to find out what sites are available or call 877-444-6777.
- **If the entrance station is closed:** Proceed through the park and select a campsite that is not “Reserved” or “Occupied” for any part of your stay and call 877-444-6777. Campsites that are reserved will have an “R” on the post and a yellow tag with the dates of the impending reservation. Campsites that are already occupied will have a white tag on the post with their departure date and is considered occupied until 4 p.m. of that date.

**If you find a site that is not reserved or occupied:** Call the reservation service at 877-444-6777 before setting up equipment. Set up your camping equipment and begin camping. You must then return to the fee booth during normal business hours to pay and register for your site. If you want a campsite for future occupancy, please make a reservation by calling 877-444-6777 or visit www.Recreation.gov. You can also make reservations in person at the campground entrance station; however, all reservations must be made at least two day prior to your arrival date.

**Once your camping equipment is set up on your site:** You must register and pay for your campsite at the entrance station. Entrance station hours at all of the Mississippi River Class A Recreation Areas (Grant River, Blanding Landing, Thomson Causeway, Fisherman’s Corner North, Shady Creek, and Clark’s Ferry) are 5-8 p.m. daily and 9-11 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. The station will also be open the Sundays of holiday weekends.

*Note: Some non-Class A parks (Pleasant Creek, Bulger’s Hollow, Andalusia Slough and Blanchard Island) have a self-registration process in which you fill out an envelope and deposit your money in the envelope. The envelope is then placed in the honor vault. The tear off portion of the envelope is then placed on your site post.*

We strongly recommend making a reservation prior to camping at any of the Class A parks along the Mississippi River. This will ensure you a campsite for the dates of your choice and you can choose your favorite site. When you arrive to claim a reservation we ask that you check in at the entrance station upon arrival. We look forward to seeing you this summer camping along the Mississippi River with the Corps of Engineers!

**RESERVE AMERICA**

*www.Recreation.gov*

Camping reservations and travel planning.

**ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT**

*www.mvr.usace.army.mil*

Information on activities within our District.

**EVERY KID IN A PARK PROGRAM**

*www.everykidinapark.gov*

Information on how 4th graders can receive a free pass to gain free access to federal lands or waters.

**Vessel (Towboat) Locations**

*www.corpslocks.usace.army.mil*

Find out where towboats are located on the river.

**ONLINE NAVIGATION CHARTS**

*www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/NavigationCharts*

River Gages:

*www.rivergages.com*

Find river levels and forecasts.

**BOAT SAFETY COURSES**

*www.boat-ed.com*

Test your boating knowledge or get a safe boaters card.

**VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES**


Find out how to volunteer with the Corps.

**AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL PASSES**

https://store.usgs.gov/recreational-passes

Discount passes for use in Corps campgrounds and day use areas.
Volunteering Opportunities

Volunteers play an important role in protecting natural resources while helping to operate and maintain recreation facilities at the US Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project. The Mississippi River Project offers a variety of opportunities to volunteers looking to donate their time. Volunteers can be found greeting people and presenting programs at the Mississippi River Visitor Center. Volunteers may be doing some grounds and maintenance work at our campgrounds. Or they may be collecting fees and doing some office administration work. Whatever it might be, volunteers help accomplish work that might otherwise not be completed. Volunteering can be long term, seasonal or a onetime event. Long term and seasonal volunteers are required to work a minimum of 24 hours a week, but can work more if interested. Often times these volunteers will be provided a free camp site with basic amenities at one of our parks and at the end of the season may qualify for receiving an America the Beautiful Volunteer Pass.

Because volunteers have contributed so much to the Corps’ recreation and natural resource management program success, a national Volunteer Clearing house was created to assist people in finding volunteer opportunities. To find out more about volunteering opportunities, talk to a Corps Park Ranger or visit one of the following websites:

US Army Corps of Engineers Volunteer Clearing House

Federal Lands Volunteer Clearing House
https://www.volunteer.gov/index.cfm

Volunteering Opportunities

The “America the Beautiful Interagency Pass Program” is a suite of annual and lifetime passes that provides U.S. citizens and visitors an affordable and convenient way to access Federal recreation lands and waters.

Federal agencies that participate in this program include: the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, National Park Service and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

WHAT PASSES ARE INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM AND WHAT REQUIREMENTS ARE THERE?

- **Lifetime Senior Pass – Cost: $80**
  US Citizens or permanent residents age 62 and older can purchase. Valid for the lifetime of the pass holder.

- **Annual Senior Pass – Cost: $20**
  US Citizens or permanent residents age 62 and older can purchase. Valid for 1 year from the month of issue. An Annual Senior Pass may be upgraded to a Lifetime Senior Pass. By presenting previously purchased Annual Senior Passes and paying the difference between the combined price of these passes and the $80 purchase price of the Lifetime Senior Pass.

- **Access Pass – Cost: Free**
  US Citizens or permanent residents with documentation of a permanent disability. Valid for the life time of the pass holder.

- **Annual Pass – Cost: $80**
  Any US Citizen or permanent resident 16 years and older can purchase. Valid for 1 year from the month of issue.

- **Volunteer Pass – Cost: Free**
  Must have completed 250+ hours of volunteer service on public lands. Valid for 1 year from the month of issue.

- **Annual Military Pass – Cost: Free**
  For all active military members and their dependents. Valid for 1 year from the month of issue.

WHAT ARE THESE PASSES GOOD FOR?

These passes cover entrance, access or standard amenity fees to more than 2,000 Federal recreation sites. Within the US Army Corps of Engineers this will include day use and boat ramp use fees.*Senior and Access Passes will also provide a discount on some expanded amenity fees such as camping.

ARE THE GOLDEN AGE AND GOLDEN ACCESS PASSES STILL OK TO USE?

Yes, these are both still valid.

WHERE CAN I BUY THESE PASSES?

Each of the Mississippi River Project ranger offices and the Mississippi River Visitor Center will be selling and issuing these passes.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

You can find more information by visiting the website https://store.usgs.gov/recreational-passes, talking to a park ranger, or calling the Mississippi River Visitor Center at 309-794-5338.
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi River Project, is participating in the Every Kid in a Park program, a presidential initiative that was announced on September 2, 2015. The program is part of the president’s commitment to protect our nation’s unique outdoor spaces and ensure that every American has the opportunity to visit and enjoy them.

Fourth graders nationwide can visit the new Every Kid in a Park website to obtain a pass that provides free access to students and their families to all federally managed lands and waters – including national parks, forests, wildlife refuges and marine sanctuaries. The pass is valid through August 31, 2018 and grants free entry for fourth graders and three accompanying adults (or an entire car for drive-in parks) at more than 2,000 federally-managed sites.

By introducing fourth graders to public lands in their backyards and beyond at an early age, Every Kid in a Park is part of a multi-pronged approach to inspire the next generation to discover all that our nation’s public lands and waters have to offer, including opportunities to be active, spend time with friends and family, and serve as living classrooms to build critical skills.

To obtain a pass, fourth graders can log onto the website at www.everykidinapark.gov and complete a fun educational activity that will allow them to print a paper pass. The paper pass can then be taken to any of the Mississippi River Project’s Ranger Offices or the Mississippi River Visitor Center in exchange for a more durable plastic card. You can also visit any participating federal site nationwide to receive your card.

Educators and community leaders can visit the website to access educational activities, field trip options and print paper passes for their students. Parents visiting the new website can find additional links for more information on planning trips to nearby public lands.

The Grant River Recreation Area is known for its beautiful views of the Mississippi River and fantastic sunsets. It is located two miles south of Potosi, Wisconsin, off Highway 133. The campground features a tent camping area, 63 large RV sites, 50 amp electrical service, sewer dump station, a shower building and much more! This popular family getaway spot offers something for everyone including two playgrounds, horseshoe pits, a picnic shelter, boat ramp and great views of the main channel of the Mississippi River.

The Grant River Recreation Area offers summer interpretive programs and activities for visitors on select weekends throughout the camping season. All programs are held at the Grant River Campground amphitheater, unless otherwise noted. Announcement of the weekend programs will be on campground bulletin boards, or by contacting the Dubuque Park Rangers at 563-582-0881.

Come and visit the Grant River Recreation Area and enjoy scenic views of the Mississippi River, a friendly atmosphere and a great camping experience!

**AREA HISTORY**

Grant County, Wisconsin, is part of the “driftless” area. It is a land of deep valleys, ridges and bluffs never leveled by glaciers. Native Americans were the first inhabitants of the Upper Mississippi River Valley, and in the early 17th century French missionaries and fur traders were the first Europeans to view the area. Fur trade began with the local Native Americans, and the river served as a means to transport the goods to market.

Nicholas Perrot discovered southwestern Wisconsin’s first lead mine in what is now Potosi. By 1850, the area embraced more than 10,000 hand-dug lead mines, supplying more than half of the nation’s supply. Mississippi riverboats carried Wisconsin lead throughout the nation. The region produced virtually all of the lead shot for the Northern forces during the Civil War.

**FISHING OPPORTUNITIES**

Grant River is located along Pool 11 of the Mississippi River. Around the park and the town of Potosi, the river is a brood expanse of open water. Potosi, Wisconsin, is known as “The Catfish Capitol of Wisconsin.” Even though bank fishing can be difficult during low pool levels, channel catfish are very abundant along the shorelines of the Mississippi. Another great fishing spot among the locals is out on Potosi Point just upriver from the park. There you can launch a boat in deeper waters or fish right from shore.

For a more productive fishing experience check out our kiosk located...
inside the park by the boat ramp to educate you on the many types of fish located in the area and the types of bait to catch them. For all your fishing needs, stop by and see Catfish Bob at Riverside Bait & Tackle located approximately two miles upriver from the park at 221 S. Main St., in Potosi. For those who will be heading out on the water, take advantage of a free river pool map located in our park entrance booth.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

While staying at the park, here are some other locations or businesses you may want to visit, their location, and their distance from the park:

- Lock & Dam 11, Dubuque, IA – summer navigation and winter eagle viewing, 19 miles.
- Potosi, WI – Potosi Brewing Company Restaurant & Museum, 2 miles.
- Potosi, WI – Great River Road Interpretive Center, 2 miles.
- Dubuque, IA – shops and attractions, 20 miles.
- Dubuque, IA – National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, 20 miles.
- Platteville, WI – shops and attractions, 18 miles.
- Dubuque, IA – Eagle Point Park, 21 miles
- Dubuque, IA – Diamond Jo Casino, Mystique Casino and Dubuque Greyhound Park and Casino, 20 miles.
- Potosi, WI-Whispering Bluffs Winery-2 miles

GRANT RIVER INFO:

- Open Year Round Fee Dates: May 1-October 28
- Camping Fee: $14 and $20
- Picnic Shelter Available: $25
- Reservations Accepted: Yes
- Reservations: 877-444-6777 or www.Recreation.gov

Fee Booth:
Open 5-8 p.m. Daily 9-11 a.m. Friday & Saturday & Sundays on holiday weekends 608-763-2140

Address: 3990 Park Lane Potosi, WI 53820

River Mile: 591

The Blanding Landing Recreation Area is off the beaten path offering a quiet camping getaway. Nestled along the backwaters of the Mississippi River, this area is a well-known birders paradise plus access to miles of great fishing. It is located 13 miles south of Galena, Illinois, off Blackjack Road in Jo Daviess County. This Class A campground features 30 campsites with 50 amp electrical service, seven non-electrical sites, shower building, sewer dump station and more! This secluded area also has a playground, picnic shelter, boat ramp and more! This backwaters of the Mississippi River with the main channel on the far shoreline.

The Blanding Landing Recreation Area offers summer interpretive programs and activities for visitors on select weekends throughout the camping season. All programs are held at the Blanding Landing Campground amphitheater, unless otherwise noted. Announcement of the weekend programs will be on campground bulletin boards, and by contacting the Dubuque Park Rangers at 563-582-0881.

The area is full of activities and adventures for outdoor enthusiasts including kayaking, canoeing, biking, hiking and more! Come and discover why Blanding Landing is Jo Daviess County’s best kept secret!

AREA HISTORY

Jo Daviess County, Illinois, is known for its rolling hills and beautiful views. The historic town of Galena, 13 miles north of Blanding Landing, was a popular, bustling destination in the early 1800s. In historic times, Sac and Fox Indians lived off the land and started to mine the rich deposits of the mineral wealth in the area. People from around the world flocked to seek their fortunes in this mineral wealth. This became the nation’s first mineral rush, twenty years prior to California’s 1849 Gold Rush. Galena became a center of commerce by the 1830s. Fortunes were made by people involved in the mining industry.

Today, 85 percent of the town’s buildings are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Come and find treasures in the area’s art galleries and studios, at local wineries and in the numerous local wineries and in the numerous
shops downtown. There are also
dozens of antique shops and restored
houses, many of which are now cozy
B&Bs and Country Inns. Ulysses S.
Grant was presented a home in
Galena in 1865 which is now a State
Historical Site and open to the public.
The house features a guided tour and
is complete with original furnishings.

**FISHING OPPORTUNITIES**
Blanding Landing is located along
Pool 12 of the Mississippi River. Pool
12 has islands, side channels and
backwaters throughout most of its
length, and the major species of fish
are bluegill, channel catfish, crappie,
freshwater drum, largemouth bass,
sauger, walleye and white bass.
Shoreline fishing in the park is
challenging, but just outside the park
and upriver towards Chestnut
Mountain are a few hidden spots
along the shoreline that the locals
seem to enjoy. The nearest bait/tackle
shop is at least 20 minutes away so
don’t forget to bring them with, and if
you are heading out on the water
make sure to receive a free copy of
the river pool map located inside our
entrance booth.

**LOCAL ATTRACTIONS**
While staying at the park, here are
some other locations or businesses
you may want to visit, their location,
and their distance from the park:
- Galena, IL— shops and
  attractions, 13 miles.
- Hanover, IL— shops and
  attractions, 9 miles.
- Galena, IL – Chestnut Mountain
  Resort, 4 miles.
- Savanna, IL – shops and
  attractions, 22 miles.
- Hanover, IL – Hanover Bluff Nature
  Preserve, 12 miles.
- Galena, IL – Chicago Great
  Western Railway Depot Museum,
  13 miles.
Prairie du Chien

Experience all the area has to offer on the Upper Mississippi River

Attractions
- Potosi Brewery
- National Brewery Museum
- Potosi Brewery Production Facility
- Whispering Bluffs Winery
- Passage Thru Time Museum
- Great River Rd. Art Museum
- Point Road Wildlife Observation Deck
- Great Fishing, Hunting and Camping

Free 64 Page Visitor’s Guide
1-800-732-1673
www.prairieduchien.org
Prairie du Chien Tourism Council

The Pleasant Creek Recreation Area is rustic and relaxing with front row seats of the main channel of the Mississippi River. It is located 3 miles south of Bellevue, Iowa, along Highway 52. The campground has 55 first-come, first-serve campsites, drinking water and vault toilets. There is no electrical service or flush toilets making this a perfect spot for primitive campers. The area also has a sewer dump station and concrete boat ramp with direct access to the main channel. Recline in your lounge chair and watch the river traffic navigate up and down the river below Lock & Dam 12.

Camping at Pleasant Creek is located in two locations — the main campground and the island. Both offer drinking water and vault toilets for your convenience. The area is monitored by a volunteer campground host who assists campers with the self-registration process and is available to answer visitor questions.

Area History
Pleasant Creek is located in Jackson County, Iowa, which can best be described in two words: simply beautiful. The area is well-known for its rugged uplands and limestone bluffs that provide panoramic views of Eastern Iowa. There are also cold water streams, meandering rivers and large wetlands that provide outdoor activities and adventures. Pleasant Creek sits along The Great River Road.

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National Scenic Byway that consists of a 3,000 mile network of federal, state and county roads.

Just north of Pleasant Creek is the town of Bellevue, meaning “beautiful view.” This town is still tied to the Mississippi River and has numerous shops, restaurants and historic homes that face the river. Potter’s Mill is listed on the National Register of Historic Places located on the edge of town on Big Mill Creek and still has many artifacts from the mill’s flour producing days on display.

**FISHING OPPORTUNITIES**

Pleasant Creek’s location offers anglers the perfect opportunity to fish. By boat one can travel just a short way up river to fish along a wing dam or just behind Lock & Dam 12 in Bellevue, or head downstream from the park to one of the many backwater sloughs. Before you hit the water, check with the park attendant for a free river pool map. For all of those who are staying at the park and don’t have access to a vessel, try fishing right at the river’s edge. Many anglers enjoy the success and relaxation one can have right from the shoreline.

Perch, catfish, rock bass, walleye, and crappie are a few different varieties of fish you can expect to catch along the Mississippi River. Whether you are fishing the shoreline or out on the river, don’t forget to stop by Big River Bait Shop at 701 S. Riverview, Bellevue, Iowa (behind Lock & Dam 12). To make sure someone is there call Doug at 815-238-4140 before you go.

**LOCAL ATTRACTIONS**

While staying at the park, here are some other locations or businesses you may want to visit, their location, and their distance from the park:

- **Lock & Dam 12, Bellevue, IA** – summer navigation and winter eagle viewing, 3 miles.
- **Maquoketa, IA** – Hurstville Interpretive Center and Lime Kilns, 26 miles.
- **Bellevue, IA** – shops and attractions, 3 miles.
- **Dubuque, IA** – shops and attractions, 24 miles.
- **Bellevue, IA** – Young Historical Museum, 3 miles.
The Thomson Causeway Recreation Area offers expansive views of the Mississippi River and Potters Marsh Wildlife Area. The park is located at the intersection of Main Street and Lewis Avenue in Thomson, Illinois. The campground offers 131 campsites, most with 30 and 50 amp service available, three shower buildings, a three lane dump station and a walkup dump station. While relaxing in the park you can enjoy an array of activities. There are three playgrounds in the campground, a boat ramp with access to the main channel and backwaters, three picnic shelters and horse shoe pits. Also, don’t forget to explore Hidden Slough Nature Trail which offers a ¾ mile hike through bottom land forest.

This recreation area is open year round, with camping facilities available from May 1 through the fourth Sunday in October. Potter’s Marsh is a backwater haven for shore birds and waterfowl that keeps “birders” flocking to the park throughout the year. In the spring you will find Dr. Fred Janzen of Iowa State University, along with his students, collecting data on turtles, amphibians, and reptiles. In the winter, once the backwaters freeze over, the ice fishermen are angling their favorite fishing holes. Whether you are planning a family camping trip or just going for a weekend drive you, will find an enjoyable experience at the Thomson Causeway.

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Area History
The Thomson Causeway is built on a Mississippi River island with a rich history. Hundreds of years ago, this area was a large active site for the Woodland Indians. They used the area for trading, hunting, and rituals. Examples of their presence still exist with two large Indian burial mounds still present in the day use area of the park. In recent history, the island was used for agriculture. Both commercial crops and melons were grown in the sandy soil, prior to the inundation of the lands by the construction of the locks and dam system in the early 20th century.

Fishing Opportunities
There are ample fishing opportunities when visiting the Thomson Causeway. Located along pool 13 of the Mississippi River you can spend an afternoon shoreline fishing in the campground or use one of the local boat ramps that access the backwaters of the Mississippi. While fishing in the area you will have the opportunity to angle in a wide variety of sport fish, including: catfish, largemouth bass, crappie and blue gill. For the more experienced fisherman you can take aim at the big prize — muskellunge (muskie), northern pike and walleye. Five miles north of the campground is Spring Lake. This area is a mecca for local fishing tournaments all season long. Fishing in the area doesn’t slow down in the winter. Potter’s Marsh and Spring Lake are popular ice fishing destinations.

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Trumbull, Connecticut. In the collecting data on turtles, University, along with his students, will find Dr. Fred Janzen of Iowa State

**THOMSON CAUSEWAY RECREATION AREA**

**Area History**

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**Fishing Opportunities**

There are ample fishing opportunities when visiting the Thomson Causeway. Located along pool 13 of the Mississippi River you can spend an afternoon shoreline fishing in the campground or use one of the local boat ramps that access the backwaters of the Mississippi. While fishing in the area you will have the opportunity to angle in a wide variety of sport fish, including: catfish, largemouth bass, crappie and blue gill. For the more experienced fisherman you can take aim at the big prize — muskellunge (muskie), northern pike and walleye. Five miles north of the campground is Spring Lake. This area is a mecca for local fishing tournaments all season long. Fishing in the area doesn’t slow down in the winter. Potter’s Marsh and Spring Lake are popular ice fishing destinations.

**Thomson Causeway**

The Thomson Causeway Recreation Area offers expansive views of the Mississippi River and Potters Marsh Wildlife Area. The park is located at the intersection of Main Street and Lewis Avenue in Thomson, Illinois. The campground offers 131 campsites, most with 30 and 50 amp service available, three shower buildings, a three lane dump station and a walkup dump station. While relaxing in the park you can enjoy an array of activities. There are three playgrounds in the campground, a boat ramp with access to the main channel and backwaters, three picnic shelters and horse shoe pits. Also, don’t forget to explore Hidden Slough Nature Trail which offers a ¾ mile hike through bottom land forest.

This recreation area is open year round, with camping facilities available from May 1 through the fourth Sunday in October. Potter’s Marsh is a backwater haven for shore birds and waterfowl that keeps “birders” flocking to the park throughout the year. In the spring you will find Dr. Fred Janzen of Iowa State University, along with his students, collecting data on turtles, amphibians, and reptiles. In the winter, once the backwaters freeze over, the ice fishermen are angling their favorite fishing holes. Whether you are planning a family camping trip or just going for a weekend drive you, will find an enjoyable experience at the Thomson Causeway.

**Continued on page 23**
Smith's Island, located adjacent to Lock and Dam 14, once held several of the best winter eagle perch trees in the country. The proximity to open water and clear field of view attracts hundreds of migratory bald eagles each year as well as approximately 10,000 visits from recreationalists from all over the globe. The site has the backdrop of numerous photos used in brochures, art exhibits and several different social media sites. This site draws thousands of out of town visitors that has significant off season impact to the local economy of several local towns and cities. A winter storm in 2017 damaged the trees creating a hazard for the public, resulting in the removal of trees from the site. The Army Corps of Engineers was contacted by the Quad Cities Photography Club regarding a way to mitigate for the loss of this resource. It was determined after several meetings that the best course of action would be to plant suitable tree species and install artificial eagle perches until the trees mature.

The Quad Cities Photography Club coordinated the effort of locating donors interested in restoring habitat at the site. The artificial eagle perches and trees were installed during the fall of 2017, through donations provided by MidAmerican Energy and Living Lands and Water.

Project organization was made possible through efforts of the Quad Cities Photography Club coordinating all of the project donations.
Experience Northwest Illinois’ Outdoor Paradise on the Mississippi River! Enjoy Eagle Watching, Skiing, Snowmobiling, Ice Fishing, Hiking, Shopping, Dining and much more. Only 2 1/2 hours from Chicago and 30 minutes from Galena, Savanna makes a perfect weekend getaway! Book a stay at one of our charming Inns or B&B’s, Rustic Cabins or full service motels and experience Savanna, Illinois!

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Our beautiful Holiday Inn Express site on the banks of the Mighty Mississippi River. Guests enjoy watching barges, as well as pleasure crafts navigate its muddy waters. LeClaire has the flavor of time gone by. If you look closely you might spot Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer with their cane poles, fishing for a mess of catfish.

Area Attractions:
- Mississippi River
- John Deere Commons
- Isle of Capri Casino
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- Cordova Dragway

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www.cityoffulton.us or call
815-589-3925

If you are looking for a few nights of good old fashioned camping, then Bulger’s Hollow Recreation Area is your stop. With 26 non-reservable campsites, 17 RV sites and nine tent camping sites, this park is small in size but offers one of the best views of the Mississippi. This campground offers primitive amenities, such as drinking water, vault toilets, and a dump station. As a reminder, campers have a 14-day camping limit, within a 30-day period. Camping is not the only attraction to the area. Bulger’s Hollow also offers a boat ramp, playground equipment, horse shoe pits and picnic sites for a great way to spend an afternoon with the family.

AREA HISTORY
Located five miles north of Clinton, Iowa, Bulger’s Hollow is a classic example of a Mississippi River ravine. This scenic campground is tucked between the limestone cliffs and shoreline of the Mississippi River. While camping you will be reminded of the rich tradition of river explorations and the ensuing lumber trade, which made Clinton one of the busiest river ports in the country during the late 1800s and early 1900s. The main channel of the Mississippi is right off the shoreline where towboats travel up and down the river. Occasionally you will get a scene to take you back in history as the Twilight and other river boats make an excursion up and down the river.

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES
Bulger’s Hollow offers a gravel boat launch for access to pool 13 of the Mississippi River. A popular launching site for local fisherman, you can

Continued on page 28
easily find a honey hole for an afternoon of fishing. Directly in front of the campground is a field of lily pads that are ideal for fishing. You can also take a short trip up or down river to find a calm backwater slough for hours of casting.

**LOCAL ATTRACTIONS**

While staying at the park, here are some other attractions in nearby cities that may interest you and their distance to the park:

- Clinton Lumber Kings professional baseball team, Clinton, IA, 5 miles.
- Fulton, IL – Dutch Heritage Canyon & Windmill Park, 10 miles.

**FISHERMAN’S Corner**

Fisherman’s Corner North Recreation Area has become a popular camping destination along the Mississippi. It is located in Hampton, Illinois, just north of the Quad Cities off Illinois Highway 84. This campground serves campers looking for a wide range of recreational activities. The campground offers 56 campsites, most with 30 and 50 amp service available, a shower building, two lane dump station, playground equipment and horse shoe pits. Whether you are looking to get away from the crowded cities, a relaxing campsite along the Mississippi River or a place to rest on your travels across the county, Fisherman’s Corner can accommodate your needs.

Fisherman’s Corner is open from May 1 through the fourth Sunday in October. Located just upstream of Locks & Dam 14, you have the opportunity to watch the Mississippi River towboats navigate up or down stream. Take a moment and relax as you watch waterfowl, shore birds and other creatures in the marsh located just below the campground. If you are looking for a place to try fishing, Fisherman’s Corner South Recreation Area is located ¼ mile downstream. This popular fishing area is adjacent to Locks & Dam 14. Here you can fish from the levee or enjoy a family picnic in the day use area.

**AREA HISTORY**

Located along the scenic Great River Road, Fisherman’s Corner Recreation Area is tucked amongst some historic river towns. A short trip up or down the Mississippi and you will find a rich history of logging, blacksmiths and agriculture. Don’t forget about John Deere! The company he founded has been a staple to the area and has deep roots in the development and growth of the nation. Across the river in LeClaire, Iowa, you can retrace the life and times of one of the country’s best known Wild West entertainers, native son Buffalo Bill Cody.

**FISHING OPPORTUNITIES**

One of the biggest attractions to Fisherman’s Corner Recreation Area is the day use opportunities at Fisherman’s Corner South Recreation Area. This area is connected to Locks & Dam 14 and creates a unique opportunity for fishing along the Mississippi River. During the summer months you can find the levee and shoreline lined with fisherman angling for a variety of species, including striped bass, perch and catfish. In early spring and late fall the boaters will flock below the dam to position themselves for prime walleye fishing. If you are looking to launch your boat, take a short trip north or south on Illinois Highway 84 to find river access to pools 14 and 15 of the Mississippi.
Local Attractions

While staying at the park, here are some other locations or businesses you may want to visit, their location, and their distance from the park:

- Locks & Dam 14 and Smith’s Island, Pleasant Valley, IA – summer navigation, hiking trails and winter eagle viewing, 5 miles.
- LeClaire, IA – shops and attractions, 5 miles.
- Great River Tugfest, August 9-11, 2018 – tug of war battle between Port Byron, IL & LeClaire, IA, 5 miles.
- Cordova National Speedway – Drag Racing, Cordova, IL, 10 miles.
- Deer Run – Host of the John Deere Classic, July 9-15, 2018, Silvis, IL, 10 miles.

Thank You Quad Cities For All Your Support!

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FISHERMAN’S CORNER RECREATION AREA

Continued from page 29

Deere Run – Host of the John Deere Classic, July 9-15, 2018, Silvis, IL, 10 miles.

During winter months take a leisurely drive along Route 84... and watch the beautiful and majestic Bald Eagles
Reservable picnic shelters are available at several Corps of Engineers recreation areas along the Mississippi River. They are perfect for birthday parties, family reunions, or other special occasions. Many of the shelters can be reserved up to one year in advance by visiting www.Recreation.gov or calling 877-444-6777. Shelters without online registration may still be reserved by contacting the phone number listed. The cost to reserve these sites is only $25.

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<th>Picnic Tables</th>
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<th>Outlets</th>
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Come visit the Mississippi River Visitor Center which overlooks Locks & Dam 15 on Arsenal Island in Rock Island, Illinois. Locks & Dam 15 was the first dam of the 9-foot channel project built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers between 1931 and 1934 becoming one of the 29 dams to make a stairway of water stretching from St. Paul, Minnesota to St. Louis, Missouri. These dams created a minimum pool depth of water to maintain a 9 foot navigation channel for commercial towboats transporting goods up and down the Upper Mississippi River. The Visitor Center gives you an excellent opportunity to view these towboats and the locking operation as they pass through the locks. The second floor of the Visitor Center is a great place to observe the river traffic from either inside or outside on the observation deck. Park Rangers and volunteers are available to answer any questions you may have. In addition, the facility offers several educational displays including a river floor map, an aquarium with native Mississippi fish and a mounted Bald Eagle. There is also a movie theater with a variety of films for all ages. The Visitor Center has a gift shop with a variety of Mississippi River, Bald Eagle and educational souvenirs. Navigational charts for the Upper Mississippi River and the Illinois Waterway are available for purchase. The Visitor Center is accessible. All services are free of charge to the public.

Park Rangers and volunteers offer guided tours of the locks and dam on Saturdays and Sundays from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Special tours may be arranged for schools, families or organizational groups. Space is limited and reservations are highly recommended. Group tours must call ahead to schedule a tour at least 14 days in advance of their arrival date. Tours being conducted outside are dependent on the weather. To access the Rock Island Arsenal, visitors age 18 and older must carry a picture ID and go through the Arsenal’s visitor processing center at the Moline gate where a background check will be done. Visitors will then be given a pass to access Arsenal Island. Please allow extra time for this process when planning a visit. More information about Arsenal Access can be found at the website: http://www.usagria.army.mil/AccessRequests/. All vehicles and people are subject to search.

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CLARK’S FERRY

This 11 acre park is a very popular recreation area. It offers a Class A campground, day use area and boat ramp along the Mississippi River in Montpelier, Iowa. The campground has 45 concrete sites all with 50 amp electrical service and many sites have a great view of the river. The campground is shaded by large mature trees and provides a relaxing atmosphere that many campers seek. Most of the campsites can accommodate large RVs and offer much “green space” between campsites.

This campground is open from May 1st through October 28th. Making reservations well in advance is encouraged to guarantee a campsite upon arrival. This is especially true for holiday weekends and for local area special events held throughout the recreation season. There is no camping allowed during the seasonal closure.

The day use park provides a picnic shelter (available for reservation May 1 through October 28), playground, and horseshoe pit which are all accessible year round. The boat ramp is open year round and a fee is charged for launching during May 1 through October 28th.

AREA HISTORY

In the early 1800s a ferry between Iowa and Illinois shores was badly needed, and Captain Benjamin Clark was an imaginative man who was determined to provide it. French traders camping on the river bank learned that Clark had finished his boat, but laughed at him declaring that only “Ze crazy Americans” would be foolish enough to believe they could cross the river with such a large craft. (Magnificent Mississippi by Jim Arpy). As the Frenchmen laughed, they sought his services and summoned his ferry to transport cattle jokingly. Clark knew there were no herds of cattle in the area but still provided them the ferry for which they asked. When Clark reached the Frenchmen and requested payment of $10, they had no money. They agreed to pay him but with “two bolts of calico”, if he would accept it. Clark accepted the payment and his ferry became profitable. It was the only ferry between Burlington and Dubuque where one could cross the Mississippi with cargo.

In the early 1960s, construction began to develop the primitive
Montpelier Public Use Area. As recreation use picked up, the area was converted to a Class A campground in 1982 by adding modern facilities and changing the name to Clark’s Ferry Recreation Area after Captain Clark.

**FISHING OPPORTUNITIES**

Whether you’re fishing from the banks of the Mississippi or launching a boat to try gain the advantage, you can do both right at Clark’s Ferry Recreation Area. Bank fishing may not give you the greatest ability to catch that keeper, but it does offer hours of entertainment for you and your children. It doesn’t take much for introducing the sport of fishing to your fishing buddy. It’s a great way to introduce the sport of fishing to children. It doesn’t take much for equipment and you can essentially fish from anywhere along the Mississippi River shoreline. Fishing from a boat will allow you greater mobility and variety of fishing “holes”. Water safety is of utmost importance whenever you plan on being on or near the water. Please remember to wear your lifejacket when enjoying either of these fishing endeavors. Don’t let drowning spoil your day of adventure. Just wear it!

**LOCAL ATTRACTIONS**

Clark’s Ferry Recreation Area is located near many popular attractions in the Quad City and Muscatine, Iowa, areas. It is also located only three miles from our Shady Creek Recreation Area located just downstream. For a listing of attractions available from both of these recreation areas please see page 39.

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**Mississippi River projects guide to recreation**

To Muscatine

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To Davenport

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**CLARK’S FERRY RECREATION AREA**

**INFO:**

Closed During Off-Season

Fee Dates:

May 1 - October 28

Camping Fee:

$20

Picnic Shelter Available:

$25

Reservations Accepted:

Yes

Reservations:

877-444-6777

Entrance Booth:

563-381-4043

Fee Booth:

Open 5 - 8 p.m. Daily 9 - 11 a.m. Friday & Saturday & Sundays on holiday weekends

Address:

3860 Sunset Beach Montpelier, IA 52759

RIVER MILE

468.5

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**2018 BALD EAGLE WATCHING EVENTS**

**DUBUQUE BALD EAGLE WATCH – SATURDAY, JANUARY 20**

- Indoor Exhibits and activities from 9:00 - 4:30 at the Grand River Center - Port of Dubuque
- Outdoor viewing at Lock and Dam 11 from 9:00 - 3:30
- For more information call the Dubuque Ranger office at 563-582-0881

**CLINTON BALD EAGLE WATCH – SATURDAY, JANUARY 6**

- Outdoor viewing: Lock & Dam 13, 8:30am - 2:30pm
- Live Bird and Nature Programs: Clinton Community College, 9:00 - 2:00
- Free bus service from college to the outdoor viewing area
- For more information contact the Thomson Ranger office at 815-259-3628

**QUAD CITY BALD EAGLE DAYS – FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 5 – 7**

- QCCA Expo Center, 2621 4th Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois
- Hours: Friday 4:00-8:00, Saturday 10:00 - 8:00, Sunday 10:00 - 5:00
- Live Eagle & Bird of Prey Programs by The World Bird Sanctuary
- Special Attractions - Big Wolf Run Ranch and Cold Blooded Creatures
- For more information contact the Mississippi River Visitor Center at 309-794-5338, or the QCCA Expo Center at 309-788-2543.

**MUSCATINE BALD EAGLE WATCH – SATURDAY, JANUARY 27**

- Outdoor viewing from 9:00 to 3:00 at Pearl City Station and Lock & Dam 16
- Live Eagle programs at 9:30 & 11:00 at the Pearl City Station in Riverside Park
- Environmental exhibits inside the Pearl City Station
- For more information call the Muscatine Ranger office at 563-263-7913

**KEOKUK BALD EAGLE DAYS – SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JANUARY 19 – 21**

- Indoor programs and Environmental Fair at the River City Mall, Keokuk, Iowa from 9:00 - 4:00
- Live Eagle Programs Saturday 10:00 - 3:00 and Sunday 11:00 - 3:00
- Outdoor viewing along the River Front 8:30 - 4:30
- For more information call the Keokuk Chamber of Commerce at 1-800-383-1219

**QUINCY BALD EAGLE WATCH – SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JANUARY 20 – 21**

- Indoor exhibits and events from 9:00 - 5:00 both days at the Oakley Lindsay Civic Center
- Outdoor viewing along the River and Nature Programs:
  - Historical clock tower tours
  - Combination eagle watches and historical clock tower tours
  - Tours begin at 10:00am and last approximately 90 minutes
  - For more information or to make reservations call the Visitor Center: 309-794-5338

**MISSISSIPPI RIVER VISITOR CENTER – EAGLE WATCH/CLOCK TOWER TOURS**

**SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS:**

- JANUARY 13, 14, 27, 28, FEBRUARY 3, 4, 10, 11

- Combination eagle watches and historical clock tower tours
- Tours begin at 10:00am and last approximately 90 minutes
- For more information or to make reservations call the Visitor Center: 309-794-5338
SHADY CREEK Recreation Area

This 31 acre park is one of the more popular recreation areas. It offers a Class A campground, day use area and boat ramp located off Highway 22 up river from Fairport, Iowa, along the Mississippi River. The Campground has 53 concrete sites all with 50 amp electrical service. The peaceful serene view of the river makes Shady Creek a great place to relax and camp. All of these campsites can accommodate large of RVs.

The campground is open from the May 1st through October 28th. Reservations are encouraged to guarantee a campsite when you arrive. This is especially true for holiday weekends and for special events. Be sure to make reservations well in advance to ensure a campsite is available upon arrival. The first 11 campsites are open year round for camping with limited facilities during the winter months.

The day use area and boat ramp are open year round. There is a fee to launch a boat May 1st through Oct 28th. The day use area provides a picnic shelter (available for reservation May 1 through October 28), individual picnic sites, playground and horseshoe pit.

AreA History

Through 1964, the entire area known as Shady Creek Recreation Area was under an agricultural lease. Then in 1965, seven acres along the river became undeveloped tent camping and day use. In 1981 the old agricultural lease was terminated and reforestation began. In 1983 the site was converted to a Class B fee camping area. The facilities added were a modern shower and comfort station, access roads to the camping and day use, and a boat ramp. No cultural or archeological significance has been found on this site, which made it a great location for recreational expansion. Farming was the early use of the site, but due to recreational demands, Shady Creek grew into a Class A recreation area in 1985 and continues to grow.

Fishing Opportunities

Whether you’re fishing from the banks of the Mississippi or launching a boat to try and gain the advantage, you can do both right at Shady Creek Recreation Area. Bank fishing offers hours of entertainment for you and your fishing buddy. It’s a great way to introduce fishing to children. It’s cheap, doesn’t take much for equipment, and you can essentially fish from anywhere along the Mississippi River shoreline! If you prefer to fish from a boat, you can launch it from almost any of our recreation areas. There is a $5 per launch fee at some of our ramps or you can purchase a Day Use Annual Pass for $40 to launch your boat as often as you like during the year. Water safety is the Corps most important message we want to share with our users. So whenever you plan on being on or near the water, please remember to wear your lifejacket, heed weather warnings, and never drink and boat. We want everyone to enjoy the river, but to do it safely and responsibly!

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Continued from page 39
LOCAL ATTRACTIONS
While staying at the park, here are some other attractions in nearby cities that may interest you and their distance to the park:

- Fairport State Fish Hatchery, Fairport, IA – Fish Hatchery Tours, 2 miles.
- Wildcat Den State Park, Muscatine, IA – hiking trails, Pine Creek Grist Mill, limestone cliffs, 2.6 miles.
- Muscatine History & Industry Center, Muscatine Art Center, Muscatine, IA – button and other local industry, artwork, 10 miles.
- Muscatine Aquatic Center, Weed Park, Riverfront and Downtown, Muscatine, IA – Outdoor swimming pool and slides, duck pond, paved walking/biking trails, recreational water fountain for cooling off, basketball court, great views of the river, boat ramps, unique shopping, horse drawn carriage rides, Pearl Button Riverboat dinner and cruises, 9 miles.
- Lock & Dam 16, Muscatine, IA – summer navigation, lock and dam tours, and winter eagle viewing, 12 miles.
- Muscatine County Conservation Learning and Discovery Center, Muscatine, IA – trails, indoor nature exhibits, live animal exhibits, 12 miles.
- Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge and Lake Odessa, Grandview, IA – wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, water trails for canoeing and kayaking, 35 miles.

2018 Shady Creek and Clark’s Ferry Special Programs
Shady Creek and Clark’s Ferry Recreation Areas offer summer interpretive programs and activities for visitors on select weekends between Memorial Day and Labor Day. All programs will be held at campground amphitheaters unless noted otherwise. Contact Muscatine Park Rangers or visit www.missriver.org for more information.

The following event is planned for the recreation season of 2018.

Saturday, Oct. 27 3-5 p.m. – Halloween Trick or Treat Night at Shady Creek: Campers are invited to participate in a campground trick or treat. Show your holiday spirit by dressing up as your favorite Halloween character.

“PROGRAM DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, PLEASE CALL THE MUSCATINE PARK RANGER STATION AT 563-263-7913 TO VERIFY DATES AND TIMES.”
Enjoy Our Great Parks

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Glynn's Creek
Golf Course
(563) 328-3284
West Lake Park
(563) 328-3281
Buffalo Shores
(563) 328-3281

More information at:
scottcountyia.com/conservation

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- Narrated Lunch & Sightseeing Cruises
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- Big Band
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- Fall Foliage

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309-764-1952 / 800-297-0034
celebrationbelle.com
2501 River Drive, Moline, IL 61265 | Quad Cities
This 6.5 acre park is a Class B campground located along the Mississippi River approximately six miles downstream of Lock & Dam 16 in Illinois. It has 26 primitive campsites and all of them have great views of the river. The park is shaded by large mature maple, cottonwood, and sycamore trees. These campsites are perfect for tents and small trailers and shorter motor homes. This is a great “off the beaten path” campground for those who appreciate the peace and quiet. It is located off the main channel of the river offering a nature lover’s experience and fishing hotspots.

This recreation area is open year round as long as there are no adverse conditions requiring its closure. There is a self-registration $12 per night fee charged from May 15 through October 15. All the sites are on a “first come first serve” basis.

AREA HISTORY
The history of the area dates back to the 1800s when waterfowl and deer hunters used the area to launch their boats. Many hunters camped along these banks because cabins were not usually built along the river. However, a man by the name of Stookleberry built a barn and small cabin on Blanchard Island when he owned the property. From 1837 to 1841, Stanton Prentiss operated an Illinois-based ferry just above the current day Blanchard Island. In the 1920s, Blanchard Island became a popular island for making “moonshine”, also known as “hooch, whitemill, and whiskey”. A local resident of the area was always warned not to go to the island for fear of being shot, so he did as he was told, even though he never saw a real “bootleggers still”. During the 1960s, a concrete boat ramp was built at this site and use of the area prompted the Corps of Engineers to develop it into a primitive campground. In 2011, a new concrete vault toilet with sidewalk handicapped accessibility was installed adding to the park’s amenities.

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES
Blanchard Island Recreation Area is home to many anglers’ favorite catfish holes! The boat ramp here allows free access to the river. Campers enjoy bank fishing here as well. Please remember to employ water safety practices whenever you’re on or near the water. Wear your lifejacket and get them on your kids as well, to ensure a safe fishing experience for all.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS
While staying at the park, here are some other attractions in nearby cities that may interest you and their distance to the park:
- Lock & Dam 16, Muscatine, IA – summer navigation, lock and dam tours, and winter eagle viewing, 7 miles.
- Muscatine History & Industry Center, Muscatine Art Center, Muscatine, IA – button & other local industry, artwork, 9 miles.
- Muscatine Aquatic Center, Weed Park, Riverfront & Downtown, Muscatine, IA – Outdoor swimming pool and slides, duck pond, paved walking/biking trails, recreational water fountain for cooling off, basketball court, great river views, boat ramps, unique shopping, horse drawn carriage rides, Pearl Button Riverboat dinner and cruises, 10 miles.
- Muscatine County Conservation Learning and Discovery Center, Muscatine, IA – trails, indoor nature exhibits, live animal exhibits, 12 miles.
- Loud Thunder Forest Preserve, Illinois City, IL – hiking, camping, canoe rentals, fishing, 15 miles.
SEMIDEVELOPED RECREATIONAL SITES

For those people who are looking for a river access or secluded campsite, we offer several opportunities. Our river access only areas have a boat ramp, parking for your vehicle and often a vault toilet but no camping is allowed at these sites. Our camping and river access areas offer a primitive camping option as well as access to the river. Most of these camping areas offer semi-developed campsites, vault toilets, drinking water, boat launches and picnic areas for your enjoyment.

RIVER ACCESS ONLY — NO CAMPING PERMITTED:

- **Big Slough** located four miles north of Thomson, Illinois, ½ mile west off Highway 84 at river mile 531.4 offers developed river access, courtesy dock and is a great fishing hotspot.

- **Cattail Slough** sits in the backwaters of the Mississippi at river mile 517.8. It is located ¼ mile southwest of Fulton, Illinois, off Highway 84 and offers excellent fishing with river access and courtesy dock.

- **Lock & Dam 13** offers river access and great bank fishing. It is located three miles north of Fulton, Illinois, off Highway 84 at river mile 522.5 and has a picnic shelter, and vault toilets. A river observation deck/restroom building also overlooks the lock and dam.

- **Locks & Dam 14/Smith’s Island** located just down river of LeClaire, Iowa, off Highway 67 at river mile 493.3 offers a one mile hiking trail, bank fishing and wildlife/riverboat watching. The area also has a reservable picnic shelter and vault toilets available for public use.

- **Kilpeck Landing** is a popular boat ramp and offers river access for prime fishing spots. It is located five miles northeast of Grandview, Iowa, at river mile 446.7.

- **Fenway Landing** offers river access as well as an excellent view of the Mississippi and river navigation. Located four and a half miles north of Canton, Missouri, on US Highway 61 at river mile 347.8.

- **Canton Chute** is a recreation area with the closest river access to Hogback Island, located off of N. Bottom Road, north of Quincy, Illinois, at river mile 331.6.

- **John Hay** located across the river from Hannibal, Missouri, on Highway 106 near East Hannibal, Illinois, at river mile 309.3 offers a day use facility with river access.

- **Park-N-Fish** located southwest of Hull, Illinois, off Highway 106 at river mile 301.2 offers bank fishing along the spillway of Lock & Dam 22.

- **Lock & Dam 22** offers river access to Pool 24 of the Mississippi River and is located off Highway 79 near Saverton, Missouri, at river mile 301.2.

**Continued from page 46**

**Bear Creek** Bear Creek located off Highway 96 near Marcelline, Illinois, at river mile 340.9 offers seasonal camping and river access. The dates for seasonal camping will be between September 1 and December 31. Hunting is permitted on the Long Island Division of the Great River National Wildlife Refuge surrounding the campground.

For further location information of these areas, please refer to the map at the center of this booklet.

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**Virtual Tour of Corps Campgrounds**

**Virtually Visit a Corps Campground Before You Make Your Reservation**

Park Rangers often get asked about which campground is the best or which site has the most scenic view. Many times those rangers are willing to give their personal opinion but may not be able to paint a clear picture of how the facility really looks. Well now there is new option for visitors that can help them determine which site is best. This useful tool is called Google Street View. Most people have heard of Google.com and may even use it daily but they may not be familiar with the features of Google Street View. This feature, which is part of Google Maps and Google Earth, allows a user to see a 360° panoramic view of certain areas at street level. The Mississippi River Project teamed up with Google through their Google Trekker program and incorporated this technology into their campgrounds, day use areas and even some of the locks on the Mississippi River. Now visitors can use this tool to see for themselves which campsite is right for a relaxing getaway along the Mississippi River.

**Using Google Street View**

1. Open your web browser
2. Enter web address www.google.com/maps
3. Type in the area you are looking for in the search bar. a. Example “Fisherman’s Corner Campground”
4. This should bring up an overview map of the area you are looking for with an icon in the bottom right corner that looks like a person.
5. Drag and drop this icon over the highlighted blue line in the recreation area you are looking at.
6. This should open up the Google Street View program.
7. Use your mouse or arrow keys to take a virtual tour of the area you plan on visiting.

**Below is an image of Fisherman’s Corner using Google Street View**

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**Continued on page 47**
VISIT CANTON, MISSOURI

Enjoy Nature! Enjoy Life!

Some of our attractions include:

• Lock & Dam 20. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and provides a special habitat on the Mississippi River.
• Migrating white pelicans visit during warm weather and bald eagles in the winter.
• We host an annual catfishing tournament. 2018 tournament on Sunday, June 17th.
• Stay at our year-round campground. It’s the only one along the Mississippi right next to the river.
• Visit our levee walk and observation deck. The canopy is sure to make you think of a bird in flight.

Visit our website showmecanton.com or our Facebook page “Canton MO Tourism”

573-288-4413

Campground reservations can be made

Some boat ramps along the Mississippi River require a user fee as part of the Corps of Engineers Recreation Day Use Fee Program. Day use fees help recover only a portion of costs associated with operating and maintaining Corps’ recreation facilities. Boat ramp fees are charged annually from May 1 through 4th Sunday of October.

For daily use, there is a $5 fee that is charged using a self-registration vault.

To register at the ramp follow these simple steps:

▶ Fill out information required on envelope
▶ Insert payment into the envelope. Payment can be made using cash or check made out to USACE, USAED, Rock Island
▶ Tear off the hang-tag portion, date, and hang the tag on your rear-view mirror with the date visible from the outside of the vehicle.
▶ Seal the envelope and deposit it in the vault

*Note: Day Use fees are valid for the entire date of purchase. Permits may be used to launch from other Corps of Engineers ramps on the same day as long as the hang tag is dated and displayed properly.

Great River Road Interpretive Center

Villa Kathrine

Quincy’s Visitor Center on the Mississippi in Quincy, Illinois

Call for information on tours and renting the Villa for a special occasion.

532 Gardner Expressway
217-224-3688
email: villakathrine@hotmail.com

Quincy Convention & Visitors Bureau
1-800-97-VISIT for Travel Information

If you are a frequent visitor, you may wish to purchase an annual pass for $40. The annual pass allows unlimited, nation wide use of all Corps day use fee areas for one year from date of purchase. The pass is in the form of a placard that hangs on your rear-view mirror.

If you have a Golden Age/Access or America the Beautiful Senior or Access card you will no longer need to purchase a USACE Annual Pass for day use fee areas. All you will need to do is display your Golden Age/Access or America the Beautiful Pass in your vehicle either on the dash or by using a hang tag. Hang tags will be available at USACE offices. More information on the America the Beautiful Pass Program can be found on page 11. If you are staying at a Corps of Engineers campground you do not have to pay the daily fee for use of the boat ramp. Just present your current camping receipt on your vehicle dash with the camping dates visible.

Boat ramps that charge a use fee on the Mississippi River are: Grant River, Blanding Landing, Pleasant Creek, Big Slough, Cattail Slough, Clark’s Ferry and Shady Creek Recreation Area.

WHERE TO BUY YOUR ANNUAL PASS

▶ Purchase in person at one of the following locations:
  • Campground Entrance Stations at Class A Campgrounds (May-October)
  • Ranger Stations
  • Mississippi River Visitor Center

▶ Order your Annual Pass by phone (Visa, MasterCard and American Express) by calling the Mississippi River Visitor Center at 309-794-5338.
As you are likely aware, the Mississippi River is a globally significant natural resource. Though you may not know it was designated a Globally Important Bird Area in 2001 by the American Bird Conservancy and a Wetland of International Importance in 2010 during the international Ramsar Convention. The Mississippi River Project is working to support this resource in part through our Environmental Stewardship mission with our Forestry and Shoreline Management programs.

Our Forestry Program, the oldest within the Corps of Engineers and second largest in size, originated in 1941 in support of the WWII war efforts. Our managed lands cover 54,000 acres of land and over 2,000 miles of shoreline along the river. 2017 marked the 37th year that we met with our partner state and federal fish and wildlife agencies to cooperatively manage the forested resource. Over 80 percent is leased to other state and federal agencies such as the Fish and Wildlife Service and Department of Natural Resources for wildlife refuges and management areas through cooperative agreements though the Corps maintains timber rights on the trees. All forest management activities are aligned with the wildlife goals of our partner agencies and include timber harvests to promote diversity of tree size and tree regeneration, timber stand improvement to promote health of diverse tree species, and tree planting to help maintain the presence of diverse tree stands.

The Shoreline Management Program provides access opportunities for water-based recreation while helping to protect the shoreline and wildlife habitat. This program allows for placement of docks and associated structures on federal lands in designated areas and protects shoreline in other environmentally sensitive areas.

For more information on the Shoreline Management or Forestry Programs, please call 309-794-4528 or write to P.O. Box 534, Pleasant Valley, Iowa 52767.

Join us for a lock and dam tour. Public tours are scheduled on weekends between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Topics covered during the tours include river history, lock and dam operation, towboats, barges, cargo, river hazards and much more.

The tour will be about an hour long and is dependent on weather conditions. Tour size is limited to 20 people and proper footwear (enclosed shoe) will be required. While on the tour there will be no camera or cell phone use allowed and all backpacks, purses, and bags must be left in your vehicle. Group tours must call ahead and any non-US citizens must get prior security clearance before attending. Specific lock sites and requirements are listed below.

**Lock & Dam 11 in Dubuque, Iowa.** Walking tours of the lock and dam are held every Sunday at 2 p.m., Meet at the overlook building. Contact Dubuque ranger station for information, 563-582-0881.

**Lock & Dam 13 in Fulton, Illinois.** Walking tours are held on Saturdays and Sundays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. For security purposes all visitors age 18 and older must carry photo ID and go through Arsenal Island's visitor control center at the Moline gate. Please allow extra time for this process. Reservations are recommended, 309-794-5338.

**Lock & Dam 16 in Muscatine, Iowa.** Walking tours are held on Sundays at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required, contact Muscatine ranger office for more information, 563-263-7913.

**Lock & Dam 21 in Quincy, Illinois.** Tour times are flexible. Reservations are required. Contact Muscatine ranger office for more information, 563-263-7913.

**Lock & Dam 15 in Rock Island, Illinois.** Walking tours are held on Saturdays and Sundays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. For security purposes all visitors age 18 and older must carry photo ID and go through Arsenal Island's visitor control center at the Moline gate. Please allow extra time for this process. Reservations are recommended, 309-794-5338.

**Lock & Dam 17 in Davenport, Iowa.** Walking tours are held on Sundays at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required, contact Muscatine ranger office for more information, 563-263-7913.

**Lock & Dam 18 in Clinton, Iowa.** Walking tours are held on Sundays at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required, contact Muscatine ranger office for more information, 563-263-7913.

**Lock & Dam 19 in Keokuk, Iowa.** Walking tours are held on Sundays at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required, contact Muscatine ranger office for more information, 563-263-7913.

**Lock & Dam 20 in Burlington, Iowa.** Walking tours are held on Sundays at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required, contact Muscatine ranger office for more information, 563-263-7913.

**Lock & Dam 22 in Alton, Illinois.** Walking tours are held on Sundays at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required, contact Muscatine ranger office for more information, 563-263-7913.

**Lock & Dam 23 in Granite City, Illinois.** Walking tours are held on Sundays at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required, contact Muscatine ranger office for more information, 563-263-7913.

**Lock & Dam 24 in East St. Louis, Illinois.** Walking tours are held on Sundays at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required, contact Muscatine ranger office for more information, 563-263-7913.

**Lock & Dam 25 in Alton, Illinois.** Walking tours are held on Sundays at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required, contact Muscatine ranger office for more information, 563-263-7913.

**Lock & Dam 26 in East St. Louis, Illinois.** Walking tours are held on Sundays at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required, contact Muscatine ranger office for more information, 563-263-7913.

**Lock & Dam 27 in East St. Louis, Illinois.** Walking tours are held on Sundays at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required, contact Muscatine ranger office for more information, 563-263-7913.

**Lock & Dam 28 in East St. Louis, Illinois.** Walking tours are held on Sundays at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required, contact Muscatine ranger office for more information, 563-263-7913.

**Lock & Dam 29 in East St. Louis, Illinois.** Walking tours are held on Sundays at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required, contact Muscatine ranger office for more information, 563-263-7913.

**Lock & Dam 30 in East St. Louis, Illinois.** Walking tours are held on Sundays at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required, contact Muscatine ranger office for more information, 563-263-7913.

**Lock & Dam 31 in East St. Louis, Illinois.** Walking tours are held on Sundays at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required, contact Muscatine ranger office for more information, 563-263-7913.

**Lock & Dam 32 in East St. Louis, Illinois.** Walking tours are held on Sundays at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required, contact Muscatine ranger office for more information, 563-263-7913.
The Mississippi River provides many exciting opportunities for recreational activities such as boating, fishing and hunting. Whatever your hobby of choice happens to be, keeping water safety in mind and coming home at the end of the day should always be a priority. Wearing life jackets is one of the easiest and most effective ways to stay safe. If you are new to boating or want to brush up on your boating knowledge the Mississippi River Project offers free boating safety classes. Corps Park Rangers partner with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to offer these classes and successful completion of this class will gain you an Illinois Boating Safety Card. See below for dates and times.

**2018 Free Boating Safety Classes**
April 7, 8:00am – 4:30pm
April 14, 8:00am – 4:30pm
April 21, 8:00am – 4:30pm
April 28, 8:00am – 4:30pm

All classes will be held at the Mississippi River Project Office in Pleasant Valley, IA. Only one 8 hour class is required to complete your certification. Registration is required and can be done by contacting the Mississippi River Visitor Center at 309-794-5338.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project is interested in what you have to say. Your comments and suggestions are important to us, as we use them in the future planning and management of our recreation areas. One way you can help make changes is to visit our website, www.missriver.org, and comment on our Master Plan update. A Master Plan is the document that conceptually establishes and guides the orderly development, administration, maintenance, preservation, enhancement and management of all natural, cultural and recreational resources of a Corps water resource project. Despite what the name might suggest, it is not a plan for navigation (locks, dams and associated infrastructure for commercial barge traffic), flood risk management (levees in the PL84-99 Program), or water level management which have all been addressed in other guidance documents.

Another way to make suggestions is to fill out the below questionnaire and return it to us.

**PLEASE RATE THE FOLLOWING:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Maintenance of Facilities</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Buildings</td>
<td>10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Playground Equipment</td>
<td>10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Electric/Water Service</td>
<td>10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Boat Ramp/Dock</td>
<td>10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Campsites/Tables/Grills</td>
<td>10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Vault Toilets</td>
<td>10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Parking Lot/Roadway</td>
<td>10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 NA</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B. Cleanliness of Recreation Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Grounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Campsites</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C. Fee Collector Services</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Courteous</td>
<td>10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Prompt and Informative</td>
<td>10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>D. Ranger Services/Patrol</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Enforcement of Campground Rules</td>
<td>10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Responsiveness</td>
<td>10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>E. Camping Fee vs. Value of Camping Experience</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>F. What is your overall rating of your visit?</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 NA</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

— Please Turn Over —
G. What improvements or changes would you like to see?

_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

Name of Recreation Area: (Please check one)

- Grant River
- Pleasant Creek
- Bulger’s Hollow
- Fisherman’s Corner
- Andalusia Slough
- Lock & Dam 16
- Ferry Landing
- Canton Chute
- Park-N-Fish
- Lock & Dam 11
- Big Slough
- Lock & Dam 13
- Locks & Dam 14
- Clark’s Ferry
- Blanchard Island
- Fenway Landing
- Lock & Dam 21
- Lock & Dam 22
- Blanding Landing
- Thomson Causeway
- Cattail Slough
- Miss. River Visitor Center
- Shady Creek
- Kilpeck Landing
- Bear Creek
- John Hay

Dates of Your Camping Stay: ________________ to ________________

Site#: ___________________________

Include name/address if you would like to be placed in the drawing for a free night of camping.

Name: __________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________

City: ______________________ State: ________ Zip: ________

For additional information, please contact your local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Ranger Station or call 1-800-645-0248.

US Army Corps of Engineers®
Rock Island District

SEND TO:
Natural Resource Management Section
Attn: Park Manager
P.O. Box 534, 25549 182nd Street
Pleasant Valley, IA 52767-0534

HELP US IMPROVE YOUR PARKS!
Where Science Fiction Becomes Nonfiction