

# Rock Island District Water Safety Plan

FY08

***MVR WS Team Mission:*** Educating one another on trends and issues that arise throughout the district while cooperatively solving management and safety issues related to the recreational use of our lands and waters.

## *Goals:*

- Develop 2 district-wide corporate partnerships to assist in Water Safety Promotion. (Ideas-Casey's General Store, Mustang, Insurance Agency, etc.)
- Each team member shall develop and implement a Water Safety Plan for their respective project.
- Promote responsible use of alcohol on project land and waters.

## **Team Members:**

Kate Soska	Coralville Lake
Larry Rodriguez	Illinois Waterway-Marseilles L/D
Todd Ernenputsch	Illinois Waterway-Peoria Project Office
Kevin Ewbank	Illinois Waterway-Starved Rock VC
Tracy Spry	Lake Red Rock
Roger Harroun	Mississippi River-L/D 14
Dennis Franks	Mississippi River-Quincy Field Station
Emily Harbaugh	Saylorville Lake
Leah Deeds	Saylorville Lake
Beth Urmy	District Safety Office
Jeff McCrery	District Safety Office
Mark Kane	District Corporate Communications
Michael Mullinnix	District ACE-IT
John Punkiewicz	District-Operations Division-Technical Support Branch

## Coralville Lake

*Goal:* To reduce water related accidents and fatalities at Coralville Lake through education, facility design, written policy, and routine maintenance.

### Programs:

*Life Jacket Loan Program:* Various sizes of life jackets will be available for public use at no cost. Life jackets will be located at the visitor center, a kiosk at West Overlook day use area and in individual ranger vehicles. The visitor center and rangers will document the users name and telephone number and the kiosk will be set up as an honor system for the return of the life jacket. The program will run from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

*Jr. Ranger Water Safety Program:* As part of the Junior Ranger Program a 1 ½ hour program will be dedicated to water safety covering low-head dams, swimming and boating safety and the importance of life jackets.

*Safe Kids Fair:* Participate in the annual Safe Kids Fair at Coral Ridge Mall by providing a ranger to staff the outside area with the patrol boat and another ranger inside to demonstrate the low-head dam model.

*Dam Tours:* As with many of our routine programs, water safety is emphasized as a part of the programs.

### Beaches:

1. Prior to placement in the water, PVC pipe outlining swim areas will be inspected for frayed cables, broken and sharp edges, and unwanted cable, squeeze links and/or chain.
2. During spring draw down, water depths will be physically checked for sharp drop-offs, holes and foreign objects.
3. Sand on beaches will be groomed as needed to reduce the build-up of washed up debris, buried objects and to smooth out uneven surfaces.
4. All beach signs will be inspected for graffiti, damage, and wear and placed in appropriate areas on the beach where users can easily read them. Signs include a yellow No Lifeguard, Swim at Your Own Risk, and the brown No Pets, No Glass Containers, and No Alcohol. See no alcohol policy.
5. Two large water safety posters will be in place before Memorial Day weekend at the West Overlook Day Use area. Smaller posters will be placed at each beach and refreshed as needed.
6. A kiosk will be located between the beach and boat ramp at West Overlook day use area that will house different size lifejackets for visitors to use as needed. Jackets will be inspected on a weekly basis for tears and wear and will be replaced as needed. See Life Jacket Loan Program.

7. No alcohol policy will be enforced at all of the four beaches. Anyone found with alcohol on the beach will have the alcohol and/or the responsible party removed from the beach area.

**Lake:**

1. Hazard buoys will be replaced and anchored where known hazards exist and No Wake buoys will be re-positioned by boat ramps and bridges prior to the recreation season. Buoys will be inspected and replaced with new buoys as needed.
2. During the spring draw down, when the water level in the northern part of the lake is at its lowest, signs warning boaters of low lake levels should be placed at all the boat ramps entering Coralville Lake. Signs will state that boating is not recommended due to shallow water above Scales Pointe marina.

**Ranger Boat Patrol:**

1. Lake patrol will be utilized when ranger personnel are available. Primary mission of boat patrol is to educate and provide support to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) boat patrol. The patrol boat will be stocked with necessary safety equipment and educational literature.
2. Diving rock should be closely monitored during lake patrol. Anyone found with alcohol, jumping and/or diving from the rock will be removed from the area immediately.
3. During a water emergency event the lake patrol ranger will assist the county sheriff's office and IDNR. This may include obtaining witnesses to the event or keeping recreational boats out of the perimeter of a dragging operation.

**Policies:**

1. No alcohol will be allowed on any of the four beaches at Coralville Lake. Rangers who find alcohol on a beach will have the alcohol removed and/or the party removed from the project area as well. The level of enforcement is up to the individual ranger and circumstance.
2. No kiddie pools are allowed in the campground area. Unsupervised pools are a danger to small children. Any pools found in the campground will be emptied immediately and removed.

# Illinois Waterway & Marseilles L/D

## Interpretive Tasks related to Water Safety

- Four boating safety classes held
- Water Safety Weekend is held
- Provide Water Safety Materials for:
  - Better Fishing Association Baker Lake event
  - BFA I&M Canal event
- Water Safety topic included in Junior Ranger classes
- Stories or PSA on water safety in local media
- Brochures and posters taken to marinas and boat stores from Hennepin to Chicago by Visitor Center staff
- Brochures and posters taken to marinas and boat stores from Lacon south by Peoria staff.
- Water safety taught at Ottawa Safety Town (preschool)
- Water safety program for LaSalle Peru Summer Camp (special education)
- Provide speaker at Master's Walleye Tournament participant meeting.
- PFD try on station in Visitor Center
- Water safety booth at Boat and Fishing Expo in Peoria

## Visitor Assistance tasks related to Water Safety

- Park Rangers on boat patrol in Starved Rock, Peoria and Marseilles Pools.
  - Continue loaner program, with extra Type 2, 3 and 4 PFD's and fire extinguishers available.
  - Water safety give-a-ways for children and/or adults caught wearing a life jacket
  - Boat present at special events (2 Ottawa fireworks shows, etc)
- Park Rangers working lock walls at Brandon Road lock on July 3
- Park Rangers working lock walls at upriver locks
- Lock wall checks at Peoria
- Visits to boat ramps operated by state and local governments

## Partnering/Community Affairs tasks

- Work with Ottawa Water Safety partners (City of Ottawa, US Coast Guard, Illinois River Carriers, Illinois Department of Natural Resources and private developers) about new marina(s) coming to the area.
- Work with local Coast Guard, Auxiliary, Fire Departments and Park Districts to promote water safety in Greater Peoria Area.

## Administrative Tasks

- Continue tracking of boat patrol hours in each pool
- Track accidents and water-related fatalities in the Illinois Valley region

# Lake Red Rock

*Goal:* To educate visitors and lake area residents on safe practices on and around water to reduce water-related accidents.

## **Interpretive Efforts:**

- Water safety programs will be presented at Jefferson Elementary and for other area schools.
- Red Rock staff will present water safety programs during the annual “Water Festival” in Ankeny, IA
- Water safety messages regarding boating in the tailwaters during each dam tour.
- Water safety programs will be included during two Junior Rangers and two “Survivor Red Rock” programs during the summer season.
- Red Rock staff will assist Saylorville with water safety booth at Kid’s Fest in Des Moines
- Buddy Beaver water safety mascot will visit Red Rock beaches several weekends throughout summer and will be used to stress importance of wearing life jackets and swimming with a “buddy”
- Park Rangers will distribute tattoos and coloring books to visitors at beaches and boat ramps during recreation season
- Red Rock staff will team with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary to offer a boat safety course prior to the recreation season and offer vessel safety checks at boat ramps during the recreation season.
- Visitors attending “Let’s Go Canoeing” activities learn about the importance of wearing life jackets and fitting them properly. Each participant must wear life jacket during activity.
- Water Safety programs presented to local scout groups.
- Water Safety “freebies” (floating key chains, frisbees, can koozies, coloring books, tattoos) given away to boaters, beach users, lake visitors and program participants throughout summer recreation season.
- Bobber (water safety mascot) cartoons will be shown during several evening campground programs throughout summer season
- Water safety posters will be posted at park bulletin boards located throughout Corps managed parks at the lake
- Water safety press releases will be distributed to area media prior to the recreation season.
- Water safety information distributed through project visitor center

## **Visitor Assistance Efforts:**

Corps rangers will patrol lake during weekends throughout recreation season and provide visitor assistance regarding safe boat operation, ensuring compliance with no wake and buoyed areas, etc. Boat patrol rangers will also distribute water safety

“freebies” such as floating keychains, frisbees and other items to boaters and beach users, providing a positive method of instilling water safety messages during patrol.

**DNR Support:**

- DNR will provide two summer water safety officers for the reservoir in addition to assistance from two full time conservation officers.

**Marina Support:**

- Lessee provides a slip for Corps Patrol boat and DNR patrol boat which greatly increases response time for both agencies.
- Marina provides commercial towing service.
- Sell life jackets at the Marina store.

**Cooperative Efforts:**

- Rescue/recovery support provided by local fire departments as well as local Sheriff's office.
- US Power Squadron has provided boat checklist signage for boat ramps.

**Signage/Navigation Aids/Safety Barriers:**

- Water safety signage is installed at boat ramps, dam, and beaches.
- Beaches have floating four inch plastic line surrounding perimeter. Also have additional four-inch line to serve as secondary boat buffer.
- Install and maintain approximately 50 navigation buoys.

## Mississippi River Project & L/D 14

*Goal:* Enhance the public's awareness on water and boating safety in an effort to reduce accidents and fatalities.

*Audience:*

Target audience is to the general public of all ages; additional emphasis is placed on young adults (12-18 year olds) on acquiring the needed boating knowledge prior to actual boat or personal watercraft operation without supervision.

### Recreation Area Actions Planned:

1. Conduct interpretive programs, special events, clinics, etc. throughout the calendar year. Programs are presented in area schools and/or to the general public.
2. Present boating safety education classes throughout the spring and summer months. Classes are presented by Ranger staff certified as IL DNR Boating Safety Education Instructors through the IL. DNR.
3. Promote water and boating safety through the use of billboards throughout the Project during the summer months.
4. Promote water and boating safety with the partnership of various restaurants in the Quad-City area through the use of tray liners containing water/boating safety messages and activities.
5. Partner with the USCG Aux. at various boat ramps within the Project and conduct Vessel Safety Inspections. All participants receive various boating and water safety brochures along with state boating regulations. Participants passing the vessel safety inspections receive the USCG Aux. annual inspection sticker.
6. Contact the local media for PSA's concerning water and boating safety.
7. Promote water and boating safety through the use of give-away items with imprinted water/boating safety messages.
8. Mark LeClaire Canal with no-wake buoys prior to start of boating season.
9. Provide weekend boat patrols in Pools 14, 15, 16 (Quad City Area) and in Pools 20, 21, 22 (Quincy Area) when staff, weather, and river conditions allow. Additional boat patrols are provided during special events (i.e. firework shows, tug fest, lighted boat parade, and Hogback Island Beach Party).
10. Participate in the lifejacket/fire extinguisher loaner program.

### Locks and Dam 14 Actions Planned:

- Enforce all locking procedures and practices.
- Distribute safety brochures (Locks and the River, Know the Facts about Boating and Drinking, etc.) to recreational craft.
- Communicate safety message with waterway users (face to face and at the Aux. Lock) using the following audio clip/PA system message:
  - LOCKING PROCEDURES

- \*ENTER LOCK ONLY AFTER GATES ARE FULLY OPEN  
GREEN LIGHT IS DISPLAYED AND HORN SIGNAL HAS BEEN  
SOUNDED
  - \*MOOR IN CHAMBER AS DIRECTED BY DUTY LOCK AND DAM  
OPERATOR (USE LOCK COURTESY LINE)
  - \*SHUT DOWN ENGINE DURING LOCKAGE
  - \*SECURE LOUD MUSIC/NOISE AND BE ATTENTIVE TO  
LOCKING PROCESS
  - \*NO SMOKING DURING LOCKAGE
  - \*REMAIN IN YOUR BOAT AT ALL TIMES (Exception: Fire or  
medical emergency)
  - \*DO NOT LEAVE ANYTHING ON WALL  
(BEVERAGES/FOOD/GARBAGE, ETC)
  - Lock and Dam Operators are not allowed to accept anything from  
waterway users.
  - CHILDREN UNDER 13 YEARS OLD ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR  
LIFEJACKET WHILE IN THE LOCK
  - \*DEPARTING LOCK: REMAIN MOORED UNTIL GATES ARE  
FULLY OPEN AND HORN SIGNAL HAS BEEN SOUNDED.  
DEPART LOCK IN AN ORDERLY MANNER
  - SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY
- Continue to maintain and operate Lock Rescue Boats.
  - Conduct on site rescue training
  - Conduct Lifeboat rescue drills to maintain crew proficiency
  - Assist ODM/ODMV with licensing/training Mississippi River Lock and Dam  
operators and Maintenance crews in Boat Operator License Program  
requirements.
  - Respond to local area water related emergencies.
  - Coordinate with other Agencies/Departments common water safety issues:
  - Park Rangers, DNR, Coast Guard, Local Police and Fire Departments and Local  
Area Water Rescue Units
  - Encourage other District Lock and Dams to develop ways to increase awareness  
and safety at their sites: possibly audio message, banners, handouts, face to  
face, etc.

# Saylorville Lake

*Goal:* Our goal is to promote water safety awareness to the general public through the media, educational programs, brochures, signage and partnerships to reduce the number of water-related incidents and fatalities at Saylorville Lake.

*Audience:*

Our target audience is school-aged children and the general public who recreate at Saylorville Lake. Additional audience focus is to target males ages 18-44, who reflect the nation-wide majority of those involved in water-related incidents.

## **Actions Planned:**

1. Conduct and document at minimum, 10 boat safety checks/week at the boat ramps from May 18- Sept. 6, for a goal of 160 for the season. Document all checks and issue a key float to those that are compliant. Promote boat safety checks through the use of an annual pass drawing.
2. Expand current boat safety check program by incorporating US Coast Guard Auxiliary's Vessel Safety Check format and allow staff to become approved USCG inspectors. Provide documentation to Coast Guard Auxiliary for all complete checks completed.
3. Contingent on water level and lake conditions, paint a life jacket message on Cherry Glen boat ramp by May 17, 2008.
4. Provide WS information to each annual pass purchaser and all day use visitors.
5. Purchase billboards 4' X 8' to post at Cherry Glen, Lakeview and Dam road. Explore college art and graphics courses at local high schools and colleges to hold a WS contest.
6. Implement Inflatable PFD SOP by April 1, 2008.
7. Place ¼ page ad in Saylorville Recreation Guide for 2008.
8. Participate in BoatU.S. Life Jacket Loner Program at Cherry Glen Boat Ramp upon arrival of free lifejackets. Document each loan to ensure continuation of the program.
9. Participate in BoatU. S. Fishing Line Recycling Program. Fishing line site to be established in Bob Shetler, collected and submitted according to outlined instruction by NRM Volunteer(s).
10. Make frequent visits to Visitor Center Beach Area to encourage swimming in designated beaches.
11. Alcohol-free Promotion at the Oak Grove Beach
  - a. Update Alcohol Restrictions SOP and ensure proper signage is placed by May 24, 2008.
  - b. Day Use Entrance Station Volunteers will inform the public both verbally and with printed material upon entry.
  - c. Rangers will conduct daily visits promoting the alcohol-free beach through education and enforcement.
    - i. Verbal warnings will be made through the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.
    - ii. After 4<sup>th</sup> of July, written warnings and citations shall be issued.

12. Handout water safety tattoos and brochures at the boat ramps as adults are rigging their boats entertaining the kids and providing them with a safety message. Document direct contacts.
13. Place water safety flyers in English and Spanish on project bulletin boards to supplement universal signage.
14. Promote beach safety at Oak Grove and Sandpiper Beaches by partnering with the local dive team to perform our annual designated beach inspection. This partnership will allow them to perform necessary training and avoid duplicate effort by the lake staff.
15. Ensure buoys and depth markers are placed prior to Recreation Season.
16. Incorporate Water Safety Boat Plan using salvage boat to promote three different themes -- Life Jacket Use, Boating and Alcohol, and Boating Ethics. Display removable banners throughout recreation areas to draw attention.
17. Strive to increase Water Safety contacts through coordination with all water safety agencies at Saylorville Lake (ie. US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Iowa DNR Boating Education Coordinator and Water Aides, Law Enforcement agencies, Saylorville Marina, etc.)
18. Be proactive in partnering with area communities to promote water safety in pre-scheduled safety events (ie. City of Johnston Safety Town). Invite US Coast Guard and Iowa DNR when acceptable.
19. Hold a Boater Education Course through USCG Auxiliary at the OWL Center
  - a. Advertise at Boat Ramps, Campground Bulletin Boards, during Vessel Safety Checks, and during all on-water violator contacts.
20. Water Safety image on all outgoing mail-mailing labels or stamps
  - a. Cost: \$.01/stamp.

### **Special Events:**

- Des Moines Boat & Sportshow to assist Coast Guard Auxiliary in staffing booth on February 21-24 to promote WS, general lake information, and provide annual pass mail-in forms.
- Participate in the Children & Families of Iowa's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Kidsfest, March 7, 8, and 9, 2008, making use of "What's wrong with this picture?" Water Safety diorama. Take home message to include [www.bobber.com](http://www.bobber.com) . Coordinate staffing assistance with Lake Red Rock, US Coast Guard Auxiliary, and IDNR to ensure coverage. (USCG Aux will provide mascot and IDNR iron-ons)
- Participate in the Iowa Children's Water Festival at DMACC May 8, 2008 performing water safety programs. Level of involvement will be based on availability of summer staff and volunteers.
- National Safe Boating Week (May 17-23)
  - Partner with Coast Guard Auxiliary, Iowa State Patrol and DNR for Sunday, May 18, 2008 "Spring into Boating" kickoff event. USCG Aux. will be on the water from 8:00am-4:00pm.
  - Conduct boat safety checks daily at the boat ramps awarding key floats and annual pass entry form to those that pass. Provide similar items to IDNR and USCG Aux. for distribution.

- Offer PSAs to local radio stations, TV, and in the local newspapers.
- Display a WS message on the bulletin board located at the east end of the dam and in the basement of the Visitor Center.
- Advertise in Calendar of Events and on lake bulletin boards.
- Part-time Hosts will promote Water Safety within campgrounds.
- Supply USCG Auxiliary informational literature about Saylorville Lake for distribution in conjunction with their literature to local Marinas and dealers.
  - Encourage local businesses to participate by providing water safety messages by decorating their windows or by putting them on their changeable, digital message boards.
- Reading programs at local libraries – “Stewie the Duck Learns to Swim” – passing out water safety promo items.
- Iowa Cubs Minor League Baseball Team Agreement
  - Include Water Safety message on printed materials (schedule and posters) for Iowa Cubs games at Principal Park.
  - Sponsor a concourse booth using WS tattoos and Lifejacket wearing Mascot on June 28, 2008 at Principal Park during an Iowa Cubs game promoting water safety.
  - Approach Mustang Survival to donate life jackets.
  - Invite District Public Affairs Office to event.
- Oak Grove Beach Relay Race
  - Hold Relay Race on July 26, 2008 incorporating Water Safety and lifesaving techniques through team challenges.
    - Partner with US Coast Guard and Iowa DNR as available.
    - Invite local radio stations, TV, Public Affairs, and the newspaper to participate.

**Additional options, as funds allow:**

- Clear Channel Billboard on Merle Hay or Ankeny
  - Pricing: \$850 per billboard (displayed 4 weeks) + \$680 for production costs. For example, \$850 x 2 billboards = \$1700 + \$680(production) = \$2380.
  - Total space and production investment for 5 locations = \$4,930
- OnMedia through MediaCom, Cable Television Advertising
  - Pricing: \$500 for the initial commercial set up. Then, we would pay for as many "spots" as we feel necessary (or can afford). Their crew would meet with us, evaluate our target audience, and then we would select shows, timeframes, etc. to purchase the "spots" when WE want to air. There are 4 marketing tiers. The top tier market (ESPN, Lifetime, etc.) is between \$100-150 per 30 second "spot". They can adjust rates for 10, 25, 20, and 60 second spots, as needed.
- Screenvision Direct, Carmike Wynnsong Cinema Advertising
  - Pricing Option 1: 16 screens (896 times shown per week) @ \$192/wk (\$12 per screen/wk) X 10 wks = \$1920 + production/handling (USACE

supplied ad to spec: \$450 or Screenvision creating ad: \$600 ) Total  
Cost: \$2520

- Pricing Option 2: 16 screens (450 times shown per week ) @ \$128/wk  
(\$8 per screen/wk) X 15 wks = \$1920 + production/handling (USACE  
supplied ad to spec: \$450 or Screenvision creating ad: \$600 ) Total  
Cost: \$2520

- Casey's General Store
  - Ice bag messages
  - Gas Pump messages
  - In-store handouts