



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Carlyle Lake Pool Elevation Dropping

Carlyle Lake– The pool elevation of Carlyle Lake, as of 8:00 a.m. on Monday, May 16, is 454.79, 3.46 feet below the crest reached on May 5. Carlyle Lake is receding after reaching its second highest crest in Carlyle Lake history on Thursday, May 5, 2011 at 458.25 feet, referenced to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD). The previous record high lake level was 459.80 feet, which occurred in May of 2002. The release rate is approximately 10,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), and the target pool elevations 445.0.

As the pool level continues to recede, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working to reopen facilities as quickly as possible. Campsites are available on a first-come-first serve basis at Loop 3 of Dam West Campground, McNair Campground and the East Spillway Campground. More sites at Dam West Campground and Boulder Campground will be opening later this week on a first-come-first-serve-basis. The Horseshoe Island Boat Ramp, Dam West and Boulder High Water Boat Ramps are available for boat launching. The Dam West, McNair and Keyesport Beaches are scheduled to open by Memorial Day Weekend. Eldon Hazlet State Park will re-open on Memorial Day Weekend.

Although Carlyle Lake is experiencing high water conditions, recreational opportunities are still available in Dam West, Boulder, West Spillway and East Spillway Day Use Areas. The Carlyle Lake multi-use trail is accessible for hiking, walking and biking from the Dam West Day Use Area to Saddle Dam III, offering a 17 mile roundtrip. Also, the Carlyle Lake Visitor Center is open Saturday and Sunday during the month of May from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Willow Pond Fitness Trail located south of the visitor center offers a unique outdoor fitness opportunity for Carlyle Lake visitors. The fitness trail is a 1/5 mile trail that is concrete and encompasses an old farm pond that is home to many different species of wildlife. The serenity of this area adds to the enjoyment of getting fit.

Several privately owned businesses around the lake are also open for operation. Boulder Marina and West Access Marina, Mariner's Village Resort and Governor's Run Golf Course are all open to the public.

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Boaters and jet-ski users should use extreme caution when utilizing the lake. Due to the high water level, many breakwaters and other facilities have been overtopped by water and caution should be used when boating near these and other submerged structures. Boaters should become familiar with the location of these structures before launching and must stay clear of all inundated recreation areas and beaches. Boaters should also watch for floating logs and other debris, which have drifted into the main body of the lake because of the high pool elevation. Boaters and jet-ski users should be especially careful of the hazards involved when boating north of the railroad trestle. As the lake level continues to decline, this area could become unsafe due to the stumps and debris located in and under the water.

The pool elevation at Lake Shelbyville, situated north of Carlyle Lake is 606.93 feet NGVD with a release of approximately 2,430 cfs. All of the campgrounds at Lake Shelbyville remain open.

Carlyle Lake and Lake Shelbyville are working as designed to lessen flooding on downstream sections of the Kaskaskia and Mississippi Rivers. The Corps is closely working with their partners, the Carlyle Lake Association, Mid-Kaskaskia River Association, Okaw River Basin Coalition, and the City of Carlyle. For more information on Carlyle Lake, contact the Carlyle Lake Project Office at (618) 594-2484.

For more information on the Status of Carlyle Lake, contact the Carlyle Lake Project Office at (618) 594-2484 or email us at carlylelake@usace.army.mil.