



# NEWS RELEASE

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

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## Carlyle Lake Update

**Carlyle Lake** – As of 9:00 a.m., Thursday, May 5, 2011, Carlyle Lake has crested and the pool elevation of the lake is 458.18 feet NGVD, with a release of approximately 4,200 cubic feet per second (cfs). Yesterday's inflow was 3,890 cfs. A series of gate changes will be made the next few days to increase releases to approximately 10,000 cfs by Saturday May 7, 2011. The target pool elevation is 445.0 feet NGVD.

Due to the high pool elevation, recreation opportunities at the lake are impacted. The Dam West, Coles Creek and Boulder Campgrounds are closed however; campsites are still available at the McNair and Dam East Spillway Campgrounds. In addition, several private campgrounds around the lake remain open. Eldon Hazlet State Park is also closed due to high water. Boulder, General Dean and the City of Carlyle Boat Ramps are currently available for launching.

Other areas closed due to the high pool include several township roads around the lake, the Lakeview and Maple Grove Fishing Piers, Keyesport, Coles Creek, Dam West and McNair Beaches, and the Coles Creek Day Use Area. As the lake continues to rise, other roads will become inundated. Motorists should use caution when driving in low lying areas around the lake.

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.

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.

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At pool levels above 450.0 feet NGVD, flowage easement lands surrounding the lake are used for flood storage. These lands are private property and are not open to public recreation. The surface area of Carlyle Lake at the normal summer pool elevation of 445.0 feet NGVD is 24,583 acres. The current surface area of Carlyle Lake is approximately 48,292 acres.

The pool elevation at Lake Shelbyville, situated north of Carlyle Lake is 607.57 feet NGVD, with a release of approximately 490 cfs. Lake Shelbyville's pool is expected to crest around 608.0 by Saturday, May 7, without additional rainfall. 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 average inflow for Carlyle Lake throughout the past five days has been 11,410 cfs.

The Corps is closely working with their partners, the Carlyle Lake Association, Mid-Kaskaskia River Association and Okaw River Basin Coalition. For further information, contact the Carlyle Lake Project Office at 801 Lake Road, Carlyle, Illinois 62231, call (618) 594-2484 or email at [carlylelake@usace.army.mil](mailto:carlylelake@usace.army.mil).