

Fun Facts

- Pinnacle Pass (Pool 25) is 27.8 river miles.
- The highest point on the entire Mississippi River is located at Clarksville and is known as "The Pinnacle". It sits more than 900' above sea level and has a panoramic view of Pools 24 and 25.
- In early settlement times salt was produced at salt springs north of Clarksville and transported downstream by canoe to be sold at St. Louis.
- The city of Clarksville sits along the Mississippi River and provides paddlers the best opportunity to access convenience stores, restaurants, lodging, and equipment repair.
- Lock & Dam 25 provides an average lift of 15 feet. The Dam is 1,296 feet long with 13 tainter gates, 3 roller gates and one lock chamber. The first day of operation was May 18, 1939.
- There are some structures, such as wing dikes and chevrons, around shorelines or islands, which direct the main flow of water into the channel and/or improve aquatic habitat.
- Mississippi River Flyway hosts approximately 40% of the nation's migratory birds through the spring and fall migrations.

What is a Water Trail?

Water trails are recreational waterways on a lake, river or ocean between specific points, containing access points, day use, and/or primitive camping sites for the boating public. Serving as ribbons of discovery, water trails create educational opportunities, promote a healthy economy and high quality of life while preserving natural and cultural heritage.

Water trails emphasize low-impact use and promote stewardship of our nation's natural resources.

www.GreatRiverWaterTrail.org

For more information contact:

US Army Corps of Engineers
Rivers Project Office
301 Riverlands Way
West Alton, Missouri 63386
Phone: 888.899.2602
<http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Rivers/>

National Great Rivers Museum
P.O. Box 337
Alton, Illinois 62002
Phone: 618.462.6979

Special thanks to the American Canoe Association, Mississippi River Water Trail Association, St. Louis County Canoe & Kayak Club, City of Clarksville, Village of Hamburg, and Village of Batchtown for their assistance during the development of the Mississippi River Water Trail.

Water Trail Partners:



Mississippi River Water Trail

Clarksville, Missouri / Lock & Dam 24 to Winfield, Missouri / Lock & Dam 25



Nature is only a Paddle away!

Day Use & Camping

Camping and day use areas are designated along the trail with signs corresponding with map numbering. Only designated areas should be used for camping, since all of the points are located on public lands.

Camping & Day Use Rules

- Gathering of fire wood on the ground is permitted.
- Cutting firewood is prohibited.
- All fires in containment grills only. No ground fires. All fires should be completely extinguished prior to departure.
- All trash should be removed from the area upon departure. Please pack out what you pack in.
- Maximum of one tent per boat.
- Maximum of one night stay at camp sites.



Leave No Trace

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Dispose of Waste Properly
 - Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, camp, and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
 - Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.
 - Leave What You Find
 - Respect Wildlife
 - Be Considerate of Other Visitors
- For more information on "Leave No Trace" outdoor ethics, go to www.lnt.org.

Hazards on the Water

Cold Water-waters of the Mississippi River are first to cool off and last to warm up. For river temperatures for Locks and Dams 22 & 24 visit: <http://lmswc.mvs.usace.army.mil/trans/gages.html>.

Commercial Traffic-Barge traffic runs within the navigational channel, designated by the green and red buoys. Paddlers should not travel in the main channel.

Safety Information

Paddling Safety & Tips

- Wear your life jacket.
- Be prepared to swim.
- Never boat alone.
- If you collide with an obstruction, lean toward it.
- File a float plan with a relative or friend. http://www.seakayakermag.com/PDFs/float_plan.pdf
- Paddle within your experience and fitness levels.
- Confining your first few outings to calm backwater areas.
- Consider taking a paddling safety course.
- Be familiar with capsizing recovery techniques.
- Carry the right gear.
- Always check weather forecasts and river conditions before setting out.
- Paddle in groups whenever possible and know the experience levels of those in the group.

REMEMBER: a group travels as fast as its slowest member.

- Dress for the water temperature not the air temperature.
- Do not use alcohol or drugs when paddling.
- Conditions change - water levels, currents, winds and waves can vary day to day.
- Stay alert for submerged objects and be prepared for unruly currents around bridges, wing dams, and other structures.

Hazards on the Water

It is important to have the right supplies when paddling on any waterway. Be sure to have the following when paddling on the river.

- Lifejacket
- Drinking Water
- Map
- Sunscreen
- Food
- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Bug repellent
- Towel
- Small trash bag
- Marine radio
- Cell Phone
- GPS Unit
- Complete change of clothes

Paddle Your Way to a Healthier Lifestyle

Paddling provides numerous health and fitness benefits including: overall body toning, weight loss, strength, flexibility, and stress reduction. It is easy on joints and allows an individual to increase their endurance and stamina. Paddling is a great aerobic workout and makes your heart and circulatory system stronger.

Not only is paddling fun, but it can bring families and friends together to enjoy exercising and nature.



Trips for Beginners

Red's Landing Area:

The Red's Landing Backwater Access (#34) places one in an area disconnected from the main channel. With no chance of encountering barge traffic and fast flowing currents, this area is a safe place to practice paddling. Put in and take out at the same access, eliminating the need for a shuttle.

Gilead Access - Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge:

This trip is sure to delight paddlers with the beautiful landscape and diverse wildlife. Although the Gilead Access (#38) places you in the backwaters, you could navigate to main channel.

Note: This area is closed from October to December 31 every year for refuge season.

Prairie Pond - Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge:

A little boat dock and ramp (#41) waits for you at this backwater complex. A very good place for a safe, early season paddle. Enjoy the birdlife and aquatic plants found here. Don't forget your binoculars and camera.

Note: This area is closed from October to December 31 every year for refuge season.

Batchtown State Fish & Wildlife Management Area:

Beginners can access the backwaters from Cockrell Hollow Access (#44). Intermediates and above can put in on the river. This area provides paddlers with an open area to paddle but out of the main current of the river.

Note: This area is closed from October to December 31 every year for refuge season.

Sandy Chute:

This quite stretch of backwater is an ideal place for beginners to get some exercise and enjoy wildlife at the same time. Park at Lock & Dam 25 (#45) with restroom. A short carry through the picnic area will put you on the water. Parking lot closed dusk to dawn.

Trips for Intermediate

Intermediate Paddlers

Intermediate Paddlers are considered paddlers that possess basic paddling skills and knowledge, and have moderate stamina. These trips challenge the intermediate level paddler to improve their paddling skills.

Foley Access to Stag Island:

Put in from the parking lot at Foley Access Area (#43). Paddle upstream on the Missouri side to the north end of Stag Island. Then paddle back the way you came. Take a break or have lunch at site #39. Be sure to take time to paddle the sloughs along the Missouri shoreline.

Red's Landing to Village of Hamburg:

Put in at Red's Landing-River (#33). Paddle up the Illinois side to the Village of Hamburg (#30). Take a break and return the way you came.

Norton Woods Access to Foley Access:

Put in at Norton Woods Access (#36). Paddle south, staying on the Missouri shoreline and into the sloughs around Large Stag Island. Shuttle required for take out at Foley Access (#43).

Hamburg Ferry Public Fish to Norton Woods Access:

Explore the wooded islands as you paddle this beautiful stretch of river. Put in at the Hamburg Ferry Public Fishing Access (#29) and paddle south to Norton Woods Access (#36). Shuttle required.

Trips for Advanced

Advanced Paddlers

Advanced Paddlers are confident on open water, and feel comfortable with wind, waves, and current.

Westport Island Sloughs:

Start at Hamburg Ferry Public Fishing Access (#29) and paddle south to Westport Island. This trip does require a portage (Portage A) on the island's southwest side. Paddle the sloughs and portage back to the river at the same site you entered. Paddle back to put in location.

Clarksville Riverfront (#26) to Hamburg Ferry Public Fishing Access (#29):

Leave Clarksville paddling south. Paddle between Slim, Grimes, Willow, and McCoy Islands to view nature up close.

Hamburg Ferry Public Fishing Access (#29) to Foley Access Area (#43):

Be sure to paddle between the Missouri shoreline and Kickapoo Island. Shuttle required.

Foley Access Area (#43) to Bathtown State Fish & Wildlife Management Area:

Paddle across the river to Prairie Pond South Portage. Explore the area, then return to put in location.

Clarksville Riverfront (#26) to Foley Access Area (#43):

Possibly a one to two night trip. Shuttle required.

Water Trail Association

The Mississippi River Water Trail is being developed by the US Army Corps of Engineers in partnership with the American Canoe Association and the Mississippi River Water Trail Association. This effort is being organized in response to public requests for a water trail on the Mississippi River within the St. Louis District Boundary. The Corps has developed day use rest areas, primitive camping areas, wildlife watching and interpretive opportunities on the Mississippi River.

The Mississippi River Water Trail was established through the American Canoe Association to support and enhance the water trail and promote safe paddling practices on the Mississippi River. The water trail showcases the Mississippi River as a paddling destination rich with cultural heritage, wildlife, natural areas and history.

Community involvement is important to the water trail. Volunteers from the Mississippi River Water Trail Association will provide support by maintaining trail rest areas, primitive campsites and facilities to ensure quality recreational opportunities for paddlers.

The water trail association will promote paddling safety and provide river related activities, events and educational opportunities. The water trail association will also facilitate collaboration with communities, organizations and agencies to foster sound safety and conservation practices along the river.



Hunting Seasons

Water trail users need to be aware of their surroundings for not only barge traffic, but hunting seasons as well. The blinds covered with vegetation cuttings located in the river are known as duck blinds, which are used for waterfowl hunting. Some temporary blinds may be used on a daily basis. Refer to state regulations for additional information.

Typical waterfowl seasons are mid-Oct through end of Dec. There is also a Teal season in Sept. Deer seasons start October 1st and end on January 15th. There may be shotgun or archery deer hunting on islands, as well as other state and federally managed lands.

1. Remain well clear of the lock area when other vessels are entering or exiting the lock area. They may not see you or even know you there.
2. Inform lock that you want to lock through by pulling the small boat signal chain located at the end of the wall or call lock on VHF marine radio or cell phone.
3. Enter lock when gates are fully open and you received the green signal light to enter.
4. While in the lock, stay in the center of the chamber, away from walls. You may be given special instructions by lock staff.
5. One short blast designates that lockage is complete, and you may exit the lock.



Hike, Bike, & Paddle

The Mississippi River Water Trail encourages people to reconnect to their river by exploring and experiencing the river from the water. The trail is an important component of the outdoor recreation experiences already available on the river. The water trail complements the existing hiking and bike trails along the river.



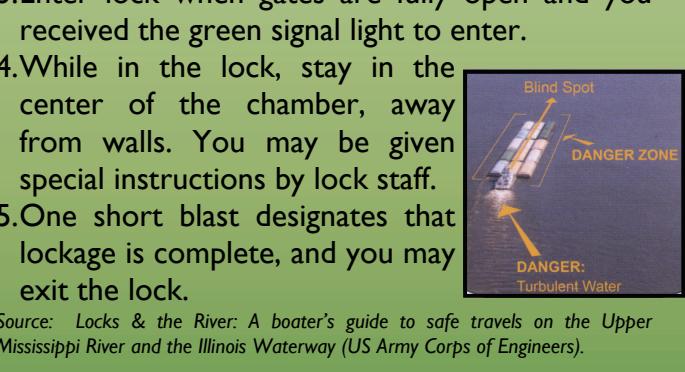
Locking Through

Safety Information:

- Stay out of posted/restricted areas.
- Stay in your boat when locking through.
- There is no fee for locking through.

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Other Padding Tips:

Paddling close to shore is the best way to paddle upstream. There are often shoreline eddy currents in spots to assist you but you may need to paddle around snags and other obstacles. Scan ahead and paddle with caution.

Paddling at night is not recommended:

Since there are no lights on kayaks, canoes, and row boats, federal and state regulations say you **MUST** carry a white light (flashlight) which can be displayed in sufficient time to prevent collision. It is also recommended that you place reflective material should be placed on boats, paddles and life jackets.