



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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For Immediate Release:

December 13, 2011

Release No.: 11-04

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Eagle Watching Opportunities in the Alton Area

Alton, IL. – It's that time of year again! The American Bald Eagles have returned to the Riverbend for their wintertime retreat from the frozen lakes and rivers of the northern United States and Canada. You may begin to notice some of these majestic birds as you drive along the Mississippi River, up the River Road, or down River Heritage Parkway, but when was the last time you paused for a closer look?

The Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary and Rivers Project Office in West Alton, MO are great places to start if you're looking for a great view in a quiet setting. Located on the Missouri bank of the Mississippi River, this U.S. Army Corps of Engineers site is a favorite fishing spot of the bald eagles. They can often be seen soaring in search of food in the morning or perched in the trees throughout the day.

In addition, the National Great Rivers Museum in Alton, IL offers several opportunities to get close to a live bald eagle. On Sundays, January 23rd & 30th, and February 6th & 13th, the Meeting of the Rivers Foundation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will host their annual "Eagle Meet and Greet" programs at the museum. A live bald eagle, accompanied by naturalists from the World Bird Sanctuary will be on hand from 12:00 – 4:00. This is a chance to see a live eagle, take pictures, and ask questions, all while staying warm inside. These programs are available to the public at no charge, courtesy of the Meeting of the Rivers Foundation.

The National Great Rivers Museum is open seven days a week from 9:00 – 5:00. It is located adjacent to the Melvin Price Locks & Dam, off River Heritage Parkway (IL-143) two miles south of the Clark Bridge near Alton, IL. For more information, please call 618-462-6979.

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