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News Release

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Detroit District

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Visitors Center hours change to go with local tourism flow

DETROIT - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers welcomes visitors to the Soo Locks for the spring and summer season with a few changes to the Soo Locks Visitors Center's operating hours.

Corps personnel are pleased to announce the observation deck and the park at the locks will remain open at the same level of operation as previous years, however the visitors center's hours have changed.

In an effort to operate the Soo Locks Visitors Center in alignment with the tourist season for this community, the Corps worked out a schedule; with the help of the Sault St. Marie mayor's office, local businesses, the chamber of commerce, and navigation interests to better serve the public and save costs.

The operating hours for the Soo Locks Visitors Center (starting this year) are:

Weekends in May 8 - 9, 14 - 16, 21 - 23	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
May 28 - June 15	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
June 16 - June 30	10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
July 1 - Sept. 5	10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Sept. 6 - Oct. 10	10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Last open weekend, Oct. 15 - 17	10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

This schedule will accommodate spring, summer and fall visitors to the center while still leaving appropriate facilities in the park available after hours.

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District civil works program encompasses 93,000 square miles area of the lower Great Lakes basin in Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Ohio. The Corps operates and/or maintains 104 navigation structures in the basin. Its mission includes real estate transactions, flood control, regulatory activities, disaster response, and mobilization readiness.

Visitors Center hours 2-2-2

The award-winning Soo Locks are one of the finest tourist attractions in the United States with more than 600,000 visitors per year. Visitors have the opportunity to see, from just a few feet away, one-of-a-kind lake carriers traverse through the locks while standing in the observation tower outside the visitors center. The observation tower and the meticulously landscaped park are open year-round to anyone wanting to take in the beauty that is the Soo Locks.

The Soo locks Visitors Center, which only opens from spring until fall, serves as the welcome center to the locks providing displays, videos, and interactive kiosk touting the history and future of the locks.

“We have a wonderful working relationship with the Soo Locks Visitors Center Association, which represents many facets of this terrific community, and they were integral in helping us shape the hours of the center and therefore saving the taxpayers thousands in the long run,” said Lt. Col. Thomas Magness, district engineer for the Detroit District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The change in operating hours has a potential of saving \$50,000 in costs, which will directly translate in additional funds for maintenance at the locks.