

The Master Planning Process

What is a Master Plan?

A Master Plan is the document that conceptually establishes and guides the orderly development, administration, maintenance, preservation, enhancement, and management of all natural, cultural, and recreational resources of a Corps water resource project. A Master Plan is a land use management document. It is focused on the operations and maintenance of an existing project and is no longer a “new project” document. Master Plans do not include water management operations and associated prime facilities (dam, gates, powerhouses, spillways, etc.). Of critical importance is the need to emphasize that a Master Plan is stewardship driven and must seek to balance recreational development and use with protection and conservation of natural and cultural resources.

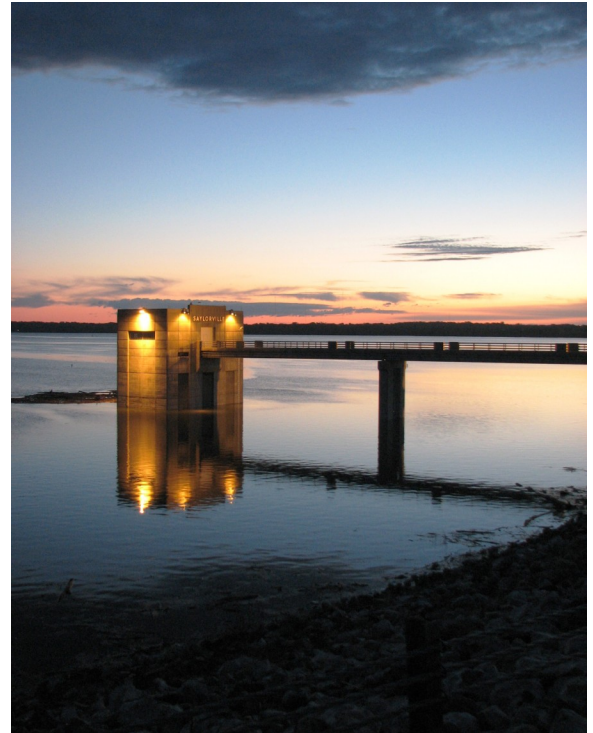
Why do we need a new Master Plan?

The current Saylorville Lake Master Plan was completed in 1984 and has been used as guide for recreational and environmental stewardship decisions for the past 28 years. Because this master plan is nearly 30 years old, the plan includes little information on cultural resources, invasive species, endangered species, wildlife



habitat value, jurisdictional

wetlands, and other environmental features that have become critically important following the passage of landmark legislation such as the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act. The focus of the old master plan was primarily recreation development, with little attention given to natural and cultural resources. The new master plan will focus on these important issues as well as focusing on updating the recreation analysis. The new master plan will not include detailed recreation plans. This master plan will serve as a dynamic document that guides future development and resource use. The previous master plan and current master plan did not and will not address water level management and flood control as a separate manual is used to regulate discharge and storage of the reservoir.



Public Involvement in Master Planning Process

Public participation will be a priority in the current Master Planning process. We will be seeking public input from key stakeholders through a focus group process. In addition, open houses or public meetings will also be utilized to gather input from the general public. We really want to know what you want, what your vision for the future of the lake’s recreation and natural resources might be, etc.



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Master Plan Classification

The master plan identifies classification (i.e. zoning) for Saylorville Lake. Public lands are allocated and classified into management categories which, based upon resources available and public needs, will provide for full utilization while protecting project resources. This zoning determines what types of development are permitted – for instance campgrounds are permitted in intensive use areas but not wildlife management zones. The 1984 Master Plan used slightly different zoning terminology than the new plan will use and also included detailed construction diagrams for campgrounds, picnic areas etc., this level of detail will not be outlined in the new plan.

We will again re-assess the project's environmental attributes, public needs etc. but will not be producing detailed site designs. Instead the focus will be on gathering public input and developing detailed natural resource inventories to guide in reassessing the future recreational needs and desired future condition for natural resources.

Zoning Categories from 1984 Plan

Current Classification Categories*:

Project Operations. This classification category should include those

lands required for the structure, operations center, office, maintenance compound and other areas that are used solely for project operations.

Recreation. Land developed for intensive recreational activities by the visiting public, including developed recreation areas and areas for concession, resort, and quasi-public development.

Mitigation. This will only include land acquired or designated specifically for mitigation.

Environmental Sensitive Areas. These are areas where scientific, ecological, cultural or aesthetic features have been identified. These areas must be considered by management to ensure the sensitive areas are not adversely impacted.

Multiple Resource Management. Lands managed for one or more of, but not limited to, these activities:

(a) Recreation - Low Density - low density recreation activities such as hiking, primitive camping, wildlife observation, hunting, or similar low density recreational activities.

(b) Wildlife Management General - fish and wildlife management activities. Lands in this sub-category shall be evaluated for consideration for lease or license to the Department of the Interior or the state or shall be designated for direct management by the Corps.

(c) Vegetative Management - management activities for the protection and development of forest and vegetative cover

(d) Inactive and/or Future Recreation Areas - recreation areas planned for the future or that have been temporarily closed. These lands will be classified as multiple resource management in the interim.

* Current zoning categories are slightly different than those used in 1984 planning.

