

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?

Currently no Lake Master Plan exists for the Farmdale and Fondulac Reservoirs (part of the Farm Creek Flood Control Project). Farmdale and Fondulac Reservoirs were authorized by the Federal Flood Control Act approved 22 December 1944 (PL 534, 78th Congress, 2nd Session), in accordance with the recommendations of the Chief of Engineers contained in House Document No. 802, 78th Congress, 2nd Session. The reservoirs were completed in

1951 and are dry most of the time, they do have recreational and environmental stewardship activities associated with them.

This master plan will include information on cultural resources, invasive species, endangered species, wildlife habitat value, 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 new master plan will focus on current issues or problems facing the project as well as focusing on opportunities. The new master plan will not include detailed recreation or natural resource management plans. This master plan will serve as a dynamic document that guides future resource use. The 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 Master Planning process. We will be seeking public input from key stakeholders through a focus group process. In addition, an open house or public meeting 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 recreation and natural resources



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Master Plan Classifications

The master plan identifies classification (i.e. zoning) for Farmdale and Fondulac Reservoirs. 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, recreation or natural resource management will be permitted.

We will 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.

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.

* Land Allocation for the Farm Creek reservoirs will remain Project Operations for flood risk management but those lands are further broken down into classifications when flooding is not a factor.

