

# The Master Planning Process

## What is a Master Plan?

A Master Plan (MP) 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) water resource project. It is not a plan for navigation (locks, dams and associated infrastructure for commercial barge traffic), flood risk management (such as levees in the PL84-99 Program), or water level management which are all addressed in other guidance documents. The existing Master Plan is available online at [www.missriver.org](http://www.missriver.org).



## Why do we need a new Master Plan?

The current Mississippi River Master Plan was largely completed from 1969-1972 and is used as guide for recreational and environmental stewardship decisions. The Land Use Allocation Plan (LUAP), the latest major update to the MP, was completed in 1989, along with Shoreline Management Plan which is a separate but related plan. Because of the age of the MP, it includes dated information on cultural resources, invasive species, endangered species, wildlife habitat value, jurisdictional wetlands, and other environmental features that are critical. The MP revision will focus on these important issues as well as focusing on updating the recreation analysis. A new plan will also provide an opportunity for current expressed public input.

## What are Master Plan Land Classifications?

The MP identifies management classifications for Project lands which provide for full utilization while protecting Project resources. This classification determines what types of developments are permitted (for instance campgrounds are permitted in recreation intensive use areas but not in wildlife management areas). Corps staff will reassess all Project land's environmental attributes, recreational features, public needs, etc. in context of current policies to determine revised land use classifications.

## How will public be involved?

Public input is critical throughout the MP revision process. This process began in January 2015 and completion is anticipated in the fall of 2016. We ask that you visit our website at [www.missriver.org](http://www.missriver.org) for the latest information on these plans. Public input will be sought through these means: comment forms online; written comments via mail or e-mail; and public scoping open houses. We want to know your vision for the future of the Project's recreation and natural resources. To submit comments and/or be added to an email list to receive updates and notifications please visit the website or contact the Project Office.



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## Master Plan Land Classifications

**Project Operations.** This classification category should include those lands required for the dam, spillway, offices, maintenance facilities and other areas that are used solely for project operations.

**High Density Recreation.** Land developed for intensive recreational activities by the visiting public, including day use areas and/or campgrounds. These could include areas for concessions (marinas, resorts, etc.), 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) Low Density Recreation – Lands with minimal development or infrastructure that support passive public recreational use (e.g. hiking, primitive camping, wildlife observation, hunting)
- (b) Wildlife Management –Lands designated for stewardship of fish and wildlife resources.
- (c) Vegetative Management – Lands designated for stewardship of forest, prairie and other native vegetative cover.
- (d) Future or Inactive 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.

**Water Surface.** There are four possible sub-classifications.

- (a) Restricted. Water areas restricted for project operations, safety, and security purposes.
- (b) Designated No-Wake. To protect environmentally sensitive shoreline areas, recreational water access areas from disturbance, and/or public safety.
- (c) Fish and Wildlife Sanctuary. Annual or seasonal restrictions on areas to protect fish and wildlife species during periods of migration, resting, feeding, nesting, and/or spawning.
- (d) Open Recreation. Those waters available for year-round or seasonal water-based recreational use.

*\*All information regarding land classification is derived from current regulations (EP 1130-2-550, 30 Jan 2013).*



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