



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
St. Louis District

# News Release

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**IMMEDIATE**  
For Release

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## Corps of Engineers Seeks Christmas Trees to Improve Fish Habitat

Mark Twain Lake, December 19, 2005 - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Mark Twain Lake encourages local citizens to participate in the first annual Christmas tree recycling program. Christmas trees can be brought to collection sites at John Spalding Boat Ramp or Stoutsville Boat Ramp. Christmas trees will be accepted at these locations until January 16.

Residents of the Mark Twain Lake surrounding area can contribute to these efforts by donating their trees. The donated trees will be bundled together and sunk in Mark Twain Lake, creating underwater fish structures. These structures are excellent places for fish to rest. This underwater habitat also encourages the growth of algae and zooplankton for young fish to feed upon which enhances growth. Structures will be placed in Mark Twain Lake in mid-March by Corps of Engineers employees and volunteers.

Artificial or flocked trees (with artificial snow) cannot be accepted. Remove all tinsel, decorations, stands and plastic bags from the tree. Volunteers with boats or fishing/outdoor organizations are encouraged to help place the trees in the designated locations. Anyone wishing to volunteer or wanting more information should contact Allen Mehrer at the Mark Twain Lake Project Office at (573)735-4097.