
LAKE SHELBYVILLE MASTER PLAN

KASKASKIA RIVER WATERSHED SHELBYVILLE ILLINOIS

CHAPTER 8 – SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Since 1970, Lake Shelbyville has become an important regional destination. Many visitors view the lake and its quiet beauty as one of the last remaining truly public facilities in the area. This Master Plan presents an analysis of land use and population changes over the past 10 years and offers recommendations for Lake Shelbyville to proceed with an orderly, environmentally sustainable plan for development. It does not address water control, shoreline management, dam operations, or water quality.

The facilities and waters of Lake Shelbyville provide quality public recreation. All lake resources will be continually monitored to ensure these resources are maintained at a high level of quality.

8.1. LAND CLASSIFICATION CHANGES

The following land classification changes to the Master Plan are proposed:

- Reclassify an area west of Sullivan Marina & Campground from Low Density Recreation to High Density Recreation in anticipation of future development. Future development will be restricted to cabin and/or resort type facilities or transient camping. An Environmental Assessment (EA), attached in Appendix A, offers a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for these proposed changes.

- Reclassify the following lands to Environmentally Sensitive:
 - Capel Hill Prairie
 - Coneflower Hill Prairie
 - West Okaw Biologically Significant Stream

- Realign certain Multiple Resource Area classifications, between Vegetative Management and Low Density Recreation, to reflect current management practices

- All other classifications will remain the same.

8.2. TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT

Management of certain lands includes timber stand improvement measures over the next 10 years in order to improve timber health by controlling exotic and invasive plant species. The EA addresses these measures and concludes with a FONSI on these lands.

8.3. SHORELINE EROSION PLAN

The Shoreline Erosion Management Plan is close to 30 years old. The plan has been implemented as funds have allowed, but, since erosion is unpredictable, impacts may have shifted to facilities not previously included.

Recommend the Shoreline Erosion Plan be reviewed and updated to include impacts to facilities not covered in the original plan.

8.4. FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Some primary boat launching facilities don't meet current Corps standards set forth in EM 1110-1-400, a minimum of two launch lanes plus courtesy dock. Recommend upgrading these boat ramps to meet standard.

Most high water boat ramps are not wide enough to accommodate two launch lanes and a courtesy dock. This is reflected in long lines to launch during high water events. Recommend upgrading high water launch lanes to meet need and bring ramps up to Corps standard.

Dam West boat ramp is one of the most congested ramps on the lake. Recommend review of the traffic pattern and develop a plan to relieve congestion.

8.5. FISHERIES IMPROVEMENTS

The IDNR has recommended an increase in the number or size of nursery ponds around the lake to sustain the lake's fisheries. Recommend development of nursery ponds at the former Whitley Creek Land Treatment System pond, in Dam West Recreation Area and in the Whitley Bottoms Area.

8.6. ACCESS

It is in the government's best interest to acquire operational easements to access 10 parcels around the lake that currently can only be reached by crossing private land. Access is required for resource management and protection.

Recommend purchase of operational easement to access 10 parcels. Additionally, it is proposed to review access to the maintenance compound through the Shoreline Erosion Management Plan. As the current plan defines erosion limits that would impact the access road, a plan must be developed to either protect the shoreline adjacent

to the access road or obtain an easement/purchase additional land to access the compound.

8.7. PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships are vital to Lake Shelbyville's future success. The Project will use all available partnership opportunities to leverage limited financial and human resources in order to protect natural and cultural resources and infrastructure, meet customer needs, and provide a quality level of service.

8.8. SUMMARY

As pressure mounts from development of lands adjacent to Lake Shelbyville, the lake and its surroundings will become a more important natural asset. A revised Shoreline Erosion Management Plan is vital to the protection of these natural and man-made assets.

This Master Plan presents an analysis of past land use and population changes as well as projected development for Lake Shelbyville over the next 10 years. The plan considers impact on the resource and prospects for future growth. It also proposes positive enhancements to the lake's fisheries through nursery pond development and to wildlife habitat by specific Timber Stand Improvement measures.

A fully implemented Master Plan will provide for the protection of these resources while allowing organized development.