

PREFACE

Lake Shelbyville was authorized for development by the Flood Control Act of 1938 and the Flood Control Act of 1958. Construction began in May 1963 and completed in 1970 with the closure of the gates. The original Master Plan was approved in 1964 and updated in 1974, 1998, and 2004. Each revision reviewed past development and presented proposals for future development.

This Master Plan evaluates trends in outdoor recreation, updates plans for US Army Corps of Engineers and partner development, and addresses several potential issues with proposed developments around the lake. The future of Lake Shelbyville depends on organized development and partnerships that connect the lake with the surrounding communities. These connections include improvements that will reach out to the next generation of visitors and benefit the lake as well as Moultrie and Shelby Counties.

Lake Shelbyville has often been viewed as an 'oasis in a sea of agriculture'. If wildlife habitat disappears on adjacent lands, whether through development or agriculture, the lake will become a more important refuge for that wildlife. Protecting the resource is as important as development and increasing tourism. The Corps, working with its partners, including Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Upper Kaskaskia Ecosystem Partnership, can ensure quality habitat while also providing for the needs of its current and future visitors.

A summary of requested land use classification changes to this Master Plan include:

- Compartment 50 land classification change from Low Density to High Density Recreation
- Compartment 21 land classification change from Low Density to High Density
- Addition of three Environmentally Sensitive Areas:
 - West Okaw Biologically Significant Stream
 - Coneflower Hill Prairie
 - Capel Hill Prairie
- Realign certain Multiple Resource Area classifications, between Vegetative Management and Low Density Recreation to reflect current management practices.

Additional proposed changes to the Master Plan:

- Identification of Timber Stand Improvement areas around the lake

The preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) is required for federal actions that may result in impacts to the environment. Land classification changes which include the change at Compartment 50 and addition of Environmentally Sensitive areas (approximately 50 acres) are included in this Master Plan. Land classification changes are considered major federal actions due to the fact that classifications allow or disallow various actions and/or activities. The reclassification of the Environmentally Sensitive

Areas will afford greater protection to those resources, while the change in Compartment 50 will allow for the future development of that area. The classification changes along with forest management actions are addressed in the EA (Appendix A).

It is Corps of Engineers' policy to identify and avoid adverse impacts as early in the planning process as possible, site plans and/or specific actions that are not available at this time will require further National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review and documentation. Environmental compliance documents will follow District and project policy as outlined in Engineering Regulation 200-2-2.

Shoreline erosion continues to be an issue at Lake Shelbyville. A Shoreline Erosion Plan was produced more than 20 years ago to address this issue but the shoreline around the lake continues to change dramatically. Much of the plan discussed changes over 30 years and we are now in year 23 of this plan. It may be time to revisit and reevaluate the plan, noting areas with increased erosion, facilities that need to be protected or removed, and other impacts.

Coordination of this Master Plan with the public and government agencies was very important for identifying resources and determining public needs and desires. News releases sent to the media and letters to partners, legislators and other interested parties not only announced but also invited participation in the Master Plan process. The public and agency partners were given the opportunity to comment on this plan through informal workshops and meetings.

The approval of this Master Plan does not assure that all proposed projects will be implemented. After approval, funding must be secured to complete the projects. Further environmental reviews will be conducted and design requirements considered before moving forward.