

# Section VII

## Resource Use Objectives



SECTION VII - RESOURCE USE OBJECTIVES

7-01. GENERAL

The purpose of this section is to define and prescribe a series of resource use objectives for Lake Shelbyville. Resource use objectives are statements specific to Lake Shelbyville that describe the selected options for resource use, development, and management as determined through study and analysis of regional needs, resource capabilities and potentials, and public desires. As defined, resource use objectives provide general guidance and direction for the use, development, and management of project resources. Site specific resource use objectives include development and management measures.

a. As stated in Section I, the authorized purposes of Lake Shelbyville are flood control on the Kaskaskia and Mississippi Rivers, navigation releases for the Kaskaskia River, domestic and industrial water supply, water quality control, fish and wildlife conservation, and recreation. Certain project purposes by nature can be conflicting. For example, under certain conditions, the lake's flood control purpose can conflict with other project purposes such as recreation and fish and wildlife management.

b. The development of sound resource use objectives should assist in minimizing conflicts between project purposes through compromises that do not seriously detract from achievement of any or all project purposes. Resource use objectives based on project purposes at Lake Shelbyville are identified and discussed in the following paragraphs.

7-02. RESOURCE USE OBJECTIVES

The general resource use objectives, applicable to the project as a whole are presented below. They are formulated so as to provide general guidance and direction to the overall management and development of Lake Shelbyville resources. The objectives are grouped into three categories: General, Recreation, and Environmental Stewardship.

a. General.

(1) Administration and Management.

OBJECTIVE: Ensure that quality administration and management of all project lands, waters and other associated man-made and natural resources is consistent and thorough and in accordance with the Master Plan for the lake.

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DISCUSSION: All project administrative and management decisions/actions will adhere to all applicable laws, regulations, polices, and agreements. Consistent coordination, both internally and with other applicable federal, state, and local government agencies, private organizations and individuals, will be maintained.

All actions and/or plans will be implemented in a manner compatible with authorized project purposes and all applicable social and environmental factors, to ensure maximum benefits. Compromise will be used to minimize conflicts in project uses and development.

The major concerns of management are identification of facilities for renovation or replacement, provision of efficient support facilities, public health and safety, provision of accessible facilities, maintenance of a strong public involvement program, and maintaining the integrity of the operational structures, i.e. the main dam. Hydropower will be accommodated if feasible and compatible with other project purposes.

### (2) Concession Development and Operations.

OBJECTIVE: Provide adequate locations and incentives for viable recreation oriented concession leases – existing and proposed. These will include both lodging and marina type services.

DISCUSSION: There are currently three Corps of Engineers administered full-service marina concessions operating at the lake. A golf course and resort lodging are also provided at Eagle Creek State Park.

Locations on the lake have been identified as suitable for development of an additional marina and ancillary services. When the need arises, the Corps of Engineers will accommodate and support legitimate concession developments on either Corps of Engineers or State of Illinois managed areas if they do not adversely affect the growth of the existing concession services. Prior to any additional concession development, the Corps of Engineers will perform market analysis studies or require market analysis studies by interested parties, whichever is applicable, to determine demand for the level and type of concession services being considered.

### (3) Safe and Environmentally Appropriate Recreation Areas and Facilities.

OBJECTIVE: Provide public use areas and facilities that are safe and environmentally sound.

DISCUSSION: New facilities and renovated existing facilities must be as safe and environmentally sensitive as possible. The Corps of Engineers has the opportunity to be innovative in the design and use of recreation support facilities. A facility inventory for replacement of degraded facilities will be implemented and maintained for efficient operation. Through proper planning and development, facilities and areas can be safe, environmentally sensitive, and economical while meeting the recreation needs of the public, and all current codes and standards.

All developed recreation areas designated for recreation use are regularly evaluated for the presence of safety hazards and environmental compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Environmental Review Guide for Operations (ERGO) guidelines. As detrimental conditions are identified, they will be given priority for evaluating and implementing feasible corrective actions.

#### (4) Partnering.

OBJECTIVE: Partnering with other agencies, groups, organizations and individuals will be employed to accomplish resource use objectives and improve efficiency in operations.

DISCUSSION: The use of partners to assist with the operation and management of the project will be fully employed. When feasible, donations and the challenge cost-share program will be utilized to accomplish work. Section 225 of Public Law 102-580 grants authorization to the Corps of Engineers to enter into cooperative agreements with non-federal public and private entities to provide for operation and management of recreation facilities and natural resources at civil works projects. The Corps of Engineers may accept contribution of funds, materials and services from non-federal public and private entities. The services of volunteers are accepted under Public Law 98-63 to carry out any activity of the Corps of Engineers except policy making or law regulatory enforcement.

Relationships with our partner agencies and local constituent groups will be maintained and strengthened. If feasible, agreements will be formed with agencies and individuals to assist with operations related to natural resource management, interpretive, and visitor service activities. In this regards, a local Cooperating Association has been formed and is in operation. At one time a Water Safety Council existed that served the Lake Shelbyville area, which included several agencies that helped promote water safety. It is suggested that the possibilities of re-establishing this kind of organization be pursued in the future.

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### b. Recreation.

#### (1) Recreation Quality.

OBJECTIVE: As funds become available, renovate and upgrade recreation areas to improve the available facilities and to reduce maintenance costs.

DISCUSSION: Opportunities to improve the quality of recreation experiences are influenced by carrying capacity, compatibility of activities, and site-specific design factors. At some existing recreation sites the capacity of some recreation facilities such as comfort stations and shower buildings are exceeded. Incompatible activities should be separated by adequate buffer areas. Design of site facilities will be sensitive to the landscape character of the site and region.

#### (2) Universal Access.

OBJECTIVE: Identify and undertake the modifications necessary with a goal of making facilities accessible to the elderly, people with disabilities, which include people with physical disabilities, hearing and sight impaired, and people with mental disabilities, and other disadvantaged groups as mandated by Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS), Americans with Disabilities Design Guidelines (ADDG), and new recreation standards.

DISCUSSION: Physically or mentally disabled persons must be given access to a wide range of outdoor recreation activities through careful and appropriate planning, design and program implementation. Accordingly, consideration is given to access, facilities, and services for persons with disabilities in the planning, design and operation and maintenance of existing recreation areas and the development of future public use areas at the project.

#### (3) Camping Facilities.

OBJECTIVE: Maintain and improve camping facilities to redistribute use, meet public demand, reduce operation and maintenance costs and generate revenues for future operation and maintenance of recreation facilities.

DISCUSSION: Generally, the less developed and remote campgrounds and day-use areas receive less visitation. Convenient location and especially amenities are high on the priority list of the present day camper. By employing adjustable fees, the reservation system, provision of water and sewer hookups, an upgrade of electrical service, consolidation of facilities, and redesign of poorly situated campsites, campground use will become more evenly distributed and prevent problems associated with overuse.

(4) Day-Use Recreation Opportunities.

OBJECTIVE: Accommodate increasing water and land-based day-use activities in a manner compatible with other site activities while maintaining the integrity of the project's natural resources.

DISCUSSION: Day-use activities requiring support facilities are boating, picnicking, swimming, sightseeing, and fishing. Walking and biking are also done by a large percentage of visitors in a day-use setting. Parking lots, boat ramps, comfort stations, fountain/hydrants, picnic tables and grills, group picnic shelters, bulletin boards, fish cleaning stations, and playgrounds are the primary facilities provided to accommodate day-use recreation at all times. Walking or hiking trails are provided in some day-use areas while biking occurs on park roads and the main dam.

Five recreation areas provide swimming beaches. Support facilities provided for beaches include outdoor showers, indoor showers and rest rooms. Sufficient sand, swimming area depth, buoys outlining the designated swimming area, depth markers, safety and rule signs, and "rescue stations" providing ring buoys, rope and reach pole are the primary beach components that require regular maintenance. Regulations prohibiting pets, food, and alcoholic drinks on beaches minimize user conflicts while fulfilling public recreation demands.

(5) Interpretive Services and Outreach Program (ISOP).

OBJECTIVE: Strengthen the ISOP to foster stewardship and enhance public safety through promoting a greater public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of Lake Shelbyville and its resources. Leverage project fiscal resources through the development of strong partnerships with state and federal agencies, local constituent groups, and with support of a cooperating association and volunteers.

DISCUSSION: The Lake Shelbyville ISOP includes the management of public affairs, community relations, marketing, publications, tourism, interpretive and environmental education programs, special events, and visitor center. It enhances the Corps of Engineers image, provokes public interest in Lake Shelbyville and surrounding area, and promotes public safety.

All activities under the ISOP shall be designed to accomplish one or more of the goals listed in ER 1130-2-550, Chapter 4. In addition to visitor center exhibits, other tools used to enhance the ISOP include but are not limited to, programs both on- and off-site, news releases, call-in information line, web site, brochures, fliers, posters, billboards, public service announcements

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(PSAs), off-project displays, newsletters, interpretive trails, the watchable wildlife program and special events.

The use of partners to assist with the operation and management of Lake Shelbyville will be fully investigated and implemented when necessary. When feasible, donations, challenge partnerships, and volunteers will be utilized to accomplish work.

A relevant ISOP enhances the visitor's experience and enjoyment by anticipating their needs and providing interpretive resources to meet those needs. The ISOP can empower and provoke the public in a very effective manner and is critical to achieving success in fulfilling the Corps of Engineers stewardship missions. To encourage the public to join forces with the Corps of Engineers to protect and preserve the resources the public's understanding of the resources needs to be obtained. Through proper marketing and public relation techniques the ISOP can effectively acquire the public's understanding of the resources.

### (6) Flood Proofing

OBJECTIVE: Where applicable, make an effort to raise roads, infrastructure, and facilities to be accessible during periods of high water. Where possible, flood proof low lying facilities to better withstand inundation.

DISCUSSION: At an elevation of 609 NGVD and above, numerous facilities are inundated. Efforts will be taken to raise sewer lift stations and entrance roads to campgrounds and day use areas, which will eliminate the need to shut down these facilities during flood damage reduction activities. Efforts to coordinate with township road commissioners to raise inundated roads will be needed in the future. The Illini Trail will be renovated to accommodate visitors during periods of high water. During the renovation of this trail all footbridges will be removed. It is hard to maintain shade trees within the beach area due to the frequent flooding in these areas. Shelters will be placed over picnic sites at the beach areas to provide supplemental shade. Future actions include replacing and locating the Dam West Beach Shower Building out of the flood zone.

### c. Environmental Stewardship.

#### (1) Protection of the Resource.

OBJECTIVE: Continue to monitor resources to ensure protection against fire, overuse, erosion, insect, and disease infestation. This includes management of non-native pests. Take corrective actions when warranted.



DISCUSSION: To assure protection of resources, we will remain committed to providing responsible stewardship by the preservation and restoration of diverse habitat for the benefit of various ecosystems. Use of all areas for public enjoyment will be encouraged while minimizing any environmental degradation.

(2) Wildlife Habitat.

OBJECTIVE: Encourage optimal utilization by the greatest number of wildlife species through manipulation, management and protection of diverse habitats.

DISCUSSION: The wildlife carrying capacity of public lands can be maintained through the application of a variety of habitat control measures. Management activities will include succession control, native grass plantings, food plot planting, tree plantings and selective timber thinning in areas that will maintain wildlife carrying capacities. Den trees will be saved wherever possible and artificial nesting structures erected to provide additional nesting sites for squirrels, songbirds and ducks. Shrub and vine cover between activity areas, near the periphery of recreation areas, and at fence corners will be established and maintained, providing food, cover, and nesting opportunities for a variety of wildlife. Sensitive areas within public use zones will be marked and protected from human intrusion.

Non-consumptive uses of wildlife such as nature study, wildlife watching and photography receive equal consideration with that of consumptive uses, such as hunting and trapping.

(3) Forest.

OBJECTIVE: Monitor and maintain the vegetative conditions of trees for their scenic, recreational and wildlife values.

DISCUSSION: Forest resources will continue to be inventoried and managed for sustained yield. This involves management for the control of soil moisture, for erosion control, and for promotion of forest stand growth, as well as the protection of the forest resources from insects, disease, fire, and overuse. Timber stand improvement will be accomplished to release or favor potential mast or other food and cavity producing trees. Older trees with unsound limbs and trunks that provide cavities for wildlife, such as squirrels, wood ducks, woodpeckers, raccoons, and honeybees, will be saved except where their preservation would constitute a safety hazard at developed recreation sites.

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### (4) Prairies.

OBJECTIVE: Manage existing prairie areas and continue to re-establish plots of native warm season grasses and forbs.

DISCUSSION: Prescribed burning along with additional plantings will help maintain those remnant tall prairies that existed prior to the settlement of Central Illinois.

### (5) Wetlands.

OBJECTIVE: Re-establish and maintain high quality wetlands to improve water quality and to provide habitat for wetland dwelling species.

DISCUSSION: As wetlands in the region diminish due to intensive agricultural practices and other land uses, special effort will be made to provide wetland habitat. Development and maintenance of various wetland types will be implemented to support programs such as the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

### (6) Fishery Management.

OBJECTIVE: Cooperate fully with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) in the maintenance and enhancement of a high quality fishery as a perpetual resource.

DISCUSSION: Sport fishing is an important activity at Lake Shelbyville. With the combination of few suitable habitat areas, inadequate spawning sites, and fluctuating water levels for flood control at spawning time, it is difficult to maintain the sport fisheries at an acceptable level. Coordination will be maintained with IDNR on project developments and actions that may affect the lake's fishery. Lake level fluctuations and fishery survey studies will be closely coordinated. The Corps of Engineers will continue to operate and maintain a Christmas tree collection program to enhance fish habitat, and continue to cooperate in forage enhancement projects. Research to identify the factors inhibiting sport fish populations will be funded and coordinated with the IDNR.

### (7) Aesthetics.

OBJECTIVE: Plan all management actions with consideration given to landscape quality and aesthetics.

DISCUSSION: To create the opportunity for a quality recreation experience, it is essential to consider the aesthetic impact of planned improvements as well as economic and functional requirements. Each design,

installation, or maintenance action needs to be considered according to its potential visual impact. This includes its impact on the immediate vicinity, on the whole site, and on all areas outside of the site boundaries from which the improvements can be viewed.

Tree, shrub, forb and grass species used for landscape plantings and habitat improvements should be evaluated and selected based on aesthetics and food and cover qualities provided to native wildlife. Native plant species with the greatest aesthetic appeal should be placed in locations with the greatest public visibility.

### (8) Erosion Control.

OBJECTIVE: Control and stabilize land and shoreline erosion.

DISCUSSION: The Shoreline Erosion Management Plan delineates the shoreline erosion measures in recreation areas that are immediately necessary. This plan identifies those areas that will be impacted in the next 30 years and what corrective measures will be taken. The corrective measures consist of protection, relocation or removal as appropriate.

Other methods used to reduce or eliminate erosion problems project-wide include promoting woody and herbaceous vegetative growth, manipulation of water run-off, identifying and monitoring erosion problems on and adjacent to public lands, waters and lakeshore.

Due to erosion of the shoreline southeast of Bo Wood Recreation Area, it may be necessary to acquire additional land in Sections 23 and 26 of T13NR5E, Moultrie County, Illinois. The shoreline has eroded to within 100 feet of the fee boundary in some locations. Three privately owned homes bordering government lands could eventually be affected as well.

### (9) Cultural Resource Management.

OBJECTIVE: Identify, evaluate, and preserve significant archaeological and historical sites.

DISCUSSION: Numerous archaeological and historical sites occur on Corps land. The implementation of the Cultural Resource Management Plan for Lake Shelbyville will allow these sites to be identified, evaluated, and managed for the benefit of future generations. Planning and development will include considerations to protect and preserve these site locations. The plan provides for determination of their eligibility for listing on The National Register of Historic Places; it prescribes means of preserving significant sites; and it prescribes ways to increase public understanding and

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enjoyment through interpretation consistent with other interpretative programs and recreational land uses.

### (10) Mineral Leasing

OBJECTIVE: Make a maximum amount of land available for mineral leasing as is consistent and compatible with all other objectives.

DISCUSSION: It is the policy of the Department of the Army to make a maximum amount of land available for mineral leasing as is consistent and compatible with military operations, national defense activities, and Corps of Engineers civil works requirements. All federally owned leases will be granted and administered by the Department of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management and all privately owned mineral underlying the federal surface will be regulated by the Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals. All mineral exploration, drilling and abandonment activities will be in accordance with the St. Louis District policy on Oil and Gas Development and the guidelines as established in the St. Louis District Handbook on Oil and Gas Development.