

Master Plan Update Fact Sheet

Michael J. Kirwan Dam and Reservoir

Master Plan Revision

The US Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, is revising the Michael J. Kirwan Dam and Reservoir Master Plan which guides the management of government owned and leased lands around the Reservoir. This will influence future use of natural resources and recreational activities to ensure the sustainability of the Reservoir.

This is your opportunity to let the Corps know how you would like the Reservoir to be managed in the future. The planning process will include an analysis of potential effects of any proposed changes to the Master Plan on the natural and social environment, including: fish and wildlife, cultural and historic resources, recreational opportunities, economics, land use and public health and safety.

Objectives of Update

- Conserve the resources of the Lake within the current policies and guidelines of the Corps
- Accommodate current and projected recreational use patterns with maximum efficiency
- Identify and protect cultural and natural resources
- Attract maximum participation by the general public

Why Update

The original Master Plan was developed 35 years ago and does not reflect current conditions at the Reservoir. Changes in Corps regulations and community needs necessitate a revision to this Master Plan.

The Master Plan revision will classify the government lands around the Reservoir based on environmental and socioeconomic considerations, public input and an evaluation of past, present, and forecasted recreation trends. This update seeks to balance recreational development and use with the goal of conservation of natural and cultural resources.



Share your perspective, sign up for our mailing list, and/or let us know how you'd prefer to be involved in the Michael J. Kirwan Dam and Reservoir Master Plan Update by emailing us at celrp-pa@usace.army.mil.



About the Reservoir

Authorized by the River and Harbors Act of 1958, Michael J. Kirwan Dam and Reservoir is part of a coordinated system of reservoirs designed for flood protection and low-flow augmentation on the West Branch Mahoning River, Mahoning River, Beaver River, and upper Ohio River. Since its construction in 1966, the Dam has prevented over \$815 million in flood damages.

In addition to flood control and low-flow augmentation for water quality, the Reservoir and surrounding lands provide numerous opportunities for recreation and fish and wildlife preservation and enhancement. Most of the lands surrounding Michael J. Kirwan Dam and Reservoir are managed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources as West Branch State Park.

Master Plan 101

The Corps is responsible for the maintenance, restoration and stewardship of natural resources on the multipurpose reservoir projects it manages. To facilitate the management and use of these lands, a Master Plan is maintained for each reservoir.

A Master Plan is a strategic land use management document that guides the comprehensive management and development of recreation, natural and cultural resources at Corps reservoirs and provides a vision for how the Reservoir should look in the future.

The Pittsburgh District is revising the Michael J. Kirwan Dam and Reservoir Master Plan which was originally developed in 1982.

