

Recreation Plan

The Corps' vision for the future management of the land, water and recreational resources of the Lakes is to protect, conserve and sustain natural and cultural resources, particularly environmentally sensitive resources, and provide quality outdoor recreation opportunities that complement project resources for the benefit of present and future generations. This vision relies heavily upon the wealth of federal, state, and regional plans that detail resource-specific management objectives and goals for the Upper Kiskiminetas-Conemaugh River watershed and its natural resources.

This vision is supported by the following broad management goals:

1. Practice environmental stewardship of the Corps lands and waters consistent with the primary authorized purpose of flood risk management;
2. Identify and protect environmentally sensitive species, habitats, and landscapes;
3. Identify and protect important cultural resources;
4. Improve water quality in the Lakes;
5. Identify outdoor recreation needs and provide those that complement the natural resources;
6. Manage public use areas to provide safe and enjoyable opportunities;
7. Collaborate with community leaders;
8. Maintain open communication with the public; and

Create partnerships to leverage fiscal resources.

The management goals are further refined into management and development activities. Each management and development activity (MDA) has a current and future component. The current component is the near-term focus of the updated Master Plan and should be the motivation of efforts of the next five years. The future component is the long-term focus to be addressed in subsequent reviews (i.e. 5+ years).

Recreation MDA: Address current recreational deficiencies and provide opportunity for future improvement in areas of public/regional interest.

Current	Future
Identify unique outdoor recreation needs that complement the natural resources and existing recreational amenities	Develop complementing and unique recreational opportunities with focus on winter/off-season to increase visitation
Manage public use areas to provide safe and enjoyable opportunities; maintain and refresh water safety program	Conduct safety inspection/study of all recreation assets, determine deficiencies according to EM 385-1-1 and EM 1110-1-400 and meet compliance
Investigate the placement of shoal buoys where appropriate	Conduct study for boat carrying capacity, sedimentation control/removal; implementation of boating restrictions if current conditions prevail
Maintain and improve current, existing recreational facilities and assets	Upgrade/modernize facilities; improve and expand opportunities for low-impact recreation (hiking, birding, nature study) by developing trails and wildlife viewing stations; create a public boat launch for motorized and non-motorized craft at Conemaugh, expand boat launch at Bush Rec Area at Loyalhanna; develop Bow Ridge into a day-use area as planned in 1952 MP
Study and determine accessibility deficiencies and improvements to meet universal accessibility needs for all ages, ethnicities and physical needs	Provide universal access for all recreation assets minimally to meet EM 1110-2-410
Identify ongoing "unofficial" recreational activities (fishing spots, swimming area, etc.)	Supplement the Master Plan to recognize the significant areas identified and ensure they receive consideration during future development

