

# WILLIAM H. HARSHA LAKE MASTER PLAN REVISION

Glenn Myrick  
Project Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Louisville District  
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# AGENDA

- Introductions
- Presentation/Information
- Open Forum – Suggestions/Q&A



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# STAKEHOLDER MEETING OBJECTIVES

- Provide information about how the process works
- Learn what needs, ideas, and concerns stakeholders have about the master plan revision
- Collect your questions and provide answers
- Create an open channel of communication



# ABOUT WILLIAM H. HARSHA LAKE

William H. Harsha Lake is located in Clermont County, Ohio on the East Fork of the Little Miami River. The Dam is 21 miles above the confluence with the Little Miami River about 25 miles east of Cincinnati, Ohio.

William H. Harsha Lake was authorized under the Flood Control Act approved 28 June 1938. Louisville District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers designed, built, and operates the project for flood control in the East Fork and Little Miami River valleys to reduce flood flows in the Ohio River.

Originally called East Fork Lake, the dam and lake were renamed in 1981 to honor retired congressman William H. Harsha.



More information can be found at: <https://www.lrl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Recreation/Lakes/William-H-Harsha-Lake/>



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# WHAT IS A MASTER PLAN?

The Master Plan is the strategic land use management document that guides the comprehensive management and development of all project recreational, natural and cultural resources throughout the life of the water resource development project.

- It is a dynamic operational document projecting what could and should happen over the life of the project and is flexible based on changing conditions
- It presents broad, conceptual resource management objectives and land classifications on project lands whether managed by the Corps or by others
- Reviewed every 5 years; General goal is an effective lifespan of 15- 25 years



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# WHAT A MASTER PLAN IS *NOT*?

It does not focus on facility design details or details of daily project administration.

MPs do not plan or approve changes or improvements to Flood Risk Management, Hydropower, Navigation, & Water Supply

MPs not plan or approve changes to the management of allowable private activities as set forth in ER 1130-2-406 (docks and vegetation modification).



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# WHY ARE WE REVISING WILLIAM H. HARSHA LAKE'S MASTER PLAN NOW?

- The most recent Master Plan was completed in 1974; **46 years ago**



- 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 Lake based on environmental and socioeconomic considerations, public input, and an evaluation of past, present, and forecasted trends. This update is stewardship driven and seeks to balance recreational development and use with the goal of conservation of natural and cultural resources.



# MASTER PLAN REVISION TEAM

Accomplished by a team of Corps employees --- with input from other agencies

- Project Manager
- Operations Project Manager
- Planner
- Biologist
- Archaeologist
- Lake Staff
  - Lake Manager
  - Rangers
  - Natural Resource Specialist
- Office Of Counsel
- GIS Team
- Real Estate Specialists
- Public Affairs Specialist



**Stakeholders**

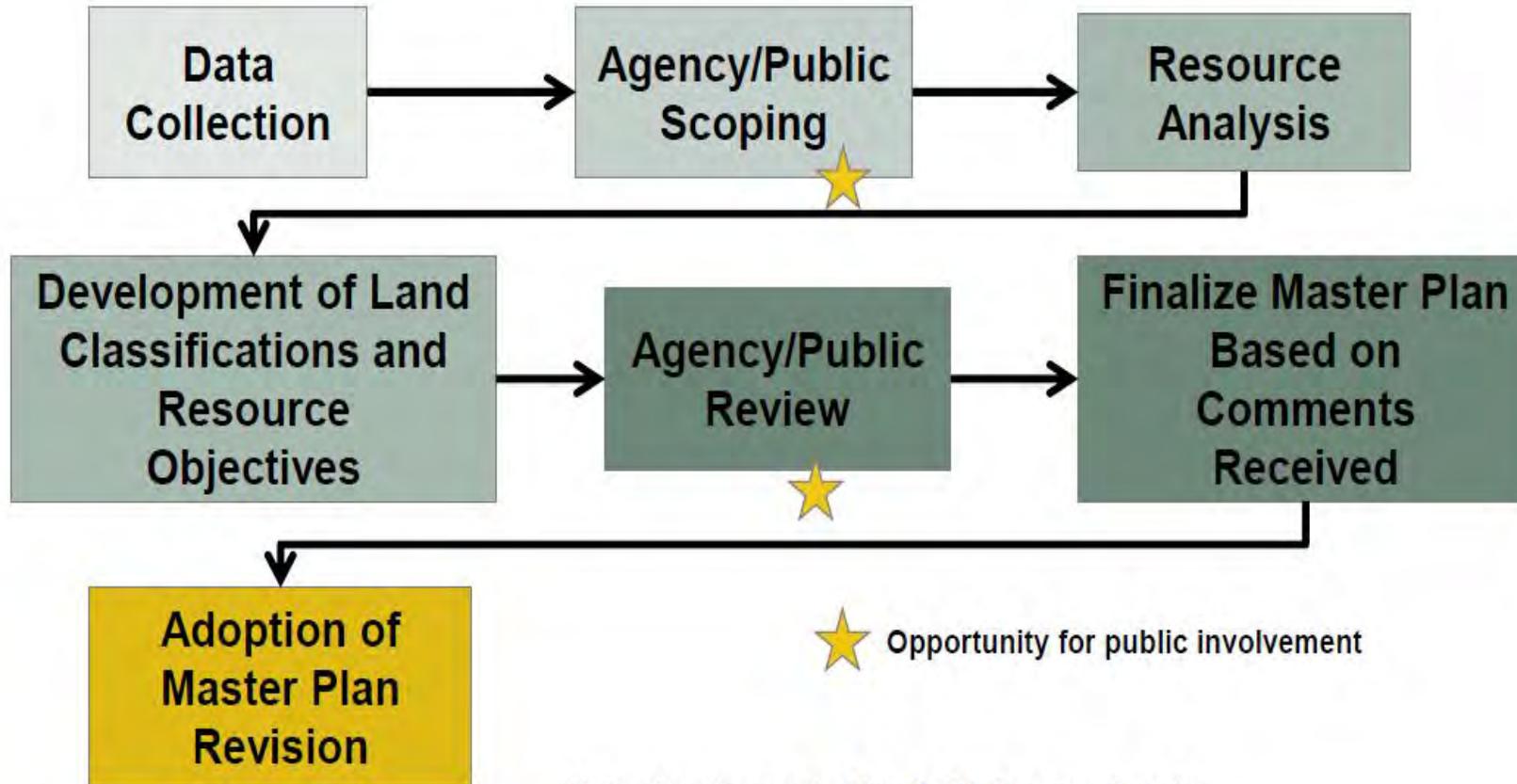
**General Public**



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# MASTER PLANNING PROCESS



*Note: Development of the NEPA Document works best if developed parallel to the development of the Master Plan Document*



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# RESOURCE ANALYSIS



Level 1 resource inventory:

- Fish and Wildlife Resources
- Vegetative Resources
- Threatened & Endangered Species
- Invasive Species
- Ecological Setting
- Wetlands

## Example: Invasive Plant Species List

Common Name	Species
Autumn Olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>
Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
Emerald ash borer	<i>Agrilus planipennis</i>
Eurasian watermultifoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
Japanese chaff flower	<i>Achyranthus japonica</i>
Japanese honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>
Johnson grass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>
Multiflora rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>
Oriental bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculata</i>
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
Japanese honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>
Tree-of-heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>
Zebra mussel	<i>Dreissena polymorpha</i>



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# RESOURCE OBJECTIVES

- Clearly written statements that set forth measurable and attainable management activities that support the stated goals of the MP
- Must be consistent with authorized project purposes, Federal laws, directives, regional needs, resource capabilities, and expressed public interests
- They should also take recreational and natural resources carrying capacity into account as well as State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORP). These objectives must maximize project benefits, meet public needs, and foster environmental sustainability.

EP 1130-2-550



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# EXAMPLE RESOURCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

**GOAL A.** Provide the best management practices to respond to regional needs, resource capabilities and capacities, and expressed public interests consistent with authorized project purposes.

**GOAL B.** Protect and manage Project natural and cultural resources through sustainable environmental stewardship programs.

**GOAL C.** Provide public outdoor recreation opportunities that support Project purposes and public interests while sustaining Project natural resources.

**GOAL D.** Recognize the unique qualities, characteristics, and potentials of the Project.

**GOAL E.** Provide consistency and compatibility with national objectives and other State and regional goals and programs.

Cultural Resources Objectives	Goals				
	A	B	C	D	E
Protect and manage Project natural and cultural resources through sustainable environmental stewardship programs.	O	O		O	O



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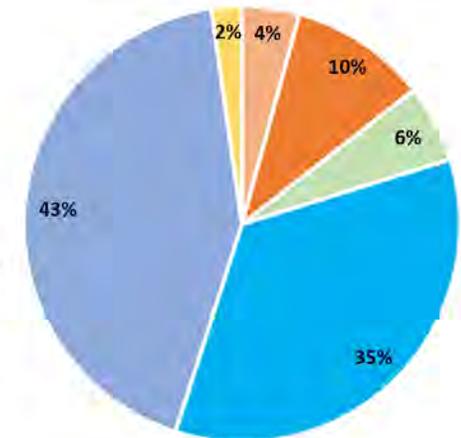


# LAND CLASSIFICATIONS

- Project Operations
- High Density Recreation
- Mitigation
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- Multiple Resource Managed Lands
  - Low Density Recreation
  - Wildlife Management
  - Vegetative Management
  - Future/inactive Recreation
- Water Surface

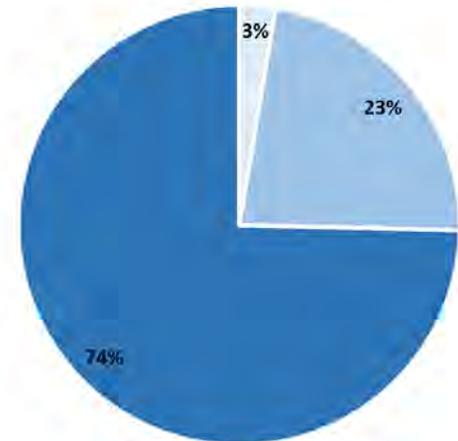
Land Classification Distribution

- Project Operations
- High Density Recreation
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- Multiple Resource Management Lands: Low Density Recreation
- Multiple Resource Management Lands: Wildlife Management
- Multiple Resource Management Lands: Vegetative Management



Water Surface Classification Distribution

- Water Surface: Restricted
- Water Surface: Designated No-Wake
- Water Surface: Open Recreation



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# GOALS OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- To establish and maintain channels of communication with the public
- To identify public's interests and concerns
- To give consideration to public views throughout the process
- To provide information about process and decision making



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# THERE ARE FOUR WAYS TO SUBMIT COMMENTS:

- 1) Email: [miamiriver.masterplans@usace.army.mil](mailto:miamiriver.masterplans@usace.army.mil)
- 2) Email: [Glenn.B.Myrick@usace.army.mil](mailto:Glenn.B.Myrick@usace.army.mil)
- 3) Mail to: William H. Harsha  
2185 Slade Road  
Batavia, Ohio 45103-9707
- 4) Interactive Lake Map: <https://qrgo.page.link/MGKeA>



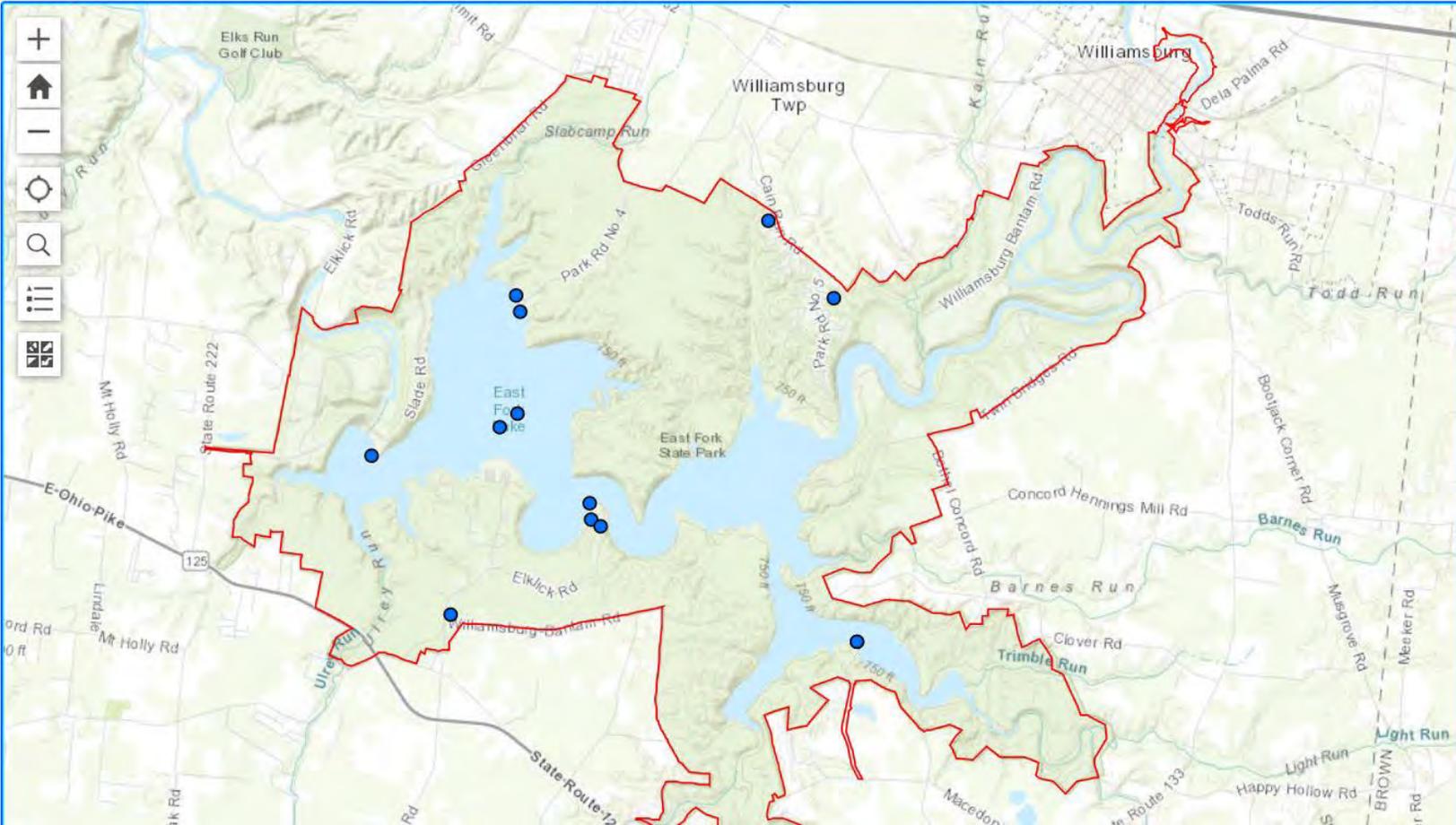
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# INTERACTIVE LAKE MAP



## William H Harsha Lake - Public Comment Tool



1. Recreation Comment



2. Environmental Comment



3. Safety / Emergency Management Comment



4. Cultural / Historical Resources Comment



5. Other Comment

<https://qr.go.page.link/MGKeA>



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## MASTER PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE

Which Lake is this comment for:  Caesar Creek  Clarence J Brown  
 William H Harsha  West Fork

- 1) In your opinion, what are current or future environmental threats facing public lands and waters at the Lake?
  
- 2) What options do you see that could help accomplish management tasks, as Lake budgets are stagnant or declining?
  
- 3) If you were in charge of the Lake what improvements would you make? Where would you make them?
  
- 4) Why does managing the land and waters at the Lake matter to you?
  
- 5) What do you like or what changes would you make to improve plant communities, fish habitat or wildlife habitat at the Lake?
  
- 6) What are some outdoor recreation opportunities that should be continued, expanded, added or eliminated at the Lake?
  
- 7) What are the important benefits of the Lake to you and your family?

Name (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Email (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_



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# QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?



<https://www.lrl.usace.army.mil/Miami-River-Master-Plans/>



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