

# Natural Resources Management

2021  
ANNUAL REPORT



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**



# MESSAGE FROM THE NRM CHIEF

I look back and 2021 seems to have flashed by in the blink of an eye. As the world continued to navigate the changes and challenges brought on by the continuation of the global pandemic, our Natural Resources Management Community did the same. We have adjusted course and safely delivered our program missions to more people than ever before.

Over the past year use of our public lands and waters rose by more than 12 million visits. Though severe storms and unprecedented wildfires have affected many of our projects and neighboring communities from coast to coast we have remained steadfast in protecting all project missions. We have continued to provide quality recreation experiences and advance the conservation of our natural resources.

As we work together to chart our course for a successful 2022 and beyond I want to extend a truly heartfelt THANK YOU to all engaged in our Natural Resources Management Program. Very simply, it is because of YOUR commitment and desire to put forth an exceptional program that I am honored to be your Chief of Natural Resources Management.



## JEFF KRAUSE

Chief, Natural Resources Management



## OUR MISSION

The Natural Resources Management Program delivers safe public access to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' lands and waters in a manner that protects all project purposes and mission areas through responsible outdoor recreation, environmental conservation and land use management while partnering with communities to serve the American people.

## OUR VISION

Conserve natural resources and provide public recreation opportunities that contribute to the quality of American life.

# 2021 Across NRM

## ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES & INTERAGENCY WORK GROUPS

**CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCY** | Executive Orders 13990, Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis, and 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, set direction for the NRM Program to concentrate our efforts and focus to identify products that best prepare our Program for a changing climate and environmental impacts that are increasing in frequency and intensity.

**VETERANS COMPREHENSIVE PREVENTION, ACCESS TO CARE, AND TREATMENT ACT (COMPACT)** | NRM Program leaders are working with Veterans Affairs to report and provide recommendations regarding the use of public lands and outdoor spaces for veterans.

**RECREATE RESPONSIBLY** | NRM Program leaders are part of a coalition of more than 1,500 members from the outdoor recreation industry, including nonprofit groups and public agencies, who are working together to convene and connect a diverse network invested in advancing campaigns and resources for safe, accessible, inclusive, and responsible outdoor recreation.



**INTERAGENCY VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT (IVUMC)** | USACE is part of a federal land management agency working group designed to better communicate between agencies regarding managing visitor uses.

**TOGETHER OUTDOORS COALITION** | NRM Program leaders participate in this coalition to unite outdoor entities with grassroots advocates to produce programming that creates a welcoming, inclusive environment, and increases outdoor recreation participation among underrepresented populations.

*In 2021 numerous Executive Orders were issued, and task forces developed, that directly link to our work in natural resources management. The USACE NRM Team is actively engaged in the development, integration, and implementation of the following:*

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE** | The Recreation Program is leading the agency in its approach to address which projects, project site areas (PSAs), and work packages are best suited to focus on assisting historically underserved communities in support of Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government.

**AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL CONSERVATION** | Part of what was originally known as the 30 x 30 Initiative, the Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, establishes a national goal to conserve at least 30% of U.S. lands and freshwater and 30% of U.S. ocean areas by 2030. The NRM Program leaders are actively engaged to advance directives in the order with specific focus on priorities such as habitat connectivity.

**TRAVEL & TOURISM STRATEGY WORKING GROUP ON ENSURING DIVERSE AND ACCESSIBLE TOURISM EXPERIENCES** | The NRM Program is working with other agency leaders to extend the benefits of travel and tourism throughout the country. The working group aims to support the development of diverse tourism products while addressing the financial and workplace needs of travel and tourism businesses and destination communities, with a focus on under-served communities and populations. Delivering world-class customer service at federal lands and waters will showcase the nation's assets while protecting the resources for future generations.

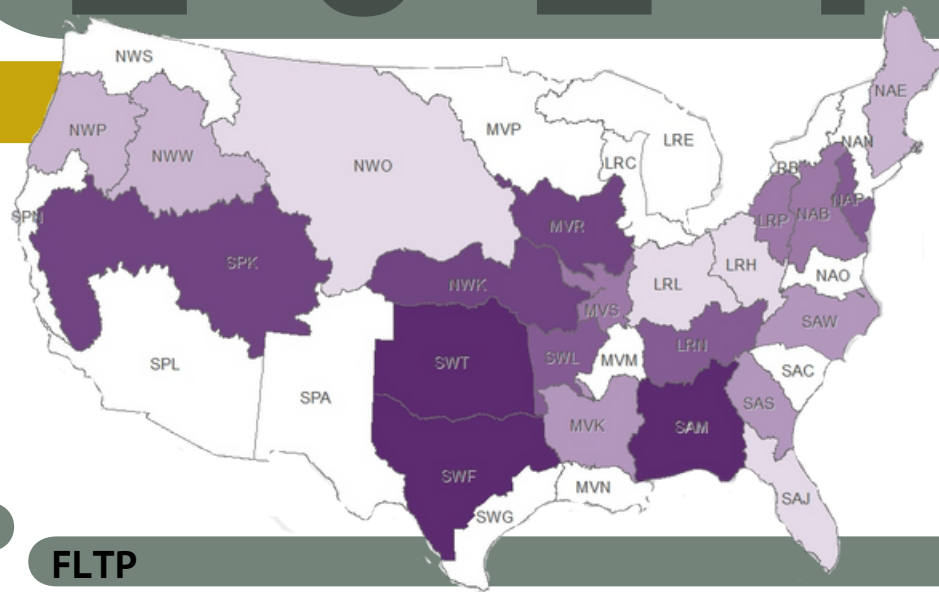
**FEDERAL INTERAGENCY TEAM ON VOLUNTEERISM** | This team promotes interagency collaboration to streamline procedures by establishing a national network of training resources and expertise, sharing best practices for effective volunteer engagement and meaningful volunteer experiences, and supports responsible allocation and management of fiscal and human resources. The team is working to increase engagement of underrepresented populations, tribal communities, veterans and others in volunteerism on public lands and waters.



# 2021 Across NRM

## FEDERAL LANDS HIGHWAYS

Federal Lands Highways (FLH) administers numerous programs and types of funds to facilitate transportation improvements for many federal land management agency partners, including USACE. These programs provide a funding source for transportation improvements in an environment where funding for transportation improvements in USACE recreation areas is not readily available.



### FLAP






FLH Programs provide funding and support for enhancement of state, county, and city managed transportation that improves access to USACE lands through the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP).

### FLTP

FLH Programs provide funding and support for repair and rehabilitation of roads, bridges, parking areas, and other transportation features in USACE managed recreation areas through the Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP).

**FY21** State, County, and Local Government Partners to USACE received a total of **\$27.7M** at **8** projects in CA, FL, GA, ID, IA, MS, and OK.

The map above represents USACE FLTP roads dollars received by District from FY13-FY21. FLTP Accomplishments FY13-20 include:

-  **\$48 MILLION** FLTP DOLLARS RECEIVED THROUGH FY20
-  **77** MILES OF ROADWAY IMPROVED
-  **47** BRIDGES REPAIRED
-  **3 MILLION** VISITORS PROVIDED SAFER ACCESS
-  **178** BRIDGE INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED ANNUALLY

### ERFO

FLH Programs provide funding and support for emergency repairs and recovery from natural disasters through the Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads (ERFO) Program.

**27** ERFO funds have supported transportation recovery efforts at USACE projects from damages by 27 severe weather events from 2015 to present.

**FLTP Project: Pine Meadows Campground, Cottage Grove Lake.** This project consisted of tree root damage repairs along with resurfacing on main roads and parking areas.

 **1.5 Roadway Miles Improved**

 **13,000 Square Feet of Parking Area Improved**

Outcomes: Improved access for approximately 22,000 visitors/campers annually. Pine Meadows Campground is the only Class A campground available of the five recreation areas at Cottage Grove Lake, which produces an estimated \$4,179,519 annually in visitor spending.



[www.corpsresults.us](http://www.corpsresults.us)



# 2021 Across NRM

## NRM STRATEGIC PLAN

On July 19, 2021 Maj. Gen. William Graham, Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations, USACE, signed the Natural Resources Management Program Strategic Plan 2021-2031. As noted in his memorandum, this plan “provides a framework for the future of the NRM Program to ensure we continue to provide safe public access to USACE lands and waters in a manner that protects all project purposes and mission areas through responsible outdoor recreation, environmental conservation, and land use management”. The plan has four goal areas that focus on workforce, communication, resources, and program delivery. Implementation teams have been established through the Recreation Leadership Advisory Team (RLAT) and the Stewardship Advisory Team (SAT). Input and action are needed by all for this plan to be successful. The RLAT and SAT will work to ensure engagement of the NRM workforce in implementation of the plan in addition to providing updates to the community on accomplishments and status changes.



NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

## STRATEGIC PLAN

2021 - 2031

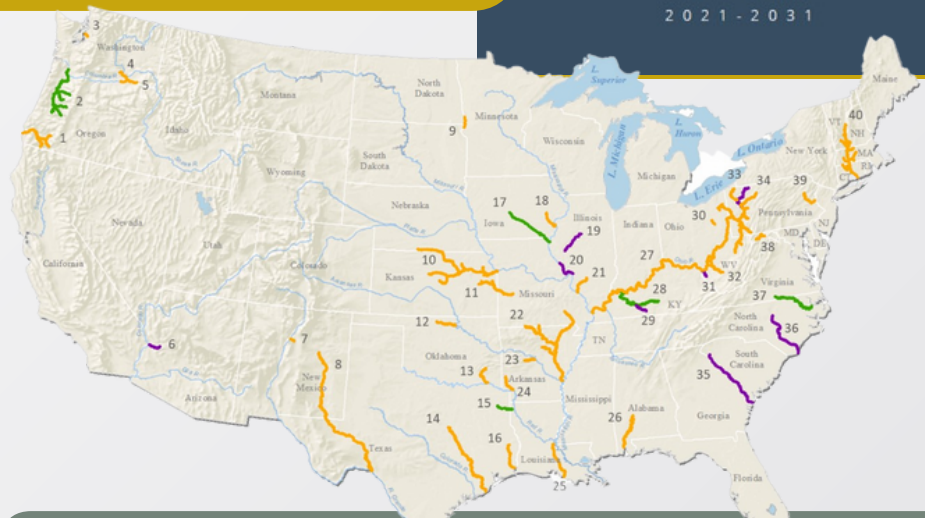
June 2021

## SUSTAINABLE RIVERS PROGRAM

The Sustainable Rivers Program (SRP) is a national partnership between USACE and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The mission of SRP is to improve the health and life of rivers by changing dam operations to restore and protect ecosystems, while maintaining or enhancing authorized uses and other project benefits.

SRP began in 1998 with an initial collaboration to improve the ecological condition of Green River, Kentucky. The program was formally established in 2002 and involved 8 river systems. At the end of FY 2021, SRP involved work in 23 USACE Districts and 7 Divisions. Individual projects are impacting 89 USACE reservoirs in 40 river systems affecting approximately 10,953 river miles. It is the largest scale and most comprehensive program for implementing e-flows (*environmental flows are defined as the quantity, timing, and quality of water flows required to sustain ecosystems below USACE reservoirs*) and is growing.

Sixteen new rivers were engaged in FY 2021.



### SRP EXAMPLE: GALISTEO CREEK (DAM), NM

The scope of work for this project is a continuation of an ongoing multi-year effort to restore native species habitat within the watershed upstream of Galisteo Dam funded through the project's Environmental Stewardship Program. The additional activities funded through SRP will extend and complement ongoing native species habitat restoration by planning and implementing ecologically beneficial measures such as physical modifications to the streambed and surrounding riparian habitat in the reservoir pool area.

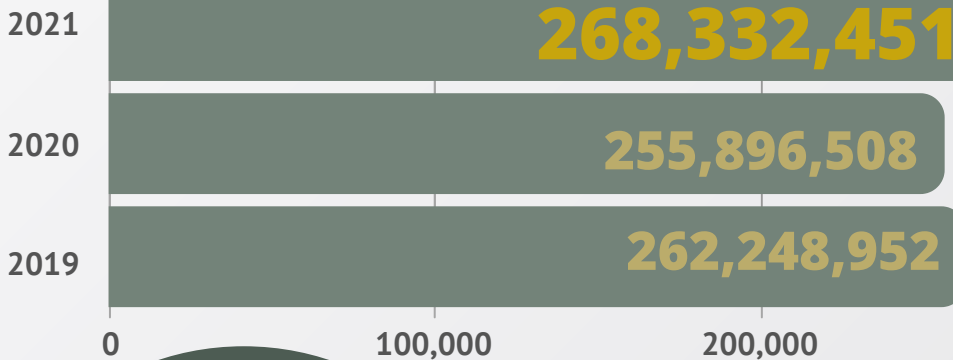
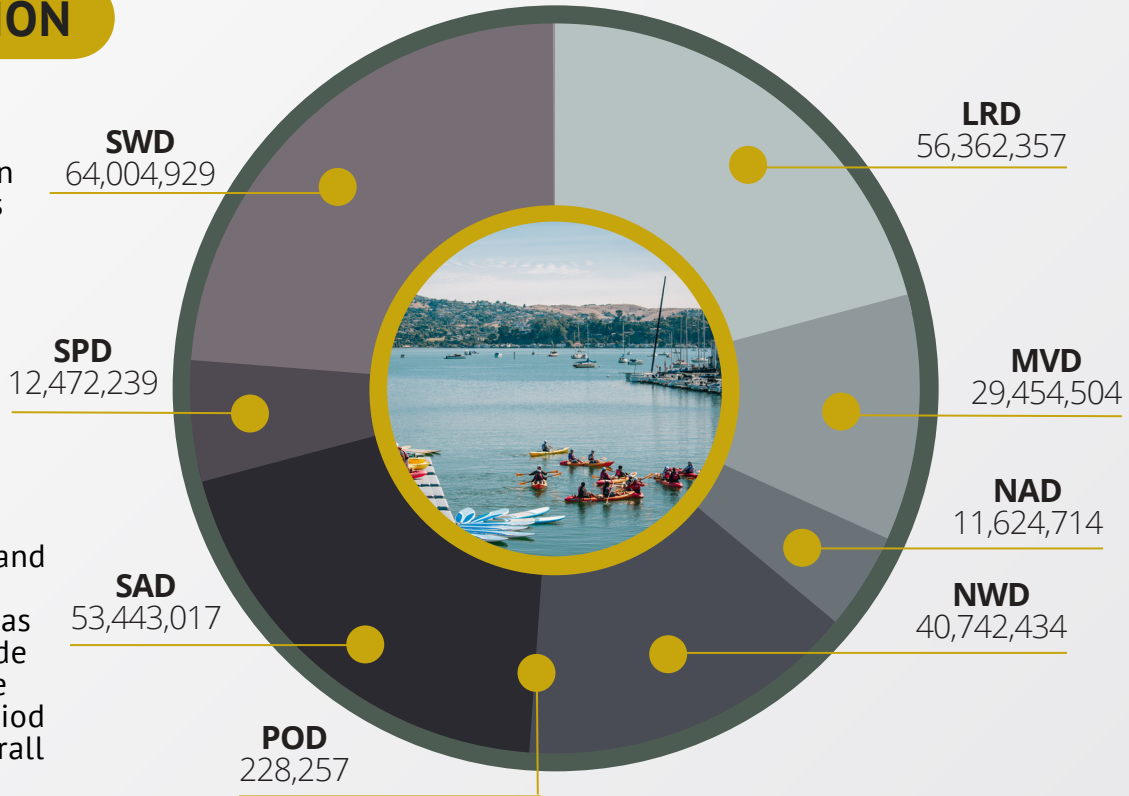
Galisteo Dam is the first Corps dry dam in an arid region to be included in SRP. In addition to having high potential for restoration of riparian habitat through creation of ephemeral pools and seasonal wetlands, it presents an opportunity for sharing knowledge with other USACE projects about restoration in arid regions, particularly in conjunction with management of salt cedar and other invasive species.

# 2021 Across NRM



## VISITATION

As anticipated, total visitation during FY21 increased when compared to previous years. In all, over **12 million more** visits were recorded throughout the past year when compared to FY20. During FY20, many recreation areas were closed during the months of March, April, and May. During FY21, visitation throughout these months increased when compared to both 2020 and 2019. Visitation during the summer months of June, July, and August in 2021 were less than that experienced during 2020 as recreation opportunities outside of USACE re-opened; but, were higher than the same time period in 2019 demonstrating an overall increase in visitation.



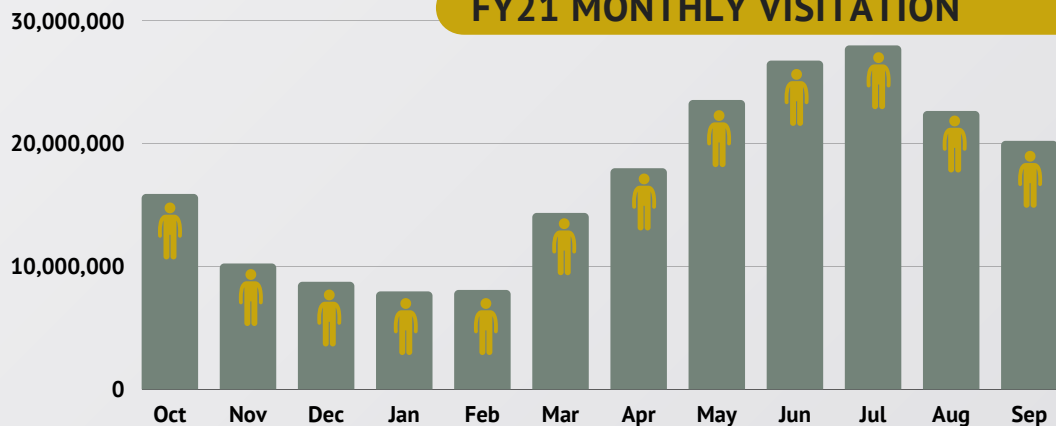
Day Use visitation accounts for **87.7%** of total visitation



Overnight visitation accounts for **12.3%** of total visitation



## FY21 MONTHLY VISITATION





# Looking Forward

## SUSTAINABILITY, RESILIENCE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE



As programs face budget and other challenges, it is an exciting time to be at the forefront of sustainability with the administration's new climate change/resilience initiatives! The annual sustainability scorecard, which compares USACE with other federal agencies, indicates great strides in USACE high performance sustainable buildings, sustainable acquisition in contracts and procurement, and continuing high marks in renewable energy use.

<https://www.sustainability.gov/usace.html>



**\$25 MILLION** FY23 SUSTAINABILITY/CLIMATE CHANGE/RESILIENCE FUNDING

The sweeping new programs that affect USACE include \$25 million in FY23 for opportunities to upgrade the durability of our facilities against weather events, and increase efficiency on a larger scale than before.

**\$8 MILLION** FY22 DESIGNATED FOR ZEV CHARGING STATION IMPLEMENTATION

As US companies roll out more varieties of electric vehicles (EVs) including pickup trucks, USACE is partnering with GSA and local utilities to centrally fund appropriate charging stations for government vehicles, so that opportunities to procure Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs), as they become available, will not be delayed. In FY22, \$8 million has been set aside to begin implementation.

Through the budget development process, USACE projects can leverage sustainability and climate change/resilience packages and seek funding to reduce shoreline erosion, upgrade septic systems, and replace or remodel outdated facilities.

Besides "low-hanging fruit" objectives like LED lighting replacement, weatherstripping, and water efficiencies, sustainability packages that have received funding in FY22 include:

- septic to sewer upgrades at high occupancy areas which at times have been shut down to avoid health issues,
- natural shoreline buffers to offset erosion that makes some recreation areas unusable,
- green restrooms which can use solar power, rainwater, and self-contained sewage systems,
- renewable energy projects,
- ground source heat pumps which dramatically reduce project office heating and cooling costs and emissions,
- green roofs, insulation, and prefab structures that can withstand vandalism, flooding, high winds, and other extreme weather events,
- replacements of aging water lines and valves with more pressure-resistant, leak detecting systems in heavily used locations that were not initially designed for high traffic, and many other ideas!

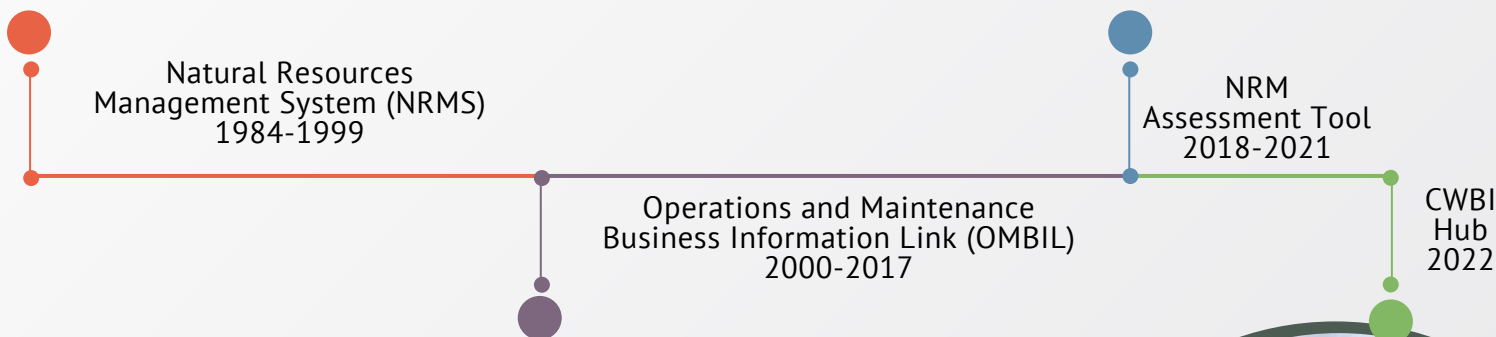


In Environmental Compliance an updated ER 200-2-3, the operating regulations for Environmental Compliance, is expected this year to replace the 2010 version currently in use. The easing of COVID restrictions will facilitate annual compliance assessments, and 5-year external assessments. Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) is an emerging concern for water supplies, so USACE is identifying all potable wells in preparation for any further sampling that may be required.

# Looking Forward

## CWBI-OPS

2022 will mark the transition of NRM Program annual data collection from the NRM Assessment Tool to the Civil Works Business Intelligence (CWBI) Hub. The NRM Program has been collecting data since the 1980s on each project and have transitioned collection methods and databases over time. The CWBI Hub serves to integrate Civil Works data in a Cloud-smart environment that standardizes data organization and management, ensures cybersecurity, delivers innovative technology solutions, and enhances visualization and mobility.



## SUPPORTING UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

Utilizing implementation guidance for the Environmental Justice and the Justice40 Initiatives, NRM program leadership is working to study the relationship between underserved communities and the locations of USACE projects with recreation as an authorized mission. Through the use of USACE Civil Works geospatial data representing projects and project site areas along with new tools, such as the CEQ Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), the NRM program has been able to characterize which sites are in proximity to communities that meet defined criteria for both environmental, climate, and socioeconomic indicators. Data available through the CEJST is analyzed and reported at the local level by census tracts, and CW programs have been instructed to focus on climate change and the critical clean water and waste infrastructure.



## RECREATION TASK FORCE CREATED



### RECREATION TASK FORCE

#### Initial Report

*A Plan to Maintain and Enhance Public Recreational Opportunities at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Projects*  
November 2021

The House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations' Report for the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2021 directed USACE to create a Recreation Task Force to develop a plan to maintain and enhance public recreational opportunities at USACE projects. Additionally, within one year of the enactment, the Task Force will provide an initial report to the Committee with a historical review of recreation use and funding within USACE and an assessment of the overall condition of USACE's recreation assets, including deferred maintenance and repair backlogs. The Act requires a second report within two years of enactment that includes proposals to address the needs identified by the Task Force. Input and participation from outdoor recreation stakeholders and the public was encouraged.

In December, the Year One Report (Draft) was completed and it is in the process of being reviewed for transmittal to the Committee. Meanwhile, the Task Force is working to assemble and develop the proposals necessary, with public and stakeholder engagement, to fulfill the Year Two report requirements in 2022.



# RECREATION

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

USACE is one of the leading federal providers of outdoor recreation in the nation. Over 400 lake and river projects in 43 states provide a diverse range of recreational opportunities. By providing controlled access and management on USACE lands and water, recreation program managers play a role in the successful execution of all project missions.



## RECREATION REVENUE

The revenues collected for use of USACE recreation facilities increased significantly when compared to previous years. In FY21, USACE collected \$66.9M in Special Recreation Use Fees (SRUF). This increase corresponds with growth in USACE visitation and the implementation of automated fee machines. Funds that are generated from recreation fees at USACE projects are collected in the (SRUF) fund. USACE's SRUF are held at the US Treasury until appropriations for the fiscal year are finalized. Once finalized, internal treasury transfers occurs, and the funds are utilized to offset the treasury in the appropriate O&M account, thus reducing general treasury appropriation use. The SRUF funds are then expended when recreation activities are charged at any USACE project.

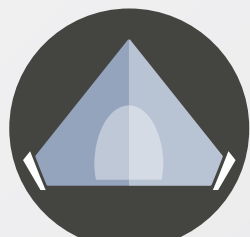
Separately, fees collected through the America the Beautiful Pass (AtB) Program have funded a variety of improvements to recreation areas across USACE.



ATB FUNDS AT BUFFUMVILLE LAKE

In November of 2021, USACE Park Rangers purchased and installed 18 replacement baskets for the disc golf course at Buffumville Lake. The cost of the baskets totaled \$6,400 of which the America the Beautiful pass program funded over \$2,500. The new, highly visible baskets were well received from the players as a great improvement to the disc golf course. Future improvements will include a complete tee box sign replacement and the purchase of lost and found disc return boxes.

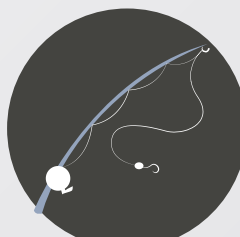
## BASIC PROGRAM STATISTICS



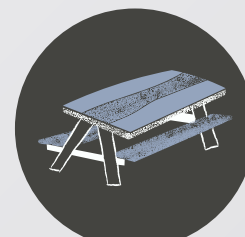
**94,544**  
CAMPSITES



**7,665**  
MILES OF TRAILS



**2,000+**  
FISHING TOURNAMENTS



**33,327**  
PICNIC SITES

RECREATION.GOV

Over the past year, the diversity of tools available to USACE through Recreation.gov continued to expand. Activity Passes, which can be used to collect day use fees at boat ramps, swim beaches, and area fees were offered in three different options:

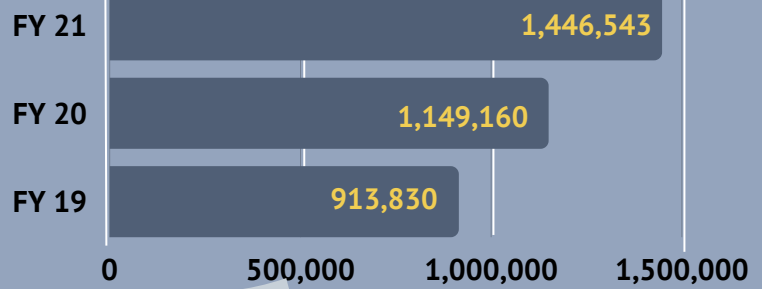
**OPTION 1)** A "Standard" Activity Pass can be sold in advance online or through the call center, just like reservable camping, but also at the park by scanning a QR code.

**OPTION 2)** "Scan and Pay" activity passes are available to customers in a park. Visitors simply scan a QR code from their phone using the Recreation.gov mobile app.

**OPTION 3)** Activity Pass Field Sales is available for staffed locations that want to conduct transactions at a gatehouse.



USACE CAMPING RESERVATIONS



FY19 to FY21 58.29%



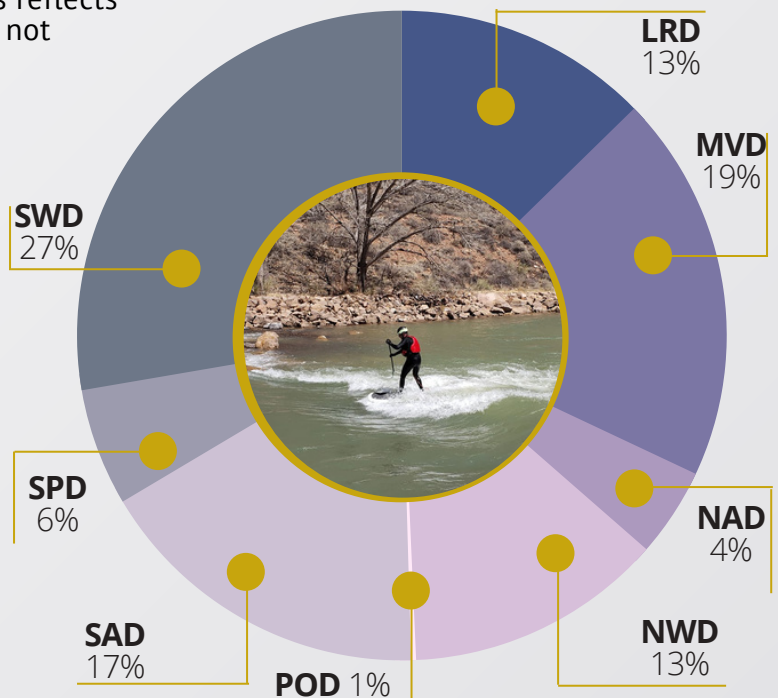
RECREATION PROGRAM FUNDING

**FY21 RECREATION BUDGET.** In FY21, **\$264.9 million\*** was enacted by Congress for the Recreation Program.

In FY22, the Recreation Program will execute an enacted budget of \$309.2 million, which is one of the highest funding levels over the past 10 years for the program. This reflects approximately \$36 million dollars in specific work not commonly performed for things such as water line replacements and general facility improvements.

*\*Enacted numbers may reflect revised funding levels from the President's Budget.*

\$264,900,000  
FY21 RECREATION FUNDING





# Environmental Stewardship

## ENS PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Environmental Stewardship Program protects, preserves, and restores significant ecological and cultural resources at Civil Works projects nationwide while balancing land use activities. These efforts contribute to the quality of American life by managing and conserving natural resources consistent with ecosystem management principles and provide a sustainable environment for future generations.

## 2021 PROGRAM FOCUS AREAS

Similar to previous years, notable focus areas within the ENS Program include the revision of project master plans, boundary, and invasive species management.

**MASTER PLANS.** USACE has focused significant effort and funding to revise project master plans and ensure that each project has a relevant, concise plan for strategic management. Over the past 10 years, USACE has updated **157** project master plans. Additionally, over **150** master plans are currently being revised or are scheduled for revisions to begin in FY22.

**BOUNDARY MANAGEMENT.** USACE is responsible for protecting over **38,000 miles** of boundary line - that's 6 times the length of the Mexico and Canada borders combined. The implementation of policy issued in 2019 demonstrates program commitment to ensuring the integrity of USACE boundaries and protecting the full capability of all project missions. USACE funded more than **\$31 million** of boundary related work in FY21.

**INVASIVE MANAGEMENT.** The presence and establishment of invasive species continues to challenge all aspects of the program, with over **\$8.9 million** spent in the Stewardship Program alone. Across all USACE Civil Works business lines it was estimated that nearly \$170 million was utilized on invasive species with 40% of those funds focused on control measures. During the FY21 NRM Assessment all 8 divisions reported the presence of invasive species on USACE lands and waters.

OVER  
40%

PROJECTS WITH REVISED  
MASTER PLANS



## BASIC ENS PROGRAM STATISTICS



12 MILLION

ACRES OF PUBLIC LAND AND WATERS MANAGED



14%

U.S. FRESHWATER FISHING



1 MILLION

ACRES OF GRASSLANDS



7 OF THE TOP 10

MIGRATORY BIRD FLYWAYS CROSS OVER USACE WATERS



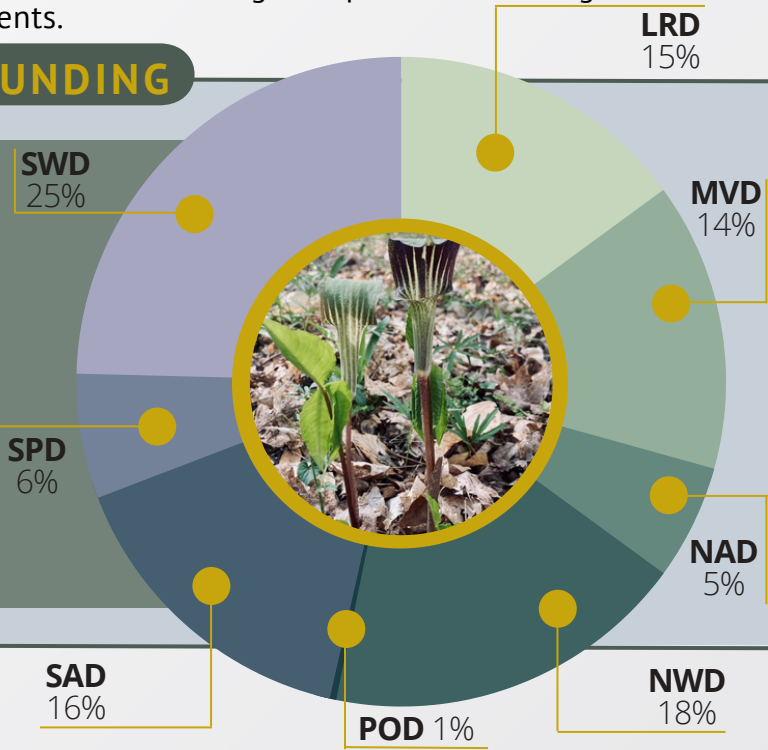
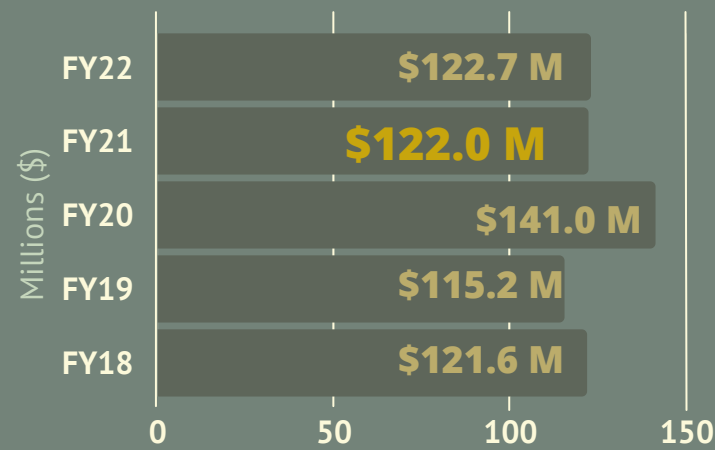
**\$122,000,000**

**FY21 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP FUNDING**

**FY21 ENS BUDGET.** In FY21, **\$122 million** was enacted by Congress for the ENS program. With the inclusion of funding made available through the work plan, the ES program executed over \$175 million. Over **\$84 million** was requested by other business lines such as navigation, hydropower, and flood risk management for work associated with biological opinions and mitigation requirements.

In FY22, the ES enacted budget totals 122.7M with an additional \$49 million from other business lines to support work associated with biological opinions and mitigation requirements.

**ENS FY21 ENACTED FUNDING**



\*Enacted funding levels for all FYs

**ON THE GROUND**



Examples of beneficial work being completed on the ground are found in every niche of the ES Program. At Cochiti Lake, pollinator plantings are underway.

Natural resources managers at John H. Kerr Reservoir have been successful with prescribed burning of forestland and grasslands while following agency and CDC guidelines to reduce the spread of COVID-19.



# PARTNERSHIPS

In 2021, our partners rose to the challenge again with USACE to face another year of adversity operating amid a global pandemic. Despite these difficult times, the USACE NRM partnership program grew even stronger through the collaborative efforts and unwavering support from thousands of dedicated organizations and individuals. USACE teamed up with the Recreate Responsibly and Together Outdoors Coalitions to strive to make the outdoors a welcoming place for all, while providing high quality and safe experiences. New national MOUs were developed in 2021 with organizations such as YMCA of the USA and the Ruffed Grouse/American Woodcock Society to advance water safety and conservation efforts.

The Corps Foundation, the official non-profit for the USACE NRM program, played a key role in working with other partners such as the National Marine Manufacturers Association to advocate and support the program. A Congressional Recreation Task Force was formed in 2021 to engage stakeholders and partners in developing a plan to maintain and enhance public recreational opportunities at USACE projects. Thanks to the outstanding contributions from our valued partners and volunteers, USACE was able to continue to meet the increasing demands of the public for clean, safe recreation opportunities while providing a healthy environment for visitors to enjoy.



**TOTAL PARTNERS**  
(35% increase from FY20)



**USACE PROJECTS WITH PARTNERSHIPS**  
(68% of USACE Projects)

**\$111,803,771**  
TOTAL VALUE OF PARTNERSHIPS



**PARTNER Investment**  
\$88.6 M

**USACE Investment**  
\$23.2 M





Working Together

More than **3,000** state, federal, tribal and local government; public/private organizations; and local community partners engaged with USACE in 2021. A total of **125** USACE projects partnered with **29** organizations that have a national MOU in place, providing educational programs, health and safety, environmental and recreation improvements.

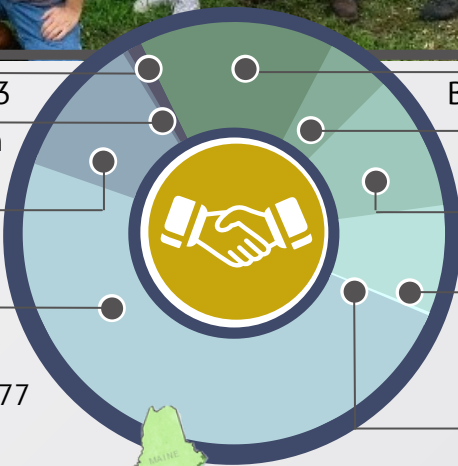


PARTNERSHIPS

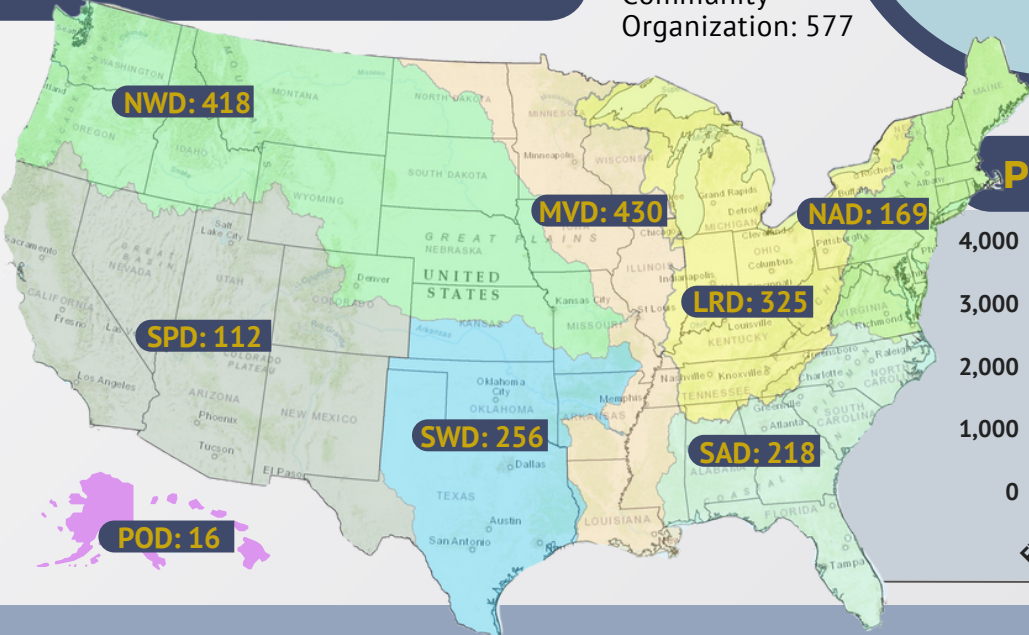
**PARTNER TYPE**



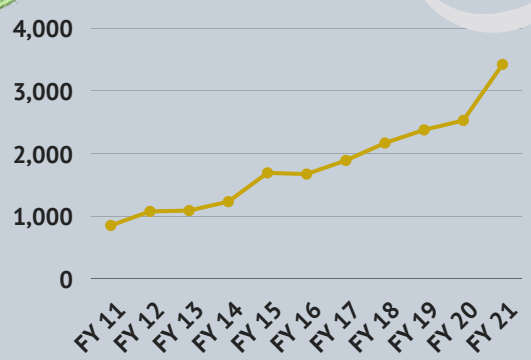
Other: 13	Business: 176
Native American Tribe: 5	Educational Institute: 57
State Agency: 128	Federal Agency: 122
Nonprofit or Community Organization: 577	Local Government Agency: 97
	Military: 3



**PARTNERS ENGAGED BY MSC**



**PARTNERSHIP GROWTH**





# Volunteers

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM SUMMARY

Volunteers play a valuable role in helping care for the environment and providing high quality recreation opportunities. Each year, people generously give their time, expertise, and resources to serve millions of visitors who enjoy USACE managed lands and waters.

## HOW OUR VOLUNTEERS HELP

**RECREATION.** Within the Recreation Program volunteers have assisted in the construction and maintenance of trails, served as campground and visitor center hosts, conducted socially distanced interpretive programs, developed and built displays, assisted in the maintenance of facilities, and collected fees.

**ADMINISTRATION.** Volunteers assisted in various administrative roles including writing and editing materials for publications, completing computer and database entry, and assisting in capturing our workforce and visitors in action through photography.

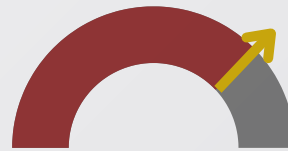
**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP.** Volunteers have performed a variety of duties assisting staff in managing our natural and cultural resources such as removing invasive species, planting native species, building and installing artificial nesting structures, and monitoring wildlife species.



**1,559,839**  
TOTAL VOLUNTEER  
HOURS SERVED  
(Equivalent to 750 FTEs)



**\$44.5 M**  
TOTAL VALUE  
OF VOLUNTEER HOURS



**76%**  
PROJECTS USING  
VOLUNTEERS



**18,274**  
TOTAL  
VOLUNTEERS



# NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

On September 25th, the National Environmental Education Foundation hosted National Public Lands Day (NPLD). USACE continued to be a strong participant among the federal land management agencies in providing volunteer opportunities. A total of 51 in person volunteer events were held around the country. Events met CDC and state/local guidelines ensuring proper health and safety measures were in place. Additionally, two virtual events were hosted to engage the public in learning about their public lands and encouraging an environmental ethic.



Making a Difference



VOLUNTEERS



53

PARTICIPATING USACE LAKES



4,168

VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED BY USACE



17,038

VOLUNTEER HOURS PROVIDED TO USACE



\$485,801

VALUE OF SERVICE



579

TIRES REMOVED



47,389

POUNDS OF TRASH REMOVED



1,313

TREES/SHRUBS PLANTED



44

MILES OF ROADWAY CLEARED



141

PARTNERS INVOLVED

## RECOGNIZING OUR VOLUNTEERS

Over the past year, volunteers played a valuable role in helping care for the environment and providing high quality recreation opportunities. Over the past 5 years, the USACE volunteer workforce has averaged approximately **33,000** individuals providing **1.5 million** hours of service annually.

281

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL PASSES ISSUED  
(for 250 hours of volunteer service)

1,271

USACE ANNUAL PASSES ISSUED  
(for 100 hours of volunteer service)

22

VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE COINS







# WATER SAFETY

The popularity of USACE waterways, which attracted **268 million** visits this year, requires effective water safety programs and campaigns. Utilizing national campaigns can encourage the public to be safe and responsible when enjoying our nation's waterways.



## PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CORPS FOUNDATION

The USACE works in cooperation with the Corps of Engineers Natural Resources Education Foundation (The Corps Foundation) to enhance and promote the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns Campaign. In FY2021, The Corps Foundation received a \$195,000 Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund grant, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) that was used to enhance and promote the campaign, which included donating beach towels to the National Water Safety Program that were distributed to USACE lakes to use in their "I Got Caught" initiatives. The towels were given to adults that were "caught" wearing their life jackets.

This was the second year that The Corps Foundation conducted the Life Jacket Video Contest in cooperation with USACE. Using USCG grant funds, the first place winner for their 55-second video entry received \$5,500 and the 25-second video first place winner received \$2,500. The winning entries can be viewed and downloaded at [www.dvidsnet/unit/USACE-WS](http://www.dvidsnet/unit/USACE-WS).



## WATER RELATED RECREATION FACILITY STATISTICS



**1,780**

USACE BOAT RAMPS  
(1,965 OUTGRANTED)



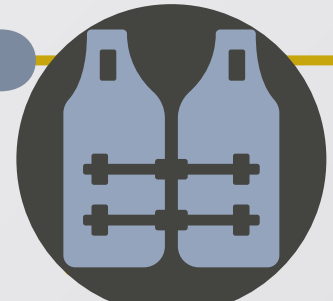
**489**

USACE BEACHES  
(338 OUTGRANTED)



**534**

MARINAS LEASED  
TO CONCESSIONS



**672**

USACE LIFE JACKET  
LOANER STATIONS  
(177 OUTGRANTED)



PLEASE WEAR IT

The "Please Wear It" Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages are the official social media pages of the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns Campaign and the USACE National Water Safety Program. These social media pages are managed with The Corps Foundation utilizing USCG grant funds.



"I wear my life jacket so I can do my part to always return home to my family when I fish alone. I have fallen in before and my life jacket did its job."



SAVING LIVES



2,654,848

PLEASE WEAR IT FACEBOOK TOTAL REACH



15,803

PAGE LIKES

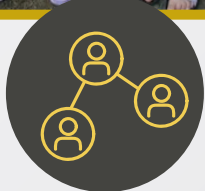


16,146

PAGE FOLLOWERS



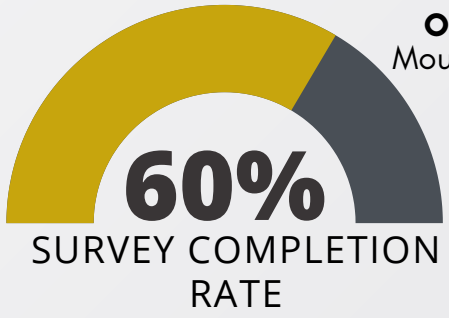
195,117  
WATER SAFETY  
OFF-SITE CONTACTS



778,044  
WATER SAFETY  
ON-SITE CONTACTS



FY21 LIFE JACKETS WORN...NOBODY MOURNS CAMPAIGN



**ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS.** The FY21 Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns Campaign Online Survey had a completion rate of 60%.



On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest, 46% rated the campaign as a 10 and the average rating was 8.9.



# EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

## HIRAM M. CHITTENDEN AWARD

Natural Resources Specialist Tim Bischoff received the 2021 Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence. Bischoff is the first ever two-time recipient of the award. The Natural Resources Management Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence acknowledges an individual who has done exceptional work in the interpretive services profession.

Tim was recognized for a second time for his outstanding service, professionalism, enthusiasm, and commitment to the USACE interpretive services and outreach program (ISOP). During an unpredictable time, Tim's dedication and ability to adapt enabled educational outreach to continue across the nation. He went above and beyond his regular duties and created #USACEeducates, a national interpretive initiative that ensured public engagement throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Leading a team of USACE interpreters, Tim helped develop and coordinate #USACEeducates, which engaged the public with various social media posts that included information, games, and activities to promote the USACE, its missions and partners.



## NRM EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



The NRM Employee of the Year Award is awarded to an individual who has exhibited exceptional leadership and selfless service to the NRM Program. This year's USACE NRM Employee of the Year Award recipient is Mr. Michael McCoy, a Natural Resources Program Manager and District Ranger in the Huntington District Office.

Mike has applied his extensive field experience to make District-wide improvements to the recreation and natural resource management programs including the visitor assistance program, sign program, uniform program, water safety initiatives, volunteer and partnership programs, and many more. Mike serves as the motorboat instructor the District, the LRD representative the National Water Safety Team, and is an active member of the LRD Ranger CoP Team.



2021 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



The National Volunteer Award is co-sponsored by The Corps Foundation in recognition of the extraordinary service provided by volunteers. This award distinguishes individuals, couples, and families who give their skills, talents, and time beyond the normal call of duty and whose credible service to USACE has resulted in the significant enhancement to one or more of the USACE business lines.

This year's USACE National Volunteer of the Year Award recipient is a distinguished mother and daughter team. Ms. Brenda Grano and Wynona Brakeman of Allatoona Lake in the Mobile District (SAD) were selected for their dedicated service to the natural resources, recreation, and environmental stewardship programs at Allatoona Lake. They have donated over 4,800 hours of volunteer service over a four-year period. In addition to serving in a variety of volunteer duties, Ms. Grano and Brakeman have built a robust recycling program at Allatoona. Their efforts in growing the recycling program have led to new partnerships, volunteer programs, and have garnered praise from the visiting public.

EXCELLENCE IN PARTNERSHIP AWARD



The Excellence in Partnership Award is co-sponsored by The Corps Foundation in recognition of exceptional contributions to the natural resources management programs at USACE projects.

The Berks Area Mountain Bike Association (BAMBA) at Blue Marsh Lake in the Philadelphia District (NAD) were selected as the award recipient for their exceptional contributions to the USACE natural resource management program. BAMBA has provided both direct funding and volunteer service to support creating new trails, rehabilitating existing trails, providing inclusive mountain biking experiences, building a developmental area for new riders, and fostering an overall greater connection within the trails community of Berks County, PA. BAMBA's dedication to improving recreational development and sustainability has helped USACE and Blue Mark Lake to meet the increasing demand on outdoor resources in response to a global pandemic.







*The National Water Safety Awards are done in cooperation with the National Boating Federation to recognize a USACE employee and team that have contributed to boating and water safety and through their efforts have made a difference in saving lives on our nation's waterways.*

**NATIONAL WATER SAFETY EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**

Ms. Shawna Polen, Natural Resources Specialist, Coralville Lake, Rock Island District was selected as the recipient of the 2021 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) National Water Safety Employee Award. In 2020, Ms. Polen shifted outreach efforts to virtual and social media platforms, developed key partnerships with local entities, coordinated placement of a water safety billboard along a major highway, and redesigned the Coralville Lake Visitor Center to better incorporate water safety. Her innovation, dedication, and personal drive to share the message of water safety and deliver the program reflect great credit upon herself and USACE.

Coralville Lake Visitor Center to better incorporate water safety. Her innovation, dedication, and personal drive to share the message of water safety and deliver the program reflect great credit upon herself and USACE.

**NATIONAL WATER SAFETY TEAM OF THE YEAR**



The J. Percy Priest Lake Seasonal Park Ranger Team was selected as the recipient of the 2021 USACE National Water Safety Team Award. The Seasonal Park Ranger Team and their efforts in 2020 contributed greatly to water safety awareness at J. Percy Priest Lake. The team members concentrated on increasing the number of visual cues that would prompt visitors to wear life jackets, increased posts and audience interaction regarding water safety on social media, conducted water safety interpretive programs and vessel safety checks, and maintained and inspected life jacket loaner stations. This team exercised great diligence and enthusiasm and made the USACE water safety mission their own personal mission.



# TEAM RECOGNITION

The NRM Program is supported by numerous national and project delivery teams that advance opportunities and tackle the challenges facing the NRM Program. We would like to recognize a few teams for their dedication, creativity, and hard work over the past year.



## NRM STRATEGIC PLAN PDT

The NRM Strategic Plan PDT was assembled in 2019 and charged with the task of developing a single strategic plan that captures the vision of both the Recreation and Environmental Stewardship Programs. Thank you to this team for their commitment to this two and a half year effort to guide the service and actions of the NRM Program over the next 10 years.

- |                         |                     |                      |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Meredith Bridgers - IWR | Andy Hofmann - NAB  | Scott Strotman - HQ  |
| Roseana Burick - HQ     | Ashley Kiley - MVP  | Andrew Wastell - SPA |
| Heather Burke - HQ      | Brian Mangrum - LRN | Tara Whitsel - ERDC  |
| Charlie Deutsch - MVS   | Phil Smith - SPD    | Patti Williams - NWD |
| Doug Garman - HQ        |                     |                      |

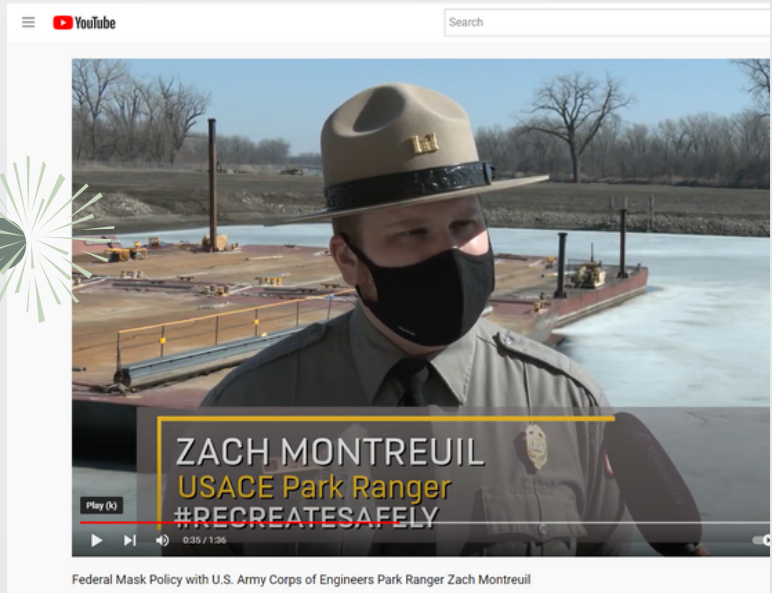
## COVID - MASK WEARING SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN COORDINATORS

HQ USACE would like to provide recognition for individuals involved in the creative development of a video social media education campaign for mask wearing on USACE water resources development projects. Three videos were developed and shared across USACE on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and DVIDS. Thank you to this team for helping to support the safety of the public and USACE team members!



- Justin Berndt - SWF
- Lyndy Black - SWF
- Billy Jasper - SWF
- Andre Mayeaux - SWF
- Zach Montreuil - NWO

- James Murphy - SWF
- Rhonda Paige - SWF
- Brittany Scruggs - SWF
- Adam Tarplee - SWF
- Trevor Welsh - SWF



## CIVIL WORKS HOUSING PDT

An Inspector General examination of USACE Housing resulted in the formation of a PDT to address the findings. With guidance issued and an update to the Engineering Regulation in progress, we want to thank this team for their dedication and hard work in addressing and resolving the findings of the inspection.



- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Troy Cain Jr - SAM | Jason Hurley - NWK |
| Emily Coffin - NWK | Jeff Emmert - SAM  |





**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

The Natural Resources Management Annual Report is an unofficial publication of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This is produced with the purpose of providing its readers information about the USACE Natural Resources Management Program. Editorial views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.