

# NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

2022  
Annual Report



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

# MESSAGE FROM THE NRM CHIEF

As I reflect on not only the past year, but over the course of our history as natural resource managers, I am filled with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment. Together, with our partners and volunteers, we have set forth a tremendous example of what teamwork can truly accomplish. During 2022, the world emerged from the grips of the global pandemic, and through our recreation and environmental stewardship missions, we navigated our unwavering course to implement a model of excellence for natural resources management in the midst of unprecedented challenges.

*I am excited for the future* of our program as we advance important and needed initiatives related to environmental justice, equitable access to the outdoors, and climate change while never losing focus of our mission to deliver safe public access to USACE lands and waters.

*I am excited to engage* with other federal land managers to better facilitate the use of our nation's public lands. Our Natural Resources Team (NRM) will contribute to the collective success in the conservation of our environment and support to those who have served our country through initiatives such as America the Beautiful (ATB), the Federal Interagency Council on Recreation (FICOR) refresh, and support of Section 203 of the COMPACT Act.

*I am excited for the improvements* to our infrastructure that are possible from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (DRSAA). This funding allows for much needed recreation facility repairs to hundreds of projects that will be further supported by a strong FY24 President's budget recommendation.

Thank you all, once again, for your professionalism, your commitment to safety, and your pursuit of excellence.

**JEFF KRAUSE** | Chief, Natural Resources Management



Carters Lake

## OUR MISSION

The Natural Resources Management Program (NRM) delivers safe public access to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (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 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.



# YOUR HQ NRM TEAM

The headquarters NRM team is comprised of diverse professionals that are dispersed geographically across the USACE enterprise.



**Heather Burke**

Partnership Program Manager



**Pam Doty**

Water Safety Program Manager



**AJ Jensen**

National Sign Program Manager



**Jason Owen**

Recreation One Stop Agency Program Manager



**Allison Walker**

Federal Lands Transportation Program Manager



**Brian Wilson**

Environmental Compliance & Sustainability Program Manager

**Jeff Krause**  
Chief, Natural Resources Management



**Roseana Burick**

Environmental Stewardship Program & Business Line Manager



**Ryan Hartwig**

Recreation Program & Business Line Manager



**Heath Kruger**

Visitor Assistance / Park Ranger Program Manager



**Michael Richards**

Land Use Program Manager



**Tara Whitsel**

NRM Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Program Manager



A SPOTLIGHT ON LEADERSHIP



2022 Career Assignment Program (CAP)

The NRM and Environmental Compliance and Sustainability CAP provides an opportunity for USACE's future leaders to gain valuable experiences and insights into both the NRM and Environmental Compliance and Sustainability programs. The opportunity allows participants to work directly with headquarters staff and become familiar with various roles and responsibilities.



Tasha Alexander  
2022 NRM CAP  
Assistant Operations  
Project Manager,  
John H. Kerr Dam



Cassie Magsig  
2022 NRM CAP  
Natural Resources  
Specialist, Rend Lake



Ann Marie  
DiLorenzo  
2022 EC CAP  
North Atlantic  
Division



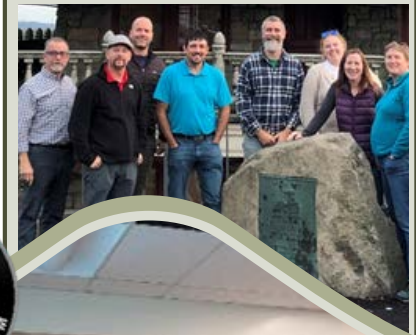
Keley Stock  
2022 EC CAP  
Natural Resources  
Specialist,  
Sacramento District

# NRM LEADERSHIP TEAMS



The NRM Program is supported by several national leadership teams. These teams serve in an advisory capacity to Headquarters (HQ) USACE, providing strategic planning, policy guidance, budget recommendations, and much more.

- **ES & REC CATT** | Coach, Assist, and Train Teams
- **ISLT** | Invasive Species Leadership Team
- National Water Safety Team
- NRM Users Group
- NRM Uniform Committee
- **PAC** | Partnership Advisory Committee
- **Park Ranger CoP** | Park Ranger Community of Practice
- **RLAT** | Recreation Leadership Advisory Team
- **SAT** | Stewardship Advisory Team
- **SAWG** | Sign Advisory Working Group
- **VERS CATT** | Visitation Estimation & Reporting System CATT



## A CLOSER LOOK AT THE INNOVATIONS TEAM

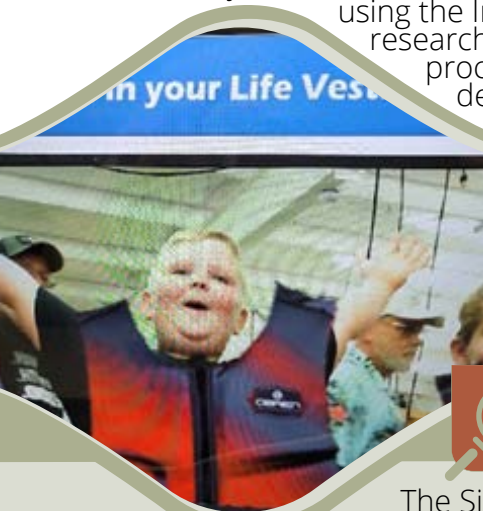
In early FY22, HQ USACE officially approved the charter for the NRM Innovations Team. Since 2016, the Innovations Team has steadily grown from an initial Tulsa District team, to a multi-district team, to the national NRM team it is today. Along the way, the focus has not changed; to "Plan and Develop Technology for NRM field staff, and to create new recreational experiences for the visiting public."



Every season, the Innovations Team takes on ideas from the NRM Community and turns them into physical prototypes in an 8-month span using the Innovations Workflow Model, without specific research and development resources. Through this process, the team not only creates new and innovative resources, but develops the next generation of innovators who look outside the box for ways to achieve and advance the NRM mission.

As the team continues through FY23, it remains focused on creating new technology for the NRM Community and USACE visitors. It is exciting to see what new innovations each season brings, the new team members that join, and what innovations can be created with current and new partners.

*NRM Innovation Team product - Wear your lifejacket simulator*



## A CLOSER LOOK AT THE SIGN ADVISORY WORK GROUP

The Sign Advisory Work Group has been busy over the past year with the development of new inventory methodology, new symbols, and more to facilitate clear and concise communication with the visiting public. In summary:

- The team is beta testing a new geographic information system (GIS) based sign inventory feature that will be available through the Civil Works Business Intelligence (CWBI).
- Several new recreation symbols were approved including those for ebikes, utility terrain vehicles, and metal detecting.
- The National Sign Program Manager and SAWG recently coordinated with the Operations Division in the rollout of signage for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), now in effect. Details are posted on the NRM Gateway.





# ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES & INTERAGENCY WORK GROUPS



**FICOR.** On July 21, 2022, USACE joined the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture and Commerce in reestablishing the Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation (FICOR) by signing a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The purpose of this MOU is to partner across Departments, bureaus, and agencies to find solutions for common issues that challenge all federal outdoor recreation providers. This interagency collaboration will address the Administration's goals of environmental justice, climate change, and equitable outdoor opportunities.



Mr. Connor (standing center) looks on as agency principals sign the FICOR MOU.

The FICOR will help coordinate policies, facilitate partnerships, and improve implementation on issues such as:

- Investing in resilient recreation infrastructure, such as electric vehicle charging stations, trails, campgrounds, visitor centers, docks, and boating access
- Bolstering education and career opportunities in conservation, outdoor recreation, habitat restoration, and resource management work, as well as providing comprehensive visitor information for the hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, birding, climbing, and boating communities
- Cooperating with Tribal, State, territorial, and local governments, including those in communities near Federal lands and waters
- Improving equitable access to Federal lands and waters and creating a welcoming visitor experience in collaboration with private, public, Tribal, and nonprofit organizations

## America the Beautiful (AtB) MOU on Promoting Equitable Access to Nature in Nature-Deprived Communities.

In September 2022, ten federal departments signed a new MOU to establish a framework to collaborate, learn from each other, and engage more effectively in supporting local leaders' efforts to improve access to and create, expand, steward, and conserve parks and green and blue spaces for current residents of nature-deprived communities. This effort focuses on strengthening investments in communities who have been locked out of the benefits nature provides, and to ensure all Americans can benefit from safe parks, natural areas, and waterways where they live, work, and play by expanding access to local parks, tree canopy cover, conservation areas, open space and water-based recreation, public gardens, beaches, and waterways.

**AtB Conservation Action Plan.** Army Civil Works has identified the following high priority items as necessary to contribute toward the goal of conserving 30% of U.S. lands and waters by 2030:

- Expand wildlife habitats and corridors
- Improve access and opportunities to recreation and quality of facilities
- Increase public safety
- Increase partnerships to ensure sustainability

The Conserving and Restoring AtB Report identified six focus areas:

- Create More Parks and Safe Outdoor Opportunities in Nature-Deprived Communities
- Support Tribally Led Conservation and Restoration Priorities
- Expand Collaborative Conservation of Fish and Wildlife Habitats and Corridors
- Increase Access for Outdoor Recreation
- Incentivize and Reward the Voluntary Conservation Efforts of Fishers, Ranchers, Farmers, and Forest Owners
- Create Jobs by Investing in Restoration and Resilience



The NRM Program, through the Recreation and Environmental Stewardship Business lines, will play a key role in making advancements in the AtB Conservation Action Plan.

# ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES & INTERAGENCY WORK GROUPS



**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.** In March 2022, the Assistant Secretary of the Army (ASA) for Civil Works, Michael L. Connor, issued interim environmental justice implementation guidance. This memorandum outlined the need for modernization of the Civil Works program to better serve the needs of disadvantaged communities as well as guidance and direction related to the implementation of environmental justice and the Justice40 Initiative, which aims to deliver at least 40% of the overall benefits from Federal investments in climate change and critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure to disadvantaged communities. The memorandum instructed USACE to consult the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) to identify communities with environmental justice concerns with a focus placed on disadvantaged communities burdened by climate change and water and wastewater issues. Mr. Connor specifically called out USACE's NRM mission in the memo.



## A CLOSER LOOK

"USACE's Natural Resources Management mission provides many benefits to disadvantaged communities, including but not limited to, recreational opportunities and passive forms of enjoyment."  
-Michael L. Connor



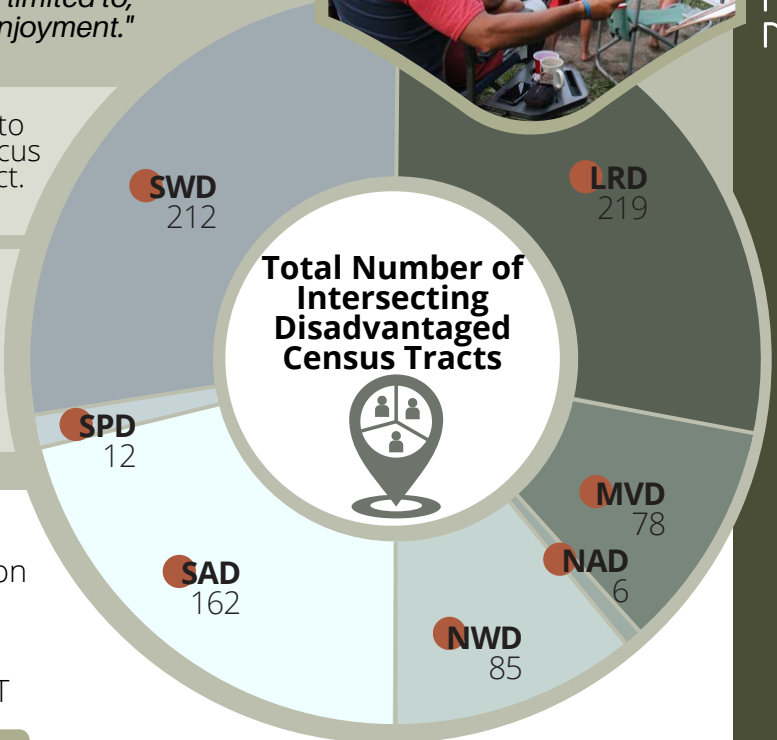
**187**

Recreation projects were found to intersect with at least one ASA Focus Metric disadvantaged census tract.  
*(Climate Change/Water and Wastewater)*



**6,058**

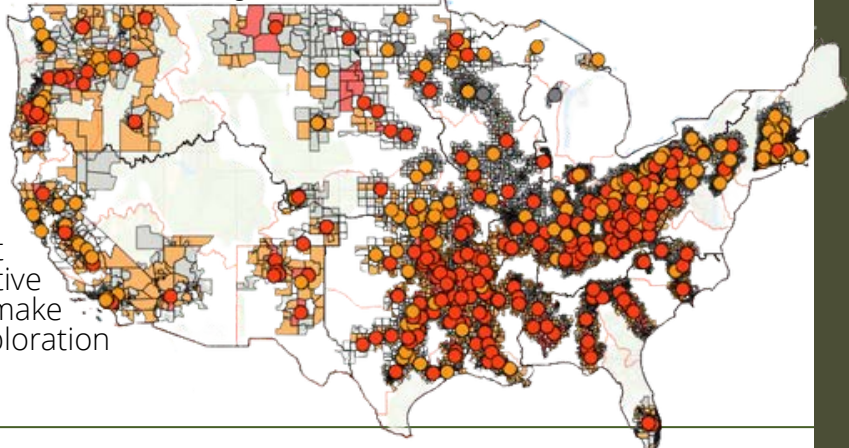
ASA Focus Metric disadvantaged census tracts within 30 miles of USACE projects with recreation, representing an approximate population of 24.6 million.



Following the March 2022 memorandum, NRM Leadership tasked the NRM Technical Support Team with providing actionable analysis for, and identification of, areas where USACE Civil Works projects and disadvantaged communities converge. In support of this directive, the technical support team obtained geospatial datasets downloaded from the CEQ's CEJST and overlaid them with the national set of USACE Recreation projects. In addition to the ASA focus areas of Climate Change and Water and Wastewater disadvantaged communities, the team also included communities determined to be disadvantaged by workforce development and health burdens and/or within Tribal boundaries in its analysis. Results from this analysis are being integrated into an interactive tool which displays the CEJST data alongside USACE geospatial boundaries and relevant internal data to empower USACE staff to identify disadvantaged areas with investments already being made as well as disadvantaged areas that could benefit from further investments. Interactive maps, charts, and data tables update as users make selections within the tool and allow for data exploration from multiple angles.

## Proximity of USACE Projects (with Recreation) to Disadvantaged Communities.

● Project with intersecting disadvantaged tract(s)    ● Project with disadvantaged tract(s) in county within 30 miles





# BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW



2022

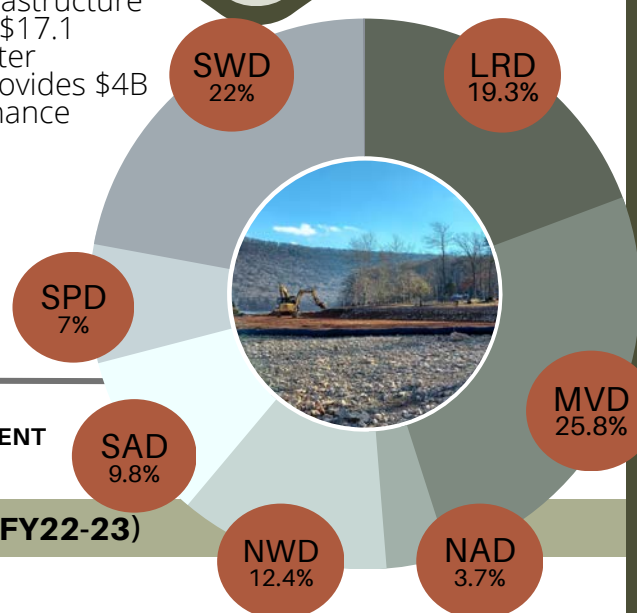
ACROSS NRM IN 2022

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (Public Law 117-58), provides a \$17.1 billion (B) investment for Civil Works projects that address water resources and infrastructure needs for the nation. The BIL provides \$4B to remain available until expended, in Operation and Maintenance (O&M) funding (\$2B in FY22, \$1B in FY23, and \$1B in FY24).

**\$19,000,000** | FY22-FY23 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP BUSINESS LINE

**\$87,000,000** | FY22-FY23 RECREATION BUSINESS LINE

**\$106,000,000** | FY22-FY23 TOTAL NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT



## A CLOSER LOOK AT THE BIL RELATED TO NRM (FY22-23)

**RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE**



**APPROX \$25 M**

Example of work: Carlyle Lake, IL (MVD). High water conditions coupled with wave action caused major deterioration and damage to the boat launch aprons. Repairs made as a result of BIL funding will allow the facility to remain open for public use.

**ENERGY AND WATER EFFICIENCY, SUSTAINABILITY, AND RELIABILITY**



**APPROX \$44 M**

Example of work: Rathburn Lake, IA (NWD). The sewer line, lift station, and pump house at Island View Park were near failure. Repairs, which are being completed as a result of BIL funding, will provide for a properly operating sewage system which is a vital facility to the campground.

**RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE**



**APPROX \$18 M**

Example of work: Lake Barkley, KY and TN (LRD). At the Calhoun Hill Boat Ramp, funding received through BIL will resurface and stripe approximately 24,000 sq. ft. of parking lots. The current pavement has significant alligator cracking and potholes which create a public safety hazard.

**CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCE PROTECTION**



**APPROX \$9 M**

Example of work: Philpott Lake, VA (SAD). BIL funding will allow for the completion of surveys to current Virginia State Historic Preservation Office standards. The surveys are necessary for consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act prior to undertaking wildlife and forest management activities.

**USACE BOUNDARY INTEGRITY**



**APPROX \$2 M**

Example of work: Pine Flat Lake, CA (SPD). BIL funding will allow for the inspection, monitoring, and removal of debris on 20 of 80 miles of boundary at Pine Flat Lake. Work efforts will include the identification of survey marker monuments and paddles that are missing, damaged, or weathered. Additionally, the area will be inspected for signs of trespass.

**WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES RESILIENCE**



**APPROX \$7 M**

Example of work: Carlyle Lake, IL (MVD). Carlyle Lake sought the use of a natural method to stabilize the shoreline, create suitable habitat for game fish species, and provide increased recreational opportunities for anglers. Work, made possible through BIL funding, includes the creation of a rip rap toe levee adjacent to the shoreline. This will create a littoral zone that enhances vegetation and natural plant growth while lessening the impacts of siltation and erosion.



### BIL AT SAM RAYBURN LAKE

USACE staff at Sam Rayburn Lake recently worked with contractors to complete repairs with funding provided through the BIL. Work associated with BIL funding included repairs resulting from flood damages to campgrounds and boat ramps, which were exacerbated from a FY21 pool of record flood event. Additionally, the effort will harden the repaired facilities against future flood events. Sam Rayburn is consistently in the Top 10 of largemouth bass fishing lakes in the country, hosting numerous national and regional tournaments. The continued safety, usability, and long term viability of the lake's boat ramps and campgrounds is vital to the sustained economic impact related with recreation at Sam Rayburn Lake.



# VETERANS COMPACT ACT OF 2020

The Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment Act of 2020, or the Veterans COMPACT Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-214), implements programs, policies, and reports related to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) transition assistance, suicide care, mental health education and treatment, health care, and women veteran care.

The COMPACT Act mandates the VA to establish an interagency task force to be known as the Task Force on Outdoor Recreation for Veterans (Task Force). The Task Force is responsible for:

- Identifying opportunities to formalize coordination between VA, public land agencies, and partner organizations regarding the use of public lands and other outdoor spaces for facilitating health and wellness for veterans and their caregivers;
- Identifying barriers that exist to providing veterans with opportunities to augment the delivery of services for health and wellness through the use of outdoor recreation on public lands and other outdoor spaces; and,
- Developing recommendations to better facilitate the use of public lands and other outdoor spaces for promoting wellness and facilitating the delivery of health care and therapeutic interventions for veterans.



*Charleston District Wounded Warrior Fishing Event*

USACE joins representatives from the VA, the Departments of Interior, Health and Human Services, Agriculture, Defense, and Homeland Security, and representatives from veterans service organizations on the Task Force. NRM Program leaders are working with the VA to report and provide recommendations regarding the use of public lands and outdoor spaces for veterans.

## RECREATION TASK FORCE



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.

The Act required an initial report, which was transmitted to the Committee in 2022, to provide information on historic visitation and use, historic funding, and outlined the current and future methodology for assessing facility conditions and addressing maintenance needs.

The Act required a second report within two years of enactment that included proposals to address the needs identified by the Task Force in the Year 1 Report. To fulfill the requirements of the Year 2 Report, increased community engagement, community collaboration, and stakeholder/partner input were prioritized to ensure the need of USACE constituents were considered and included in future investment decisions. In April 2022, USACE provided policy guidance to define and establish a consistent enterprise-wide methodology for identifying, managing, and communicating the USACE Civil Works maintenance needs.

As part of the Year 2 Report effort, the total sum of recreation maintenance needs were identified. This sum represents work needs over multiple years, not tied to one specific FY. Additionally, the sum includes work that has been funded but not completed, work on hold for contracts and engineering, work that may be postponed, and work across the full lifecycle of assets. In December, the Year 2 Report (Draft) was completed and it is in the process of being reviewed for transmittal to the Committee. The Recreation Task Force looks forward to sharing the final report with the NRM Community.





# SUSTAINABILITY, RESILIENCE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE



As programs evolve, USACE continues to be at the forefront of advancing sustainability goals. Over the past year and going forward, USACE is focused on the Administration's new climate change resilience and carbon free electricity initiatives, along with electrifying the vehicle fleet and installation of charging infrastructure. The annual Sustainability Scorecard, which compares USACE with other federal agencies, indicates continued progress and target achievements across USACE, particularly for the following metrics: high performance sustainable buildings, sustainable acquisition included in contracts, green procurement, and maximizing renewable energy use. The annual Scorecard can be viewed at: <https://www.sustainability.gov/usace.html>.



## A CLOSER LOOK AT THE SUSTAINABILITY SCORECARD



**39**

USACE has 39 buildings (27.7%) totaling 1,893,363 gross square feet (34.5%) that meet high performance sustainable building criteria.



## A CLOSER LOOK AT USACE SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS



**\$40  
MILLION**

**FY23 FUNDING FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE**

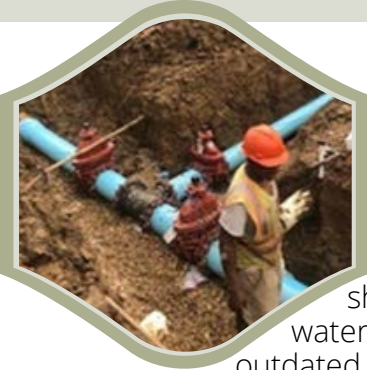
USACE received \$40M in funding broken down by \$10M for Sustainability work packages and \$30M for Climate Change Resilience and Water Control Manual updates. These opportunities continue to systematically improve our infrastructure and equipment while implementing energy, water, and petroleum conservation measures.



**\$20  
MILLION**

**DESIGNATED ZEV CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE**

Continuing from FY22 initiatives, USACE continues to electrify its General Service Administration (GSA)-leased fleet, all while conducting site assessments, design, and installation of necessary charging infrastructure to support fleet electrification. USACE was able to successfully obligate the \$8M received in FY22 and plans to continue its success into FY23 and future years.



USACE projects can achieve sustainability and climate change resilience goals through execution of budget packages, seeking funds to increase renewable energy sources, reduce water intensity, reduce shoreline erosion, upgrade waterlines, and replace or refurbish outdated facilities. Aside from easy "low-

hanging fruit" opportunities including LED lighting replacement, water efficiencies, and HVAC upgrades, sustainability and climate change resilience packages receiving funding in FY23 include:

- Replacing failing electric systems with energy efficient components to increase efficiency and reliability improvements;
- Replacing outdated vault comfort stations;
- Replacing degraded, inefficient water supply systems;
- Replacing campground electrical pedestals;
- Energy and water efficiency improvements;
- Repair and replace wastewater treatment facilities;
- Stabilization of eroding shoreline to protect recreation facilities; and
- Water Control Manual updates.



## ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

Within the Environmental Compliance Community of Practice, HQ USACE issued updated ER 200-2-3, the operating regulations for Environmental Compliance. This update expanded the applicability of the regulation to include all USACE facilities, labs, and centers, as well as hold all senior managers accountable for program execution. In addition, the update strengthened training requirements for spill response, required establishment of Regional Assessment Teams (RATS) for Environmental Review Guide for Operations (ERGO) assessments, clarified roles and responsibilities, incorporated Non-Hazardous Solid Waste Policy and Clean Water Act Compliance for Hydropower Facilities, and highlighted importance of annual management reviews as they relate to the new Risk Managers Internal Control Program (RMICP).

# 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.



## 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).



**\$57.8 MILLION**

**FLTP DOLLARS RECEIVED THROUGH FY22**



**80**

**MILES OF ROADWAY IMPROVED**



**47**

**BRIDGES REPAIRED**



**7 MILLION**

**VISITORS PROVIDED SAFER ACCESS**



## FLPP

FLH Programs provide funding and support for conducting transportation related research, developing asset management collections and data management systems, and conducting long range planning through the Federal Lands Planning Program (FLPP).



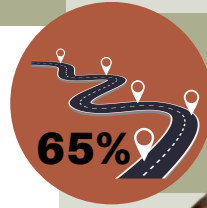
## FLAP

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



## 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.



**65%** of public roads and parking assets have GPS data collected by Student Conservation Association (SCA) survey crews.



**FY22:** State, county, and local government partners to USACE received a total of **\$10.5M** at **13** projects across **11** states.



ERFO funds have supported transportation recovery efforts at USACE projects from damages by **31** severe weather events from 2015 to present.



**FLTP Project: Shenango Recreation Area, Shenango River Lake.** This road improvement project consisted of subgrade replacement and repaving of 0.65 miles of main access road into the recreation area.



**0.65 Roadway Miles Improved**



**Outcomes:** Improved access for approximately 52,000 camping visitors each season at the Shenango Recreation Area. Total visitation to Shenango River Lake results in \$21 million in visitor spending, \$11.8 million in sales, and 172 jobs, resulting in \$4.3 million in labor income to the local economy.

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





# VISITATION



Total visitation during FY22 decreased slightly, by less than 1%, when compared to the high visitation recorded during FY21. In all, over **266,044,439** visits were recorded throughout the past year. As part of an effort to ensure accurate visitation data, the Visitation Estimation Reporting Coach, Assist, and Train Team (VERS CATT) completed a considerable effort to align data associated with visitation from various sources including the Corps of Engineers Financial Management System (CEFMS) remittance, automated fee machines, and Recreation One Stop (R1S).



Raystown Lake



## A CLOSER LOOK AT VISITATION

2022	<b>266,044,439</b>
2021	<b>268,332,451</b>
2020	<b>255,896,508</b>
2019	<b>262,248,952</b>



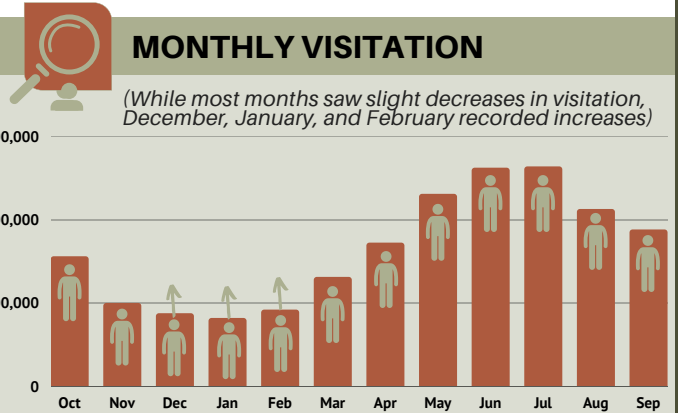
Day Use visitation accounts for **88.7%** of total visitation, while overnight visitation accounts for **11.3%** of total visitation



Enid Lake NRM Staff

**78** USACE PROJECTS RECORDED MORE THAN 1 MILLION VISITS  
*(Nearly 1/5 USACE Projects)*

**60.8** MILLION THE 10 MOST VISITED USACE PROJECTS RECORDED A COMBINED 60.8 MILLION VISITS



*(Note that dispersed use estimates and method are not included in the monthly totals.)*

# PARK RANGER EFFORTS

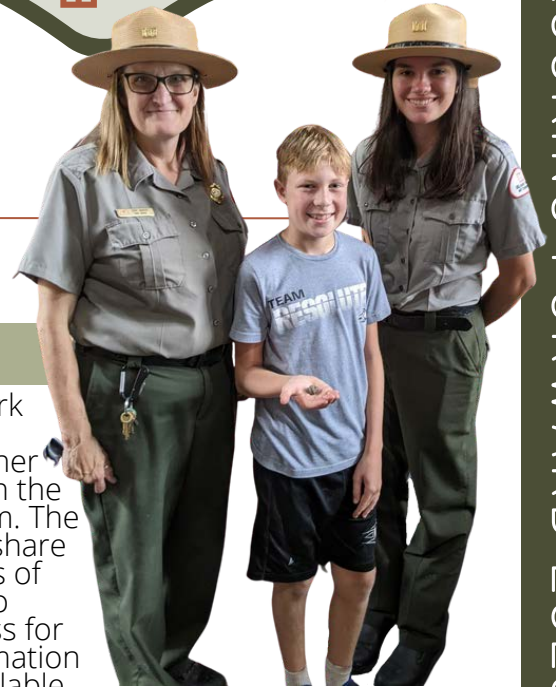


LOOKING FORWARD 2023

USACE Park Rangers provided visitor assistance services to more than 266 million visits that were recorded at USACE lake and river projects.

**1,853**  
UNIFORMED  
PARK RANGERS

**165**  
SEASONAL PARK  
RANGERS



Caesar Creek Park Rangers with a King Mills Elementary School student



## USACE PARK RANGER SURVEY

The responses from the 2022 Park Ranger Survey provided an opportunity to research and further compile a list of trending topics in the USACE Visitor Assistance Program. The goal of this list is to provide and share information on the current status of these topics across USACE and to provide assistance and awareness for future trainings. Additional information on these topics will be made available on the NRM Gateway.

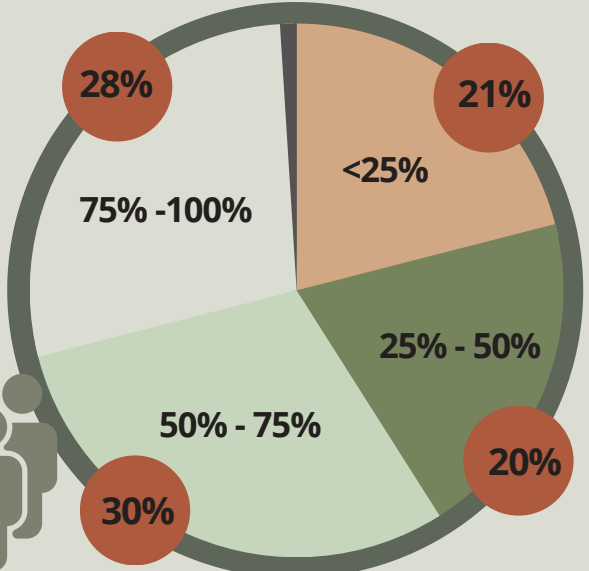


## TRENDING TOPICS IN VISITOR ASSISTANCE.

- 1 Transient Visitation
- 2 First Amendment Audits
- 3 Drug Awareness
- 4 Gang Awareness

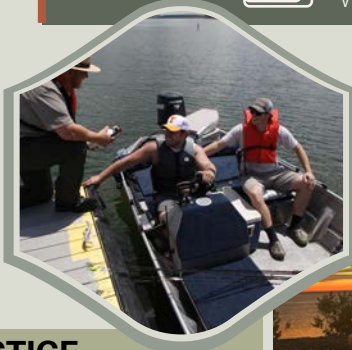


## % of Time During the Summer Recreation Season Spent Performing Visitor Contact Duties



## Park Ranger Activities by the #'s

- 11,441 Warnings and citations for recreation use fee violations
- 19,281 Over 19,000 warnings and citations were issued between 8:00am and 8:00pm
- 65% 65% of all enforcement actions that result in a citation or written warning occur on the weekend



## PARK RANGER COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (CoP) ADVISORY BOARD

The Park Ranger CoP Advisory Board provides for a unified and ongoing support platform for the USACE Park Ranger. The board consists of two members representing each of the eight Divisions who are field-level NRM team members authorized to wear the park ranger uniform and whose primary duties involve park ranger programs.

SWD Park Rangers Matthew Hackler (Waco Lake) and Arty Johnson (Belton Lake)



# RECREATION



RECREATION

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.

Clinton Lake, Photo by Mike Watkins



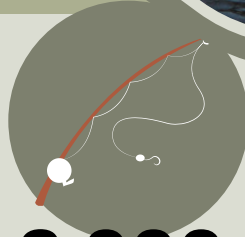
## BASIC PROGRAM STATISTICS



**94,000+**  
CAMPSITES



**7,400+**  
MILES OF TRAILS



**2,000+**  
FISHING TOURNAMENTS



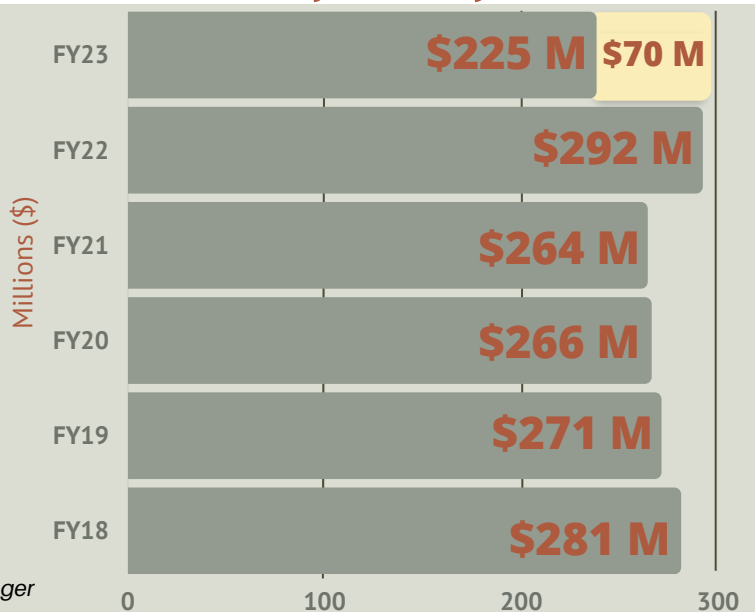
**33,000+**  
PICNIC SITES

**FY22 RECREATION BUDGET.** In FY22, **\$292 million** was enacted by Congress for the Recreation Program. This represented one of the highest appropriations the Recreation Program has received over the past 10 years. The \$292 million reflected approximately \$36 million in specific work not commonly performed for efforts such as water line replacements, sewage treatment facilities, and general facility improvements. It also included \$256 million in common O&M which accomplishes day-to-day routine operations.

**Looking Forward.** In FY23, the Recreation Program will execute an enacted President's budget of approximately **\$225 million** in common O&M. Additionally for FY23, the Recreation Program received **\$70 million** through various sources and supplemental programs such as BIL and the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (DRSAA).

## FY22 RECREATION FUNDING (PRESIDENT'S BUDGET)

**\$292,000,000**



Proctor Lake Park Ranger

# RECREATION



RECREATION

## RECREATION REVENUE

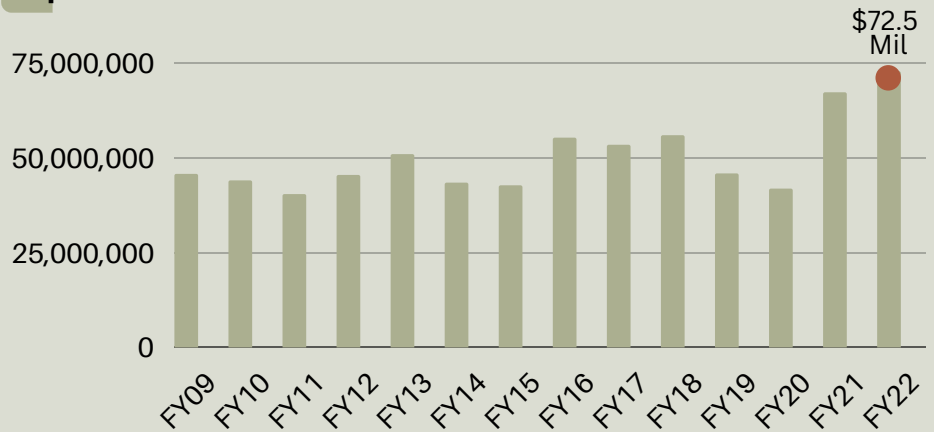
Recreation revenue is the summation of three types of fees authorized under three statutory authorities (16 U.S.C. § 460d-3 and section 1047 and 1048 of WRDA 2014). These fees are "Special Recreation Use Fees (SRUF)," "Interagency America the Beautiful (ATB) Revenues," and "Special Use Permit Fees."

In FY22, USACE collected a total of \$78.2 million, of which \$72.5 million in SRUF offset general treasury funding. Other revenue generated in FY22 included \$2.3 million in America the Beautiful pass sales and \$3.4 million in Special Use Permits which was returned to the point-of-sale site.

Funds collected in SRUF are deposited into a special treasury account referenced under 16 U.S.C. 460d-3(b)(4). These funds are not available for use by USACE until appropriated by Congress. Typically, this has been done via a proviso included in the annual USACE O&M appropriations under Energy and Water Development Appropriations Acts. Unlike other federal land management agencies, no portion of these fees are returned directly to the site from which they were collected.



### Special Recreation Use Fee Collections

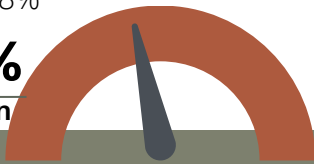


## USACE CAMPING RESERVATIONS

At the end of FY22, USACE camping reservations were 5% less than the high experienced in FY21 at 1,376,242 reservations. The average monthly utilization rate for the fiscal year was 43.9%, 1.8% less than the previous year.

**43.9%**

Average Monthly Utilization



### FY22 Camping Reservations





# ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



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.



**12 MILLION**  
**ACRES OF PUBLIC LAND AND WATERS MANAGED**



**1 MILLION**  
**ACRES OF GRASSLANDS**



**14%**  
**U.S. FRESHWATER FISHING**



**7 OF THE TOP 10**  
**MIGRATORY BIRD FLYWAYS CROSS OVER USACE WATERS**



Sam Rayburn Lake prescribed fire

Raystown Lake fish structure placement in partnership with the PA Fish and Boat Commission



Environmental Stewardship



## FY22 ENS BUDGET

**FY22 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP FUNDING** **\$122,700,000**

**FY22 & FY23 ENS BUDGET.** In FY22, **\$122.7 million** was enacted by Congress for the ENS Program in addition to **\$64.5 million** made available through the work plan. Over **\$37.5 million** was requested by other business lines, such as navigation, hydropower, and flood risk management for work associated with biological opinions. In FY23, the ENS enacted budget totals over **\$141 million** with an additional **\$26 million** from other business lines to support work associated with biological opinions.



Skiatook and Birch Lakes - Niki Baker





# ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



## 2022 PROGRAM FOCUS AREAS

Similar to previous years, notable focus areas within the ENS Program included the revision of project master plans, boundary, and shoreline 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.

# of Master Plans completed in FY22	36
# of Master Plans completed in FY21	14
# of Master Plans completed in FY20	21
# of Master Plans completed in FY19	22
# of Master Plans completed in FY18	12

**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. More than **\$15 million** of boundary related work was funded in FY22.

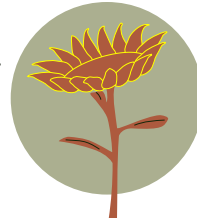


**CECIL M. HARDEN LAKE - Louisville District.** Staff at Cecil M. Harden Lake have worked over the past two years to develop seven sites totaling 10 acres of pollinator habitat in response to dwindling prairie in Indiana. The sites were planted with native forbs (wildflowers) and warm season grasses through the assistance of Quail Forever. Prescribed fire, selective herbicide treatments, and mowing have been used to maintain the sites and control introductions of noxious weeds, such as Johnson grass. Cecil M. Harden Lake, located in west central Indiana, became operational in 1960 with a fee owned area encompassing over 4,000 acres.



**18,150+**

**ACRES MANAGED OR MAINTAINED FOR POLLINATOR SPECIFIC HABITAT**



**14,280+**

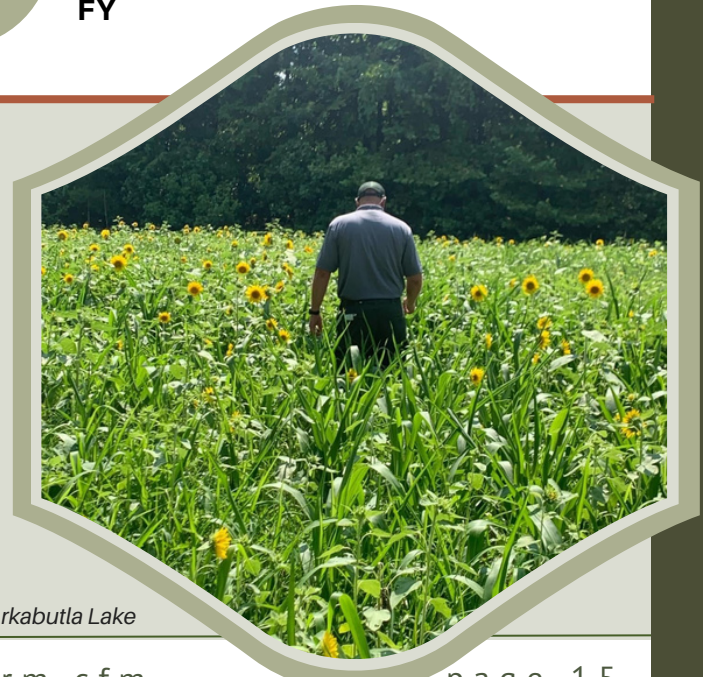
**ACRES IMPROVED OR ENHANCED FOR POLLINATORS DURING THE FY**



**ARKABUTLA LAKE - Vicksburg District.** In addition to supporting pollinator species, staff at Arkabutla Lake plant various annual and perennial mixes to benefit numerous wildlife species, such as songbirds, doves, quail, turkey, and whitetail deer. Built in 1943, Arkabutla Lake is one of USACE's four flood control reservoirs in north Mississippi designed to reduce flood damage in the Yazoo Basin.

NRM staff use a variety of management techniques to manage and conserve the natural resources that are a part of the Arkabutla Lake Project such as planting cover crops, conducting prescribed fire, placing nesting structures, and implementing a number of special events throughout the year that encourage participants to learn more about the environment and actively engage in its conservation.

*Cody Scruggs Arkabutla Lake*





# PARTNERSHIPS



USACE partners and volunteers showed up in full force again during 2022 to support the NRM program. Although we faced a challenging third year of the COVID-19 pandemic together, things gradually began to return to pre-pandemic "normal." This resulted in an increased number of volunteers able to serve on their public lands and more partner organizations seeking to meet mutual goals to improve recreational facilities, services, and access, while providing robust and healthy natural resources for wildlife and visitors to enjoy.



Lake Ouachita Rabbit Water Trail Partnership



PARTNERSHIPS

In 2022, USACE projects collaborated with more than 1,000 new partners around the nation. At the national level, highlights included joining federal land management agencies in developing the Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation MOU and America the Beautiful Promoting Equitable Access to Nature in Nature-Deprived Communities MOU. The second year of the Congressional Recreation Task Force engaged stakeholders and partners to provide input on how to enhance public recreational opportunities and address backlog needs at USACE projects. These outstanding contributions from our valued partners and volunteers continue to be vital in achieving the USACE NRM mission.



Summersville Lake Partnership with Active Southern West Virginia



**4,563** TOTAL PARTNERS  
(33% increase from FY21)

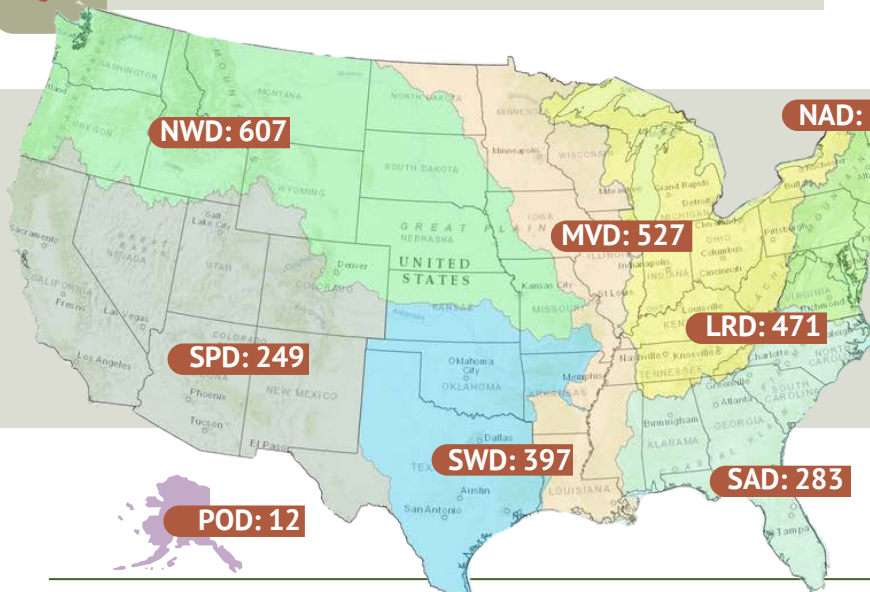


**1,141** NEW PARTNERS



**311** USACE PROJECTS WITH PARTNERSHIPS  
(77% of USACE Projects)

## PARTNERS ENGAGED BY REGION



**USACE Investment: \$29 M**  
**PARTNER Investment: \$110.4 M**  
**\$139,420,034** TOTAL VALUE OF PARTNERSHIPS  
 (25% increase from FY21)



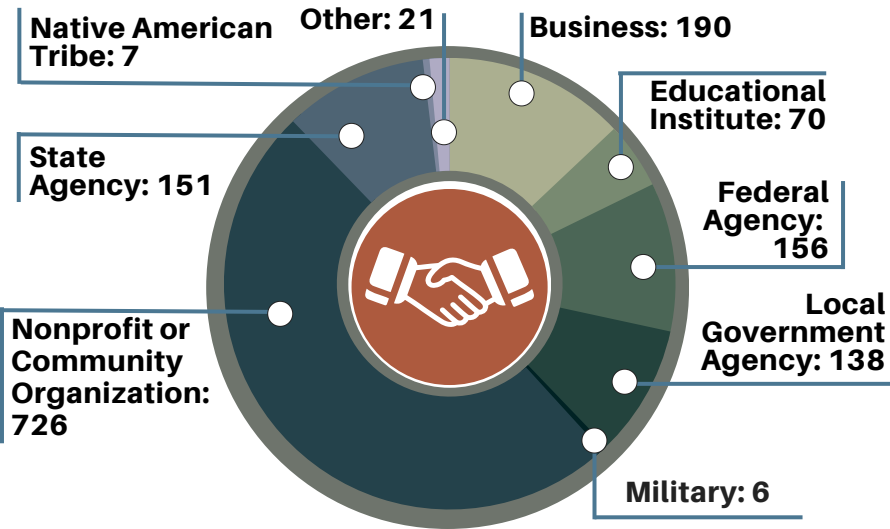
# PARTNERSHIPS



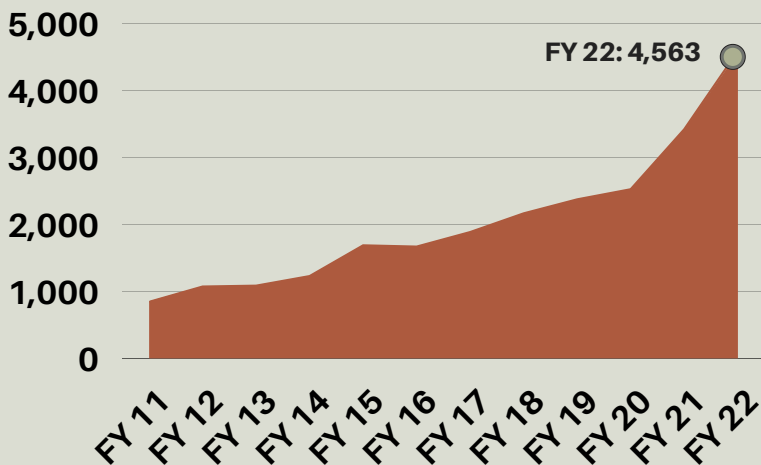
More than **4,000** state, federal, tribal and local government, public/private organizations, and local community partners engaged with USACE in 2022. A total of **141** USACE projects partnered with **31** organizations that have a national MOU in place, providing educational programs, health and safety, and environmental and recreation improvements.



Partnerships



## PARTNERSHIP GROWTH





# VOLUNTEERS



VOLUNTEERS

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.



Lake Sonoma Volunteer

**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.



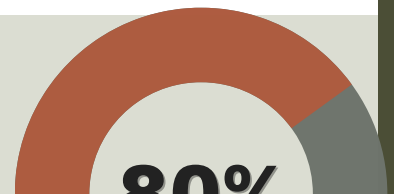
**32,398**  
TOTAL  
VOLUNTEERS



**1,536,732**  
TOTAL VOLUNTEER  
HOURS SERVED  
(Equivalent to 739 FTEs)



**\$46 M**  
TOTAL VALUE  
OF VOLUNTEER  
HOURS



**80%**  
PROJECTS  
USING  
VOLUNTEERS  
(322 of 403  
USACE Projects)



Summersville Lake Volunteers



Sacramento District Parade Float



# VOLUNTEERS



VOLUNTEERS

## NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY (NPLD)

On Sep. 24, 2022, USACE projects joined with other federal land management agencies to celebrate the connection between people and green spaces in their community, inspire environmental stewardship, and encourage the use of open space for education, recreation, and health benefits. USACE provided volunteer opportunities in conjunction with NPLD at 68 lake projects across 25 districts and all MSCs.



Green River Lake Volunteers



Lake Sonoma Volunteers



## 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** volunteers providing **1.5 million** hours of service annually.



**1,468**

**USACE ANNUAL  
PASSES ISSUED**

(for 100 hours of volunteer service)



**225**

**AMERICA THE  
BEAUTIFUL  
PASSES ISSUED**

(for 250 hours of volunteer service)



**31**

**VOLUNTEER  
EXCELLENCE COINS**



## NPLD BY THE NUMBERS



**6,919**

**VOLUNTEERS  
ENGAGED BY USACE**



**26,061**

**VOLUNTEER HOURS  
PROVIDED TO USACE**



**\$777,288**

**VALUE OF SERVICE**



**566**

**TIRES REMOVED**



**89**

**MILES OF TRAIL  
MAINTAINED**



**270**

**PARTNERS  
INVOLVED**



**86,329**

**POUNDS OF  
TRASH REMOVED**



**10,833**

**POUNDS OF INVASIVE  
PLANTS REMOVED**



Blue Marsh Lake BAMBA Volunteers



# WATER SAFETY



The mission of the National Water Safety Program is to develop and provide campaigns, initiatives, partnerships, policies, and educational materials and resources to USACE projects that help them increase public awareness of water safety and reduce the number of water-related accidents and fatalities.



Proctor Lake Park Rangers



WATER SAFETY



## PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CORPS FOUNDATION

The USACE National Water Safety Program 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 FY 22, The Corps Foundation received \$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 dry bags and vehicle windshield sunshades to the National Water Safety Program that were distributed to USACE lakes to use in their "I Got Caught" initiatives. The dry bags and sunshades were given to adults that were "caught" wearing their life jackets.

This was the third year that The Corps Foundation conducted the Life Jacket Video Contest in cooperation with the USACE National Water Safety Program. Nineteen qualifying entries were received. A winner in the 55-second category and 25-second category were selected. The winning entries were made into public service announcements (PSAs) for all USACE offices and others to use. 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.



## WATER-RELATED RECREATION FACILITY STATISTICS



**1,775**

USACE BOAT RAMPS  
(1,960 OUTGRANTED)



**489**

USACE BEACHES  
(337 OUTGRANTED)



**533**

MARINAS LEASED  
TO CONCESSIONS



**674**

USACE LIFE JACKET  
LOANER STATIONS  
(178 OUTGRANTED)



# WATER SAFETY



**3,009,323**

**PLEASE WEAR IT FACEBOOK  
TOTAL REACH**



**21,092**

**PAGE  
LIKES**



**21,863**

**PAGE  
FOLLOWERS**



WATER SAFETY



## PLEASE WEAR IT

The "Please Wear It" Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages are the National Water Safety Program's social media pages that are used to promote the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign to adults. These social media pages are managed with The Corps Foundation utilizing USCG grant funds.



Vicksburg District Parade Float



**644,403**

**WATER SAFETY  
OFF-SITE  
CONTACTS**



**839,117**

**WATER SAFETY  
ON-SITE  
CONTACTS**



## BOBBER THE WATER SAFETY DOG

Bobber the Water Safety Dog is the USACE National mascot for water safety. Bobber made numerous appearances at events with help from park rangers and other USACE employees. One of the appearances Bobber made was at the July 20, 2022, U.S. Army Twilight Tattoo and he received a certificate of appreciation from Chief of Engineers LTG Spellmon for participating in the event.



## FY22 LIFE JACKETS WORN...NOBODY MOURNS CAMPAIGN.



### ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS.

The FY22 Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns Campaign Online Survey had a completion rate of **51%**.



On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest, **49%** rated the campaign as a 10 and the average rating was **9.0**.



"Wearing a life jacket is like wearing a seatbelt; you never know when it will save your life. Even as a good swimmer it's that extra level of protection that I know will save my life if something goes wrong."





## HIRAM M. CHITTENDEN AWARD.

The Chief of Engineer's Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence recognizes outstanding achievement using interpretation to enhance public understanding of USACE, prompting positive experiences and attitudes, and encouraging voluntary stewardship of natural, cultural, and created resources. The 2022 recipient of this award is Ms. Viola Bramel, West Hill Dam, New England District.

Ms. Bramel is recognized for her 31 years of service and her ability to partner within the community of West Hill Dam to spread the messages of environmental stewardship, recreation, and flood risk management. Her mentoring and tutelage of the next generation will leave a lasting legacy. Congratulations Viola, and thank you!

## 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. The 2022 recipient of this award is Mr. Christopher Alford, Chief Natural Resources Management Section, Walla Walla District.

Mr. Alford is recognized for his personal commitment to being a leader, a team builder, an encourager, and a valuable source of knowledge and experience within the recreation, natural resources management, and environmental stewardship programs.



## EXCELLENCE IN PARTNERSHIP AWARD.

The Excellence in Partnership Award, made possible in partnership with the Corps Foundation, recognizes the exceptional contributions to the

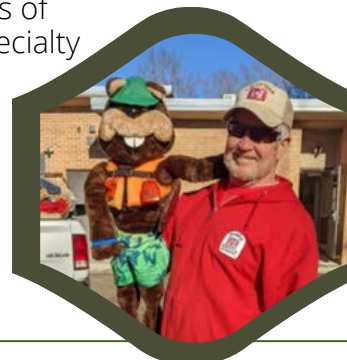
NRM Program at USACE projects.

The New River Alliance of Climbers (NRAC) at Summersville Lake in the Huntington District have been selected as the 2022 Excellence in Partnerships Award recipients for their steadfast commitment in creating sustainable use and continued access to climbing opportunities along the stunning sandstone cliffs of Summersville Lake. Since 2019, NRAC has contributed \$60K in funding, provided \$50K in volunteer services, and generated over \$100K in environmental stewardship value to Summersville Lake, constructing a 20-foot metal staircase against a cliff for improved emergency evacuation and filling gabion baskets to prevent erosion of the shoreline.

## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR.

The national volunteer award, donated by the Corps Foundation, recognizes extraordinary service provided by volunteers, draws attention to their vast skills and contributions, and encourages an attitude of stewardship and responsibility in caring for USACE land.

This year's USACE national volunteer of the year award recipients are Red and Joy Lyons of Carters Lake in the Mobile District. They have donated more than 5,100 hours of volunteer service over a two-year period. In 2022, they coordinated, led, or supported a dozen interpretive events, made hundreds of water safety contacts, and saved USACE tens of thousands of dollars in repairs and specialty construction work. One of their most substantial contributions was working to form Carters Lake's first and only nonprofit organization, Our Beautiful Carters Lake.



# EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION



## **NATIONAL WATER SAFETY EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR.**

Ms. Caitlin Sloan, Natural Resources Specialist, Bayou Bodcau Dam and Reservoir, Vicksburg District, was selected as the recipient of the 2022 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) National Water Safety Employee Award. Ms. Sloan is recognized for her dedication and creativity in promoting water safety to the public during the continuation of the pandemic. While many water safety programs had to be postponed, Caitlin found

creative ways to spread the water safety message to local schools, partners, and the visiting public. She has created new bulletin boards, kiosks, flyers, and brochures that highlight the missions of USACE and water safety. One of her most unique brochures is her "senior" Boating and Water Safety Brochure. This brochure covers all of the risk factors associated with aging, which makes the subject of being safe while on or near water evermore pressing. The brochure highlights the importance of being aware of your surrounding, having a companion with you if possible, and wearing a personal flotation device if on or near the water. Congratulations Caitlin, and thank you!

*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 TEAM OF THE YEAR.**

The Allatoona Lake Water Safety Team was selected as the recipient of the 2022 USACE National Water Safety Team Award. Through efforts of staff members and volunteers, the team managed a very large life jacket loaner program, expanded their "I Got Caught" initiative, created a water safety ranger of the week award, and revamped their Allatoona Ranger Card Program. The team shared effective water safety messages on social media and utilized numerous partnership to promote water safety. Partnership efforts included the creation and installation of the nation's first water safety disc golf hole. The Allatoona Lake Water Safety Team is a key member of the Allatoona Water Safety Task Force. Congratulations Allatoona Lake Water Safety Team Members, and thank you!







**U.S. ARMY**



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

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