



THE recreation RETREAT

Your Recreation HQ Update

POC: Scott Strotman, Recreation Program & Business Line Manager, 202-761-0036.

'Tis the Season to Budget! I am excited to welcome you to the first issue of "The Recreation Retreat" newsletter! Being the Recreation Program Business Line Manager in HQ for a little over four years now, I look forward to sharing news and information through this new media. I have worn many hats and worked at several locations during my 33 years as a Park Ranger/Park Manager with the Corps, and I always look forward to reading publications such as this, and writing articles for them as well. I would encourage each of you to share your own news stories so that others may learn from your experiences. For my first article I would like to share a few insights regarding the budget process given we are currently at the juncture of several key phases of multiple budget cycles.

*"HQ appreciates your efforts in accurately submitting your budget needs and Rec Assessment data. We do use every bit of data to tell the story of the great work you do and the benefits enjoyed by the public we serve."
-Scott Strotman, Recreation Program and Business Line Manager*

It is budget season once again! But then, when does budget season really begin or end? At any one time there are actually three budget years in play. For instance, the budget build for FY2021 has just begun, two years before it will be implemented which is standard procedure. Three webinars recently concluded that provided guidance and direction on the process that Recreation will follow when developing its budget request for FY2021. These webinars occurred on January 23, 24, and 28 with more than 80 attendees at each session. These sessions play a critical role in educating project staff responsible for creating the budget packages that will eventually be needed to fund each project's recreation mission. For many, this signals the beginning of a new budget cycle that actually began last fall with the review and update of budget policy guidance.

While the FY2021 budget process is ramping up, the FY2020 budget process is still in play. Final reviews, adjustments and supporting documents are being wrapped up just in time to support the March roll-out of the President's budget for FY2020. As has been the case for many years, around February or March, the President formally announces his budget for the upcoming year. The Corps' Recreation budget makes up a small part of the overall budget the President recommends to Congress.

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YOUR Thoughts

We are looking for contributors and ideas!

*If you have a topic, success story, lesson learned, or helpful suggestion—let us know.

Send to: Tara.J.Whitsel@usace.army.mil

The Recreation Retreat is an unofficial publication of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

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*Campaign Hat Photo Credit:
Cynthia Mitchell, USACE*

This Issue:



**What is R1S?
The RLAT
Rec Policy Updates**



RLAT?

Recreation Leadership Advisory Team

The Recreation Leadership Advisory Team was formed to provide oversight and serve as an ad hoc committee to the Chief of the Natural Resources Management Branch in HQUSACE. It provides guidance and review to the Recreation Management Support Program (RMSP).

What's RLAT Up To!

POC: Phil Smith, RLAT Chair, 559-673-5151

It's very exciting to Chair the Recreation Leadership Advisory Team! The team is very dedicated and energized to solve the world's problems, but we are going to start with issues facing the Corps Recreation program. Here are a few items, from October meeting in Duluth, MN, that the team wants to tackle:

1. The National Recreation Strategic Plan is at the top of the list. Was the plan successful? At what level was the plan used or recognized? Did the plan make any noticeable impacts? What type of plan do we need for the future? Team: Patti Williams and Phil Smith Co-Chairs, Meredith Bridgers, Heather Burke, Roseana Burick, Titus Hardiman, Brian Mangrum, and Scott Strotman. Advisor: Jeff Krause.

2. Starting a Recreation Newsletter. Tara Whitsel has volunteered to be our Editor in Chief. She's going to need volunteers from across our Corps projects to provide information and articles so "Recreation" can tell its story and share all the hard work that's going on throughout the country. **Article Continued on Page 6.**

Photos Top & Bottom: Members of the RLAT at the Bi-Annual Meeting in Duluth, MN



What is R1S?

POC: Gregg Webb, Former USACE R1S Program Manager (Now Retired)

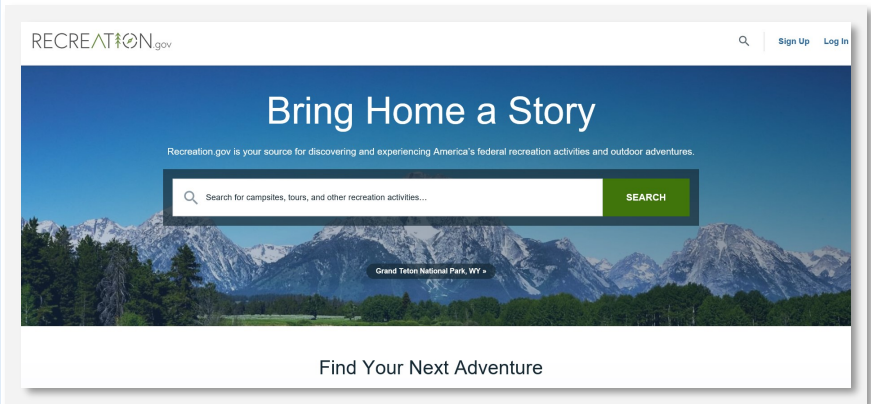
Background: In 1990 the Corps was directed to develop a plan to maintain and enhance public recreation opportunities at Corps water resource projects while reducing the Federal expenditures for recreation. A National Recreation Study was conducted, and findings from the study recommended establishing a nationwide campground reservation system.

In 1992, as part of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) directed Recreation Policy Review, the recommendation was reexamined and endorsed. At that time, a task force was established to look at the potential of partnering with the U.S. Forest Service to build an interagency reservation system.

In 1995, the Corps signed an interagency agreement with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management for joint procurement of nationwide recreation reservation services. The National Park Service (NPS) was originally included in this agreement but decided not to participate and provide separate NPS reservation service.

In March 1998 a contract was awarded to ReserveAmerica (formerly Park Net Inc.), of Ballston Spa, N.Y., to operate the new interagency nationwide reservation service for recreation facilities and activities on federal lands managed by the Corps and U.S. Forest Service. The contractor is paid a fee for each reservation transaction made at each of the sales channels. The U.S. Forest Service adds this cost as a reservation fee to the customer. The Corps includes this cost in their facility use fee and does not charge a separate reservation fee to the customer.

In December 2002, DOI agencies received direction from the Office of Management and Budget to consolidate reservation systems. Subsequently, the National Recreation Reservation Service became part of the Department of Interior (DOI) led Recreation One-Stop, E-Government initiative and 12 National Parks, 3 Bureau of Land Management and 2 Bureau of Reclamation sites were added to the NRRS in November 2003.



On June 17, 2005 a new and comprehensive contract to accommodate the requirements of all agencies was advertised and awarded to Aspira formally called ReserveAmerica and Active Network.

Mission: The mission of the NRRS is to provide an innovative, easy way for the public to reserve federal recreation facilities and activities.

- Provide high-quality service to the public.
- Emulate other commercial reservation systems.
- Emulate reservation industry service standards.
- Market Federal recreation opportunities.
- Respond to agency needs.

On May 13, 2016 a new Recreation One Stop (R1S) Support Services contract was awarded to Booz Allen Hamilton to utilize existing inventory and information to build upon the historic strengths of the legacy program with the goal of providing internal and external customers a robust, reliable, innovative and flexible approach to providing recreation information, comprehensive travel planning, and reservations services.

Recreation Policy Updates

POC: Steve Austin, Senior Policy Advisor for Park Rangers Activities , 202-761-4489.

Small Boat Training A project delivery team was chartered in 2017 to conduct a thorough review of the Small Boat Operator Training Program. Their recommendations were approved and are included in the 1 March 2018 memo, "Revised Policy, USACE Small Boat Operator Training Program". ER 385-1-91, "Training, Testing, and Licensing for Operators of Class A and Class 1 Motorboats", is being revised to include these changes and will be published later this year. Standardize training manuals were issued last May and were used in a number of successful training courses. A special thanks goes out the members of the PDT and to all the MSC/District motorboat coordinators and motorboat instructors for conducting a very successful and safe boat operator training program under the new guidance.

Public Carry of Firearms The Corps is considering changes to Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 327.13, which governs public firearm possession at water resources development projects administered by the Chief of Engineers. The change includes the ability for the public to carry firearms at USACE water resources development projects. This change reflects current state laws authorizing the possession of firearms and conforms with other Federal land management agency firearm regulations. Any revision will be published for public comment in the Federal Register.

Uniform Regulation ER/EP 1130-2-550, Chapter 8, "Uniforms for Natural Resources Management Program Staff", is being revised to clarify uniform wear eligibility requirements, uniform classes, allowances, appearance standards, and program management responsibilities. We are under the second year of a five-year multi-agency uniform contract administered by the National Park Service and are currently waiting on NPS to accept our FY19 funding and sign the interagency agreement in order to allow the contractor (VF Imagewear) to begin shipping uniform orders. Efforts are being made to get this action completed as soon as possible.

UAS 36 CFR 327.4, prohibits aircraft (including UAS) unless authorized by the District Commander. Further guidance regarding public operation is contained in paragraphs 13-15 of EC-1110-1-109, "Acquisition and Operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems Technology". The Corps may regulate UAS operations while an individual is physically on USACE property, but cannot restrict operation if the person is off USACE property unless the airspace has been designated as a "no fly zone" by the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA). UAS operations must be reported when: 1) criminal activity/terrorism has occurred or is suspected; 2) the operation poses a significant threat or security concern to project features, or to the safety of the public or government employees; or 3) a mishap involving a USACE-operated UAS occurs. The EC provides additional guidance on the procedures for reporting and for designating "no fly zones" through the FAA.

Visitor Assistance Chapters 6 and 7 of ER/EP 1130-2-550, "Visitor Assistance Program" and "Cooperative Agreements for Law Enforcement Services at Civil Works Water Resources Projects", are being revised to clarify citation authority eligibility requirements, and to include policy changes, new training requirements, and MSC/district program management responsibilities. Chapter 7, is being changed from "agreements" to "contracts" to reflect Federal law. MSCs have been instructed to change all existing law enforcement agreements to contracts and are reminded that all employees with citation authority must receive proper annual refresher training to maintain their citation authority.

Your Recreation HQ Update

*Continued
From Page 1*

Congress then develops their recommended appropriation bills and if not passed by October 1, 2019 a series of Continuing Resolutions (CR) will temporarily fund federal agencies until the appropriations are passed.

While we develop the FY2021 budget and we await the formal announcement of the FY2020 President's budget, we are already in the 2nd quarter of executing the FY2019 appropriation. Fortunately, back in September 2018 Congress passed and the President signed the appropriations that funded the Corps for FY2019. This was the first time in a decade that the Corps was fully funded prior to the start of the fiscal year. So, budget season is in full swing with FY2019 off to a smooth start!



Park Ranger CoP? Community of Practice

2018 was another busy year for the USACE Park Ranger Community of Practice Advisory Board!

We started with our in-person meeting at USACE HQ in January. While in D.C. we worked on analyzing results from the 2017 Park Ranger Safety Survey and prepped for the 2018 ranger safety survey. Additionally, we met with the Chief of Engineers and charted our course of work for 2018.

Over the remainder of 2018 we have:

- Continued work on a Park Ranger History Display for HQ
- Developed a Visitor Assistance Self-Assessment tool for use in the field
- Continued to collect data for future Title 36 revision
- Developed and launched a gateway page for Unmanned Aircraft Systems/ Unmanned Aircraft Vehicles in support of the new EC
- Continued to support and offer improvements to the NRM gateway
- Presented a Webinar of what we have been working on and the 2017 Park Ranger Survey Results in July
- Launched the 2018 Park Ranger Safety Survey
- Briefed the USACE HQ Chief of Ops on the Park Ranger CoP
- Assisted with the update of the Motorboat Operator Training program and
- Initiated discussions with ACE-IT on developing some tools to help Field staff with some radio communication issues

We are looking forward to another exciting and busy year in 2019. Please remember that the Park Ranger CoP is a "grassroots" advisory board.

YOUR National Water Safety Program

POC: Pam Doty, Water Safety Program Manager, 817-886-1727.



Lake Shelbyville Project Spotlight

Constructed between 1963 and 1970, Lake Shelbyville is the 3rd largest reservoir in Illinois. Approximately 2 hours north east of St. Louis and 3 1/2 hours south of Chicago, Lake Shelbyville is situated on the upper portion of the Kaskaskia River. Project highlights include:

- 3.1 million annual visitors
- 11,100 acres of water
- 23,241 acres of land
- 170 miles of shoreline
- 5 federal & 2 state leased campgrounds
- 10 boat ramps
- 6 beaches
- 3 marinas

Over the past few years Lake Shelbyville has been nationally recognized for their notable achievements within the NRM program which include:

- 2015 NRM Project of the Year
- 2016 Excellence In Partnership Award
- 2016 STEM Team Award

With a goal to provide an outdoor recreational experience and educational experience for every visitor, the team at Shelbyville has sought ways to expand their creative use of partnerships. Additionally, the project has undergone an extensive revision of their Project Master Plan, completed sustainability upgrades, improvements to trails and campgrounds, and so much more. GREAT JOB and we look forward to learning more about the exciting work of your team!

Photo Above: Shelbyville Lake on the Kaskaskia River. Photo Below: Lake Shelbyville Staff work with SCA crewmembers to conduct of 5 miles of trail expansion.



I want to begin by thanking each and every one of you for everything you do to promote water safety. You are making a difference and saving lives and that is very much appreciated. The USACE National Operations Center for Water Safety manages the National Water Safety Program, which has many resources available that can help you promote water safety to all ages.

Over the past ten years (2008-2017) 88 percent of all USACE water-related public recreation fatalities were men and 60 percent were between the ages of 20 and 60. Also, 84 percent were not wearing life jackets and 27 percent of boating fatalities were from falls overboard. In addition to boating falls, the activity that caused the most water-related fatalities was swimming in areas not designated for swimming. The Life Jackets Worn... Nobody Mourns campaign is our adult water safety campaign that was developed and is enhanced through a partnership with the Corps of Engineers Natural Resources and Education Foundation (The Corps Foundation) utilizing grant funds from the U.S. Coast Guard. To learn more about The Corps Foundation visit their website www.CorpsFoundation.org.

Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign materials including logo, video and audio PSAs, images to use on your social media pages and websites, publication ads, banner, billboard, and vinyl tailgate artwork, updated resource kit, new media kit, and more can be found on www.PleaseWearIt.com, which is the National Water Safety Program's website. The updated campaign resource kit was developed to assist you in learning how you can help promote the campaign and the new campaign media kit was developed for you to provide to the media in your area so they can help promote the campaign too.

National Water Safety "Please Wear It" Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages were launched this year in April and have been going strong ever since. The pages combined have over 7,700 followers and growing every day, so thank you for following and sharing the outstanding water safety posts throughout the year.

Also, a National Water Safety Blog was launched this year and are shared on the Please Wear It social media pages. The blogs/articles can be read at <https://medium.com/@pleasewearitarmycorps> and at www.PleaseWearIt.com under news release/stories. Three of the blogs have been translated into Spanish.

A new mobile game called "LJ vs. The Lake" is available for free on Google Play and Apple App stores. It is a side-scrolling type of game that incorporates the catchy LJ (short for Life Jacket) Song PSA tune. In this game, LJ is an animated character that saves unprepared lake goers by dispensing life jackets to them. Those that play the game can compete for challenges, earn achievements, and compare distance scores on a global leaderboard. The mobile game "Lake Guard" is also still available to download for free too. While playing "Lake Guard" players control a safety cannon to launch the necessary safety gear to unprepared boaters. Players keep guard of their lake for as long as they can while increasingly hazardous conditions and visitors try to overrun it.



The Bobber the Water Safety Dog campaign is our youth water safety campaign. The concept and all of artwork and resources associated with Bobber were developed by Toby Isbell, National Water Safety Program Graphic Artist. The Bobber website www.Bobber.info is a high quality website that provides activities, coloring sheets, cartoons, trading cards and more that can be downloaded and used to promote water safety to kids. "Take Along Bobber" is also available on the website and in the new Bobber Fun Book that was made available to Corps offices this year to distribute to kids during interpretive programs and special events. Encourage kids of all ages while they are playing it safe to have their picture taken with "Take Along Bobber" and email it to Bobber@bobber.info.

Why Do We Need Interpretive Services?

POC: Roseana Burick, Louisville District, 502-315-6718

“Through mission-related interpretation, we need to let people know who we are, what we do for them, and why they should care! It is that kind of positive community support that translates to good Congressional support.” – Craig “Rocky” Rockwell, former Operations Manager, Philpott Lake.

Interpretation is a mission based communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the inherent meanings of the resource. As the Corps, we use interpretation to communicate and educate our internal and external audiences in support of mission accomplishments, such as, telling the Corps Story and revealing the relationships of manmade, natural, cultural and created environments.

The Corps’ Interpretive Services and Outreach Program (ISOP) Strategy is to achieve the goals outlined in ER/ EP 1130-2-550, Chapter 4, and conduct these efforts at the field level so as to enhance understanding of both the Corps and the public’s role and responsibilities.

Interpretive Goals:

- **To achieve management objectives using interpretive techniques.**
- **To provide environmental education to foster stewardship of natural, cultural and created environments.**
- **To incorporate Corps civil works and military missions into interpretive programming.**
- **To improve visitor and employee safety using interpretive techniques.**
- **To use environmental education, partnerships, career development, recruitment and special programs and events to encourage students to pursue careers in math and science.**
- **To enhance visitor’s experience and enjoyment by anticipating their needs and providing interpretive resources to meet those needs.**

Through interpretation we strive to achieve management objectives to gain compliance in a positive and voluntary way, correct misconceptions of the Corps, and develop partnerships to further our missions.

DID YOU KNOW...

The Corps has an Interpretive SharePoint where you can find resources? Check it out! <https://cops.usace.army.mil/sites/NRM/ISO/default.aspx>
If you have information to share, send to Roseana.M.Burick@usace.army.mil

Water Safety Program Continued From Page 4

Robotronics is the only company authorized to sell a Bobber costume or parts associated with it. Information and contact information can be found at www.robotronics.com/bobber-the-water-safety-dog.

Each year there is a National Water Safety Photo Contest with a deadline in January. Plan your photo entry now! Photos can be submitted by Corps employees and volunteers. Contest categories typically include Corps Employees in Action (includes water safety mascots), Corps Partners or Volunteers in Action, Commercial Boating, Water Recreation, and Non-water Recreation. Photo contest guidelines and entry submittal instructions can be found on the NRM Gateway in the water safety section under photos <https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/watersafety/photos.cfm>.

Get to know your division representative on the National Water Safety Committee. Contact information for your division representative can be found on the NRM Gateway in the water safety section <https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/watersafety/water.cfm>. The entire National Water Safety Committee works very hard to provide you high quality promotional products and resources, so let us know your thoughts about current products and resources and if you have any ideas regarding products and resources that you would like for us to consider. We are here to make your job easier when it comes to promoting water safety, so please let us know how we are doing. Together we can and are making a difference. Thank You!



Photo: Park Ranger Alicia Palmer leads an interpretive kayaking program highlighting shale barren habitats which host endemic plant and insect communities.



Trail Spotlight

Hodges Village Dam



US Army Corps
of Engineers

Oxford, Massachusetts

Hodges Village Dam, New England District, provides a unique year-round recreation opportunity when compared to many Corps facilities, an ORV (off-road vehicle) trail. There are approximately 22 miles of trails weaving their way around the Hodges Village Project area. The trails on the east side of the French River are for non-motorized recreation including hiking, nature study, mountain biking, cross country skiing and horse-back riding. The trails on the west side of the river are for both non-motorized and motorized use. Off highway motorcycle use makes Hodges Village Dam a popular off highway motorcycle area in Central Massachusetts and draws visitors from the tri-state area. All riders are required to be registered.

About Hodges Village Dam

Construction of the Hodges Village Dam was initiated in 1958 and completed in 1959. This earthfill dam does not typically have a lake. The flood storage area of the project is normally empty and only utilized to store floodwaters. The entire project, including all associated lands covers 1,137 acres.



Park Ranger CoP

We are always interested in hearing about your issues that may have regional or national interest. If you have any questions please contact your division representative!

Division	Team Members	
NAD	Nicole Giles	Natalie McCormack
SAD	Scott Kelley	Vacant
LRD	Jessica Lee	Jeffery Church
MVD	Jeremy Logan	Jake Huey
NWD	Stanton Rains	Cady Tyron
SWD	Tennille Hammonds	Chris Gilliland
SPD	Austin Kuhlman	Morgan Barnes (Vice-Chair)
POD	Angela Jones	Justin Kerwin

The Park Ranger CoP is supported by headquarters proponents (Steve Austin) chair (Scott Tichy), and advisors (Michelle Frobose and Bonnie Bryson).

R1S Continued From Page 2

Oct 1, 2018 - Go-Live launch of the new R1S contract with Booze Allen Hamilton

Sales Channel Information: Advance reservations are available by toll-free reservation number to an R1S Call Center, through the Internet, or at selected parks. The initial internet reservation site was opened on 19 May 1999 and at <http://www.ReserveUSA.com>. In 2003 the Governments website <http://www.ReserveUSA.com> was changed under the DOI led Recreation One Stop, E-Government initiative to <http://www.Recreation.gov>. The <http://recreation.gov> website domain is owned by the Government and hosted by the R1S contractor.

R1S Participation: The R1S program provides "One Stop" shopping for recreation information sharing and comprehensive travel planning and reservations services. The total number of reservable locations in the R1S represents more than 1,700 parks and over 50,000 campsites and cabins. The Corps of Engineers has over 170 Projects and 620 parks participating in the R1S program.

RLAT Continued From Page 2

4. NRM Knowledge Management. How do we get people to use the NRM Gateway? Probably the best hidden secret NRM has in its toolbox. The team will explore new ideas on how to make the NRM Gateway more user friendly and up to date. Have suggestions, please send them our way!

5. NRM DLL. Team member Chris Alford will work with the Ranger CoP on a possible email distribution list for our NRM community.

Division	MSC Level Team Member	District or Project Level Team Member
NAD	Mike Vissichelli	Jeff Piscanio
SAD	Ryan Hartwig	Amy Cobb
LRD	Jeff Defosse	Brian Mangrum
MVD	Lynn Neher	Ashley Kiley
NWD	Patti Williams	Chris Alford
SWD	David White	Titus Hardiman
SPD	Phil Smith (Chair)	Alicia Unsinn
POD	Gayle Rich	Justin Kerwin

The RLAT is supported by Headquarters Proponents and team members from the Engineer Research Development Center (ERDC) and the Institute for Water Resources (IWR).



Real Life Lake Red Rock

On June 15, 2018 at Lake Red Rock, Iowa within the Rock Island District, a group of visitors ranging in age from children to adults were fishing approximately 1,200 feet downstream of the dam spillway. Some of the children were wading along the shore in shallow water likely due to hot weather conditions. Witnesses said the children went out into deeper water and began to experience trouble swimming. Several adults from the group went into the water to assist the children and also started to struggle in the deeper water. A nearby boater observed the incident and motored to their location to assist them. He pulled several (5-6) people into his boat and threw life jackets to those still in the water. He then recovered an unresponsive seven year old female and called 911 before performing CPR on the child. He was able to successfully resuscitate her. While assisting the girl, one of the adult males still in the water went missing; his body was later recovered by divers.

This incident resulted in one fatality. If it were not for the actions of the nearby boater, many more lives would have been lost. Our visitors will take action if they know how they can assist in the situation. It is unknown how this rescuer knew what to do, but it is known that our park rangers, managers, and other employees educate people throughout the year regarding how to be safe on and around the water and what to do to assist someone in the water that is in distress.

The next time you explain to someone how to wear a life jacket properly and why he/she should wear it, or teach a visitor how to properly assist someone struggling in the water (Reach, Throw, Row, Don't Go), please know that your actions can and will save lives. It is not possible to know how many lives we have saved throughout the years by promoting water safety, but the number must be in the thousands. If you know of any rescue or "Saved by a Life Jacket" stories that have occurred at your lake, please share them with Pam Doty, at pamela.j.doty@usace.army.mil.