



THE recreation RETREAT

NRM Strategic Plan Complete

POC: Jeff Krause, Chief Natural Resources, 202-761-1228

On July 19 Maj. Gen. William Graham, Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations, USACE, signed the Natural Resources Management 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

The NRM Strategic Plan is available on the NRM Gateway.



Click here for plan!



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

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).

This online publication is produced quarterly with the purpose of providing its readers information about the USACE Recreation Program. Editorial views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Mention of specific vendors does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army or any element thereof. Managing Editor: Tara Whitsel. Tara.J.Whitsel@usace.army.mil

*Campaign Hat Photo Credit:
Cynthia Mitchell, USACE*

This Issue:



**Pay.Gov for USACE
Park Ranger Safety Survey**

“I Got Caught” Wearing a Life Jacket Initiative

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

“I Got Caught” Wearing a Life Jacket initiatives have been in place for several years at some USACE lakes and river projects and this year the initiatives were taken to another level by a gracious donation of beach towels from the Corps of Engineers Natural Resources Education Foundation (The Corps Foundation). The beach towels are very nice, 30” x 60”, with the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns logo on them. The Corps Foundation purchased the beach towels under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, which is administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. USACE is not authorized to purchase products such as beach towels so this donation is greatly appreciated.

The USACE National Water Safety Program asked USACE projects to submit requests for beach towels and over 100 requests were received. Based on availability, there were only 35 lakes selected to receive one box of 48 beach towels each. The towels are being handed out to adults caught wearing a life jacket. The lakes that received beach towels are required to send pictures of those caught to Pam Doty, National Water Safety Program Manager.

The following lakes received beach towels to enhance or to start a new “I Got Caught” initiative: LRH- Burnsville and Sutton; LRL- Green River, Nolin River, and Rough River; LRN- Cumberland; LRP- Crooked Creek and Stonewall Jackson; MVK- Greeson; MVP-Gull, Ashtabula, and Sandy; MVR- Red Rock and Saylorville; MVS- Carlyle, Shelbyville, and Rend; NAB- Raystown and Jennings Randolph; NWK- Melvern, Pomme de Terre, Rathbun, Stockton, and Wilson; NWW- Dworshak; SAM- Allatoona and Walter F. George; SAS- J. Strom Thurmond; SAW- John H. Kerr; SPA- Conchas; SPK- Pine Flat; SWG- Wallisville; SWL- Table Rock, SWF- Proctor; and SWT- Broken Bow.

There have been very positive responses from park rangers coordinating the “I Got Caught” initiatives and from the adults caught wearing their life jackets. This is a great way to reach adults and show appreciation to those who wear their life jackets and encourage others to wear them so they can get a free prize. Even if you did not receive any of the beach towels you are encouraged to start an “I Got Caught” initiative at your lake or river project using products you receive from the National Water Safety Program and local partners.

The Corps Foundation plans on donating more products that can be used in “I Got Caught” initiatives. The National Water Safety Committee Division Representatives will be sending out more information regarding that next year.



Allatoona Lake



J. Strom Thurmond Lake



Lake Shelbyville



Nolin River Lake



“I Got Caught” Continued

On Aug. 4, 2021, a video that includes pictures of several of the adults caught wearing their life jackets and receiving beach towels will be posted on the National Water Safety Program’s “Please Wear It” social media page on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. These social media pages are managed in cooperation with The Corps Foundation. Please share this post and the other great water safety posts on your social media pages.



Proctor Lake



Rathbun Lake

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

1 Here is a link to a water safety PSA created by the Nashville District (LRN) that includes Command Sergeant Major Patrickson Toussaint.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XDa3w_w2684

i Click here to watch!

2 The U.S. Coast Guard’s 2020 Recreational Boating Statistics report has been posted on their website, and it can be accessed at <https://uscgboating.org/library/accident-statistics/Recreational-Boating-Statistics-2020.pdf>

i Click here for report!

In calendar year 2020, the Coast Guard counted 5,265 accidents that involved 767 deaths, 3,191 injuries and approximately \$62.5 million dollars of damage to property as a result of recreational boating accidents. Compared to 2019, the number of accidents increased 26%, the number of deaths increased 25%, and the number of injuries increased 25%. The fatality rate was 6.5 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels. This rate represents a 25% increase from the 2019 fatality rate of 5.2 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels.

26%

Consistent with previous years, the majority of fatality victims drowned and the majority of drowning victims were not wearing a life jacket. 75% of fatalities where the cause of death was known were attributed to drowning. Of drowning victims for whom life jacket usage was reported, 86% were not wearing a life jacket.

Where length of vessel was known, eight out of every ten boaters who drowned were using vessels less than 21 feet in length.

Alcohol use is the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents; where the primary cause was known, it was listed as the leading factor in 18% of deaths.

Where instruction history was known, 77% of deaths occurred on boats where the operator had not received boating safety instruction. Only 12% percent of deaths occurred on vessels where the operator was known to have received a nationally-approved boating safety education certificate.

Operator inattention, operator inexperience, improper lookout, excessive speed, and machinery failure rank as the top five primary contributing factors in accidents.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

HAB Resources

1 **Workamper Survey.** The Annual Workamper News/ Corps of Engineers Survey is now available online. Invitations were sent to previously participating projects via paper copy in the mail. Workamper News works with USACE to help fill your campground staffing needs. All projects can advertise their open contract and/or volunteer positions at no cost in each magazine issue as well as in the online Hotline Jobs system. You can also receive a free Employer Gold account, giving you access to the online Awesome Applicants Workamper Resume Database where you can search for applicants for your open positions.



If you are looking for Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) resources, the CDC has created a new communication toolkit to supplement previous educational materials to educate healthcare providers, veterinarians, and the public about HABs and cyanobacteria.

The new toolkit and previous educational materials are listed below.

Harmful algae and cyanobacteria awareness social media toolkit: <https://www.cdc.gov/habs/materials/socialmedia-library.html>

Please take a moment to provide the details on volunteer or contract positions at your project in the survey either by return mail or online at www.workamper.com/corpssurvey. Your positions will be included in the special USACE Feature Issue of the Sep/Oct 2021 Workamper News magazine, read and passed around by thousands of Workampers. **Deadline to complete the survey is Aug. 10, 2021.**

i **Click here for the link!**

2 **"Help Wanted" Through Workamper.** Submit a general "help wanted" ad to run in the state section for your project in the upcoming Sep/Oct issue of Workamper News magazine. Login to www.workamper.com and click on the Submit an Ad button, or send an email to support@workamper.com.

You can run an ad, up to 100 words in length, in each of our six issues per year. Workamper readers are people who live part-time or full-time in an RV and are looking for opportunities across the U.S. It's free! **Deadline to submit your help wanted ad for next issue: Aug. 10, 2021.** Workampers can be contacted with any questions. support@workamper.com or 800-446-5627.

i **Click here for the link!**

The EPA has also made updates available on HABs research, resources, and tools: <https://www.epa.gov/cyanohabs>

i **Click here for the link!**

USACE's Invasive Species Leadership Team has partnered with 3 different organizations to host a summer webinar series on HABs and drinking water. Recordings are available on the NRM Gateway!

Here are some examples of ads written by USACE projects:

*LIVE LAKESIDE IN AN OUTDOOR PARADISE as you volunteer at Pine Flat Lake! Full hookup sites and fuel reimbursement provided. Access to free on-site laundry and freezer space available. Located in central California within the foothills of the legendary Sierra Nevada Mountains. The Pacific coast, Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are within a day's drive. Apply today and live the dream tomorrow!
www.lrn.usace.army.mil/volunteer/
Call Park Ranger Ashley for more information...*

DALLAS/FORT WORTH LAKES Bardwell, Benbrook, Grapevine, Lavon and Lewisville are managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers and offer beautiful parks that are close to all of the food, shopping and entertainment the DFW area has to offer. Positions include campground maintenance, carpentry, electrician, litter pickup, mowing, visitor assistance, office administration and educators. 20 hours/week are required with RV campsite provided. 3 month committal is preferred. For more information contact...

GARRISON PROJECT AT LAKE SAKAKAWEA is looking for Gate Attendant contractors to work the 20XX season and beyond at our beautiful Downstream Campground. Our campground offers 117 sites in a wooded area offering plenty of shade during the warm summers. Duties would include operation of our gatehouse collecting camping fees, monitoring the campground, and assisting visitors. Campsite with full hookups provided. Contact...

Park Ranger Community of Practice Advisory Board—2021 Park Ranger Safety Survey

POC: Chelsea Tyler, Park Ranger CoP, 641-828-7522

The 2021 Park Ranger Safety Survey is open now through September 15. The survey should only take 10-20 minutes of your time to complete. The feedback from all Park Rangers, Natural Resource Specialists, and Natural Resource Managers (who wear the NRM uniform) provides critical insight used in determining policy and procedures from a Headquarters level. Every year at our in-person meeting, your representatives personally review the responses from your division and communicate them directly to decision makers in your divisions. The survey can be accessed at <https://cfapps.mvr.usace.army.mil/rangerapp/default.cfm>.

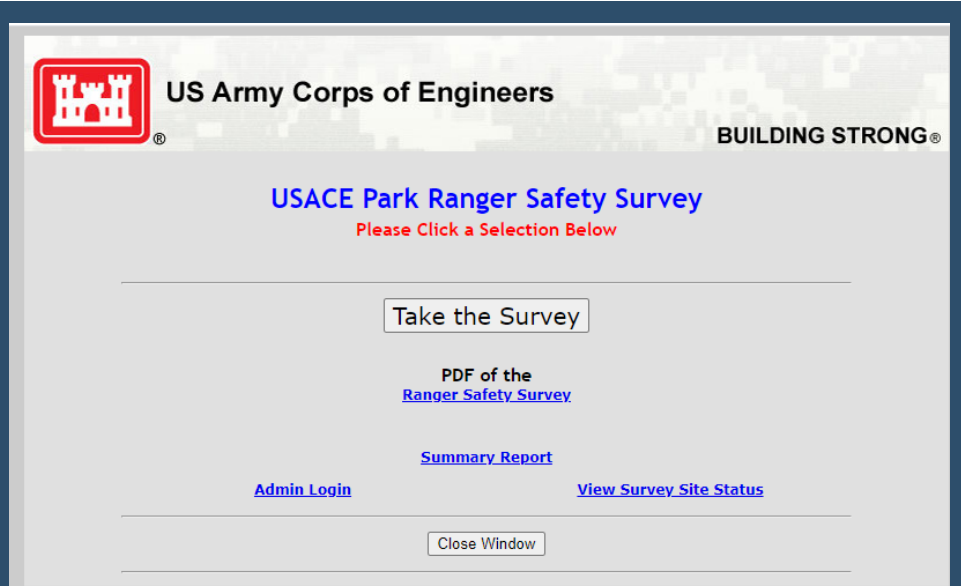
This year, comments and data from the previous years' survey were utilized in addressing the concerns of our national community in response to the challenges we have faced in 2021. The Board will conduct a webinar of 2020 survey results in August.

When you are filling out the survey, we ask that you be specific about the changes needed for you to operate safely so we can help get you the tools needed to get your job done. The higher quality your comments, the better support we have to champion your case. Change is slow to come, and we appreciate you taking the time every year (even if it is to provide the same comments!), because consistent feedback supports our efforts towards needed change.

This year, there will again be additional questions at the end of the survey addressing the topics of transient visitation and operations under COVID 19.

Please reach out directly to your local Division Representative if you have any questions or concerns survey-related or otherwise. You can find your division representative here <https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/rangers/advisory.cfm?Option=Main>.

A big thanks to you all for your continued support of our grassroots efforts and for continuing to deliver our program no matter the challenges we face.



Images: Screen captures from the USACE Park Ranger Safety Survey. The survey will be open from August 2nd through September 15th.

USACE Park Ranger Safety Survey

This on-line anonymous survey is conducted annually within the Park Ranger Community of Practice to provide for both an immediate reading regarding the conditions impacting park ranger and visitor safety and to determine overall trends on the effectiveness of the USACE Visitor Assistance/Natural Resources Management program.

GENERAL

- 1.) How would you describe the current level of **visitor** safety at your project?
 Very good Good OK Poor Very poor
- 2.) During the time you have worked at your project, what is the trend in the level of **visitor** safety?
 Improving Staying the same Declining
- 3.) How would you describe your current level of **personal** safety while performing Visitor Assistance duties at your project?
 Very good Good OK Poor Very poor
- 4.) During the time you have worked at your project, what is the trend in the level of **personal** safety while performing Visitor Assistance duties?
 Improving Staying the same Declining
- 5.) Does your project have any contracts for law enforcement services?
 Yes No
- 5a.) If you have one or more contracts for law enforcement services in place, do you believe that at your project:
Visitors are safer because of it? Yes No Uncertain
Employees are safer because of it? Yes No Uncertain
- 6.) Which one of the following factors will most enhance park ranger safety at your project?
 Park ranger training
 Personal safety equipment
 Patrol vehicle
 Patrol vessel
 Communication equipment
 Uniform
 Corps back up/support from other Visitor Assistance personnel
 Back up/support from contracted law enforcement agencies
 Back up/support from non-contracted law enforcement agencies
 Back up/support from non-contracted law enforcement agencies

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

1 HANDSHAKE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM. The Handshake Partnership Program began in 2004 and has provided “seed money” to USACE facilities for 204 partnership projects that have engaged over 690 partners on federal lands. These projects have improved recreational opportunities and benefited environmental stewardship activities while promoting the USACE missions. Partners have contributed over \$10 million in volunteer hours, professional services, materials and supplies, equipment, and funds to these efforts.

This program provides incentive to use our partnering authorities to their fullest potential and an opportunity to compete for additional funding to further partnerships.

USACE project offices are invited to submit applications to obtain funding assistance to enter into partnerships with non-federal entities (i.e. Challenge Partnership Agreements) to accomplish activities which benefit recreation facilities and/or natural resources at USACE water resource development projects. Applications must be received no later than Sept. 30, 2021.

The Handshake Program application instructions and application form can be found on the NRM Gateway at <https://corpslakes.ercd.dren.mil/employees/handshake/handshake.cfm>.

Point of contact for this effort is Heather Burke, National Partnership Program Manager.

3 In late June, the Natural Resources Management 2020 Annual Report was made available. This report takes us on a journey through the past year highlighting the many successes of our program while recognizing the challenges we faced, particularly those related to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is our hope that you are able to take a few minutes to read this document and feel pride in all that we have done to ensure the safety of our co-workers and visitors while advancing the conservation of our public lands. The report is available on the NRM Gateway!

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



US Army Corps of Engineers

i Report—Click Here!

2



National Ranger Day

7. 31. 2021

Today we celebrate Rangers around the globe for their role as the key protector of parks. To our 2,000+ USACE Park Rangers that share in the responsible management of over 400 lake and river projects across 43 states, *Thank You.* Thank you for your commitment to ensuring the safety of our visitors, the protection of our project missions, and the conservation of our environment for the enjoyment of future generations.



Will [www.Pay.Gov](http://www.pay.gov) Make Dirty Cash a Thing of the Past?

POC: Kevin Heath, Disbursing Officer, USACE Finance Center, 901-451-0509

The Finance Center (UFC) is currently working with the Treasury to allow the ability for USACE parks to accept credit card payments online via www.pay.gov for the purpose of collecting day use and camping fees.

- There are no USACE equipment requirements, only good cellular service for the customer's smart phone.
- Pay.gov is completely free, no hidden costs.
- The customer scans a posted QR code that takes them directly to the pay.gov website to purchase their camping/day use fee.
- For camping, best used in smaller campsites that are not on R1S. **Note, this is NOT replacing R1S and sites are encouraged to utilize R1S as a first option.*
- Day Use fees - enforcement can be checked by Ranger having a log-in from their smart phone to check license tags of vehicles in park.
- Remittance - A weekly report is downloaded from pay.gov and an email is sent to UFC to let them know where to distribute the funds.

For those locations interested in this service, please see the process below:

STEP 1: Contact Kevin Heath via email at Kevin.J.Heath@usace.army.mil and he will notify Treasury.

STEP 2: Treasury will provide documents your location must complete (these forms can be time consuming, but Treasury will assist with any questions).

STEP 3: Once completed, return to Kevin and he will coordinate with the Treasury implementation team.

STEP 4: Once approved by Treasury, a form for each location will be created based off the specific services offered at that location. (Treasury is assisting in developing a form template that can be customized based on the location).

STEP 6: Once the form is completed and approved by Treasury, www.pay.gov will add it to the test environment for review/approval. Once approved, the form will be placed into Production and available for public use.


Approximately 4-5 locations per month will be set-up. The estimated setup time is 3-4 months and requests will be processed in the order they are received.

To see an example of a completed form, visit www.pay.gov and search "Eufaula Lake". See the first form that populates.

Pay.gov - Eufaula Lake Day Use P x +

pay.gov/public/form/entry/101/

Before You Begin Complete Agency Form Enter Payment Info

 **US Army Corps of Engineers**
Tulsa District

Eufaula Lake Day Use Permit

Use this form to make a payment for Day Use Fee at Eufaula Lake.

* Location: Mill Creek

* Customer Name: The Recreation Retreat Newsletter

* Phone Number: 555-555-5555

* License Plate Number: RANGER

* Choose your Day Use Activity

<input type="radio"/> Non-Camp Shower	\$2.00
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Boat Ramp	\$5.00
<input type="radio"/> Swim Beach	\$5.00
<input type="radio"/> Non-Camper Dump Station	\$6.00

Total Amount Due \$5.00

Eufaula Lake—Pay.Gov example.



[Click here for link!](#)