

# FY2020-2024 STRATEGIC WATER SAFETY OBJECTIVES

## GREAT LAKES AND OHIO RIVER DIVISION

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**Purpose:** These objectives have been developed by members of the division Water Safety Council in order to promote water safety at Corps of Engineers projects within the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. They are intended to target visitors who participate in recreational activities on lakes, rivers and appurtenant facilities in order to reduce water-related fatalities.

### **OBJECTIVE 1: Deliver Effective Boating and Water Safety Outreach Education**

1a. Provide knowledge and awareness of educational opportunities relating to water safety, boating, and swimming skills development to project visitors and members of local communities.

1b. Assist local community organizations and schools by providing water safety programming services and/or program content for use in their respective programs.

1c. Provide water safety educational programming and information to members of the public that utilize Corps of Engineers projects. When feasible, water safety programming and information will be included as a component of existing interpretive programming.

1d. Utilize the LRD Recreation Share Point site to share water safety ideas and successes.

### **OBJECTIVE 2: Deliver Branded Water Safety Messages and Content**

2a. Develop and utilize water safety messages and content specifically designed for traditional and non-traditional media outlets.

2b. Make effective use of seasonal rangers, temporary summer hires, students, SCA Interns, Co-ops, and volunteers to develop and deliver water safety education to the public, cooperators, stakeholders, and partners.

### **OBJECTIVE 3: Utilize Local, Regional, and National Partnerships to Promote Water Safety**

3a. Make effective use of gate attendants, commercial concessions, and marina operators to deliver water safety education and message content to the public where appropriate.

3b. Cooperate with state parks, county parks, and other parks and recreation lessees to deliver water safety education programming and message content to the public within recreation areas outgranted to others for operation and maintenance.

3c. Cooperate with local water safety councils, stakeholder groups, non-governmental organizations, and other groups interested in promoting water and general visitor safety.

# FY2020-2024 STRATEGIC WATER SAFETY OBJECTIVES

## GREAT LAKES AND OHIO RIVER DIVISION

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### **OBJECTIVE 4: Design and Deliver Boating and Water Safety Education Material and Message Content to Effectively Reach Specifically Identified and Targeted Groups**

4a. Deliver water safety programming and educational material to visitors with limited English proficiency.

4b. Provide water safety programming and education that targets traditionally difficult to reach demographics, such as males 18 – 35 years.

4c. Design and implement water safety education aimed at preventing accidents involving boat fishermen and falls overboard.

### **OBJECTIVE 5: Provide Water Safety Programs and Content Specifically Designed to Promote Life Jacket Wear at LRD Lakes**

5a. Make maximum use of life jacket loaner programs where practicable.

5b. Utilize water safety messages at boat ramps, courtesy docks, and other locations in order to promote increased utilization of life jackets.

5c. Utilize and participate in a wide range of venues such boat shows, fairs, parades, festivals, etc to promote increased life jacket wear.

### **OBJECTIVE 6: Utilize Visitor Assistance, Title 36, and Local Law Enforcement to Promote Boating and Water Safety**

6a. In accordance with the LRD Boat Patrol Manual, water safety boat patrols will be utilized, at a minimum, during the peak recreation season on weekends and during holidays as appropriate to provide visitor assistance, to deliver water safety messages, and to enforce Title 36 regulations relating to visitor safety.

6b. Corps uniformed personnel will cooperate with state and local law enforcement and water safety personnel by coordinating patrol efforts or other joint activities as appropriate and practicable.

6c. Districts are encouraged to pursue alcohol and life jacket restrictions where appropriate. Districts having alcohol and mandatory life jacket restrictions in place will actively enforce those restrictions and should continue to periodically assess the need to expand them if necessary.

## FY2020-2024 STRATEGIC WATER SAFETY OBJECTIVES GREAT LAKES AND OHIO RIVER DIVISION

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6d. Diving and jumping from cliffs is prohibited in LRD. Local restrictions, Title 36, land and boat patrols, and educational messaging will be utilized to manage issues such as diving and jumping from cliffs where appropriate.

6e. Districts are encouraged to actively utilize the LRD Vessel Inspection Booklet. This document can be a useful tool for NRM staff while performing mandatory water safety patrols or while patrolling boat ramps.