

CORPS OF ENGINEERS NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION FOUNDATION



www.CorpsFoundation.org

CORPS FOUNDATION MISSION



The Corps Foundation engages the public to support recreation, education, and stewardship at our nation's lakes, lands, and waterways, administered by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).



- National non-profit advocacy organization for the USACE NRM program
- IRS 501(c)(3) designation: January 2006
- Signed MOU with USACE: Original - 2007
REVISED - 2023

WHY WAS THE FOUNDATION CREATED?



Outreach, Education, and Advocacy



Whitney Swartz, Outdoor Recreation Roundtable and Nancy Rogers, Corps Foundation join LTG Scott Spellmon at Discussion on Partnering

- Educate stakeholders (public & USACE) about the USACE NRM program and how they can support it
- Support projects through donations and grants
- Facilitate partnerships and local cooperating association groups
- Serve as connection/hub for partner groups
- Advocacy

We are the only national non-profit with the sole mission of supporting the USACE Natural Resources Management mission.

Building Stakeholder Support



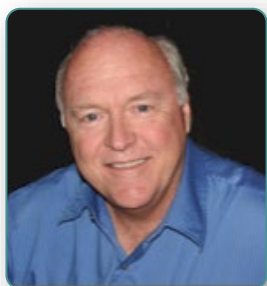
- Energize the economy through:
 - Quality facilities and access to outdoor recreation stimulating the recreation industry and tourism
 - \$1.3 trillion to the nation and Fishing/Boating #1 = \$38.4 billion
 - Improved education/interpretation of natural resources and water safety creates supportive public for improvements.
- Advocates for NRM program in Congress for increased budget and regulatory changes.
- Communicate impacts of budget cuts.

CURRENT BOARD



Board of Directors

(Maximum of 13 Directors with a minimum of 7)



- Greg Miller, Chair
- Sue Clevestine, Secretary
- Christine Hamman, Treasurer



Directors:

- Nancy Rogers
- Rich Deline
- Avis Kennedy
- Scott Sunderland
- Rachel Garren



SUPPORT FRIENDS GROUPS & VOLUNTEERS

Recognition and Award Programs

Annual awards recognize outstanding services to USACE recreation and environmental stewardship programs

- ✓ Volunteer coins
- ✓ Enduring Service – a Corps Foundation award
- ✓ National Volunteer of the Year
- ✓ Excellence in Partnerships
- ✓ We purchase plaques and coins



SUPPORT FRIENDS GROUPS & VOLUNTEERS

Cooperating Association Toolkit

The Corps Foundation created the “Toolkit for Developing a Cooperating Association Partnership with USACE” – Find it on the Gateway or the Foundation website



SUPPORT FRIENDS GROUPS & VOLUNTEERS



Foundation funded two scholarships in 2025 to allow Cooperating Associations that partner with USACE projects to attend the Public Lands Alliance Convention.

- Network with broader non-profit partners for public lands
- Attend educational sessions on non-profit management
- Expand merchandizing opportunities for local sales outlets by attending the PLA Trade Fair.

Foundation Grant Support



Interpretive sign purchased
with Army CID Restitution

Corps Foundation will:

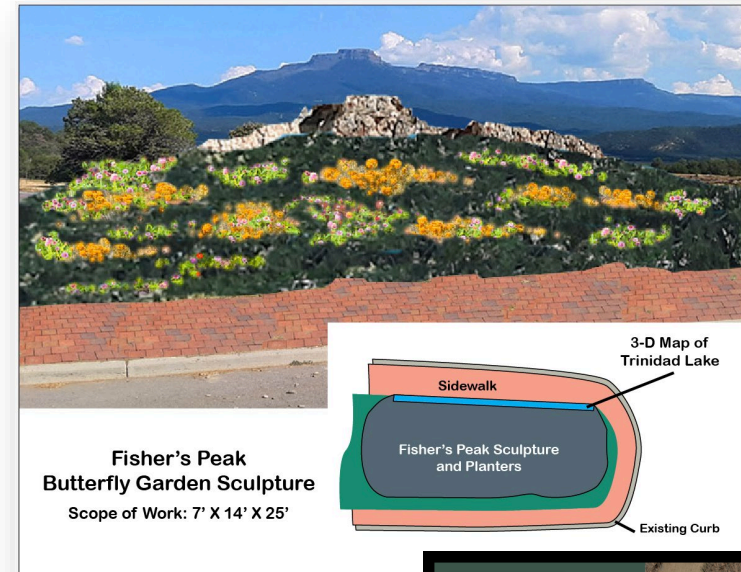
- ✓ Coach grantees on presenting and editing information and relevant data.
- ✓ Serve as fiscal partner, with 501(c)(3) status to submit grants if needed.
- ✓ Review Handshake project submittals for possible financial assistance. \$5k bonus to a Handshake project offered in 2023 and 2024
- ✓ Scholarships to Corps partners to attend PLA Convention and Trade Show. \$4k total.

FUNDRAISING SUPPORT OF PROJECTS



Foundation Grant Support

- Dominion Energy for the Stonewall Jackson Lake partnership, West Fork River, Lewis County, WV
- 300 tree saplings for Earth Day at Crooked Creek Park in Ford City, PA
- Libby Dam and Lake Ouachita: Every Kid in the Park grants funded by NPF
- National Water Safety Plan: CF contributed funding for staff position
- Discover Your Northwest (non-profit): Ballard Locks Seattle, WA
- Handshake bonus award at John Martin Reservoir, CO for tamarisk removal and native habitat restoration
- Bar NI Ranch Community Fund (nonprofit): Trinidad Lake, CO for a sculpture at the pollinator garden



QUARRY LOOP TRAIL SENDERO DE CANTERA
DISTANCE: 1.3 MILES / Distancia: 2.1 millas
AVERAGE TIME TO COMPLETE: 1-2.5 HOURS / Tiempo promedio para completar: 1-2.5 horas
DIFFICULTY: MODERATE (NOT ADA ACCESSIBLE) / Dificultad: Moderado (No accesible por ADA)

WETLAND LOOP TRAIL HUMEDAL SENDERO CIRCULAR
DISTANCE: 1.1 MILES / Distancia: 1.7 millas
AVERAGE TIME TO COMPLETE: 45 MINUTES / Tiempo promedio para completar: 45 minutos
DIFFICULTY: EASY (NOT ADA ACCESSIBLE) / Dificultad: Fácil (No accesible por ADA)

TRAIL ACTIVITIES

QUARRY LOOP TRAIL:

- Explore the historic stone quarry (operational from 1867 - 1905) less than 0.25 mile from the trailhead.
- Start your loop heading south from the quarry to enjoy deciduous and coniferous forests, or choose the northern route and follow the shoreline.
- Along the way, view hundreds of native wildflowers that bloom in springtime, and keep an eye out for left behind pupa stones and square meadowlarks.
- View the Cleveland Dam and intake structure from a Rock Outcrop Overlook at the northern peak of the trail.

WETLAND LOOP TRAIL:

- Observe wildlife through permanent spotting scopes and read about the different ecosystems at three graphic displays. Find all three: Wetlands, Ponds, and Pollinators!
- View Cleveland Lake's intake structure (built in 1935) as you hike across the earthen dam.
- Traverse the wetland on two floating boardwalks, and take a moment to rest on the benches placed throughout the trail to enjoy the wildlife!
- Stop and read the trail sign to learn about artificial habitat created for wildlife conservation.
- Enjoy the hard work of our beneficial insects and hummingbirds as you hike through a native pollinator field at the trail's southern edge.

FUNDRAISING SUPPORT OF PROJECTS



Foundation Grant Support

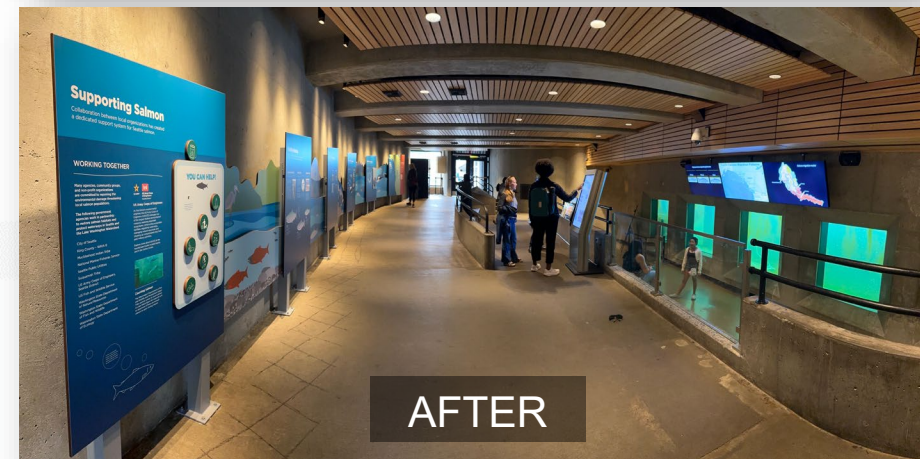
Major renovations to Fish Ladder Viewing Room at the Hiram M. Chittenden (Ballard) Locks in Seattle



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Seattle District



- ❖ Top 5 Seattle tourist icon in serious need of repairs and improved exhibits
- ❖ Partnership formed between the Corps Foundation, the Corps of Engineers and the local non-profit, Discover Your NW
- ❖ Corps Foundation created social media platforms including a website to engage public support
- ❖ Over \$1.7 Million raised in grants and donations
- ❖ One of the largest financial NRM project partnerships

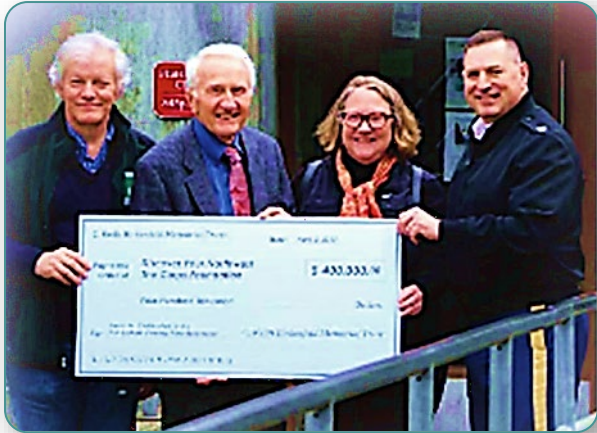


FUNDRAISING SUPPORT OF PROJECTS



Foundation Grant Support

Fund Raising Sources (Totals \$1.7 Million)



- ✓ Major grants - Local family foundations (\$480K), WA State (\$467K)
- ✓ Second level grants - Seattle 4Culture (\$15K), PS Energy (\$10K), NOAA (\$10K)
- ✓ Fund raising events and general donations (\$35K+)
- ✓ Salmon Legacy wall donations (\$290K+)



Salmon Legacy Wall

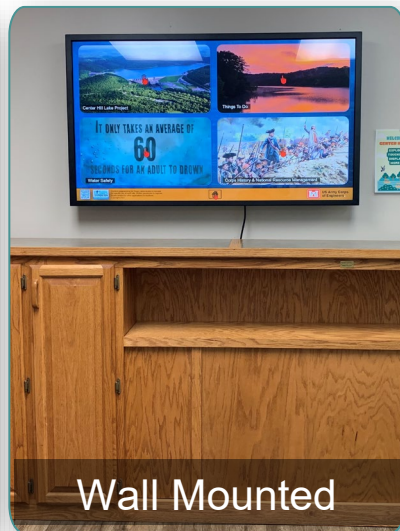


Donor Wall funded educational exhibits

USACE Customized Touchscreens *



Portable Kiosks

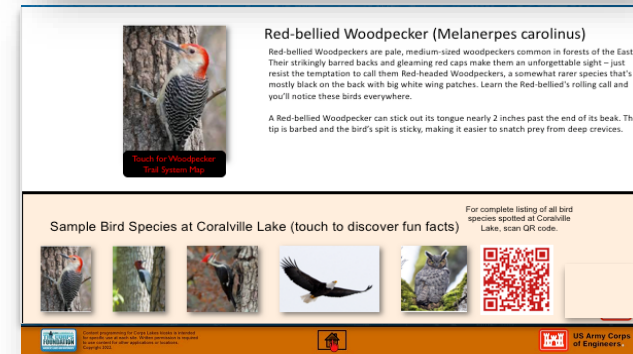
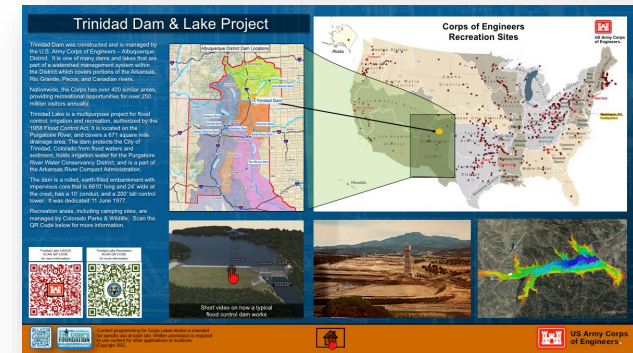


Wall Mounted

Easily updated using PowerPoint

The Corps Foundation donates content on water safety and a series of short videos about the Corps of Engineers and the Natural Resources program.

Content also includes local interpretive info, such as construction history, recreation, local species, etc.



* Touchscreens are available, complete with content, from Candela Displays www.candeladisplays.com

Scan QR Code and navigate to USACE Kiosks

FUNDRAISING SUPPORT OF PROJECTS



Water Safety Campaign (U.S. Coast Guard Grants)



- Received 7,022 PFDs valued at \$88,000
- PFDs were shipped to Allatoona Lake to be used at life jacket loaner stations throughout SAD.

OUTREACH, EDUCATION & ADVOCACY



Water Safety Campaign (U.S. Coast Guard Grants)
Six Grants 2015-25 (Over \$1.7 Million total):



- ✓ Video and audio PSAs , Educational videos
“Inflatable Life Jackets: Everything You Need to Know”
- ✓ Tailgate wraps, vinyl banners, pavement logo stencils
- ✓ Digital media marketing (Please Wear It)

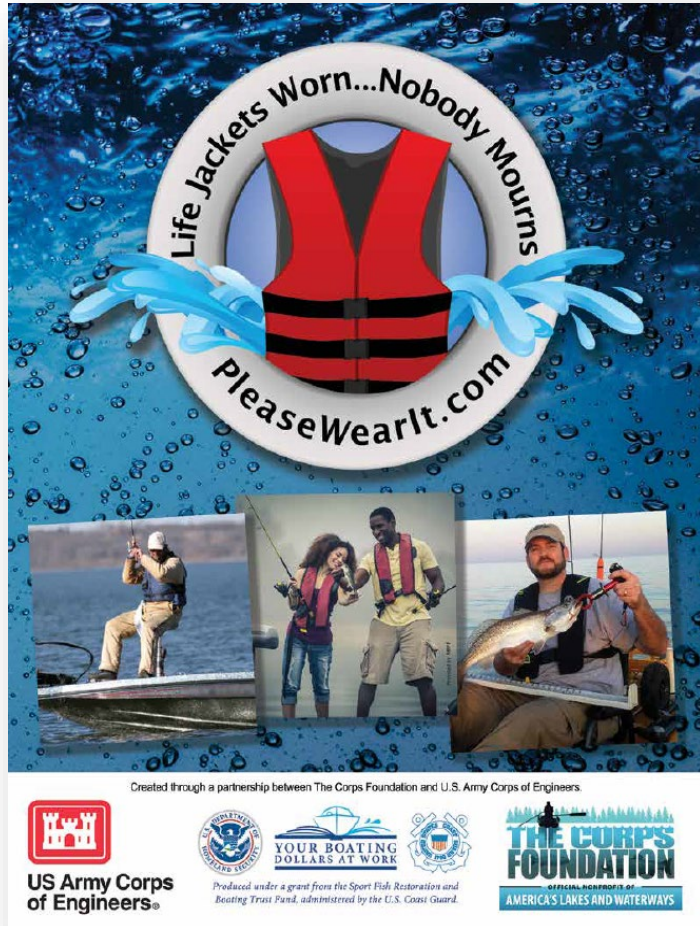


PleaseWearIt.com

OUTREACH, EDUCATION & ADVOCACY



Water Safety Campaign (U.S. Coast Guard Grants)



- ✓ LifeJacketVideoContest.com (\$8,000 in prizes annually)
- ✓ Campaign promotional items (t-shirts, beach towels, dry bags, and vehicle windshield sunshades)
- ✓ Advertisement (billboards, movie theaters, state fishing guides, gas pumps, ice machines)



OUTREACH, EDUCATION & ADVOCACY



Water Safety Campaign – Partnership with American Park Network and Progressive

Practice Safe, Fun Boating!

US Army Corps of Engineers

- WEAR IT**
Everyone on your boat should wear a life jacket. Accidents can happen anytime.
- KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**
Check the weather forecast and file a float plan with family and friends.
- ALCOHOL AND BOATING DON'T MIX**
Boating under the influence of alcohol reduces reaction time and can lead to accidents.
- BOAT RESPONSIBLY**
Know the weight capacity of your boat. Always be aware of your surroundings.
- KNOW THE BASICS**
Successfully complete a boating education course.
- MAINTAIN YOUR BOAT**
Routinely check electrical, fuel and auxiliary power systems.

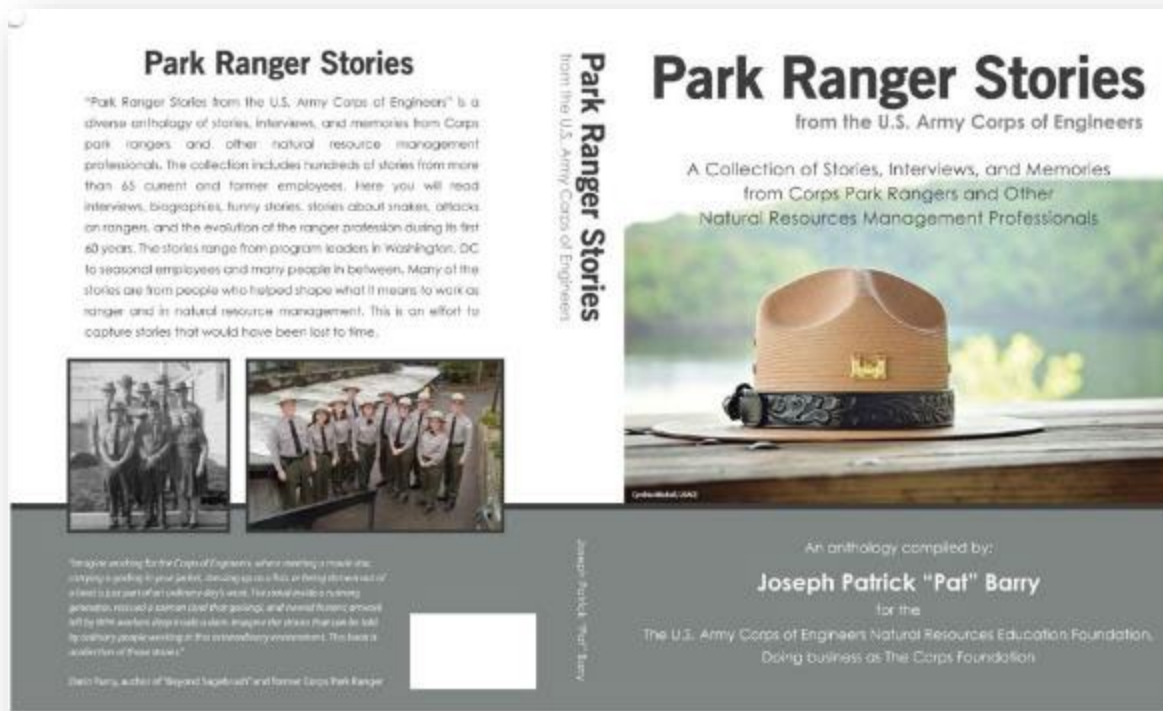
Learn more!
Presented thanks to the support of
PROGRESSIVE
THE CORPS FOUNDATION
SUPPORTING AMERICA'S LAKES AND WATERWAYS

- ✓ Donation of 350 interpretive panels and 5,520 PFDs for loaner stations
- ✓ QR code directs to the National Water Safety Program's webpage (boatingsafety.info) created by the American Park Network
- ✓ Awarded Corporate Stewardship Award by PLA in March 2026



OUTREACH, EDUCATION & ADVOCACY

Park Ranger Stories Book (Winner of 2021 NAI Media Award for Book publications)



- Collecting stories from past and present rangers and other NRM
- Informal history
- Passing on wisdom and traditions
- Available in digital and paper/ hardback format through Amazon-**Newly discounted!**

<https://www.amazon.com/Park-Ranger-Stories-Corps-Engineers/dp/1712590251>

PARTNERSHIPS



Combine efforts with other recreation and environmental entities and stakeholders, independent of USACE and without USACE involvement, to amplify their message to elected officials, advocating for the NRM program by seeking additional funding, legislative authorities, and policy changes.



Engage in strategic partnerships with nonprofits, cooperating associations, the public and diverse like-minded groups, interests and organizations such as **Public Lands Alliance, Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, National Marine Manufacturers Association and the Southeast Tourism Society** and many others:

- **Raise awareness** about USACE NRM program at lakes, rivers and waterways
- **Communicate our partnership role** to enhance the visitor experience and help stretch limited federal dollars
- **Educate public and partners** about threats to access and use at USACE lakes, rivers and waterways
- **Educate elected leaders** about a piece of legislation and its positive or negative impact
- **Influence and reflect a view of a specific legislation** through direct communication



Corps Foundation Advocacy for USACE Recreation: Timeline for Building Support

- **2021** - Congressionally mandated Recreation Task Force - 2-year assessment of recreation facilities and condition.
- **January 2022** – Testimony: Committee on Environment and Public Works - ASA Connor questioned by Senator Inhofe- USACE needs to pay more attention to recreation
- **April 2022** - Senator Heinrich questions ASA Connor during testimony in the Senate Appropriations Committee regarding significant FY23 budget reduction for Recreation
- **May 2022** - Corps Foundation visits Senators Cramer, Heinrich, Feinstein and Boozman to advocate for Fee Retention and Cooperative Joint Management authority changes.
- **June 2022** - Senator Feinstein questions ASA Connor during Senate Energy & Water Appropriations in support for Recreation
- **December 2022** - Year 1 Recreation Task Force Report released to public

ADVOCACY - Building Congressional Support & Success Stories!



Lake **A**ccess **K**eeping **E**conomies **S**trong
ACT

Senator Kevin Cramer — Senator Martin Heinrich

The LAKES Act expands opportunities to improve and develop outdoor recreation facilities at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers managed areas.

Outdoor recreation is a vital economic driver in local economies across the US.

1.9% of U.S. GDP
\$454B in gross economic output

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assets are one of the nation's largest federal outdoor recreation providers.

257,000 facilities
43 states

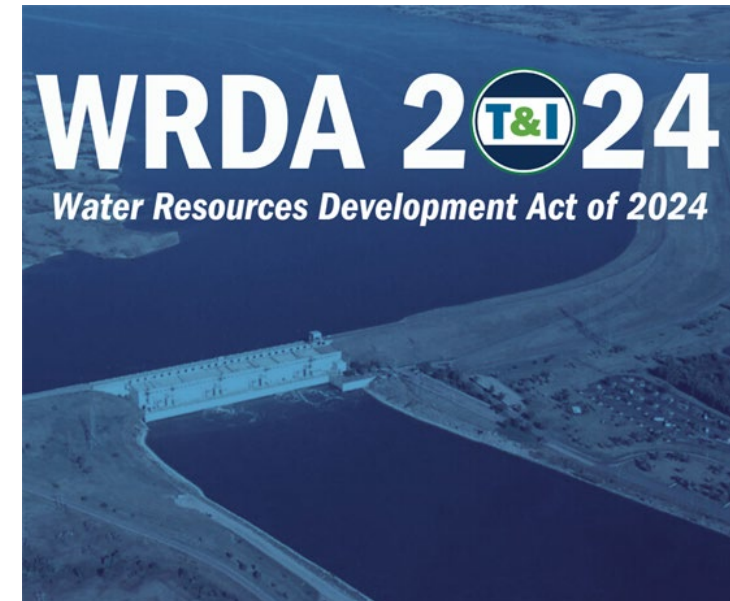
Retention of Recreation Fees:
Under current law, local units of federal land management agencies at the Departments of Interior and Agriculture can retain 80% of recreation fees collected on site. These funds are then dedicated to the site's operation and maintenance needs without approval from headquarters, allowing them to be nimble and more responsive with their planning decisions. Currently, USACE recreation facilities are excluded from this benefit.

The LAKES Act rectifies this discrepancy by enabling recreation sites and facilities under the jurisdiction of USACE to retain 80% of recreation fees collected at a particular location for its operation and maintenance.

This funding would supplement annual appropriated funding while the other 20% of collected fees would be available for operations and management at any Army Corps recreation facility. This authority provides for more expedient reinvestment of recreation fees by USACE in local recreation infrastructure.

Joint Recreation Management:

- The LAKES Act amends Challenge Cost Sharing Cooperative Management Agreement authority, enabling private nonprofit entities to enter into cooperative agreements with USACE to operate and maintain recreation facilities under USACE jurisdiction.
- The LAKES Act will foster agreements between nonprofits and the USACE, as well as affirm the authority of the USACE to enter into cooperative joint management agreements with Tribes.
- The LAKES Act fixes issues with the USACE's inability to collect and send funds to partners under existing CCSMA authority using the Recreation.gov system. This issue has deterred partners interested in cooperatively managing parks with USACE. The LAKES Act would allow USACE to handle partner-collected fees and return them to the partner after processing.



May 2023 & Jan 2024 - Senate and House bipartisan legislation for fee retention and changes to cooperative joint management authority to include non-profit organizations with fee collection and retention.

We did it! LAKES Act incorporated into the bi-annual WRDA legislation-signed into law on **Jan. 4, 2025**

The Foundation wishes to thank the National Marine Manufacturers Association, Southeast Tourism Society, Public Lands Alliance and many individual supporters who love America's lands and waters managed by USACE!

ADVOCACY - What Does Success Look Like?



- Fee Retention - Allows for the retention of up to 80% of recreation user fees collected at each project to be returned to that project. This puts USACE on par with other Federal land management agencies like NPS, USFS, BLM.
- Cooperative Joint Management Authority - Allows non-profits to partner with USACE to jointly manage recreation facilities. This partnership can retain up to 100% of recreation user fees to be reinvested in local project.
- Volunteer Recognition - Allows appropriated funds to be used to honor local volunteers.

The Corps Foundation Advocacy Toolkit 2025-2026: 119th Congress

Welcome to the Corps Foundation's Advocacy Toolkit! This Toolkit is a one-stop source of information for the public, visitors, cooperating associations, friend's groups, foundations, educational partners, local communities and other 501(c)(3) nonprofits to join in supporting the USACE NRM Program.

Use this toolkit to access the Corps Foundation's most recent advocacy proposals. Information provided will assist individuals, organizations, and local communities in developing an advocacy strategy in their area of interest.



Scan the QR Code

Find it at www.corpsfoundation.org

HOW TO HELP THE CORPS FOUNDATION



Memorial and Tribute Donations

- Support the Corps Foundation's efforts by remembering or honoring a loved one or a special occasion.
- To make a donation in honor or memory just visit our website and include the name and address of the person you would like to receive an acknowledgement.
- You can make your donation in PayPal. Your donation will be acknowledged by a PayPal message.
- Your gift will help support the recreation and environmental resources on 12 million acres of Corps lands and waters in 45 states, which are enjoyed by 270 million visitors annually.



Legacy Memorial gift of \$7,545
In support of renovations at the
Ballard Locks Fish Ladder

HOW TO HELP THE CORPS FOUNDATION



Like and Share our Facebook Page!

<https://www.facebook.com/corpsfoundation>



Corps Foundation

877 likes • 955 followers



Message

Liked

Search

In case you missed this from our winter 2025 Newsletter..... [See more](#)



Today's throwback Thursday photo is from 1979. This is the Headquarters Natural Resources Management staff. From left to right- front row seated. Tony Tumlin, Gerald T.... [See more](#)



HOW TO HELP THE CORPS FOUNDATION

Join Us! Consider an Annual Membership



Scan the QR Code

- Regular (\$50/year)
- Contributing (\$75/year) receives a Corps Foundation t-shirt
- Preferred (\$100/year)
- Sponsor (\$250/year)



The Corps Foundation is 100% volunteer operated

www.CorpsFoundation.org

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