

Raystown Lake Draft Master Plan Revision Stakeholder Update

Stakeholder Update: **September 18, 2019: Let's talk public involvement**

Good afternoon Raystown Lake Master Plan Stakeholders,

We have a couple of updates for you regarding the status of Raystown Lake's Master Plan.

We'd like to announce Tara Whitsel as the Raystown Lake Master Plan Revision's new Project Manager. Avis Kennedy, the USACE rehired annuitant who previously led Raystown's Master Plan Revision effort, will be retiring this October. Avis will remain a member of the team until her official retirement in October to ensure a smooth transition of duties to Tara. This transition of Project Manager duties will be seamless and will not impact the Plan's schedule.

Tara may be a very familiar face to many of you as she's been a Park Ranger and biologist at Raystown Lake for over 16 years. She has been extremely active in both the recreation and environmental stewardship programs at Raystown and has worked with many partners such as the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau, the Friends of Raystown Lake and the Pennsylvania Striped Bass Association. Tara has been an integral member of the Master Plan Revision team since the beginning of the project, and is fully equipped and ready to take on this new position.

The draft Master Plan is currently undergoing meticulous USACE review to ensure accuracy and consistency throughout the plan before its public release late this fall.

Our previous update focused on what a master plan is and why it's needed. In this stakeholder update we want to focus on your role in the Master Plan Revision process. Your participation throughout this process is one of the key elements to ensuring a successful revision for Raystown Lake.

Let's start by recapping the public participation efforts that were already held. On February 8, 2018 the team kicked-off the revision process by hosting a stakeholder meeting with government leaders and those who have an official partnership with Raystown Lake. We hosted this meeting to explain the forthcoming process and what to expect during the revision of the Plan. In April 2018, we hosted two public meetings, one in Huntingdon and one in Saxton, to explain the master plan process, gain extremely valuable feedback from the public, and collect official comments. In August 2018, we hosted an Open House Weekend to again provide information on the revision process, host discussions and questions regarding the Plan, and collect official comments for the Master Plan. Official comments were collected until September 30, 2018.

What was done with the comments from the first official comment period?

The comments we received during the official comment period that ended September 30, 2018 were evaluated and are being used to shape Raystown Lake's draft Master Plan. The sentiments and suggestions conveyed within these comments are being taken into consideration, along with information obtained from existing and new information such as the biological studies and the Boating Carrying Capacity Study. Any comment submitted within the official comment period will be included in both the draft and final master plans.

How will I be able to submit an official comment on the draft master plan?

There will be multiple avenues to comment on and ask questions in regards to the draft Master Plan. After the draft Plan's release, we will have time for the public to discuss the highlights of the Plan with the project team in-person. USACE will host a public meeting to answer questions and have discussions with our team in addition to submitting comments. Comments will also be able to be submitted at any time during the official draft comment period through our website at: www.nab.usace.army.mil/Raystown-Master-Plan-Revision, as well as by mail and email. Specific details on the comment period and public meeting will be distributed closer to the release of the draft Master Plan.

How long will I have to make an official comment on the draft Master Plan?

We will have an extended comment period for the draft master plan that will give the public 45 calendar days to submit feedback beginning the day the draft is publicly released. The public should expect the draft to be released in late fall. While anyone can submit feedback before or after this time period, it will not be included for official evaluation within the Master Plan.

Will the draft Plan be available in print for me to read?

Along with being placed for the public on our Raystown Lake Master Plan website, we will make the draft Plan available in libraries near Raystown Lake in physical form for those without computer access. Specific locations will be posted to the project website upon publication of the draft Master Plan.

Will there be a public forum to provide feedback?

Yes, more details on when and how this forum will be held will be released closer to the release of the draft Master Plan. Information given to the public during this forum will also be posted to the project website for those who cannot attend. Questions can always be emailed to RaystownMPRevision@usace.army.mil at any time, not just during the official comment period.

What will be done with my draft Master Plan comments?

After the draft Master Plan public comment period is closed, the team will review these new comments, examine how they impact the draft plan, and will evaluate for any revisions. The document will then go through the proper review channels within USACE to ensure accuracy. Once all USACE reviewers have signed off on the draft Master Plan, the team will then seek Baltimore District Commander approval for the final Raystown Lake Master Plan. The finalization of the Plan will be announced to stakeholders, public and media, as well as posted to the project website.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out through the project mailbox at RaystownMPRevision@usace.army.mil and share these updates with anyone else interested. These updates along with the shareable .pdf are also located on our project webpage at: <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/raystown-master-plan-revision/>.

Thank you for taking the time to be a part of this process with us. Your participation is essential to the completion of the Raystown Lake Master Plan Revision.