

Raystown Lake Draft Master Plan Revision Stakeholder Update

Stakeholder Update: **August 14, 2019: Let's review the Raystown Lake Master Plan**

Good afternoon Raystown Lake Master Plan Revision Stakeholders,

The team is continuing to work hard to finish up the draft Master Plan. After meticulous USACE review, the draft Master Plan will be ready for public review late fall 2019. We're going to continue to send you detailed Master Plan updates throughout the summer and fall to make sure everyone is ready and informed for the draft release. Continue reading below to learn more about what a master plan is and what it will entail.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out through the project mailbox at RaystownMPRevision@usace.army.mil. We've made this update as an attached .pdf for easy printing and sharing with other interested community members. We will also host these updates on our project webpage at: <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/raystown-master-plan-revision/>. Thank you for choosing to be a part of this process with us. Without you, we could not have a successful Master Plan revision.

What is a master plan? In official terms, a master plan is a strategic land use management document that guides the comprehensive management and development of a project's recreational, natural and cultural resources. Every U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) lake has a master plan that serves as a framework for consistent, responsible decision-making for 15-25 years.

What does that actually mean? You can think of a master plan like a zoning map. It tells our staff where certain activities and changes can occur.

Why can a master plan do this? Master plans determine how areas of the lake should and can be used for the next 15- 25 years based off of environmental studies, boating studies, operational requirements and public opinion. These studies and findings ensure that the Master Plan will properly guide decision-making at the lake. For example, if a group proposed a new trail at the lake, our staff would need to know how this trail would impact the lake before considering approval of the idea. The Master Plan shows our team if the trail could meet the public's needs and would give our staff proper guidance on how to proceed.

It's important to note that a master plan does not plan or approve changes or improvements to the flood risk management and hydropower functions of the lake. Raystown Lake was built for these missions, so a master plan will not allow for any adjustments to those functions.

Why are we updating the Master Plan? Master plans are designed to provide a framework for decision-making for 15-25 years. In 25 years a lot can change at a project. Technology improves, recreational needs may change and environmental factors may vary. For example, the surrounding community may find that good fishing spots have changed around the lake and may want more parking or paths to those new areas. The last time Raystown Lake's Master Plan was revised was 1994, which is why we need to go over the plan again to see how the public needs/wants may have changed and how biologically the lake might have changed or remained the same.

Who is involved in this process? The Baltimore District is the lead agency for the Raystown Lake Master Plan revision. Our team consists of biologists, engineers, water resource management specialists, real

estate specialists, project managers, communication specialists, park rangers and more. All of these specialties are working together to develop the revised Master Plan based off of current and future conditions at the lake combined with public feedback. Only one section of the Master Plan was completed by a contracted company with USACE review, which was the Boating Carrying Capacity Study to ensure appropriate expertise and accurate findings.

What's going to be in the Master Plan? The new Master Plan will be shorter and more comprehensive than the last. The sections of the Master Plan will include the following chapters:

1. ***Introduction:*** Reviews the purpose and overview of the project and the Master Plan.
2. ***Project Setting and Factors Influencing Management and Development:*** Details natural and cultural resources, hydrology of the lake, visual qualities, economic factors, topography, etc.
3. ***Resource Objectives:*** Details the goals and resource objectives of the lake.
4. ***Land and Water Use Classifications:*** Details land and water allocations and classifications.
5. ***Resource Plan:*** Outlines land and water classification areas such as operations areas, environmentally sensitive areas, high-density recreation areas, etc.
6. ***Special Topics:*** Covers various topics such as land inventory, Boating Carrying Capacity Study, partnerships, etc.
7. ***Agency and Public Coordination:*** Details how public comments were evaluated and collected.
8. ***Summary of Recommendations:*** Details a summary of the findings and proposed actions of the Master Plan.
9. ***Bibliography:*** Details any additional sources cited in the Master Plan.
10. ***Appendices:*** Includes the Environmental Assessment, park maps, Boating Carrying Capacity Study, land inventory, etc.