



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Wilmington District

Falls Lake, North Carolina Proposed Tailrace Whitewater Park

- **Sponsor: City of Raleigh, NC**
- **Proposed lease for the development of a public paddle sports area on the Neuse River downstream of the Falls Lake Dam.**



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 1, NC 13

Date: 8 April 2013

1. **PROJECT NAME AND STATE:** Falls Lake, North Carolina, proposed Tailrace Whitewater Park, Falls Lake Dam
2. **LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION:** Falls Lake is located in the upper portion of the Neuse River basin, amidst the rapidly growing areas of Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill. The project's purposes include recreation, flood risk management, fish and wildlife enhancement, water quality, and water supply.
3. **ISSUE AND INFORMATION:** The city of Raleigh is interested in developing a public paddle sports area (whitewater course) on the Neuse River immediately downstream from the Falls Dam outlet works and tailrace fishing area. The Corps is working with the city and its contractor in their efforts to develop a proposal for the project. Concerns include: safety of users during high flow releases and potential liability; the feasibility of a whitewater facility given that the majority of releases from Falls Dam are relatively low flows; potential negative impacts to existing access and use by fishermen; and proposed alterations of the course of the river channel to create the facility. The city currently has a lease from the Corps for a small canoe access point downstream of the dam. If the proposed project were approved, the lease area would be expanded to include the new facility.

The city began holding steering group and stakeholder sessions in January 2010 to gather public input on this proposal. An environmental assessment is likely to be required. The city has not made a formal request to the Corps.