Falls Lake and the surrounding federal property are under the stewardship of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The majority of the property is leased to the State of North Carolina and managed by various state and local agencies. Operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), also known as drones or remote control aircraft may occur in the designated Hobby/Recreational Flight Area and Permit Only Areas.

Unauthorized operation of UAS is a violation of Title 36 CFR 327.4 Aircraft and/or 327.12 Restrictions.

**UAS Hobby/Recreational Flight Area (HRFA):**

Blue Jay Point County Park - Wake County Parks and Recreation: This is the only HRFA at Falls Lake. No permit required for individuals operating hobby/recreational UAS. Permits from the County are required for group activities and special events. Commercial UAS operations are prohibited in the Park. Reference Wake County’s “Drone and RC Vehicle Operations” policy.

**UAS Permit Only Areas:** Special use permits are required for all UAS operations. Contact the agency managing the area.

**Commercial UAS Operations** at any location on government property at Falls Lake require a permit from the USACE Operations Project Manager.

**UAS No Fly Zones:** UAS are prohibited. The no fly zones cover the USACE management area which includes the Falls Dam, tailrace, spillway, visitor center and the surrounding areas; and the Penny’s Bend Nature Preserve.

UAS engaged on official business of Federal, state or local governments or law enforcement agencies; or used in response to emergencies threatening human life or serious property loss may be operated on government property without prior USACE authorization. Whenever possible the government entity, law enforcement, or emergency responders should provide prior notification and/or an after action report to the Operations Project Manager.

For more information, please contact the USACE and/or the agency managing the area.

**Contacts:**
- US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE): 919-846-9332
- Wake County Parks and Rec: 919-870-4330
- City of Raleigh Parks and Rec: 919-996-3285
- NC Division of Parks and Rec (NCDPR), Falls Lake State Recreation Area: 919-676-1027
- NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC): 919-620-0100