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PHILPOTT LAKE
Master Plan Update

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PHILPOTT LAKE MASTER PLAN UPDATE

IMPLEMENTATION OF MASTER PLAN UPDATE
FOR PHILPOTT LAKE ROANOKE RIVER BASIN
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

The US Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District (USACE) is proposing to adopt a new Master Plan as the strategic land use planning document to guide comprehensive management and development of project recreational, natural, and cultural resources at Philpott Lake in Virginia. The original Master Plan (MP) was completed in 1953 and last updated in 1982. Changes in USACE regulations and community needs necessitate a revision to these Master Plans. Adoption of this Master Plan Update would include the reclassification of project lands to meet newer USACE land management directives and management policies. It would also shift the land management focus from a construction-based master plan to a more policy-based plan. In general, the proposed land classifications associated with this Master Plan Update would reduce the amount of project land available to support intensive land use, instead, much of the project lands would be reclassified as Multiple Resource Management Lands to support low-density recreation and permanent wildlife habitat. The updated MP will provide a balanced management plan that follows current Federal laws and USACE regulations while sustaining natural resources and providing outdoor recreational experiences.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the USACE prepared a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA), that analyzed the potential impact that implementing the Master Plan Update would have on the human environment. The PEA examines two alternatives: No Action and the preferred alternative of adopting an updated MP with a balanced conservation and recreation mix of land use. There are two primary changes proposed by the Preferred Alternative. One change is the redefining of land classifications to meet newer USACE land management directives and management policies. The other change is a project's management shift away from a construction-based activity guidance document to a more policy-based document.

Since the publication of the 1982 Master Plan, the USACE has updated its policies directing the development and implementation of master plans and best practices in land management. Specific master plan requirements are contained in Engineer Pamphlet (EP) 1130-2-550 – Distribution Restriction Statement, dated 30 January 2013, Engineer Regulation (ER) 1130-2-2550 – Distribution Restriction Statement, dated 30 January 2013, and interim clarifications to the ER 1130-2-550, Chapter 3 Master Plans, dated 30 November 2015. Master Plan updates must follow Engineer Circular (EC) 1165-2-214 Water Resources Policies and Authorities, as part of the review process. The MP and EA will be circulated for a 30-day review period.

Date

Benjamin A. Bennett

Colonel, Corps of Engineers

Commanding

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Term
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
Commonwealth	Commonwealth of Virginia
DCR	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
DM	Design Memoranda
DWR	Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
EC	Engineer Circular
EOP	Environmental Operating Principles
EP	Engineer Pamphlet
ER	Engineer Regulation
FCA	Flood Control Act
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
ft	Feet
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
MSL	mean sea level
MRML	Multiple Resource Management Lands
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NPS	National Park Service
NRMS	Natural Resources Management System
O&M	Operations & Maintenance
OMP	Operational Management Plan
PEA	Programmatic Environmental Assessment
Philpott Lake or the project	Philpott Lake and Reservoir
Philpott Master Plan Update	Master Plan Update, Plan
PL	Public Law
RV	Recreational vehicle
SCORP	State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans
SR	State Road
SRCC	Southeast Regional Climate Center
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
VA	Commonwealth of Virginia
WSS	Web Soil Survey

Executive Summary

A master plan is a requirement for civil works projects and all government-owned (fee) lands for which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District (USACE), has administrative responsibilities. This Master Plan Update is specific to the Philpott Dam and Reservoir project displayed on the Vicinity Map in Appendix A.

Project Authorization

Philpott Dam and Reservoir (Philpott Lake or the project) is an approximately 2,830-acre impoundment located near Martinsville, Virginia (USACE, 2021[1]) (See Table ES-1). The total project acreage is estimated to include 9,515 acres in Henry, Patrick, and Franklin counties. In 1944, due to the severe flooding in Henry, Patrick, and Franklin counties in Virginia, the Philpott Lake project was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944 (P.L. 78-534, enacted in the Second session of the 78th Congress). Construction began in 1948 and was completed in 1951 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE, 2021[2]). The Philpott Lake project was an integral component of an overarching comprehensive plan for the initial development and later maintenance of the water resources of the Roanoke River Basin, which stretches from the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia, in an east-southeast direction, to the Albemarle Sound near Plymouth, North Carolina. Philpott Lake is managed primarily for flood control and hydroelectric power generation. Authorizations provided for flood control, water quality, fish and wildlife management, and recreational uses of the impoundment are illustrated in Table ES-1.

Table ES-1: Project Authorizations

Authorized Purpose	Authorizing Law	Date	Statute	Common Name
Flood Control, Recreation, Low Augmentation, Hydroelectric Power	(Public Law) PL 78-534	12/22/1944	58 Stat 887	Flood Control Act of 1944
Flood Control	PL 79-526	07/24/1946	60 Stat 641	Flood Control Act of 1946
Recreation	PL 83-780	09/03/1954	68 Stat 1267	Rivers and Harbors Act of 1954
Water Supply	PL 85-500	07/03/1958	72 Stat 297	Rivers and Harbors Act of 1958
Water Supply	PL 85-500	07/03/1958	72 Stat 297	Flood Control Act of 1958
Water Supply	PL 85-500	07/03/1958	72 Stat 297	Water Supply Act of 1958

[1] (USACE, 2021) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Institute for Water Resources. (2020). Fiscal Year 2019 Value to the Nation Fast Facts Recreation. Retrieved from https://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Value-to-the-Nation/Fast-Facts/ . Last accessed on 1/29/2021.

[2] (USACE, 2021) Available on the internet at: https://epec.saw.usace.army.mil/phildesc.txt. Last accessed 1/22/2021.

Authorized Purpose	Authorizing Law	Date	Statute	Common Name
Fish and Wildlife	PL 85-624	08/12/1958	72 Stat 563	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
Water Supply	PL-87-874	10/23/1962	74 Stat 501	Rivers and Harbors Act of 1962
Land and Water Conservation	PL 88-578	01/01/1965	78 Stat 897	Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965

Source: USACE, 2021[3]

Philpott Lake (the project) is operated by the USACE and is impounded by the 220-foot Philpott Dam. The lake is at a surface elevation of approximately 974 feet mean sea level (MSL) and covers an approximate area of 2,880 acres. The lake itself is bordered by approximately 6,500 acres of government-managed lands. Currently, there is no residential development along the lake's shoreline, which extends a total of 98.6 miles, 49.4 miles of which borders Franklin County, 34.5 miles borders Patrick County, and 14.6 miles border Henry County (Collins, 2018[4]). Except for beaches, campgrounds, and the visitors center, the project site is largely undeveloped.

Communities that are in proximity to the project are rural in nature. Retail and service-oriented amenities are tailored to accommodate the recreational patrons of Philpott Lake.

Purpose of Master Plans

The purpose of master plans is to provide a strategic land management tool that guides the comprehensive management and development of a project's recreational, natural, and cultural resources in an efficient, cost-effective yet sustainable manner. Master plans should be updated periodically to maintain consistency with current policies and laws. A master plan update provides a programmatic approach to the management of lands defined by various land classifications located within the project area. Periodic updates of the master plan also allow for the flexibility to adapt to changing conditions over the life of the plan.

The primary goals of a master plan are to prescribe an overall land use management plan, resource objectives, and associated management concepts, which are to:

1. Provide best management practices that are responsive to local and regional needs, resource capabilities, and expressed public interests consistent with authorized project purposes.
2. Protect and manage project natural and cultural resources through sustainable environmental stewardship programs.
3. Provide public outdoor recreation opportunities that support project purposes and public demands created by the project itself while sustaining project natural resources.
4. Present an integrated plan for recreation and other project purposes that is consistent and compatible with national objectives and regional goals and programs.

[3] (USACE, 2021) Available on the internet at: https://epec.saw.usace.army.mil/phildesc.txt. Last accessed 1/22/2021.

[4] Collins, Paul, Martinsville Bulletin, Taming the Smith: Henry County celebrates as Philpott turns 65, September 22, 2018, Available on the Internet at: https://martinsvillebulletin.com/news/taming-the-smith-henry-county-celebrates-as-philpott-turns-65/article_afad89b6-bee1-11e8-92fc-bb61ece579c9.html. Last accessed on 1/14/2021.

5. Recognize the qualities, characteristics, and potential of the project.
6. Provide consistency and compatibility with national objectives and other Commonwealth of Virginia (Commonwealth) and regional goals and programs.

In addition to the above goals, the USACE management activities are guided by environmental operating principles (EOPs) in accordance with ER 200-1-5, Policy for Implementation, and Integrated Application of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Operations Principles and Doctrine.

By implementing these principles, USACE will continue its efforts to develop the scientific, economic, and sociological measures to judge the effects of its project on the environment and to seek better ways of achieving environmentally sustainable solutions. The principles are intended to integrate into all project management processes throughout USACE.

The principles are consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Army Strategy for the Environment, other environmental statutes, and the Water Resources Development Acts that govern USACE activities. They require USACE to*:*

- Foster sustainability as a way of life throughout the organization.
- Proactively consider the environmental consequences of all USACE activities and act accordingly.
- Create mutually supporting economic and environmentally sustainable solutions.
- Continue to meet corporate responsibility and accountability under the law for activities undertaken by the USACE, which may impact human and natural environments.
- Consider the environment in employing a risk management and systems approach throughout the life cycles of projects and programs.
- Leverage scientific, economic, and social knowledge to understand the environmental context and effects of USACE actions in a collaborative manner.
- Employ an open, transparent process that respects the views of individuals and groups interested in USACE activities.

Philpott Master Plan Update Purpose

The Philpott Master Plan currently in use was approved in 1982. It provides information regarding what was then the goals of project lands, water, forests, and other resources management. Its scope covers an analysis of base data collected in the early 1980s, which was used to develop a framework upon which future management development, policies, and actions were to be based.

Since the publication of the 1982 Master Plan, the USACE has updated its policies directing the development and implementation of master plans and best practices in land management. Specific master plan requirements are contained in Engineer Pamphlet (EP) 1130-2-550 – Distribution Restriction Statement, dated 30 January 2013, Engineer Regulation (ER) 1130-2-2550 – Distribution Restriction Statement, dated 30 January 2013, and interim clarifications to the ER 1130-2-550, Chapter 3 Master Plans, dated 30 November 2015. Master plan updates must follow Engineer Circular (EC) 1165-2-214 Water Resources Policies and Authorities, as part of the review process.

These USACE guidance documents include revised categories of land classifications used to define, and in some instances further clarify, classifications of project lands. It also includes requirements for the development of a NEPA compliance document to be developed using an interdisciplinary team approach. A similar team-oriented approach is to be used for the update of the master plan. The approach emphasizes the value of coordination with agencies, local representatives, and non-profit organizations, which in this instance is an integral part of the master plan update process.

Scope of Master Plan Update

The revision of the existing 1982 Master Plan is intended to bring the master plan up to date to reflect current ecological, socio-economic, and outdoor recreation trends that are affecting Philpott Lake, as well as those anticipated to occur within a long-term planning period of approximately 20 years. Adoption of this Master Plan Update would include the reclassification of project lands to meet newer USACE land management directives and management policies. It would also shift the land management focus from a construction-based master plan to a more policy-based plan. In general, the proposed land classifications associated with this Master Plan Update would reduce the amount of project land available to support intensive land use, instead, much of the project lands would be reclassified as Multiple Resource Management Lands to support low-density recreation and permanent wildlife habitat.

Based on consideration of the amount of land that today supports Philpott Lake operations a notable change is proposed in land classified as Project Operations (Operations). Approximately 54 percent of land previously allocated for Project Operations in the 1982 Master Plan would be reclassified to High Density Recreation use. Additionally, another 30 percent of land allocated previously to Operations would be reclassified as Multiple Resource Management Lands (MRML): Low Density Recreation.

Land designated previously in the 1982 Master Plan to support Recreation: Existing and Future Intensive Use would be reclassified because this land classification is no longer used by USACE. These lands would be reclassified to High Density Recreation and MRML uses. Approximately 29 percent of intensive use lands would be reclassified as High Density uses and 71 percent to various MRML uses. This reclassification implies that there would be less emphasis on the development of lands for intense recreational activities and more emphasis on resource conservation and stewardship.

Public Involvement

The master planning process incorporates both agency and community input to devise the best long-term strategy for Philpott Lake. The planning process involved key stakeholder participation across local, regional, and Commonwealth agencies and community members who live and work in the Philpott Lake area. As the master planning process evolved, several opportunities were provided for community input, including the two virtual meetings and an open-comment review period.

The purpose of the project scoping was to provide an opportunity for agencies, organizations, local representatives, and the public to engage in the project scoping process by providing their input regarding the future vision of Philpott Lake for generations to come. As part of the initial project scoping for the updating of the master plan, two meetings were held on December 3, 2020; the first was an agency scoping meeting, and the latter was a public scoping meeting. The purpose of these scoping meetings was to inform and involve the public in the master plan updating process and to provide an opportunity to discuss topics or issues that should be considered. Both meetings were held virtually, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A summary report of the scoping activities can be found in Appendix B. It is clear from the input received that Philpott Lake is a valued resource that offers a variety of recreational and camping activities, predominately serving local and regional users. Its appeal is attributed mainly to its natural beauty, pristine setting, and cultural heritage.

A project website and online survey were created to support the planning team's outreach efforts. The USACE hosted a "Philpott Lake Master Plan Update" link on its webpage menu. The site went live on November 11, 2020, and includes a project information sheet describing the project, its purpose, and how and when the public could engage and be involved in the scoping process. The virtual meeting information, also posted on the website, provided an easily accessible way for the public to participate in the virtual meetings amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. A virtual tour was also posted on the site with points of reference and important park facility information. The website was updated as new information became available. An online survey focusing on Philpott Lake Master Plan Update's community priorities and preferences went live on November 11, 2020. The survey consisted of 23 questions aimed at understanding what natural resources and recreational facilities are most desirable from the community's

perspective. On average, the survey took 5-7 minutes to complete, and 257 participants provided their input in the online survey.

While not all the topics raised during the scoping meetings and survey capture can be addressed in the master planning process, these comments were considered by USACE and the project team and greatly informed the master planning process, as evident in this report. Comments received during the initial scoping period, including all survey responses, are included in Appendix B. When comments were feasible and consistent with the purpose of the Master Plan Update, the USACE incorporated the input and suggestions provided through the scoping comments.

A virtual public meeting was held on September 28, 2021. The public meeting facilitated a forum for the discussion of project related interests and concerns. The public had the opportunity to review both the draft Master Plan Update and Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) report and provide feedback. A 30-day review period is anticipated to be initiated in early October. The plans are also be posted on the project website, and copies will be available for review at the Philpott Lake Visitors Center.

Land Classifications

During the Master Plan Update process, options were developed for classifying project lands, identifying resource objectives, and recommending future uses for these lands. These options were reviewed by USACE and presented to the localities discussed above. Comments received from public input also provided USACE with insight into public and agency desires for the future use of project lands. This information was used in identifying the appropriate land classifications for different management areas within the project, as well as the resource objectives that should govern these classifications. Resource objectives are written statements that specify the attainable options for resource development and/or management. Resource objectives are consistent with authorized project purposes, federal laws and directives, regional needs, resource capabilities, and expressed public desires. Land classifications are distributions of project lands by management categories, which, based upon resources available and public needs, provide for full utilization while protecting project resources and capabilities.

While the definition of and use of Project Operations remains the same between the two documents the amount of land designated for this use will change to support existing and future recreational use. The Low-Density Recreation definitions used in the 1982 Master Plan are incorporated into the MRML classification presented in the Preferred Alternative. The MRML classification is separated into categories representing lands designated for wildlife management (stewardship of fish or wildlife resources), low density recreation and low-density recreation-no hunting, thus replacing the 1982 Master Plan land classification of Wildlife Management and Forest Reserves and Licensed Lands. The Intensive Use classification used in the 1982 Master Plan is incorporated into the High-Density Recreation classification presented in the Preferred Alternative. The Preferred Alternative also includes an Environmentally Sensitive Area land classification and Water Surface land classification. The Water Surface is separated into four categories, including Designated No Wake, Open Recreation, Surface Designated No Towing, and Restricted. Definitions for the land classifications included in the Master Plan Update are provided below:

Project Operations: This classification of land includes those lands required for the dam, spillway, switchyard, levees, dikes, offices, maintenance facilities, and other areas that are used primarily for the operation of the project and lands below elevation 998 feet mean sea level (MSL).

High Density Recreation: This classification of land is developed for intensive recreational activities for the visiting public, including day use areas and/or campgrounds. High density recreational lands include areas for commercial concessions (marinas, comprehensive resorts, etc.) and quasi-public development.

MRML: This classification of land allows for the designation of a predominant use as described in the categories below, with the understanding that other compatible uses described below may occur on these lands.

- Wildlife Management: Lands are designated for stewardship of fish and wildlife resources.
- Low Density Recreation: Lands with minimal development or infrastructure that support passive public recreational use (i.e., primitive camping, fishing, hunting, trails, wildlife viewing, etc.).
- Low Density Recreation, No Hunting: - Lands with low density recreation where hunting is not permitted.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas: These areas are designated where scientific, ecological, cultural, or aesthetic features have been identified. Designation of these lands is not limited to lands that are otherwise protected by laws such as the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, or other applicable state/Commonwealth statutes. These areas should be considered by management to ensure they are not adversely impacted by any action. The only Environmentally Sensitive Area within the project is habitat for Roanoke Logperch.

Water Surface: The water use plan is designed to protect public boating, minimize conflicts between water and land activities, and protect sensitive environmental resources. Four water use categories are proposed for Philpott Lake, including designated no wake; open recreation; designated no towing; and restricted.

- Designated No Wake: Speeds of craft navigating water allocated to this category are restricted to levels that will not create damaging waves, safety hazards, or undue disturbance to fragile ecosystems.
- Open Recreation: Waters allocated to the unrestricted boating category are available for all water-oriented recreation activities. Most of the Philpott Lake area has been allocated to this category. These waters may be used for activities such as skiing, boating, sailing, and fishing.
- Designated No Towing: Waters allocated to the restricted no towing category are available for all water-oriented recreation activities but are restricted for skiing due to congested boating areas where safety is a factor, or the area is designated as a fishery area with no towing traffic. Designated No Towing does not fall under designated classifications in *USACE Pamphlet No. 1130-2-550, Project Operations and Maintenance Guidance and Procedures*, and is noted separately.
- Restricted: The restricted area applies to water areas that are buoyed off, prohibiting watercraft beyond a designated point. These areas are located around operational structures, such as the dam and water intake structures.

Project Easement Lands: Project Easement Lands: All lands for which the USACE holds an easement interest, but not fee title. Planned use and management of easement lands will be in strict accordance with the terms and conditions of the easement estate acquired for the project.

This category includes lands over which a flowage easement has been acquired and are not allocated to any of the above land use categories. These lands are available only for flooding, should flood control measures be necessary. The USACE has a responsibility to assure the safety of the public on waters adjacent to these easement lands and navigational responsibility in these shoreline waters. These easements are on fee-owned lands of the Fairystone State Park, Commonwealth of Virginia.

One of USACE's top priorities at Philpott Lake is to continue to provide a diverse offering of outdoor recreational opportunities and natural resource management that will lead to better accomplishment of project purposes. The Master Plan Update includes resource objectives designed to guide USACE in meeting the congressionally authorized purposes of Philpott Lake. The rationale for the decisions made in selecting the elements included in the resource plan is presented in the Master Plan Update as well.

The difference in land use allocation used in the 1982 Master Plan, when compared to the USACE's current guidance and procedures for land use classification, does not make for a direct comparison; however, some similarities do exist. Table ES-2 shows how the 1982 land use allocations have translated into the proposed Master Plan Update classifications.

Table ES-2: Conversion of Land Classifications Between 1982 Master Plan and Master Plan Update

Facility Site	Land Allocation (1982)	Land Classification (2021)
Bowens Creek Park	Recreation: Intensive Existing	High Density Recreation
Deer Island	Recreation: Intensive Existing	MRML: Low Density Recreation
Goose Point Park	Recreation: Intensive Existing	High Density Recreation
	Wildlife Management and Forest Reserve	
Horseshoe Point Park	Recreation: Intensive Existing	High Density Recreation
Jamison Mill Park	Recreation: Intensive Existing	High Density Recreation
	Recreation: Low Density Existing	
Philpott Park	Project Operations	Project Operations
	Recreation: Intensive Existing	High Density Recreation
	Wildlife Management and Forest Reserve	
Runnett Bag Park	Recreation: Low Density Existing	MRML: Low Density Recreation
Ryan's Branch	Recreation: Intensive Existing	MRML: Low Density Recreation
		MRML: Wildlife Management
Salthouse Branch Park	Recreation: Intensive Existing	High Density Recreation
	Recreation: Intensive Future	
Turkey Island	Recreation: Low Density Existing	Low Density Recreation
Twin Ridge Park	Recreation: Intensive Existing	High Density Recreation

Previously designated land allocations were updated as part of the Master Plan Update for consistency with the land's authorized purpose. Land allocation definitions were derived from USACE Engineer

Pamphlet 1130-2-550: Recreation Operations and Maintenance Guide and Procedures. The land classification categories applicable to USACE projects are listed below.

Table ES-3 provides a comparison of the acreages included under the previous land classifications and those included in this Master Plan Update. Any inconsistency in total acreages listed in the table is based on the variance of mapping technology used for each plan. In either case, acreages presented in a master plan are for planning purposes only (official acreages are maintained by USACE Real Estate Division).

Table ES-3: Current and Proposed Land Classifications

Previous Land Allocation (1982)	Acreage (1982)	Master Plan Update Classification (2021)	Acreage (2021)
Project Operations	160.4	Project Operations	63.0
		High Density Recreation	49.8
		MRML: Low Density Recreation	47.6
		High Density Recreation Sum Total	571.2
Recreation: Existing Intensive Use	866.3	High Density Recreation	459.0
		Project Operations	6.9
		Multiple Resource Management Lands (MRML): Wildlife Management	18.2
		Multiple Resource Management Lands (MRML): Low Density Recreation	251.7
		Multiple Resource Management Lands (MRML): Low Density Recreation, No Hunting*	130.5
Recreation: Future Intensive Use	750.0	High Density Recreation	8.4
		MRML: Wildlife Management	419.8
		MRML: Low Density Recreation	137.4
		MRML: Low Density Recreation, No Hunting*	184.4
		MRML: Low Density Recreation Sum Total	1095.3
		MRML: Low Density Recreation, No Hunting	417.9
		MRML: Wildlife Management General	4270.2
Recreation: Existing Low Density Use	375.3	MRML: Low Density Recreation	311.3
		MRML: Low Density Recreation, No Hunting*	31.6
		High Density Recreation	28.2
		MRML: Wildlife Management	4.1
Recreation: Future Low Density Use	25.6	MRML: Low Density Recreation	25.6
Licensed Lands	256.2	MRML: Wildlife Management	256.2
Wildlife Management and Forest Reserve	4097.00	MRML: Wildlife Management	3571.9
		Environmentally Sensitive Area	106.3
		High Density Recreation	25.7

Previous Land Allocation (1982)	Acreage (1982)	Master Plan Update Classification (2021)	Acreage (2021)
		MRML: Low Density Recreation	321.6
		MRML: Low Density Recreation, No Hunting*	71.5
Easement Lands	243.3	Flowage Easement	243.3
Water**	2741.5	Water Surface: Designated No Wake	41.8
		Water Surface: Designated No Towing***	308.2
		Water Surface: Open Recreation	2382.7
		Water Surface: Restricted	8.8
Total Acreage	9515.60		9515.60
*Designated No Hunting does not fall under traditional classifications and is noted separately.			
**Water areas were not given secondary allocation values in the 1982 MP.			
***Designated No Towing does not fall under traditional classifications, and is noted separately			

Using the Master Plan

The Master Plan Update serves two primary purposes that are equal in importance. First, it is the primary management document for the project and provides direction for many of the other plans that guide the operation of Philpott Lake. This Master Plan Update is a precursor to the updating of many of the resource management plans maintained by USACE, such as the operational management plan. Second, the Master Plan Update is intended to support the Philpott Lake mission as follows:

> *"To provide flood control for downstream communities while producing clean hydroelectric power, offering safe and memorable outdoor recreation experiences, managing environmental resources, meeting downstream water flow requirements, and enhancing public awareness through educational outreach opportunities."*

The master plan is a land use management tool that provides USACE, other management partners, and the public with the preferred uses of project lands, which indicates why it is important that the information within the plan should be updated and remain current. Maintaining an up-to-date master plan will allow USACE and the Commonwealth to respond effectively to development plans made internally or by outside parties.

The Master Plan Update is consistent with USACE guidance EP 1130-2-550 and includes by chapter:

- Chapter 1, consisting of an introduction to the project, project authorization, project purpose and scope, a brief description of watershed and project, a list of prior plans, and a listing of pertinent project information
- Chapter 2, consisting of a natural/socioeconomic resources inventory
- Chapter 3, consisting of resource objectives that set forth measurable and attainable current and future management and development activities that support the stated Master Plan Update goals.
- Chapter 4, consisting of updated land allocation and land classification categories
- Chapter 5, consisting of resource planning detailing how project lands will be managed
- Chapter 6, consisting of special topics, issues, and considerations
- Chapter 7, consisting of information regarding agency and public coordination

- Chapter 8, consisting of a summary of recommendations to carry forward in keeping with the stated goals of the Master Plan Update

Updating the Master Plan

This policy-based master plan, along with the accompanying PEA and GIS database, provides the USACE with a “living” management document. This living document sets goals and objectives but does not cover specific plans for future projects or development. This allows for flexibility in the management and development of Philpott Lake within a clear policy framework.

NEPA – Programmatic Environmental Assessment

USACE has prepared a PEA in compliance with the NEPA of 1969 (as amended), the 2020 update to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidelines (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) parts 1500-1508,1515-1518), and the Engineer Regulation (ER) 200-2-2 Procedures for Implementing NEPA. The PEA evaluates the potential environmental effects of the Master Plan Update. The PEA analyzes the potential impact the alternatives may have on the human environment (see Appendix G).

The Master Plan Update serves as a guide for USACE to continue its stewardship of the lands and waters of Philpott Lake. Since details regarding future projects are currently unknown, the PEA programmatically addresses the impacts of implementing this Master Plan Update but does not address the specific impacts of any future projects. Future projects will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and all environmental requirements will be met prior to the construction of new projects.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project Authorization and Purpose

Philpott Lake is a multi-purpose water resources project. Construction of the Philpott Dam was completed in 1952 (USACE, 2021[5]). The powerhouse was completed shortly after the dam in 1953 and is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District (USACE). The USACE reports that the project is 15 miles long and covers approximately 2,830 acres of water. Philpott Dam and associated infrastructure, as well as all land acquired for the Philpott Lake project, approximately 6,500 acres, are federally managed and administered by the USACE (USACE, 2021[6]). Philpott Lake is authorized for recreation, flood control, hydroelectric power generation, fish and wildlife, and water supply. Table 1-1 below provides information about the dimensions of Philpott Lake rounded to the nearest acre.

Table 1-1: Philpott Dimension by County

Acreage	Water	Land	County in Virginia
1,505	400	1,104	Henry
3,949	1,200	2,748	Franklin
3,873	1,300	2,572	Patrick

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District

Adjoining the land boundary of Philpott Lake is Fairy Stone Park, with nearly 5,000 acres of forested land and an additional 5,500 acres of land managed by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.

Construction of Philpott Lake was authorized by the Flood Control Act (FCA) of 1944 (Public Law (PL) 534, 78 Congress) as part of the development plan for the Roanoke River Basin. The development of public recreation facilities was authorized by the FCA, Section 4 of the FCA of 1946, Section 209 of the FCA of 1954, Section 207 of the FCA of 1962, and by the Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended.

Other associated authorized purposes are listed in Table 1-2 and include the regulation of river flow for subsequent hydroelectric plants and navigation, as well as the provision of fish and wildlife management.

Table 1-2: Congressional Authorizations

Authorized Purpose	Authorizing Law	Date	Statute	Common Name
Flood Control, Recreation, Low Augmentation, Hydroelectric Power	PL 78-534	12/22/1944	58 Stat 887	Flood Control Act of 1944
Flood Control	PL 79-526	07/24/1946	60 Stat 641	Flood Control Act of 1946

[5] (USACE, 2021) Available on the internet at: https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Locations/District-Lakes-and- Dams/Philpott/History/, 2021.

[6] (USACE, 2021) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Institute for Water Resources. (2020). Fiscal Year 2019 Value to the Nation Fast Facts Recreation. Retrieved from https://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Value-to-the-Nation/Fast-Facts/ . Last accessed on 1/29/2021.

Authorized Purpose	Authorizing Law	Date	Statute	Common Name
Recreation	PL 83-780	09/03/1954	68 Stat 1267	Rivers and Harbors Act of 1954
Water Supply	PL 85-500	07/03/1958	72 Stat 297	Rivers and Harbors Act of 1958
Water Supply	PL 85-500	07/03/1958	72 Stat 297	Flood Control Act of 1958
Water Supply	PL 85-500	07/03/1958	72 Stat 297	Water Supply Act of 1958
Fish and Wildlife	PL 85-624	08/12/1958	72 Stat 563	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
Water Supply	PL-87-874	10/23/1962	74 Stat 501	Rivers and Harbors Act of 1962
Land and Water Conservation	PL 88-578	01/01/1965	78 Stat 897	Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965

The development of the Philpott Master Plan Update (Master Plan Update, Plan) follows USACE's ER 1130-2-550 Chapter 3-5, which includes the following master planning procedures and requirements statement:

> *"Master plans will focus on four primary components: (1) regional and ecosystem needs, (2) project resource capabilities and suitability, (3) expressed public interests that are compatible with authorized purposes, and (4) environmental sustainability elements. The Master Plan will help to ensure that natural and cultural resource mandates and considerations are incorporated. The Master Plan shall ensure the economy, quality, need, shall be given equal attention in the management of resources and facilities and accomplished at the appropriate scale."*

EP 1130-2-550 Chapter 3-6 requires resource objectives to be:

> *"Clearly written statements that set forth measurable and attainable current and future management and development activities that support the stated practices of the Master Plan, Environmental Operating Principles, and applicable national performance measures. They must be consistent with authorized project purposes, Federal laws and directives, regional needs, resource capabilities, and take public input into account as well as State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans [Virginia's Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) Outdoors Plan, 2018]. These objectives must maximize project benefits, meet public needs, and foster environmental sustainability."*

In accordance with EP 1130-2-550, the Master Plan Update (including all associated appendices) describes how all project lands, water, forests, and other resources will be enhanced, developed, used, and managed in the public interest.

The construction of Philpott Dam was central to the project. The dam was constructed as a hydroelectric impoundment designed to control flooding with generation of electric power. Philpott Lake was considered one unit of an eleven-unit reservoir system planned by the USACE to control floods in the Roanoke River Basin. Today, five dam and reservoir systems, in addition to Philpott Lake, exist in the basin and provide flood control and hydroelectric power generation. They are the John H. Kerr, Leesville, Smith Mountain, Gaston, and Roanoke Rapids systems.

The planning process for updating the Philpott Lake Master Plan followed a six-step approach to problem solving. This process is often used by the USACE in water resources development and is similar in many ways to the NEPA process (USACE, 1997[7]). These steps are:

Step 1 – Identifying problems and opportunities
Step 2 – Inventorying and forecasting conditions
Step 3 – Formulating alternative plans
Step 4 – Evaluating alternative plans
Step 5 – Comparing alternative plans
Step 6 – Selecting a plan

Additional information on the six-step process can be found in Appendix E.

1.2 Purpose and Scope of the Master Plan Update

1.2.1 Purpose

The USACE, Wilmington District is responsible for the management, maintenance, restoration, and stewardship of the Philpott Lake project's natural resources. In general terms, a master plan serves as a strategic land use management tool that guides the comprehensive administration and conservation of natural and cultural resources, as well as the development of recreation at USACE managed reservoirs. The Wilmington District is proposing to update the Philpott Lake Master Plan to address the following needs:

- Bring the 1982 Philpott Lake Master Plan into compliance with current USACE policies and regulations
- Identify changes in recreational usage trends and ecological system resiliency to meet the needs of lake users and the local community as a whole
- Re-examine USACE land classifications for future management purposes

1.2.2 Scope

The USACE Wilmington District, as stewards of the public land and water for each of its multipurpose dam and lake projects, must consider the implications and impacts of requests to use resources, avoiding project-related activities that would adversely impact congressionally authorized purposes. Authorized purposes considered include:

- Preserving flood storage capacity
- Conserving natural resources
- Protecting water quality

[7] (USACE, 1997) US Army Corps of Engineers, Institute for Water Resources, Water Resources Support Center, Orth, Kenneth, Yoe, Charles, Planner Primer, IWR Report 97-R-15, November 1997.

- Producing hydropower
- Providing sustainable, high quality, natural resource-based outdoor recreation opportunities

The Master Plan Update provides direction for the continued management and use of project lands. Future improvements at the project are anticipated to focus on the operational maintenance of existing recreational facility sites, with minor improvements as agency budgets allow. The Master Plan is a vital tool for the responsible stewardship of project resources and for the benefit of present and future generations. The Master Plan Update is programmatic and identifies conceptual types and levels of activities. It does not go into detail regarding design, project sites, or estimated costs. Future actions undertaken by the USACE are required to be consistent with the guiding principles of the Master Plan Update. Therefore, there is a need for the Master Plan to be kept current in its guidance and recommendations.

The development of the Master Plan Update centers on land management practices that support land use consistent with authorized project purposes and pertinent legislation and regulations. Additionally, input from stakeholders, resource agencies, local government, and the public is taken into consideration as a means of directing future improvements and enhancements.

Because of the many changes in policy, the Master Plan's land use classification criteria require updating over time. Development of structures and operational features have been limited since the approval of the previous Master Plan in 1982. Thus, the need for an entirely new plan is not considered advisable. The Master Plan Update is distinct from the project-level implementation emphasis of the Operational Management Plan (OMP), 1992. Policies in the Master Plan are guidelines implemented through provisions of the OMP, specific Design Memoranda (DM), and annual work plans.

1.3 Watershed and Project Description

Philpott Lake lies in a mountainous area of the southwestern piedmont of Virginia. The total project area is approximately 9,515.6 acres, with an estimated additional 243.3 acres designated as flowage. The actual impoundment covers 2,741.5 acres at its normal flood pool (approximately 974 feet MSL), with the remaining 6,686 acres lying within the project boundary. The lake is formed by the impoundment of the Smith River, considered to be a major tributary of the Dan River.

The Philpott Lake project was originally authorized by the 1944 FCA in an effort to comprehensively address severe flooding issues associated with communities in the vicinity of the Smith River. The surface area of Philpott Lake covers 2,741.5 acres north of the dam not including tailrace acreage and has a shoreline length of approximately 100 miles. It extends into Franklin, Henry, and Patrick counties in Virginia. The project includes a concrete gravity dam with an ogee spillway, a powerhouse, and a switchyard. The top elevation of Philpott Dam is 1,016 feet, and the dam's overall length is 920 feet.

1.4 Pertinent Master Plans and Project Information

Philpott Lake's first master plan was completed in 1953. This plan highlighted proposed recreational uses that would promote the project as a destination for recreational day-use activities. That plan was used until 1964 when the first master plan update was completed. The first update focused on advancements made in the development of recreational land uses and future planned sites and facilities that were to be accomplished over a 40-to-50-year period.

The current master plan was approved in 1982 and focused on land allocations, as well as existing and proposed recreational areas, based on local needs and project funding. Additionally, several pertinent management studies related to Philpott Lake and consistent with the Philpott Lake Master Plan have also been completed and are listed below, along with their approval dates. These plans are updated as needed to fulfill their purpose in project operations and resource management.

Each of these studies was considered in the development of the current Master Plan Update. In addition to the listed USACE studies, numerous local, regional, and Commonwealth agency reports concerning

Philpott Lake and its region were consulted. These reports are referenced in appropriate places throughout the Master Plan Update.

- Archaeological and Historical Survey and Historic Properties Management for Philpott Lake, Roanoke River Basin, Virginia, December 1992. This report summarizes the results of surveying for historic and prehistoric resources and provides a management plan for such resources (USACE, 1992[8]).
- Fish and Wildlife Management Plan, March 1983. The purpose of this report is to implement elements of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. It provides for the use of civil works projects for the conservation, maintenance, and management of fish and wildlife resources and their land or water habitats (USACE, 1983[9]).
- Forest Resource Management Plan, Philpott Lake Complex, August 1976. This report provides silviculture recommendations for intensively managed areas of Philpott Lake (USACE, 1982[10]).
- A Natural Heritage Inventory of Philpott Lake, May 2001. The purpose of this report was to provide findings stemming from a comprehensive biological inventory of the rare, threatened, and endangered species and significant natural communities in waters and on U.S. fee-owned lands managed by the USACE (Belden, 2021).
- Lakeshore Management Plan for Philpott Lake, May 1983. This report provides guidance and procedures for the protection and preservation of the environmental characteristics of the Philpott Lake shoreline (USACE, 1983[11]).
- Operational Management Plan for Philpott Lake, 1992. The purpose of this report is to serve as a reference document that sets forth the procedures, responsibilities, and management concerns for the administration of Philpott Lake (USACE, 1992[12]).
- Philpott Dam and Reservoir Historic Properties Management Plan, 2020. The purpose of this report was to provide a comprehensive program to direct historic preservation activities and objectives at Philpott Reservoir and to effectively manage and protect historic properties (USACE, 2020[13]).

1.5 Master Plan Update Objectives

Major objectives were included in previous Philpott Lake master plans based on project scope and stage of development. Those objectives still considered relevant have been carried over into this Master Plan

[8] (USACE, 1992) r US Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, Archaeological and Historical Survey and Historic Properties Management Plan For Philpott Lake, Roanoke River Basin, Virginia, Jones, David, Poplin, Eric, Brockington and Associates, Inc. Atlantic Charleston, December 1992.

[9] (USACE, 1983) US Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, Appendix D To Philpott Lake Master Plan D. M. No. 4, Fish and Wildlife Management Plan, March 1983.

[10] (USACE, 1982) US Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, Forest Resource Management Plan, Philpott Lake Complex, Smith River, Virginia, 1982.

[11] (USACE, 1983) US Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, Lakeshore Management Plan for Philpott lake, Smith River Virginia, May 1983.

[12] (USACE, 1992) US Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, Philpott Lake Operational Management Plan, 1992.

[13] (USACE, 1992) r US Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, Archaeological and Historical Survey and Historic Properties Management Plan For Philpott Lake, Roanoke River Basin, Virginia, Jones, David, Poplin, Eric, Brockington and Associates, Inc. Atlantic Charleston, December 1992.

Update. New objectives that reflect current project status and anticipated future status have also been identified and are listed below:

1. To present an integrated plan for recreation and other project purposes that has the flexibility to move through design, construction, and into operation with little change in purpose, appearance, or utility.
2. To explain the planning process applied throughout the Master Plan Update so that minimum effort is required to understand and follow up on the methodology applied herein.
3. To utilize the most up-to-date database information, which may be collected as part of supporting management plans, as listed above, and which identify any major characteristics of natural resources within the project area. Database information is to be used as a tool in preparing appropriate development plans and management recommendations.
4. To identify trends in recreational activity and to assist in organizing future improvements based on user and local community demand.
5. To actively coordinate the master planning process with the public and interested local, Commonwealth of Virginia, and federal agencies.
6. To identify lands that are suitable for intensive recreational development.
7. To prepare a plan that will promote the continued public utilization of all project resources up to a capacity consistent with USACE policies, development and management constraints, and the natural and cultural environments.
8. To develop resource use objectives that specify the attainable, publicly acceptable options for resource use based on an analysis of resource capabilities and public need.
9. To address any potential conflicts between public use of the project and requested private use of public lands by adjacent landowners or developers.
10. To provide a total plan of development (including a land and water use plan) and conceptual recreation area plans, illustrating existing and proposed facilities and supporting development, such as a project-wide trails plan and a general interpretive plan.

2 Project Setting and Factors Influencing Management & Development

This chapter provides detailed information on important factors that have been established in previous Master Plans in the formulation of this Master Plan Update. These factors include the climate, the characteristics of the project and its surrounding area, existing recreational resources, characteristics of the population, its economic status, and its recreational habits and interests.

2.1 Natural Resources

This chapter provides a description and inventory of project resources and factors influencing resource management and development. It includes discussions of the project's regional location, the river basin in which it is located, and general project features such as climate, topography, geology, soils, hydrology, flora, fauna, and visual quality. Where appropriate, these features are discussed in terms of the potential and limitations they present for the development, operation, and management of Philpott Lake. The information presented in this chapter was used to develop specific resource-use objectives, to match land use categories to resource capabilities, to help guide future recreation development or rehabilitation, and to establish facility site-specific objectives for resource use and management. In some instances, background information regarding resources was derived from management plans listed in Chapter 1, Section 1.4.

2.2 Lake Operation Description of Reservoir and Navigation Pool

Data and information derived for this chapter included that sourced from the Water Control Plan for Philpott Lake, which states that the primary purpose of the project is flood control (USACE, 2015[14]). The use of the storage capacity at Philpott Lake above elevation 974 feet MSL will be governed exclusively by flood control requirements.

The construction of Philpott Dam and Reservoir was central to the project, as it was constructed as a hydroelectric impoundment designed to control flooding that includes electric power generation. Yet, several competing priorities are associated with recreational use, and municipal and industrial water supply needs that demand further assessment by way of a water allocation study to be completed as a process independent of this Master Plan Update.

Pertinent operation information is provided in Appendix D of this report.

2.2.1 Project Operational Structures

The major operational structure at Philpott Lake is the dam, which is located approximately 44 miles northwest of the mouth of the Smith River. The concrete dam is a gravity structure, approximately 920 feet long with a height of 220 feet. There is a 120-foot, ungated spillway with the crest at an elevation of 985 feet MSL. Water can also be released through three gated sluices, which are located near the bottom of the spillway monoliths, as well as two 12-inch, low-flow lines (USACE, 2015[15]).

Located at the base of the dam on the right bank is the powerhouse. The initial and ultimate power generating facilities in the powerhouse consist of two units rated at 6,700 kilowatts and one unit rated at 600 kilowatts(USACE, 2015[16]).

[14] (USACE, 2015) CESAW-EN-HA, Water Control Plan for Philpott Lake, June 1992 (minor editorial changes 2004 and 2015).
[15] (USACE, 2015) CESAW-EN-HA, Water Control Plan for Philpott Lake, June 1992 (minor editorial changes 2004 and 2015).
[16] (USACE, 2015) CESAW-EN-HA, Water Control Plan for Philpott Lake, June 1992 (minor editorial changes 2004 and 2015).

2.2.1.1 Reservoir Regulation Plan

In addition to being primarily regulated for flood control and hydropower, Philpott Lake operations are conducted for recreation, and downstream pollution abatement. The lake has an area of approximately 4,060 acres (at maximum flood stages) and a storage capacity of 247,400 acres. Of the total storage, 81,400 acre-feet are reserved for the control of floods, 111,000 acre-feet are for power storage, and 55,000 acre-feet are for active storage (USACE, 1982[17]). Table 2-1 summarizes the relationship between pool elevation and storage capacity as previously recorded.

Table 2-1: Pool Elevations, Lake Area & Storage capacity, Philpott Lake

Pool	Elevation (MSL)	Lake Area (Acres)	Storage Capacity (Acre-Feet)
Surcharge Pool	1,014	-	318,300
Flood Control Pool	998	4,060	247,400
Maximum Power Pool	974	2,741	166,000
Minimum Power Pool (Inactive Storage)	920	1,350	55,00

Source: USACE, 1982[18]

In accordance with EP 1130-2-550 the Master Plan update does not address the specifics of regional quality, shoreline management, water level management and operation and maintenance of project operations facilities.

2.2.1.2 Reservoir Operation

The Philpott Lake Water Control Plan (1992) calls for maintaining the lake level at or near the guide curve elevation at 971.5 feet MSL from October through January, and 973.5 feet MSL from April through July. The remaining months are either building up or drawing down. Controlled flood storage space is provided between elevations 974 and 985 feet MSL, with surcharge or uncontrolled storage provided above the crest of the free overflow spillway (elevation 985 feet MSL (USACE, 2015[19]).

2.2.1.3 Effects of Reservoir Operations on Recreation

A rise or fall in the pool elevation at Philpott Lake has some effect on the lands surrounding the lake, recreational facilities, and project visitation. A rise in the flood control pool would render some recreational facilities (such as swimming beaches and boat launching ramps) temporarily unusable. Floating facilities, such as docks and marinas, may also be adversely affected. Other effects associated with high water levels include the accumulation of driftwood, the degradation of surrounding vegetation, and shoreline erosion.

A significant lowering of the pool elevation, caused by drought, exposes unattractive banks, and creates a significant boating hazard resulting from increased shallow water areas. Boat launching ramps and swimming beaches may become unusable during drawdown periods.

[17] (USACE, 1992) US Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, Philpott Lake Master, March 1992.
[18] (USACE, 1992) US Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, Philpott Lake Master, March 1992.

[19] (USACE, 2015) CESAW-EN-HA, Water Control Plan for Philpott Lake, June 1992 (minor editorial changes 2004 and 2015).

2.3 Hydrology

Philpott Lake is located within the Roanoke River Basin. Functioning as an impoundment of the Smith River, the drainage basin at Philpott Lake is approximately 212 square miles. The Smith River rises on the eastern slope of the Appalachian Mountains and flows in a southeastern direction until it joins the Dan River, which empties into John H. Kerr Reservoir.

Tributaries to the Smith River that feed the reservoir include Runnett Bag Creek, Ryans Branch, Beards Creek, Nicholas Creek, Osley Branch, Cooper Creek, Roland Branch, Salthouse Branch, Cow Branch, Bowens Creek, Bowens Branch, Spring Branch, Jackson Run, Mines Branch, Puppy Creek, and Small Creek (LG2, 2020[20]).

The Roanoke River Basin is approximately 220 miles long and has a drainage area of 9,580 square miles. The drainage area above the Philpott Dam includes approximately 212 square miles. The Roanoke River Basin Project Watersheds Map (Plate A3) shows the Roanoke River Basin and the location of Philpott Lake within it.

2.3.1 Water Level Fluctuation

The project design and current plan of operation provide for a full flood control pool at elevation 985 feet above MSL and a full power pool elevation of 974 feet. In general, the lake will fill during the winter and spring months and be drawn down gradually during the summer and fall. The planned water level in the lake is maintained at 974 feet through July and then allowed to fall gradually to a low of 971.5 feet in September, at which time winter rains start the filling process. The lake's guide curve remains at 971.5 feet through January. The water level does not usually fluctuate during the recreation season of June through September. The lake elevation may vary from the expected levels indicated above during periods of abnormal streamflow caused either by heavy rainfall or prolonged drought (USACE, 2015[21]).

2.4 Shoreline

The Philpott Lake shoreline is governed by its Shoreline Management Plan (1983). The USACE policy is to:

> *"…manage and protect the shoreline under its jurisdiction to properly establish and maintain acceptable fish and wildlife habitat, aesthetic quality, and natural environmental conditions and to promote the safe and healthful use of these shorelines for recreational purposes."*

Philpott Lake is subject to shoreline erosion, but not at levels considered to be of a serious nature, or in need of mitigation efforts. There is no residential development along the Philpott Lake shoreline. Recreational infrastructure and resources at or near shorelines include boat ramps, docks, and recreation site beaches.

2.5 Water Quality

The VADEQ manages water quality standards by its capacity to support different uses. Based on VADEQ water quality data, most creeks and tributaries that flow into Philpott Lake range from Class III to Class V waters. Class III, IV, and V waters are defined VADEQ water quality standards that are implemented

[20] LG2, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philpott Dam and Reservoir Historic Properties Management Plan, Smith River Basin, Virginia, LG2 Environmental Solutions, Inc, December 16, 2020.

[21] (USACE, 2015) CESAW-EN-HA, Water Control Plan for Philpott Lake, June 1992 (minor editorial changes 2004 and 2015).

based on usage or consumption (VADEQ, 2020c). The VADEQ designated six uses for surface waters in Virginia, which include aquatic life, fish consumption, public water supplies, recreation, shellfishing, and wildlife. Philpott Lake (listed as Philpott Reservoir) is classified as a Category 5 impaired waterbody, requiring a Total Maximum Daily Load Study. (VADEQ 2020f).

Most of the streams and tributaries that flow into Philpott Lake, and the lake waters, are categorized as supporting primary recreation (swimming and boating) and trout waters while also being a water supply. Some select areas of the Roanoke River immediately north and south of the reservoir do not support primary recreation but still support healthy aquatic life and secondary recreation.

The VADEQ publishes data on water quality throughout the Commonwealth in its Impaired Waters – 303(d) list. The most current 303(d) list available for Virginia was published in 2020. Waters listed on the 303(d) list fail to meet national water quality criteria established in the Clean Water Act (CWA). Based on the VADEQ 2020 Final Impaired Waters – 303(d) list, Philpott Lake is listed for Fish Consumption (Impaired Use Code: L51L-01-HG) (VADEQ, 2020f), Dissolved Oxygen (Impaired Use Code: L51L-01_DO), and temperature (Impaired Use Code: L51L-01-TEMP).

Philpott Lake was initially listed for Fish Consumption in 2010 as a Category 5 (i.e., waters needing Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Studies). It continued to be classified as a Category 5 waterbody in 2020. No Fish Consumption or Drinking Water Advisories are issued for mercury for these waters since the levels of mercury reported in fish tissue were under Virginia's Department of Health's level of concern (VADEQ 2020f). Philpott Lake was included on the 303(d) list in 2020 for both dissolved oxygen and temperature. The dissolved oxygen and temperature levels reported lead to the impairment of aquatic life (VADEQ 2020f)

Several Flowage Easements exist around Philpott Lake (Appendix A, A1 Vicinity Map). These areas may retain natural characteristics which allow those areas to absorb stormwater before it reaches surrounding water resources. While the easement areas may help water quality if the land is not cleared, the easements were not acquired to protect water quality. The flowage easements can be cleared of vegetation by property owners if they choose to and some structures may be constructed. Only habitable structures are prohibited. USACE's only interest in easements is to allow water to be impounded as the lake rises.

2.6 Project Access

Philpott Lake is located on the Smith River in the Roanoke River Basin, about 44 miles above the river's mouth. The dam is located approximately seven miles upstream from Bassett, Virginia. The lake extends into portions of Patrick, Henry, and Franklin Counties in Virginia.

Philpott Lake is served by a well-developed network of federal, Commonwealth, and county highways. The major transportation routes to the area are US Highway 220 and Virginia State Route 57 (SR 57) provides access to the eastern and central portions of the project. County Highway 623 crosses the lake, providing north-south access to the lake (see the Drive Time Access Map, Plate A2).

Access to recreation areas is provided by a network of Commonwealth and county roads. The condition of these roads varies, but most are adequate to handle recreational traffic.

2.7 Climate

The region's climate is temperate, characterized by warm summers and cold, but generally not severe, winters. Overall, the climate is suitable for seasonal recreational activities and for the operation of the Philpott Dam and Reservoir. The growing season is relatively long, and temperatures at or below zero are rare. Information related to regional climatic factors is valuable in understanding regional ecology, hydrology, vegetation, and other natural factors.

Annual precipitation is moderate, averaging approximately 48.4 inches per year, and fairly evenly distributed throughout the year. Table 2-2 presents a summary of climatological data for the project area

from the period of September 1, 1930, to April 30, 2012, from the Southeast Regional Climate Center (SRCC).

Table 2-2: Climatological Summary 1

Average Annual Temperature	56.0°F
Range	24.9 – 87.5°F
Average Minimum Monthly Temperature (January)	43.1°F
Average Maximum Monthly Temperature (July)	68.9°F
Average Annual Precipitation	44.80 inches
Range	2.98 inches to 4.63 inches per month
Average Yearly Snowfall	9.5 inches

Source: SRCC, 2012[22]

2.8 Topography, Geology, and Soils

The project setting is valued as being pristine and picturesque, with mountainous terrain along the slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains, reaching 800 to 1,100 feet MSL.

Philpott Lake is situated within two physiographic provinces: the Piedmont and the Blue Ridge Mountains. According to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Piedmont Province is the largest physiographic province in Virginia, which extends from the fall line on the east to the Blue Ridge Mountains to the west of the Commonwealth. The area is described as having hard, crystalline igneous and metamorphic formations with some areas of sedimentary rocks. Most significant water supplies are found within a few hundred feet of the surface. Larger concentrations of water withdrawal can be obtained along the Western Piedmont along the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Slope and terrain are among the major environmental factors determining the capability of the land to support various land use activities. The Slope Analysis Map (Plate A5) illustrates three slope ranges (0 to 8 percent, 8 to 15 percent, and greater than 15 percent). The potential of each slope range for intensive recreation is described below.

0 to 8 percent: In terms of slope, lands in this range are quite suitable for all types of recreational development. Major land areas in this slope range are generally confined to broad ridgetops, natural flood plains, and secondary terraces. Vegetation on these areas generally consists of mature forests. Based on slope alone, these areas provide the best opportunity for intensive recreational development, except where poor drainage limits their suitability. In most cases, existing and proposed recreation areas include a considerable percentage of all project lands in the 0 to 8 percent slope category. However, the overall percentage of Philpott Lake project lands in this category is very small.

8 to 15 percent: Lands in this slope range are not extensive within the project area and present only minor constraints to intensive recreational development. These slopes are well suited for medium density camping, picnic areas, and trail development. Site design must be sensitive to these slopes, and topographic aspects become an important consideration. Roads and parking areas should parallel the contours, and runoff should be controlled to reduce soil erosion. This slope range typically occurs on hillsides and is rather evenly dispersed throughout the project.

[22] SRCC, 2012 Southeast Regional Climate Center, Martinsville Filter PLA, Virginia (445300), Available on the internet at: https://sercc.com/cgi-bin/sercc/cliMAIN.pl?va5300.

Greater than 15 percent: Land areas that have slopes more than 15 percent should generally be avoided for recreational development. The cost of development on these lands is relatively high, and the potential for adverse environmental impacts is considerable. Trails can be constructed through these areas if they are parallel to the contours and if the steepest areas are protected by steps and other reinforcement techniques. In general, these areas are best utilized as natural buffers and for forest, wildlife, and watershed conservation. The extensive slopes in this range severely limit recreational development at Philpott Lake.

Philpott Lake is situated in a geologically sensitive area. A more detailed study should be made before the construction of new facilities, particularly on the steeper slopes. The strength and engineered properties of various kinds of rock materials are dependent upon the rock's constituent minerals and their lineation uniformity, jointing, and degree of weathering. Recommendations made in previous master plans and their updates indicate that construction at the Philpott Lake project should take place only along the flat ridge tops or flat bottomlands as the steep slopes have geologic conditions that may not support major development. Roads should follow the contours and avoid deep cuts on the steep slopes. These recommendations are still valid and are included in this Master Plan Update.

Information on the location and characteristics of the various soil types and their associated slope percentages is illustrated on the Soil Type map (Plate A6). This information is considered pertinent to the assessment of recreational soil suitability.

2.8.1 Recreational Soil Suitability

Using specified criteria provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Web Soil Survey (WSS) for assessing recreational soil suitability, a rating process was implemented to map the soil suitability for recreation within the project. The ratings of 'Somewhat Limited' or 'Very Limited' were obtained from the USDA's web soil survey suitability and limitations for use guidelines. The USDA WSS maps (see Plates A7 and A8) rate both recreational development camp areas and recreational development paths and trails based on the USDA WSS rating criteria.

Table 2-3**: Suitability and Limitations of Soil Types for Intensive Recreation**

USDA WSS Rating	**Rating Criteria**
Camp Areas	Slope, stoniness, depth of bedrock or the cemented pan
Paths, Hiking and Horseback Riding Trails	Stoniness, depth of the water table, ponding, flooding, slope, and texture of the surface

2.8.1.1 Usable Recreation Lands

Various analyses were conducted as part of the previous master plans in 1954, 1964, and 1982 that considered development constraints based on USACE facility design guidelines (lands within the 5-year floodplain), management considerations (areas too small or poorly shaped, areas with access problems), recreation desirability (poor water relationship), and physical factors (areas too wet or poorly drained, poor soils, excessive slopes). Generally, previous analysis suggests that less than 30 percent of all acreages within the existing recreational areas would be suitable for intensive recreational use, whether through new development or rehabilitation efforts. In addition to soil type and topographic characteristics at Philpott Lake, one must factor in the assessment of land use suitability for recreation. The importance of easy access to the shoreline and water is the main draw for visitation at Philpott Lake. This consideration suggests that the area for usable recreation lands at existing facility sites is less than previous analyses have indicated.

2.9 Resource Analysis

2.9.1 Fish and Wildlife Resources

The existing Philpott Fish and Wildlife Management Plan, prepared in 1984, provides for the use of civil works projects for the conservation, maintenance, and management of fish and wildlife resources and their land or water habitats.

Fish Management: Lake and tailwater fishing has been managed by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources since 1952. The major fish species managed at the lake are smallmouth and largemouth bass, walleye, and brown and rainbow trout. Other game fish taken at the lake include crappie, bream, and catfish. Principal management measures include size and creel limits, stocking, and fish attractors.

Wildlife Management: Due to the diverse vegetative cover existing at the project, many species of game and non-game animals can be found in the project area. The principal game species sought at the project are white-tailed deer, black bear, gray squirrel, bobwhite, quail, cottontail rabbit, and wild turkey. The Audubon Society currently maintains three nest boxes for brown-headed nuthatches. Provisions have been made in the existing wildlife management plan for the management of threatened and endangered species.

A wildlife management area has been designated within the boundary of Philpott Lake. The Philpott Wildlife Management Area consists of approximately 4270 acres designated as critical wildlife habitat and abuts Fairystone Farms.

2.9.2 Vegetative Resources

The Forest Management Plan, 1976, inventoried and mapped the vegetation types on the Philpott project. The project supports several vegetation types that are typical throughout the Piedmont and Blue Ridge Mountain regions of Virginia. Four major vegetation cover types were identified on project lands as a result of the Forest Management Plan. A complete vegetative resources inventory hasn't been completed since 1976.

Upland hardwood is the most extensive cover type found on project lands, representing the climax forest type for the region. The vegetative association is dominated by oak and hickory, along with a few pine woods, but more than 20 species of trees and shrubs have been identified in these upland hardwoods stands. Upland hardwood stands have a high potential for intensive recreation use, high visual quality, and a forest floor that is tolerant of use.

Pines are the first trees to become established in secondary succession and can maintain this dominance for up to 100 years. The major pine species found at the project include white, shortleaf, and Virginia pine. Pine stands offer aesthetic and functional benefits to recreation development, but the forest floor beneath them is intolerant of trampling. Site design must be sensitive to these factors.

Mixed woodlands contain between 31 percent and 69 percent of both pines and hardwoods. Mixed woodlands generally occur for two reasons: either as an intermediate stage of succession or because of selective timber cutting. In either case, they will normally mature into the climax oak-hickory forest. Mixed woodlands have a high potential for recreation development because they offer the advantages of both the upland hardwood and pine cover types.

Open Land included in this category is all lands with less than 10 percent canopy closure. These areas include agricultural lands, lawn areas, and open areas associated with recreation use. The vegetation of these areas generally consists of mown grass or row crops. Trees and shrubs are often maintained for aesthetic or functional purposes within these areas.

The appropriate acreage and percentage of project lands covered by each of the four cover types are shown in Table 2-4. Descriptions of each cover type are provided below.

Table 2-4: Acreage & Percent of Project Lands in Classifications (1976)

Vegetation Type	Number of Acres*	Percentage of Project Area**
Upland Hardwood	4,175	64%
Pine	1,463	23%
Mixed Woodland	748	12%
Open Land	74	1%
Total	6,460	100%

*Includes all fee-owned lands above elevation 974 feet MSL.
**Acres and recorded percentages could notably change over a period of 45 years.

2.9.3 Threatened and Endangered Species

A specific component of USACE's and the Commonwealth's commitment to enhancing fish and wildlife populations at Philpott Lake is the consideration and protection of rare and endangered species and communities. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is responsible for the listing of endangered and threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.[23] Within Patrick, Franklin, and Henry counties, five federally listed species are known to exist. These species and their habitat requirements are described in Table 2-5. Additional information, including threatened and endangered species' habitat requirements, is included in Section 4.2.3 of the PEA (Appendix G).

Table 2-5: Threatened and Endangered Species

Species Name	Scientific Name	Status	Counties Listed
Northern long-eared bat	Myotis septertrionalis	Threatened	Patrick, Henry, and Franklin
Roanoke logperch	Percina rex	Endangered	Patrick, Henry, and Franklin
Small-anthered bittercress	Cardamine micranthera	Endangered	Patrick and Henry
Smooth coneflower	Echinacea laevigata	Endangered	Franklin
James spinymussel	Pleurobema collina	Endangered	Patrick, Henry, and Franklin

2.9.4 Invasive Species

The USACE Invasive Species Policy was developed to ensure agency compliance with Executive Order 13112 – Invasive Species (1999, amended in 2016). The policy required operating projects to include invasive species management planning, which details and recommends performance-oriented goals, objectives, and species measures of success in project operations and maintenance responsibilities. That planning is coordinated with other federal, state, or local agencies. Executive Order 13112 – Invasive Species defines an invasive species as an alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm, or harm to human health. The order defines "control" of invasive

[23] USFWS, ECOS Environmental Conservation Online System. "Information for Planning and Consultation." IPaC, https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/ (Accessed: October 28, 2020)

species to mean, as appropriate, eradicating, suppressing, reducing, or managing invasive species populations, preventing spread of invasive species from areas where they are present, and taking steps such as restoration of native species and habitats to reduce the effects of invasive species and to prevent further invasion.

Under 16 USC Chapter 67 Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act, an aquatic nuisance species means a non-indigenous species that threatens the diversity or abundance of native species or the ecological stability of infested waters, or commercial, agriculture, aquaculture, or recreational activities dependent on such waters.

Recently, the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) reported the detection of Alabama bass in Philpott Lake. Alabama bass can threaten both large mouth and small mouth bass through competition and hybridization (Dunovant, 2020[24]).

Additionally, a site visit to Philpott Lake confirmed the occurrence of monoecious and dioecious Hydrilla verticillata (Hydrilla) populations in Philpott Lake. This aquatic vegetative species is also considered invasive to Philpott Lake.

Kudzu is an invasive upland species occurring in the Philpott Lake study area.

2.9.5 Surrounding Land Use

Within the general vicinity of Philpott Lake, land use patterns represent a mixture of agricultural and forest uses interspersed with residential and business activities. Within Philpott Lake, land allocations are designated through the Master Plan Update. Allocations focus on recreational facilities and wildlife management areas. Along the shoreline, land use is controlled by the USACE's Shoreline Management Plan. The plan establishes zones along the shoreline where private development is allowed, where lands are to be used to support public recreation, and where no shoreline development is allowed.

Major concentrations of commercial activities in the area occur at Stanleytown, Bassett, Martinsville, and Rocky Mount. In addition, isolated commercial structures can be found on the roads leading to the project. Industrial land uses are concentrated in two major areas of Bassett and Martinsville.

2.9.6 Wetlands

Wetlands provide quality habitats for many species. The Philpott Lake Master Plan study area contains freshwater emergent wetland (palustrine emergent), freshwater forested/shrub wetland (palustrine forested, palustrine shrub scrub), freshwater pond (palustrine unconsolidated bottom), littoral and limnetic lacustrine (lake unconsolidated bottom and lake unconsolidated shoreline), and perennial and intermittent riverine (riverine unconsolidated bottom, riverine streambed).

2.9.7 Utilities

Electric service to the Philpott Lake area is supplied by Appalachia Power, a subpart of American Electric Power (AEP). Electric service is available to virtually all portions of the project through existing distribution lines or lines which are on adjacent lands.

2.10 Timber Resources

Timber at Philpott Lake is harvested only when required to achieve management objectives. Those objectives may include reduction of fire hazard, elimination of disease or insect vectors, wildlife

[24] Dunovant, Jason, Outdoors, *Invasive species of bass poses a major threat to area lakes*, July 08, 2020, https://thefranklinnewspost.com/sports/invasive-species-of-bass-poses-a-major-threat-to-area-lakes/article_6ed6c888-5c7e-527b-aca5-defcdda0b384.html. Last accessed on 1/29/2021.

enhancement, maintenance of stand vigor and diversity, and maintenance of a visually pleasing and ecologically sound environment.

2.11 Interpretation/Visual Qualities

Visual quality in the landscape is a resource that must be recognized and planned for in the same manner as the other resources discussed in this chapter. The quality of the visual experience is a significant factor in the user's overall perception of an area.

Landscape visual quality is generally determined by two components: landscape character and unique or outstanding features. Landscape character is the general visual impression given by an area and is determined by elements of landform (relief, topographic complexity, enclosure) and surface characteristics (tree cover, water, land use). Unique or outstanding visual features include such features as waterfalls, unique landforms, vistas, and manmade features. No detailed visual study was undertaken as part of the master planning process; however, a visual impact analysis was prepared as part of the Forest Management Plan.

Philpott Lake has been identified by Franklin County's Office of Economic Development as one of the most breathtaking bodies of water in Virginia. Visitor sensitivity to the environment's scenic attractiveness is high amongst those individuals seeking outdoor recreation and relaxation. The natural setting of Philpott Lake is a distinguishing attribute that draws people locally and regionally versus other reservoirs offering multi-recreational uses in the Roanoke River Basin, including Smith Mountain, Hyco Lake, Kerr Lake, and Lake Gaston.

The Philpott Visitors Center and Museum offers natural and cultural displays pertaining to the heritage of Philpott Lake. The displays include examples of natural resources commonly found at the project and exhibits that focus on regional Native American and local history. In addition, four interpretative trails within the project illustrate the area's heritage and communities.

2.12 Socioeconomic Characteristics

Philpott Lake is located in Franklin, Henry, and Patrick counties, Virginia, northwest of Martinsville, Virginia. Table 2-6 provides the populations reported by county in 2019. Plate A9 in Appendix A includes the Census Areas for Population Counts map that illustrates the area in which data was derived.

Table 2-6: Population

Area	Year 2019
Franklin County, VA	56,042
Henry County, VA	50,557
Patrick County, VA	17,608

Sources: Census, 2019.

Philpott Lake is in three Virginia counties, Franklin, Henry, and Patrick, just northwest of Martinsville, Virginia. In 2019, Franklin County had a population of 56,042; Henry County had a population of 50,557; and Patrick County had a population of 17,608 (Census, 2019). At the time of the last Census (2019), children under five years of age made up approximately 4.5 percent of the Franklin County population; approximately 4.5 percent of the Henry County population; and approximately 4 percent of the Patrick County population, as compared to the national average of nearly 7 percent.

The median household income (in 2019 dollars) for Franklin County was $56,254; in Henry County was $37,952; in Patrick County was $43,073; while the national average was $62,843. The per capita income in Franklin County was $30,487; in Henry County was $22,372; in Patrick County was $24,292; the national average was $34,103. Approximately 12 percent of Franklin County's population, approximately

15 percent of Henry County's population, and approximately 16 percent of Patrick County's population were below the poverty level, compared to the national average of approximately 11 percent. (Census, 2019)

Philpott Lake's market area extends 50 miles in all directions from the project boundary. The market area, which provides the majority of project visitation, includes all or portions of 13 counties in Virginia and six counties in North Carolina (see Plate A4). The market area includes the independent cities of Roanoke, Salem, and Danville in Virginia and the City of Winston-Salem in North Carolina.

Unemployment in the immediate market area, including Henry, Patrick, and Franklin counties, was slightly higher than the Commonwealth's annual rate of 2.8 percent in 2019. A decade comparison of annual rates suggests economic improvement within each of the counties between the timeframe of 2010 and 2019 (LAUS, 2020[25]). Table 2-7 provides the 2010 and 2019 unemployment rates for Virginia and Henry, Patrick, and Franklin counties.

Table 2-7: Unemployment Rate

Unemployment Rate*	USA	Virginia	Henry	Patrick	Franklin
2019	3.7	2.8	3.3	3.9	2.9
2010	9.6	7.1	14.7	11.1	8.7

*Annual, unadjusted rate

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Employment in the counties adjacent to Philpott Lake has historically centered around the furniture manufacturing industry. Other important industries in the immediate area include textiles, manufacturing, forest products, and agriculture.

2.12.1 Economic Impact of the Project

The USACE's planning guidance defines the federal objective and plan criteria for civil works projects planning as follows:

> *The Federal objective of water and related land resource project planning is to contribute to national economic development consistent with protecting the Nation's environment, pursuant to national environmental statutes, applicable executive orders, and other federal planning requirements (USACE, 2009).*

The Value to the Nation: Recreational Fast Facts reported data indicating the economic impact of recreation-related spending within a 30-mile radius of the study area. Philpott Lake visitors spent

[25] LAUS, 2020, Commonwealth of Virginia, Virginia's Career and Workforce-Labor market Information, Current Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) – December 2020, https://virginiaworks.com/local-area-unemployment-statistics-laus/page89556/1/size89556/48/page89557/1/size89557/48?page89556=1&size89556=48&page89557=1&size89557=48, Last accessed 1/27/2021.

approximately $16,458,653 locally in 2019[26]. Employment directly associated with Philpott Lake and supporting establishments totaled approximately 173 people.

As part of the project planning process described in Chapter 1 of this Plan, the USACE provides a measure in dollars of National Economic Development (NED) associated with a specific project, such as Philpott Lake. Contributions to NED are increases in the net value of the national output of goods and services expressed in monetary units that would otherwise not have been realized without the project. Table 2-8 provides the NED benefits and costs reflecting the operational year of FY19 within 30 miles of the project.

Table 2-8: NED Benefits and Costs

Philpott Lake project (FY 2019)	Contributing NED Value
Total Labor Income	$3,914,661
Direct Value Added	$3,993,760
Total Value Added	$5,570,598
NED benefit	$2,936,929

Source: USACE, 2009[27]

2.12.2 Accessibility

Outdoor recreation offers both social, psychological, and physical benefits for those individuals residing in areas with greater instances of urbanization. Recreational venues that support hiking, fishing, and hunting, for example, tend to be more common in rural communities such as those located in the vicinity of Philpott Lake. This is due in part to convenient access and the reasonable cost of camping and recreational options in comparison to more urbanized sporting venues.

Philpott Lake is served by a well-developed network of federal, Commonwealth, and county highways. The major transportation routes to the area are US Highway 220 (Henry Road [State Road (SR) 605]), Highway 40 and SR 57. SR 57 provides access to the eastern and central portions of the project. County Highway 623 crosses the lake, providing north-south access to the lake.

The Blue Ridge Parkway, which according to the National Park Service runs for approximately 469 miles through Virginia and North Carolina counties, greatly facilitates access to Philpott Lake.

2.13 Visitation Profile

The 2019 Value to the Nation: Recreational Fast Facts reported that Philpott Lake had a visitation of approximately 352,000 in the fiscal year 2019. The project is a popular local attraction with day-use activities and overnight camping that has grown in its appeal within the southeast region. Philpott Lake is visited predominately by local residents of the three surrounding counties; however, regionally based visitation is increasing in frequency.

Visitation is concentrated during the weekends in both peak and non-peak seasons. Special events, including fishing tournaments and weekend music events, are gaining popularity locally.

Overall, the most popular recreational activities at Philpott Lake include swimming, boating (including kayaks and canoes), and picnicking. Table 2-9 provides data collected for the Fiscal Year 2019 indicating

[26] (USACE, 2019) Value to the Nation: Recreational Fast Fact https://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Value-to-the-Nation/Fast-Facts/Recreation-Fast-Facts/. Last accessed on 9/23/2021.

[27] (USACE, 2009) US Army Corp of Engineers, Institute for Water Resources, National Economic Development, procedures Manual Overview, IWR Report 09-R-2June 2009.

the popularity of activities by visitation at Philpott Lake. The data suggest that visitation numbers included instances where numerous activities were included in a visit.

Table 2-9: Visitation Numbers and Activities

Activities	Number of Visitors	Percentage of Visitors Participating in Recreational Activities
Swimmers	96, 865	28%
Boaters	76,494	22%
Picnickers	70,207	20%
Sightseers	72,709	20%
Campers and Overnight Visitors	60,114	17%
Hikers	49,619	14%
Anglers	50,677	14%
Special Event Attendees	14,022	4%
Other Visits	18,194	5%

Source: USACE, 2009[28]

2.14 Recreation Facilities, Activities, and Needs

2.14.1 Zones of Influence

The primary zone of influence encompasses areas within the Virginia counties of Henry, Franklin, Patrick, and Roanoke. A zone of influence is those areas within a 30-mile radius of Philpott Lake that represent the largest group of visitors. An online survey was conducted in 2020. Its results represent sample data relevant to establishing the project zones of influence. The survey data can be reviewed in Appendix B.

As part of the outreach effort, a project survey was created to obtain input from the community. Data derived from the survey indicated that most individuals using resources at Philpott Lake reside in Franklin, Patrick, and Henry Counties (see Table 2-10). The survey question asking how far the respondents travel to the project indicated that 87 percent travel between 1 to 50 miles to reach Philpott Lake, which is consistent with the 50-mile radius study area established for the Master Plan Update.

Table 2-10: Distances Traveled by Visitors

Counties of Residents	Survey Respondents that Frequent the Project
Franklin	23%
Patrick	11%
Henry	42%
Other (includes both in and out of Commonwealth respondents)	24%

Many of the areas within the zone of influence are defined as census-designated places, described to be unincorporated communities that are locally recognized and identified by name.

[28] (USACE, 2009) US Army Corp of Engineers, Institute for Water Resources, National Economic Development, procedures Manual Overview, IWR Report 09-R-2June 2009.

In Henry County, the Martinsville Micropolitan Statistical Area (MMSA) is located within the zone of influence, downriver from Philpott Lake. The population within the MMSA was reported in the 2019 US Census to be 63,167(Census, 2020b). Communities within the MMSA include the City of Martinsville, the Town of Ridgeway, and the census-designated places of Bassett, Chatmoss, Collinsville, Fieldale, Horsepasture, Laurel Park, Oak Level, Sandy Level, Stanleytown, and Villa Heights.

Danville is an independent city in Virginia, located farther south of Philpott Lake and the MMSA, on the fall line of Dan River. In 2019, the estimated population was 41,070 (Census, 2020a).

In Franklin County, areas included in the zone of influence are farther removed in a northeasterly direction but located within a 50-mile radius of Philpott Lake. These census-designated places include Ferrum, with a reported population of 2,310 in 2019, and the Town of Rocky Mount, which reported a population of 4,745 over the same timeframe (Census, 2020a).

Zones of influence within Patrick County are located in a southwesterly direction from Philpott Lake and include Stuart and Patrick Springs. The population reported in these census-designated places was 1,675 and 1,932, respectively, in the 2019 (Census, 2020a).

The City of Roanoke is located to the northeast of Philpott and on the edge of the 50-mile radius. The population estimate in 2019 was 99,229 (Census, 2020a).

2.14.2 Recreation Assessment

The recreational assessment consists of a summary of existing recreational facilities at the project and factors that have the potential to influence natural or man-made resources within identified recreational facility sites. Any future project-related design for improvements should also consider site resource capacities, budgetary constraints, goals of supporting agencies, operational capabilities, and other planning considerations.

2.14.2.1 Summary of Existing Recreational Areas at Philpott Lake

There are 10 designated recreation areas, 11 if the Marina and Group Camp are considered, as the Philpott Marina and Group Camp are physically located within Philpott Park. Jamison Mill and Jamison Mill Picnic Area, while geographically separated, are managed as one recreation area. Turkey Island is counted as dispersed recreation and not included as a separate recreation area. The USACE operates nine of these areas and leases the other two. Leased areas operated by the USACE include the Philpott Marina and Group Camp areas which are leased to Henry County Parks and Recreation, and Jamison Mill, which is leased to Franklin County Parks and Recreation. These areas offer facilities for camping, picnicking, boating, swimming, hiking, and other recreational pursuits. The Commonwealth of Virginia operates Fairy Stone State Park, which is adjacent to federal lands. Since Fairy Stone State Park predates the lake and is not a Philpott Lake-oriented facility, it is not examined in the Master Plan Update.

Stakeholder and public input suggest that Goose Point Park was the preferred overnight camping site. The Salthouse Branch is also a frequent destination for overnight campers.

Table 2-11 summarizes the types of facilities within these existing recreation areas at Philpott Lake. Each area will be examined in greater detail in Chapter 5, Resource Plan. The location of existing recreation areas is shown on the vicinity map (see Plate A1 in Appendix A).

Table 2-11: Philpott Lake Recreational Facilities

	Bowens Creek	Deer Island	Goose Point	Horseshoe Point	Ryans Branch	Runnett Bag	Philpott Park	Salthouse Branch	Twin Ridge	Philpott Marina & Group Campground	Jamison Mill & Jamison Mill Picnic Area
	USACE Operated Recreation Areas									Leased Areas	
Day Use Fee Areas	Y	N/A	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
Interpretive Trails	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
Hiking Trails	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Multi-use Trails	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y
Bank Fishing Access	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Picnic Sites	11	0	0	7	8	0	17	9	7	0	4
Water & Electricity Campsites	0	0	53	15	0	0	0	44	0	0	5
Campsites	0	21	10	34	0	0	0	46	0	0	5
Group Campsites (Water, Electricity, Sewer, Etc.)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
Center/Exhibits	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Canoe Launches/River Access	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Amphitheaters	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Vault Toilets	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	0
Pit Toilets	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restrooms	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	0
Shower/Toilet Buildings	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	3	0	1	1
Hand Wells	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Picnic Shelters	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
Mini Picnic Shelters	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Boat Ramps	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	1
Sanitary Dump Stations	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Gate Houses	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Playground Areas	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Fishing Piers	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Courtesy Docks	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	1	0
Marinas/Stores	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Boat Fuel Stations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Handling Docks	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0
Beaches and Swim Areas	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Scenic Overlooks	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

Source: USACE, Philpott Lake, 29 January 2021

2.14.2.2 Hiking and Biking Trails

There are seven hiking and biking trails, making up 18.6 miles of trails, at Philpott Lake, as illustrated in Table 2-12. This table also provides information on user type and trailhead locations. There is a great desire on the part of special interest organizations and the local community at large to enhance the trail system around Philpott Lake. The natural topography is problematic in terms of trail connectivity in some instances. The Salthouse Branch trail connects with the Dogwood Glen Trail.

Table 2-12: Hiking and Biking Trails at Philpott Lake

Hiking & Biking Trails	Length of Trail (miles)	Users	Trail Head
Dogwood Glen Trails (including Spring Cove Spur, Laurel Ridge Section & Nature Trail Loop)	4.5	Hikers, bicyclists, equestrians (Equestrians may only use the Philpott Dam Trailhead)	Philpott Dam at Franklin County Trailrace Park
Jamison Mill Trails	6.25	Hikers, bicyclists	Jamison Mill Park
Philpott Park Trail System	1.0	Hikers	Philpott Visitor Center
Philpott F.I.T. (interpretive)	0.5	Hikers	Philpott Park
Salthouse Branch Natural Trail (interpretive)	0.5	Hikers	Salthouse Branch Park
Roland Branch Trail (interpretive section of Laurel Ridge Trail)	2.25	Multi-use for Hikers and Bikers	Salthouse and Twin Ridge
Goose's Roost Interpretive Walkway	0.2	Hikers	Goose Point Park

Source: USACE, 2021 [29]

2.14.2.3 Canoe and Kayak Trails

In addition to hiking and biking trails, Philpott Lake offers waterway trails. Locally referred to as the "Smith River Blueway," Philpott has nine distinct entry points for watercraft, each point having an interpretive kiosk near the launch site. The Smith River Blueway entry sites include Philpott Marina, Bowens Creek, Goose Point, Salthouse Branch, Twin Ridge, Horseshoe Point, Jamison Mill, Ryans Branch, and Runnett Bag.

2.14.2.4 Changes in Recreational Sites

Historical mapping was reviewed to compare designated recreational locations at the project and facilities available at those locations. The historic maps reviewed are provided in Appendix F. The 1996 USACE map indicated that a limited number of campsites open at that time were no longer recommended for public camping. These campsites, which were only accessible by water, included Beech Point Picnic Area

[29] (USACE, 2021) Available on the internet at: https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Locations/District-Lakes-and-Dams/Philpott/Recreation/Trails/. Last accessed on 1/29/2021.

and Mize Point Camp Area. Changes in recent recreation trends, including an increase in paddlers, suggests that expanding these water access sites may be prudent.

2.14.2.5 Customer Satisfaction and Considerations

Based on the survey data, visitors are highly satisfied with existing recreational activities and are interested in opportunities for the expansion and upgrading of existing facilities and recreational opportunities. An average of 82 percent of visitors surveyed responded that Philpott Lake management offers safe and memorable outdoor recreation experiences. With regard to the management of environmental resources, 74 percent of survey respondents indicated that resources are managed in a very effective manner.

2.14.3 Recreational Carrying Capacity

Recreational carrying capacity requires consideration of both ecological and social components of managed facility sites, and other land uses based upon the premise of preserving the stability of the natural and man-made resources now and into the future. Each recreational area should be considered as part of the larger system encompassing Philpott Lake

The more popular sites at Philpott Lake (including the Philpott Park Marina, Goose Point Park, Salthouse Branch Park, and Horseshoe Park) are often at maximum capacity. In the instance of the Philpott Park Marina, parking during peak periods can be challenging, and wait times to locate parking and use the boat ramp are considered to be long. To manage the facility sites more effectively, a reservation system for camping has been put in place to minimize the instances of facilities operating over capacity at Salthouse, Goose Point, Horseshoe, and Deer Island. Gatehouses at Bowens Creek Park, Goose Point Park, Horseshoe Point Park, and Salthouse Branch Park are used to collect usage fees and monitor capacity levels.

Concern over recreational carrying capacity has persisted since the 1980s, taking into consideration results of an acres-of-land suitability analysis, which was conducted for the previous Master Plan (1982). Factors that support the concern include limited land suitable to meet the demand for additional recreational amenities and the increased popularity of Philpott Lake, leading to increased visitors.

2.15 Related Recreational, Historical, and Cultural Areas

Natural heritage studies were conducted in 2001 and in 2020. There are 29 known cemeteries located within Philpott Lake (LG2, 2020[32]). One marked cemetery is noted on the USACE's Jamison Mill Park brochures. Another marked cemetery is located within the land tract of Horseshoe Point Park.

The study indicated two historic districts, one being the Fairy Stone State Park Historic District, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Properties (NRHP). The NRHP listed district is located approximately 11 miles from the Philpott Dam and encroaches upon the southeast corner of Runnett Bag Park. The other is a proposed district referred to as the Upper Smith River Rockshelter Archaeological District. That proposed district is partially located in the northwestern portion of the Philpott Reservoir along the flowage easement areas. (LG2, 2020[30])

The studies did not identify any buildings or structures that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places but lists numerous buildings and structures recommended for a historic survey at Philpott Lake.

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[30] LG2, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philpott Dam and Reservoir Historic Properties Management Plan, Smith River Basin, Virginia, LG2 Environmental Solutions, Inc, December 16, 2020.

Approximately 59 archaeological sites have been recorded on Philpott-managed lands (LG2, 2020[31]). Only one has been found to be eligible for the NRHP.

There is interest from local county leadership for Philpott Lake management to consider interpretive trail signs or other signage that would enhance the cultural identity and history of both past communities prior to the project and existing communities served by the project. The region is well known for its moonshine heritage dating back to the Prohibition era. The upper reaches of the lake and feeder streams may be ideal locations for transformative placemaking initiatives.

2.16 Regional Recreational Areas

Other recreational facilities within a 50-mile radius of Philpott Lake include Claytor Lake State Park, Smith Mountain Lake State Park, and Fairy Stone State Park. Claytor Lake State Park is in Dublin, Virginia. Fairy Stone State Park is located adjacent to Philpott Lake and in Stuart, Virginia. Both state parks offer overnight accommodations that include cabin rentals and camping areas. Other recreational amenities include trails, swimming, fishing, and boating for recreational purposes. Hanging Rock State Park is located in North Carolina, approximately 30 miles north of Winston-Salem. This state park has accommodations for overnight camping and cabin rentals. It offers amenities including horseback riding, mountain biking, hiking trails, a swim lake, and access to the Dan River.

2.17 Real Estate

Under the authority of the 1944 FCA, the United States government acquired land for the construction of the Philpott Dam and Reservoir. The land was acquired in the counties of Patrick, Henry, and Franklin between 1948 and 1951.

The flowage easement acquired at Philpott Lake supports the project's ability to exercise certain real estate rights on non-government land to flood and occasionally overflow, in addition to containing other protections regarding the government's rights necessary for project operations. Each tract of easement land has unique and specific limitations on permitted activities and development within that particular property. Philpott Lake has approximately 243.3 acres of flowage easement cumulatively in both Patrick and Henry counties.

2.18 Pertinent Public Laws

The laws most pertinent to the operation and management of Philpott Lake are listed below:

- Public Law 59-209 (34 STAT. 225), 8 June 1906, The Antiquities Act
- Public Law 65-186 (40 STAT. 755), 3 July 1918, Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), as amended
- Public Law 78-534 (58 STAT. 887), 22 December 1944, Flood Control Act of 1944, as amended
- Public Law 83-566 (68 STAT. 666), 5 August 1954, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act
- Public Law 85-624 (72 STAT. 563), 12 August 1958, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
- Public Law 86-717 (74 STAT. 817), 6 September 1960, Conservation of Forest Lands in Reservoir Areas
- Public Law 87-88 (75 STAT. 204), 20 July 1961, Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1961, as amended
- Public Law 89-80 (79 STAT. 244), 22 July 1965, Water Resources Planning Act.
- Public Law 78-534, Flood Control Act of 1944
- Public Law 89-665 (80 STAT. 915), 15 October 1966, Historic Preservation Act, as amended
- Public Law 90-483 (82 STAT. 731), 13 August 1968, Rivers and Harbor Act of 1968, as amended

[31] LG2, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philpott Dam and Reservoir Historic Properties Management Plan, Smith River Basin, Virginia, LG2 Environmental Solutions, Inc, December 16, 2020.

- Public Law 91-190 (83 STAT. 852), 1 January 1970, National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
- Public Law 91-224 (84 STAT. 114), 3 April 1970, Environmental Quality Improvement Act of 1970
- Public Law 92-500 (86 STAT. 816), 18 October 1972, The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, as amended
- Public Law 93-205 (87 STAT. 884), 28 December 1973, Conservation, Protection, and Propagation of Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended
- Public Law 96-366 (94 STAT. 1322), 29 September 1980, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980

2.19 Chapter Synopsis

Table 2-13 provides a summary of resources identified that in a cumulative manner influence the management and development of resources at Philpott Lake.

Table 2-13: Synopsis of Factors Influencing Resource Management and Development at Philpott Lake

Resource	Summary
Reservoir	The Philpott Lake Reservoir includes approximately 2,741.6 acres of water and an additional 6,500 acres of surrounding project land. There are approximately 243.3 acres of land utilized for flowage easements.
Lake Operations	The construction of Philpott Dam and Reservoir is central to the project fulfilling its congressionally authorized purpose of flood control and hydropower.
Hydrology	Functioning as an impoundment of the Smith River, Philpott has a drainage basin of approximately 212 acres
Water Quality	Philpott Lake is classified as a Category 5 impaired waterbody
Project Access	Philpott Lake is served by a various recreational area access points that are supported by a well-developed network of Federal, Commonwealth, and county highways.
Climate	The region's climate is temperate, characterized by warm summers and cold, but generally not severe, winters.
Topography	Steep slope and rugged terrain are among major environmental factors determining the capability of land to support various land use activities.
Fish and Wildlife Resources	Fish and wildlife resources are plentiful within the project, with suitable habitat and only a minimal amount of disturbance via invasive species, disease, or severe weather events. Threatened and endangered species habitat has been identified within project boundaries.
Land Use	Land use adjacent to the project is rural and sparse agriculture operations and residential development.
Vegetation	The project supports several vegetation types that are typical throughout the Piedmont and Blue Ridge Mountain regions of Virginia.
Interpretation	The Philpott Visitors Center and Museum offers natural and cultural displays pertaining to the heritage of Philpott Lake, as well as four interpretative hiking trails located in Philpott Park, Goose Point, and Salthouse.
Socioeconomic	Philpott Lake provides economic support for the three counties it borders: Patrick, Henry, and Franklin. As visitation continues to increase, so should the support of local community retails and services.
Accessibility	Philpott Lake facilities including Twin Ridge and Philpott Park are handicap-accessible
Recreational Facilities	Recreation opportunities at the project include hiking, boating, swimming, camping, fishing, hunting, picnicking, and sightseeing. Maintaining the availability

Resource	Summary
	of high-quality recreational experiences for public use is one of the authorized purposes for the project.
Cultural Resources	Cultural resources include two historic districts, archaeological sites, and other cultural resources that will need to be managed in the future.

3 Resource Use Objectives

The resource use objectives identified in the Philpott Lake Master Plan Update (1982) remain largely relevant and have been carried forward in this update. The resource use objectives differ from the previously stated master plan goals in that they are the specific, task-oriented actions necessary to achieve the overall master plan goals and the EOPs.

3.1 Resource Use Objectives

In accordance with EP 1130-2-550, resource objectives are defined as:

> *"Clearly written statements, that respond to identified issues and that specify measurable and attainable activities for resource development and/or management of the lands and waters under the jurisdiction of the Wilmington District, Philpott Lake Office."*

The objectives stated in this document support the goals of the Philpott Lake Master Plan, Philpott Lake Operating Management Plan, and those of other supporting management plans specific to Philpott Lake. They are consistent with the congressionally authorized project purposes, federal laws and directives, regional needs, resource capabilities and suitability, public input into consideration, and environmental sustainability elements. The congressionally authorized purposes that are to be fulfilled by Philpott Lake include flood control, hydropower generation, recreation, and fish and wildlife management.

The following resource use objectives reflect the results of the detailed analysis of natural, cultural, and recreational resources, as well as the projected demand for recreational facilities. The objectives are consistent with the more general Master Plan Update objectives provided in Chapter 1 and are grouped under headings for Recreation, Multiple Resource Management, Project Operations, and Easements.

3.1.1 Recreation Site Resources

This classification includes those lands that are developed for intensive recreational activities for the visiting public, including day-use and overnight use areas, campgrounds, marinas, and boat launching facilities, playgrounds, beaches and swim areas, picnic areas, amphitheaters, and related concession areas.

1. Renovate and improve existing recreational facility sites where such use is feasible and does not interfere with the project purposes of providing camping and day-use recreational opportunities, allowing for several activities in the same general vicinity.
2. To provide Americans with Disability Act (ADA)-compliant facilities and access to recreational venues.
3. To plan for large functional recreation sites for optimum design of road and utility costs, operation and maintenance expenses, ease of user fee collection, and the prevention of vandalism. Roads and pedestrian access must be designed for optimum use from a site while protecting the resource. The use of gatehouses or control stations can facilitate the collection of fees and provide security for recreation areas in areas where visitation rates are high.
4. To evaluate safety risks related to the facility site activities and provide for public use and access within USACE safety guidelines and security levels.
5. To provide boat launching facilities in recreation areas where demand is the highest. Boat launching lanes should be relocated from areas receiving little use to areas experiencing greater and increasing use. Boat launching lanes located in areas where a conflict exists between day use and camping should be relocated with the day use facilities, provided sufficient launch lanes remain with the camping area.

6. Maintain boating access to the reservoir while enhancing waterfront access for hiking, bank fishing, and sightseeing.
7. To preserve, protect, and interpret the archaeologic and historic resources that occur on project lands. Cultural resources will be identified by a survey, and any sites will be preserved by avoidance. Erosion problems that endanger these sites will be corrected where possible without disturbing the site. Interpretation will be through the survey report. This data can then be used in brochures or other historical data concerning the project.
8. To minimize the susceptibility of project lands to destructive natural forces through forest management practices. Through the practice of diseased and damaged tree removal, proper thinning of trees, prevention of soil erosion and minimizing soil compaction in recreation areas, damage to the forests by forces such as winds, flooding, insects, noxious species, and disease can be held to a minimum.
9. To continue to minimize conflicts between day use and overnight use in existing recreation areas. Recreation areas with use conflicts will be analyzed to determine use suitability. Factors to consider in this analysis include the location of the site, use, topography, and size of the site. The least suitable facilities will be relocated to other existing recreation areas which contain similar facilities. Control gates can be located at the entrance to sites experiencing conflicts to control the use of the site.
10. To provide the dissemination of information and interpretation of the project's natural and cultural resources. Placards, informational signage, site brochures, and ranger programs can also be used for information and interpretation of the project.
11. To provide the most cost-efficient facilities that will enhance both seasonal and year-round recreational use of project lands. Existing recreation sites should be reviewed to determine which sites have the highest operation and maintenance (O&M) cost compared with fees collected and facility costs. Based on this review, selected low-performing sites should be closed, facilities relocated, and sites rehabilitated to reduce O&M costs. The consolidation of recreation areas is another method to be considered.
12. To identify and make available for future cost-shared development, including out-grant opportunities and partnerships with special interest organizations and groups. Possible existing and future recreation areas should be considered available if a suitable cost-sharing sponsor is identified. A continuing effort should be made to locate suitable sponsors.
13. To provide the necessary recreational facilities within the carrying capacity of the project, providing a balanced use of recreation and fishery and wildlife conservation and enhancement. Action must be taken to protect the resource from overuse. Recreational sites should be rehabilitated to increase their use, and sites must be controlled to limit access by the public. New facilities must be designed to protect the resource while increasing the carrying capacity. A balance must be maintained between meeting the public's recreation needs and protecting a resource.

3.1.2 Multiple Resource Management Land

This classification is divided into subclassifications. A primary subclassification that reflects the dominant use of the land must be designated, understanding that other compatible uses may also occur on these lands (e.g., a boat launch in an area designated as Wildlife Management). Typically, multiple resource management lands support only passive, non-intrusive uses with very limited facilities or infrastructure.

1. To minimize the susceptibility of project lands to destructive natural forces through forest management practices. Through the practice of diseased and damaged tree removal, proper thinning of trees, prevention of soil erosion and minimizing soil compaction in recreation areas, damage to the forests by forces such as winds, flooding, insects, noxious weeds and species, and disease can be held to a minimum.
2. Provide passive use recreational opportunities that maintain the balance between recreational use and preservation of the natural resources and wildlife.

3. To adopt management and monitoring programs for the enhancement and use of the Philpott Lake warm-water and cold-water fisheries. Continuation in working closely with the Commonwealth of Virginia in developing the Philpott Lake sport fisheries program is recommended.
4. To concentrate forest management practices on areas identified as being highly productive in order to optimize the benefits of forest management. Because of the steep terrain at Philpott Lake, it is necessary to concentrate on high production areas with easy access because much of the area is inaccessible and cannot be managed for high yields. The Forest Management Plan will be the tool for selecting those sites on which to concentrate.
5. To provide for the management and enhancement of native game and nongame species for hunting and nature study. The development of wildlife food plots and wildlife management areas and the opening of lands for hunting during the hunting season can aid in the management and enhancement of wildlife on the project. Continue licensing of lands to the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources will aid in this objective.
6. To continue development of interpretive programs for visitor education related to forest, fish, wildlife resources, and cultural heritage at Philpott Lake.
7. Preserve and protect existing wetlands and other sensitive or unique habitats that support threatened and endangered species, along with other wildlife.
8. Employ sustainable practices as land stewards, including those that promote soil conservation and propagation of diverse natural resources and wildlife.

3.1.3 Project Operations

Lands under this classification are those acquired for the congressionally authorized purpose of operating the project.

1. To provide access to all project lands for purposes of project operations. Vehicular access is needed for fire control, forest management, and wildlife management.
2. To support and encourage non-federal entities in assuming greater responsibility for the operation and maintenance of recreation, fish and wildlife, and other natural resources activities. A continuing effort by both the project staff and USACE Wilmington District personnel to locate and identify prospective cost-sharing sponsors must be made.

3.1.4 Easement Lands.

These are lands on which USACE holds an easement interest, but not fee title (non-government land). Typically, easements are categorized by type and purpose. In the instance of Philpott Lake, only flowage easements apply in which USACE retains rights to lands for the purpose of inundation associated with project operation.

1. Monitor activities occurring on easement lands to help ensure that the USACE rights to enter and flood the property according to terms and conditions of the legal easement remain intact and unimpeded.
2. Promote an understanding of USACE boundary and mission by the public and owners of easement lands.

4 Land Allocation, Land Classification, and Project Easement Lands

This chapter presents the land use plan for Philpott Lake. In the plan, specific parcels of land are assigned to land use categories based on resource capabilities. Combined with the project-wide and site-specific Resource Objectives presented in this chapter and Chapter 3, respectively, the land use plan provides a programmatic approach for the use, management, and development of project lands. Together, these elements are the core of this Master Plan Update.

4.1 Land Allocation

Land allocations identify the authorized purposes for which project lands were acquired. Initially, Philpott Lake had an overall land allocation for Project Operations. Lands in this category are allocated to provide for flood control and include the lands on which the operational structures, maintenance, and storage facilities, and/or administrative offices are located and all lands below elevation 974 feet MSL. No specific parcels were acquired or allocated for individual purposes of recreation, fish and wildlife conservation, and enhancement, or mitigation. As recreational resources were developed at Philpott Lake the primary uses of land were allocated in support of recreational uses. Along with the reallocation of land use came the need to prescribe management objectives suited to the land uses.

This proposed Master Plan Update would modify land allocation designations in the 1982 Master Plan to land classifications that are consistent with current USACE land management regulations. Previous land allocations to be updated included Project Operations, Recreation: Existing Intensive Use, Recreation: Future Intensive Use, Recreation: Existing Low Density Use, Recreation: Future Low Density Use, Licensed Land, Wildlife Management & Forest Reserve, Easement Lands and Water (see Table 4-1).

4.2 Land Classification

Land classification is best described as lands categorized by their primary use for which they are managed. Project lands are zoned for development and resource management consistent with authorized project purposes, the provisions of the NEPA, and other federal laws.

Land classifications that are consistent with current USACE land management regulations are described below and included in Table 4-1. The definition of Project Operations has not changed since 1982. The Low-Density Recreation definitions used in the 1982 Master Plan are incorporated into the MRML classification presented in the Preferred Alternative. The MRML classification is separated into two categories, representing lands with hunting allowed and lands with wildlife management, thus replacing the 1982 Master Plan land classification of Wildlife Management and Forest Reserves and Licensed Lands. The Intensive Use classification used in the 1982 Master Plan is incorporated into the High-Density Recreation classification presented in the Preferred Alternative. The Preferred Alternative also includes an Environmentally Sensitive Area land classification and Water Surface land classification. The Water Surface is separated into four categories, including Designated No Wake, Open Recreation, Open Recreation No Wake, and Restricted. Definitions for the land classifications included in the Master Plan Update are provided below:

Project Operations: This classification of land includes those lands required for the dam, spillway, switchyard, levees, dikes, offices, maintenance facilities, and other areas that are used primarily for the operation of the project and lands below elevation 998 feet mean sea level (MSL).

High Density Recreation: This classification of land is developed for intensive recreational activities for the visiting public, including day use areas and/or campgrounds. High density recreational lands include areas for commercial concessions (marinas, comprehensive resorts, etc.) and quasi-public development.

MRML: This classification of land allows for the designation of a predominant use as described in the categories below, with the understanding that other compatible uses described below may occur on these lands.

- Wildlife Management Lands are designated for stewardship of fish or wildlife resources.
- Low Density Recreation: Lands with minimal development or infrastructure that support passive public recreational use (i.e., primitive camping, fishing, hunting, trails, wildlife viewing, etc.).
- Low Density Recreation, No Hunting: - Lands with low density recreation lands where hunting is not permitted.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas: These areas are designated where scientific, ecological, cultural, or aesthetic features have been identified. Designation of these lands is not limited to lands that are otherwise protected by laws such as the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, or other applicable state/Commonwealth statutes. These areas should be considered by management to ensure they are not adversely impacted by any action. The only Environmentally Sensitive Area within the project is habitat for Roanoke Logperch.

Water Surface: The water use plan is designed to protect public boating, minimize conflicts between water and land activities, and protect sensitive environmental resources. Four water use categories are proposed for Philpott Lake, including designated no wake; open recreation; designated no towing, and restricted.

- Designated No Wake: Speeds of craft navigating water allocated to this category are restricted to levels that will not create damaging waves, safety hazards, or undue disturbance to fragile ecosystems.
- Open Recreation: Waters allocated to the unrestricted boating category are available for all water-oriented recreation activities. Most of the Philpott Lake area has been allocated to this category. These waters may be used for activities such as skiing, boating, sailing, and fishing.
- Designated No Towing: Waters allocated to the restricted no towing category are available for all water-oriented recreation activities but are restricted for skiing due to congested boating areas where safety is a factor, or the area is designated as a fishery area with no towing traffic. *Designated No Towing does not fall under designated classifications in USACE Pamphlet No. 1130-2-550, Project Operations and Maintenance Guidance and Procedures, and is noted separately*.
- Restricted: The restricted area applies to water areas that are buoyed off, prohibiting watercraft beyond a designated point. These areas are located around operational structures, such as the dam and water intake structures.

Project Easement Lands: Project Easement Lands: All lands for which the USACE holds an easement interest, but not fee title. Planned use and management of easement lands will be in strict accordance with the terms and conditions of the easement estate acquired for the project.

This category includes lands over which a flowage easement has been acquired and are not allocated to any of the above land use categories. These lands are available only for flooding, should flood control measures be necessary. The USACE has a responsibility to assure the safety of the public on waters adjacent to these easement lands and navigational responsibility in these shoreline waters. These easements are on fee-owned lands of the Fairystone State Park, Commonwealth of Virginia.

The classification process refines the land allocation to fully define the management and use of project lands and considers public preferences and needs, legislative authority, regional and project-specific resource requirements, as well as suitability. Management and use of the lands assigned to each Land Classification are discussed in connection with the appropriate Resource Objectives in the following section. Land Classifications applicable to Philpott Lake are described below and illustrated in Land Classification 1982 to 2020 Difference Comparison map in Appendix A (see Plate A10). Their definitions were derived from EP 1130-2-550.

Table 4-1: 1982 Allocation and 2021 Land Classifications

Previous Land Allocation (1982)	Acreage (1982)	Master Plan Update Classification (2021)	Acreage (2021)
Project Operations	160.4	Project Operations	63.0
		High Density Recreation	49.8
		MRML: Low Density Recreation	47.6
Recreation: Existing Intensive Use	866.3	High Density Recreation	459.0
		Project Operations	6.9
		Multiple Resource Management Lands (MRML): Wildlife Management l	18.2
		Multiple Resource Management Lands (MRML): Low Density Recreation	251.7
		Multiple Resource Management Lands (MRML): Low Density Recreation, No Hunting*	130.5
Recreation: Future Intensive Use	750.0	High Density Recreation	8.4
		MRML: Wildlife Management General	419.8
		MRML: Low Density Recreation	137.4
		MRML: Low Density Recreation, No Hunting*	184.4
Recreation: Existing Low Density Use	375.3	MRML: Low Density Recreation	311.3
		MRML: Low Density Recreation, No Hunting*	31.6
		High Density Recreation	28.2
		MRML: Wildlife Management	4.1
Recreation: Future Low Density Use	25.6	MRML: Low Density Recreation	25.6
Licensed Lands	256.2	MRML: Wildlife Management	256.2
Wildlife Management and Forest Reserve	4097.00	MRML: Wildlife Management l	3571.9
		Environmentally Sensitive Area	106.3
		High Density Recreation	25.7
		MRML: Low Density Recreation	321.6
		MRML: Low Density Recreation, No Hunting*	71.5
Easement Lands	243.3	Flowage Easement	243.3
Water**	2741.5	Water Surface: Designated No Wake	41.8

Previous Land Allocation (1982)	Acreage (1982)	Master Plan Update Classification (2021)	Acreage (2021)
		Water Surface: Designated No Towing***	308.2
		Water Surface: Open Recreation	2382.7
		Water Surface: Restricted	8.8
Total Acreage	9515.6		9515.60
*Designated No Hunting does not fall under traditional classifications and is noted separately.			
**Water areas were not given secondary allocation values in the 1982 MP.			
***Designated No Towing does not fall under traditional classifications, and is noted separately			

4.2.1 Project Operations Land Classification

This category includes lands required for the dam, spillway, switchyard, levees, dikes, offices, maintenance facilities, and other areas that are used solely for the operation of the project and all lands below elevation 974 feet MSL. Philpott Lake has a total of approximately 70 acres fitting this land classification.

4.2.2 Recreational Use Land Classifications

4.2.2.1 High Density Recreational

This category of land is developed for intensive recreational activities for the visiting public, including day-use areas and/or campgrounds. High density recreational lands could include areas for commercial concessions (marinas, comprehensive resort, etc.) and quasi-public development. Philpott Lake has an approximate total of 571 acres fitting this land classification.

4.2.3 Multiple Resource Management Lands

This land classification allows for the designation of a predominant use as described below, with the understanding that other compatible uses described below may also occur on these lands. Philpott Lake has an approximate total of 5783 acres fitting this land classification, including both Low Density Recreation and Wildlife Management.

4.2.3.1 Low Density Recreation

Lands with minimal development or infrastructure that support passive public recreational use (e.g., primitive camping, fishing, hunting, trails, wildlife viewing, etc.). Philpott Lake has a total of approximately 1,095 acres of Low Density Recreation and 418 acres classified as Low Density, No Hunting.

4.2.3.2 Wildlife Management

Lands classified for Wildlife Management are designated for stewardship of fish or wildlife resources. Philpott Lake has a total of approximately 4,270 acres for this land classification.

4.2.3.3 Vegetative Management

Lands designated for stewardship of forest, prairie, and other native vegetative cover are classified as Vegetative Management. There are no lands at Philpott Lake that meet the criteria for this land classification, however the USACE does conduct forest management activities that enhance wildlife habitats, outdoor recreation, and fire control as needed.

4.2.3.4 Future or Inactive Recreational Areas

Areas with site characteristics compatible with potential future recreational development or recreation areas that are closed are listed as Future or Inactive Recreational Areas. Until there is an opportunity to develop or reopen these areas, they will be managed for multiple resources.

4.2.4 Environmental Sensitive Areas

These areas are designated as areas where scientific, ecological, cultural, or aesthetic features have been identified. Designation of these lands is not limited to just lands that are otherwise protected by laws such as the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, or applicable Commonwealth statutes. These areas should be considered by management to ensure they are not adversely impacted by development. There are approximately 106 acres of environmentally sensitive areas at Philpott Lake.

4.2.5 Water Surface

The water use objectives presented below were carried over from the previous master plan as they are still relevant to the management of 2,742 acres of water surfaces at Philpott Lake. The objectives are intended to protect public boating, minimize conflicts between water and land use activities, and protect vulnerable environmental resources. Three water use categories are proposed for Philpott Lake, including unrestricted boating, no wake zone, and restricted use. Definitions of these categories are described below.

4.2.5.1 Unrestricted Boating/Open Recreation

Waters allocated to the unrestricted boating category are available for all water-oriented recreation activities. Most of the lake area has been allocated to this category. These waters may be used for activities such as skiing, boating, sailing, and fishing.

4.2.5.2 No Wake Zone

Speeds of craft navigating water allocated to this category are restricted to levels that will not create damaging waves, safety hazards, or undue disturbance to fragile ecosystems. The no wake zones account for approximately 42 acres of surface water area. The following types of waters are allocated to this category:

- Water proximate to boat ramps, beaches, marinas, or other facilities that might be physically damaged by wave action induced by moderate or high-speed boat use.
- Water areas that present dangers to boats traveling at high speeds due to shallow water depth, narrow channels, or submerged obstacles.

4.2.5.3 Restricted Use-No Boating, Skiing, Tubing, and any other Recreational Towing

The “no boating” category applies to water areas that are buoyed off, prohibiting watercraft beyond a designated point. The restricted use-no boating areas account for nine acres of the water surface area. These areas are located around operational structures, such as the dam and water intake structures.

4.2.5.4 Water Surface: Designated No Towing

Waters allocated to this category are available for all other boating activities but are restricted for skiing due to congested boating areas where safety is a factor, or the area is designated as a fishery area with no towing traffic. Designated No Towing does not fall under designated classifications in USACE Pamphlet No. 1130-2-550, Project Operations and Maintenance Guidance and Procedures, and is noted separately.

4.2.5.5 Restricted Use Seaplanes

In accordance with ER 1130-2-411, the potential for the use of seaplanes at Philpott Lake has been investigated. Because of the small size of the lake, which could result in a conflict between boats and seaplanes, it is recommended that seaplanes not be permitted at Philpott Lake.

4.3 Land Classification By Recreational Site

Philpott Lake currently maintains 11 active recreational sites within the project. Table 4-2 displays the land use classifications unique to each site.

Table 4 2: Land Classifications By Recreational Site

Recreational Site Name	Location in Chapter 5	Tract Acreage	Operation	Recreation	Multiple Resource Management
Bowens Creek Park	5.1.1	118	N/A	40.45	N/A
Deer Island	5.1.2	151	N/A	27.38	30.47
Goose Point Park	5.1.3	61	N/A	67.97	N/A
Horseshoe Point Park	5.1.4	108	N/A	44.71	N/A
Ryans Branch	5.1.5	128	N/A	N/A	25.86
Runnett Bag Park	5.1.6	82	N/A	N/A	33.60
Philpott Park	5.1.7	155	98.43	81.77	N/A
Salthouse Branch Park	5.1.8	79	N/A	83.95	N/A
Franklin County Tailrace	5.1.9	N/A	16.08	48.84	N/A
Twin Ridge Park	5.1.10	150.0	N/A	27.97	N/A
Turkey Island Recreational Area	5.1.11	30	N/A	N/A	29.41
Philpott Marina & Group Camp	5.1.12	N/A	N/A	Part of Philpott Park	N/A
Jamison Mill Park	5.1.13	115	N/A	71.14	N/A
Jamison Mill Picnic Area	5.1.14	N/A	N/A	22.23	N/A

4.4 Long-Term Management Objectives

The Operations Management Plan (1992) established the long-term management that remains relevant for this Master Plan Update and are as follows:

- Practice multiple-use management in all project activities and programs.
- Develop and wisely utilize fish and wildlife resources for the maximum benefit of public visitors and the resources.
- Manage forests as a multi-purpose resource, maintaining a sustained yield with the consistency of recreation and wildlife management objectives and approved land-use goals.
- Employ best management practices for all resources.
- Develop and maintain park areas to provide quality outdoor recreation for public visitors.
- Manage programs efficiently and economically and maintain a satisfactory balance of recreation opportunities and natural resources, preservation, and access.

5 Resource Plan

The Philpott Lake Master Plan Update establishes broad management guidelines that form the basis for preparing or updating more descriptive detailed management plans such as the Operation Management Plan. Resource planning provides guidance for the use and future management of project resources both as natural resources and facility sites. This chapter sets forth a resource plan for future land management at Philpott Lake. It considers the following factors of a facility site when describing how resources will be managed in the future:

- Physical characteristics
- Access to the site
- Compatibility with adjacent land uses
- Levels of visitation (based on qualitative and survey results)
- Aesthetic and interpretative value
- Public input and interests
- Regional needs, opportunities, and constraints
- Present and future operations and maintenance funding

The overall objectives of the resource plan are to maximize the recreational benefits at Philpott Lake while fulfilling its congressionally authorized purpose and preserving its natural resources and scenic qualities.

As of the date of this Master Plan Update, the USACE Wilmington District is the management agency for land and resources at Philpott Lake. It is responsible for day-to-day operations of the management area, with two leased areas, Philpott Marina and Group Campground in Henry County, and Jamison Mill and Jamison Mill Picnic Area in Franklin County. Within the Philpott Lake project boundary, the USACE maintains 11 facility sites for operational and recreational use. There is a broad spectrum of recreational venues, including both day and overnight recreational uses. Philpott Lake accommodates recreational vehicle (RV) camping as well as primitive site camping. Readily available access to the lake is paramount in terms of craft launches, fishing, and swimming. The carrying capacity at overnight use facilities and the marina at Philpott Park is near maximum carrying capacity during the summer months. The current approach to maintaining recreational operations within the carrying capacity limits of both natural and built assets is controlled through the requirement of site reservations maintained through an on-line reservation system (Recreation.Gov) and by manned gatehouses, along with Philpott Lake staff.

In addition to the 14 managed areas and easements, the project includes approximately 5,811 acres of land that surround the various parks at Philpott Lake. Lands surrounding the lake and parks are classified as Multiple Resource Management Lands – Wildlife and include Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources licensed areas. These areas are held by the USACE to accomplish project purposes and maintain its flood control mission at Philpott Lake.

The access fees to a facility site and recreational opportunities range in price depending on the activity. Facility sites that require the collection of a fee for a specific activity include:

- Philpott Park
- Philpott Marina
- Group Camp
- Bowens Creek Park
- Deer Island
- Goose Point
- Horseshoe Point
- Jamison Mill

- Salthouse Branch

During this Master Plan Update, a survey was conducted as part of the public outreach effort. According to the results from that survey, approximately 74 percent of survey respondents travel between 0-30 miles to access Philpott Lake (see Chapter 7). An extrapolation of this information suggests that the patronage of Philpott Lake is predominately local, although input from citizens and local government representatives suggest that Philpott Lake is growing in its popularity within the Commonwealth and within the Southeastern United States. Its pristine beauty is a much sought-after characteristic for those wanting to enjoy recreation in nature (among other lakes and recreational sites in the region) within a 30-mile radius of Philpott Lake.

Sites within the boundary of Philpott Lake that tend to be more frequently accessed are in the southern and central reaches of the lake. Maximum capacity is an ongoing issue at RV campsites, including those at Goose Point, Salthouse Branch, and Philpott Marina. According to public input, parking is especially limited at the Marina.

Survey results also indicate that the USACE is meeting its objectives in offering safe and memorable outdoor recreational experiences and in its management of environmental resources. Input provided from the survey provides insight into the priority of land uses, which amenities are most widely used, and recommendations of how those amenities may be enhanced in the future.

At the time of this Master Plan Update, the USACE Wilmington District did not have plans for the development of new facility sites or major renovations or rehabilitation of existing facility sites. Any new recreational facilities or major area expansions would likely need to be completed through an out-grant partner. Future projects that may be accomplished are those projects which carry out the authorized project purposes. Examples include routine operation and maintenance actions, general administration, equipment purchases, custodial actions, erosion control, painting, repair, rehabilitation, replacement of existing structures and facilities such as buildings, roads, levees, utilities, and installation of new buildings utilities, or roadways in developed areas. Details regarding future projects are unknown; however, future actions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to ensure they are consistent with the Master Plan Update and PEA.

The following section provides relevant information for each facility site in the assessment of future management guidance. The information is organized into eight sections and includes:

1. Management Agency – the agency responsible for the day-to-day operation of the management area as of the date of this Master Plan.
2. Land Classification – the classifications describing anticipated public use and resource steward needs. In this section, land classifications describe recommended future land uses that includes consideration of various factors of resource planning. Land classification in this section may include continuation of the existing land classification or a change of that classification based on activities supported at the site or changes in nomenclature.
3. Land Classification Resource Objectives – a reference to the general project Land Classifications Resource Objectives presented in Chapter 3.
4. Rationale – a detailed justification of the recommended future use of a facility site based on land classification criteria.
5. Location – a description of how the facility site is accessed and its location relative to the Philpott Dam.
6. Description – the facility site general description including physical characteristics or topics that distinguish the site.
7. Site-Specific Resource Objectives – the objectives that specify the attainable, publicly accepted options for resource use.
8. Development Needs – the considerations that are based on identified future use demand for each recreational activity and to assist in the continued planning and management of recreational areas.

5.1 Management by Area

5.1.1 Bowens Creek Park

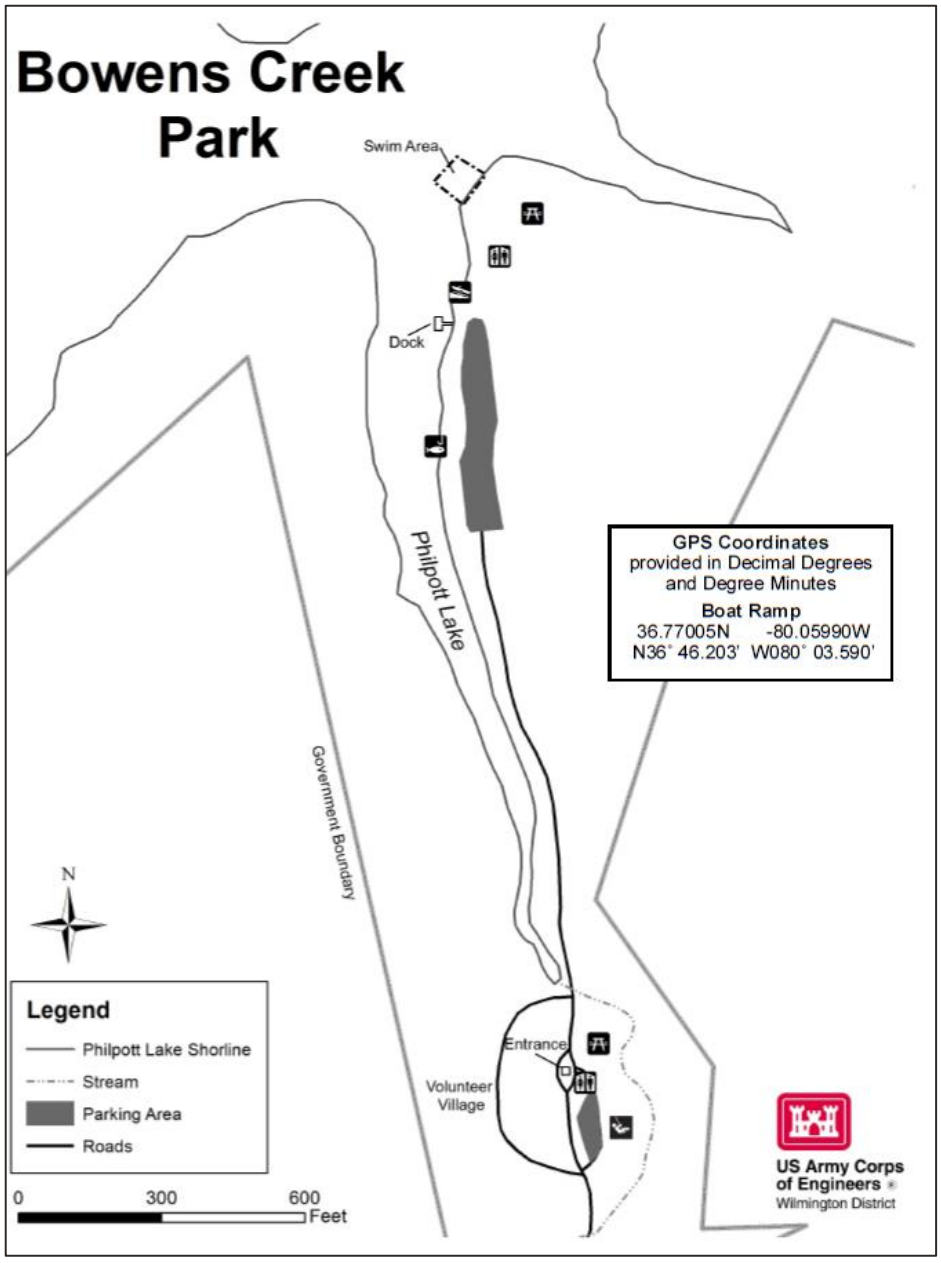

Figure 5-1: Bowens Creek Park
Source: USACE Bowens Creek Park Brochure, Updated 2016

Management Agency: USACE

Land Classification: High Density Recreation

Land Classification Resource Objectives: Future land classification for this site is not anticipated to change. See Chapter 3 of this report, Resource Use Objectives.

Rationale: The future classification of the site is anticipated to remain as a high density recreational area for day users. No major land improvements at Bowens Creek Park have been identified. Bowens Creek Park provides intensive recreational activities, including swimming, boating, and picnicking for the visiting public. The site is intended for day use and is open from May through September. Amenities at the site include 60-plus paved parking spaces, boat ramp, courtesy dock, playground, picnic sites and mini shelters, and a beach allowing for the continued management of this site for high density recreation. A courtesy dock is used to describe a floating structure designed for short-term moorage of boats and to facilitate pedestrian access to and from the boats in the water.

With regional visitation of Philpott Lake supported predominately by local residents, this day-use site meets local demands. This site is compatible with adjacent land uses, which comprise rural, residential, and primarily wooded areas.

Location: Bowens Creek Park is in Henry County on the southeast bank of Bowens Creek, approximately 2 miles from the Philpott Dam. Its location within the southern reach of Philpott Lake lends itself to local patronage, including Martinsville and Bassett, Virginia. This location is approximately one-half mile from Virginia State Route 57 (Fairystone Park Highway). Virginia Highway SR 601 (Bowens Creek Road) provides the only access to the location.

Description: The facility site tract is approximately 118 acres. Infrastructure and recreational amenities are situated in a linear fashion between the steep ridgelines. Due to the steepness of topography ranging on undeveloped areas of this site, which ranges from 8 to 15 degrees, future development is limited. Roughly only 67 acres are currently utilized for recreational use. The site is served by a gate attendant, and day-fees are required for entry. Use of firearms is prohibited on site. Unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) are allowed by permit only.

Site-Specific Resource Objectives:

- Maintain site in a manner that fulfills its congressionally authorized purpose for which lands were acquired, including flood control, hydropower generation, recreation, and fish and wildlife management.
- Provide quality day-use recreational experiences through the continuation of facility upgrading that supports an accessible, safe, and healthy environment for the visiting public.
- Continue to maintain this site for optimum design of road and utility costs, operation and maintenance expenses, ease of user fee collection, and the prevention of vandalism.
- Continue to maintain boat launching facilities and easy access to the water.
- Continue the development of interpretative programs for visitor education related to forest, fish, and wildlife resources.

Development Needs: There is currently no proposed or projected items needed in the future that helps achieve the resource objective identified.

5.1.2 Deer Island

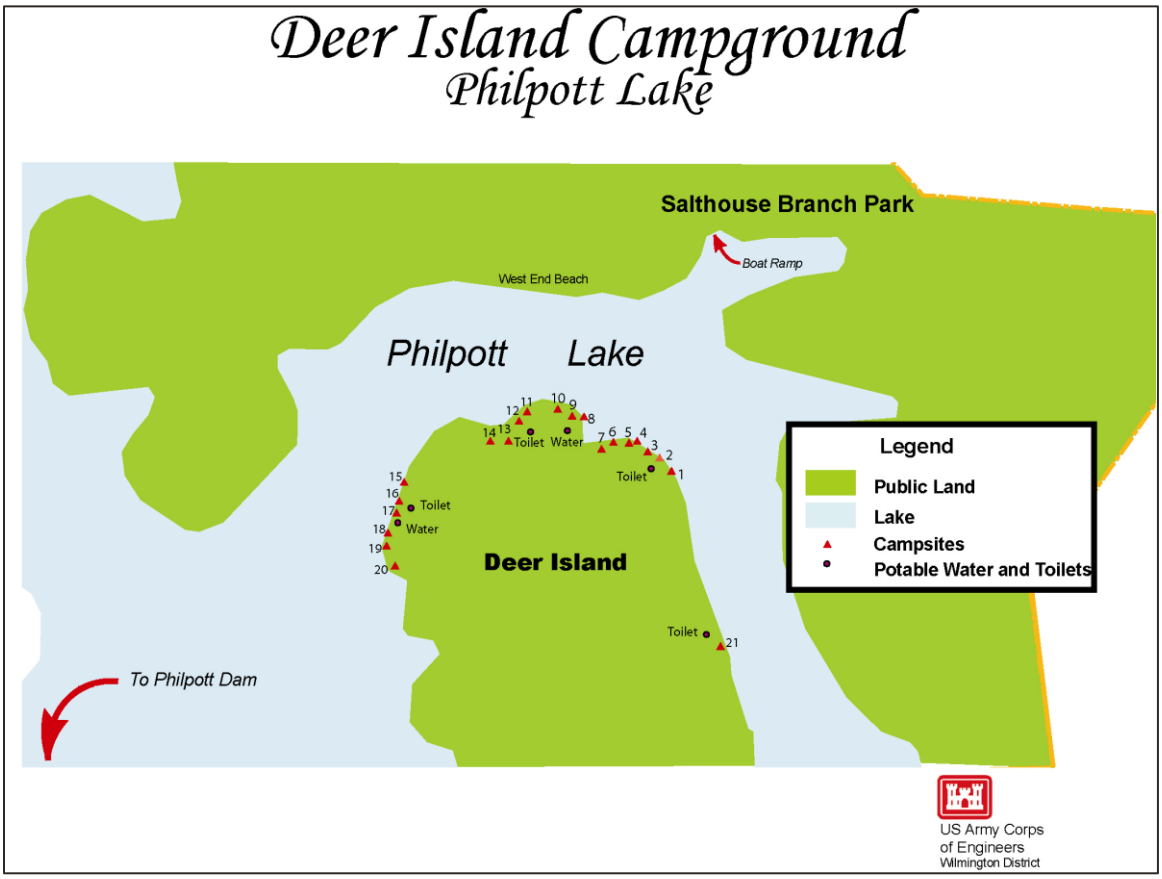

Figure 5-2: Deer Island Campground
Source: USACE, Deer Island Brochure, 2012

Management Agency: USACE

Land Classification: Multi Resource Management Lands: Low Density Recreation

Land Classification Resource Objectives: Future land classification for this site is not anticipated to change. See Chapter 3 of this report, Resource Use Objectives.

Deer Island has minimal development or infrastructure on site. Amenities provide support for passive public recreational use that does not create high visitor usage, including primitive camping, bank fishing, and opportunities for wildlife viewing. There are 21 primitive campsites on the northern tip of the island. The island is only accessible by water, which limits the access of recreational users. This site can accommodate overflow from high-density use areas such as Salthouse Branch Park. No major land improvements at Deer Island Campground have been identified.

Location: Deer Island (see Ji in Appendix A), encompasses approximately 151 acres. It can be accessed by any of the shoreline recreational areas to which Salthouse Branch Park is the closest. Deer island is located one mile upstream of Philpott Dam.

Description: Deer Island represents the largest of several islands and peninsulas at Philpott Lake, but only a small portion of land in its northern tip is utilized for recreational use. It is the furthest site south of central Philpott Lake. The site is heavily wooded with hardwoods, pines, and mixed hardwood and contains approximately 137 acres of relatively flat land, which is suitable for recreational development.

Survey results suggest that Deer Lake is second to last regarding sites that survey participants chose to visit over the past year. Use of firearms is prohibited on site. UAS are allowed by permit only.

Site-Specific Resource Objectives:

- Maintain site to fulfill its congressionally authorized purpose for which lands were acquired, including flood control, hydropower generation, recreation, and fish and wildlife management.
- Continue maintenance in support of passive recreational activities, including primitive camping and bank fishing.
- Maintain the unique aesthetic character of the island for its enhancement in the overall aesthetic value of the lake environment.

Development Needs: There is currently no proposed or projected item needed in the future that helps achieve the resource objective identified.

5.1.3 Goose Point Park

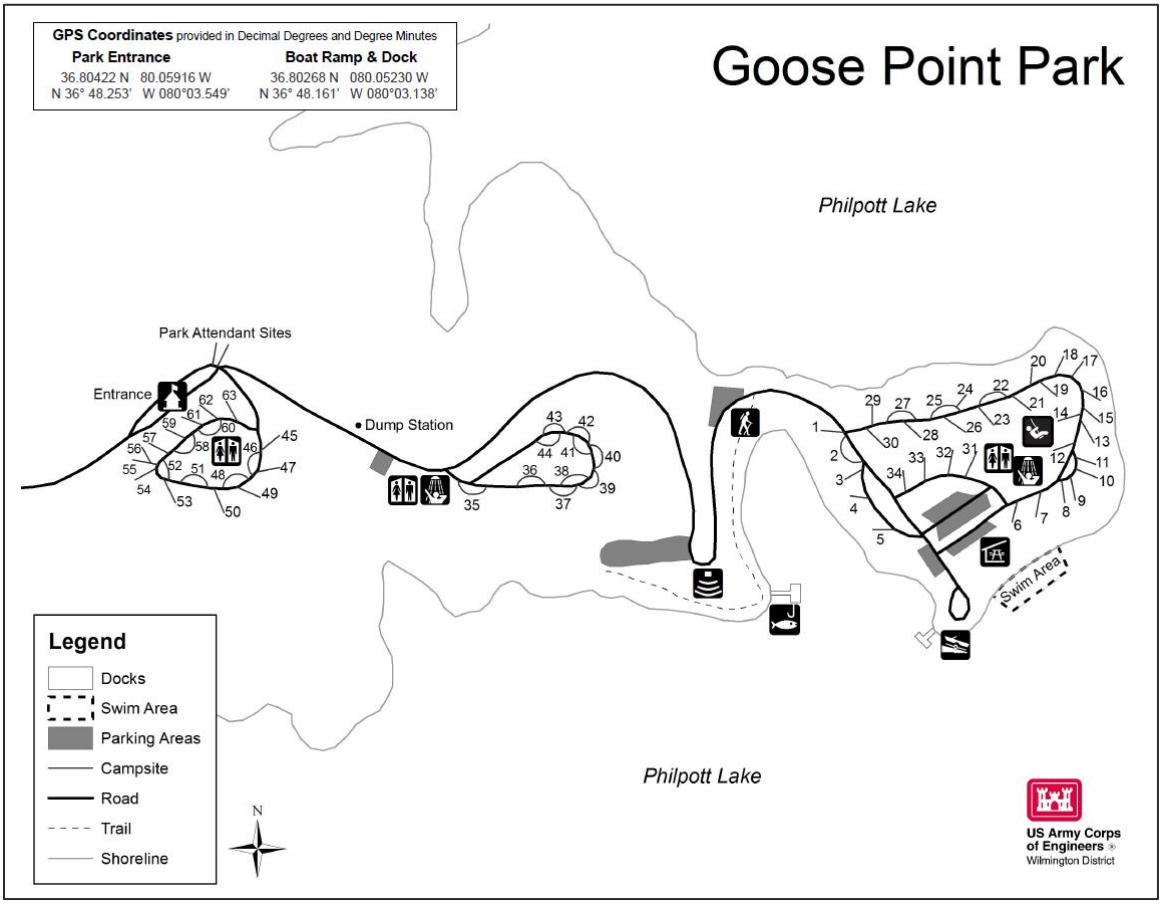

Figure 5-3: Goose Point Park
Source: USACE, Goose Point Brochure, 2012B

Management Agency: USACE

Land Classification: High Density Recreation

Land Classification Resource Objectives: Future land classification for this site is not anticipated to change. See Chapter 3 of this report, Resource Use Objectives.

Rationale: Goose Point Park is the most heavily used recreational area on the project. Its operation supports intensive recreational activities that can attract high visitor usage. Amenities at this location include bank fishing access, a fishing pier, 63 campsites (53 of which have electricity), water services, the Goose Roost Interpretive Walkway (a short interpretive trail), a shelter, amphitheater, restrooms, a public boat ramp, playground, fishing pier, courtesy and handling docks, and a beach with a swim area. Goose Point Park was identified through public input and the project survey as operating at maximum capacity during the summer months. Reservation timeframes for RV camping sites are not considered ideal for continued patronage in that a notable amount of lead time is required to reserve a space. With overnight camping and RV visitation of Philpott Lake supported by both those residing locally and regionally, this overnight-use site meets regional demands but would benefit from additional overnight camping resources. Goose Point Park is compatible with adjacent land uses, and the site abuts Fairy Stone State Park. No major land improvements at Goose Point Park have been identified.

Location: Goose Point Park (see Ji in Appendix A), consists of a 61-acre tract and is located about two miles northwest of the Philpott Dam. It is among those recreational sites considered to be centrally located at the lake. It is accessible by vehicle using SR 822 (Goose Point Road) via SR 57 (Fairystone Park Highway).

Description: Goose Point Park is a moderately forested area with pines and hardwoods. Survey results and public input confirm that it is indeed the most popular of all recreational facilities at Philpott Lake. Yet, the steep slope of the site limits future development to accommodate additional overnight camping facilities. The site is served by a gate attendant, and fees are required for day use and camping. Day use and minimal camping facilities are offered year-round. Use of firearms is prohibited on site. UAS are allowed by permit only.

Site-Specific Resource Objectives:

- Maintain facility site to fulfill its congressionally authorized purpose for which lands were acquired, including flood control, hydropower generation, recreation, and fish and wildlife management.
- Continue to maintain access to water via a boat launching facility, beaches, and swim areas.
- Continue to maintain this site for optimum design of road and utility costs, operation and maintenance expenses, ease of user fee collection, and the prevention of vandalism.
- Provide appropriate facilities for recreational and overnight use activities.
- Promote sustainability initiatives in the efficient use of energy and water.

Development Needs: There is currently no proposed or projected item needed in the future that helps achieve the resource objectives identified.

5.1.4 Horseshoe Point Park

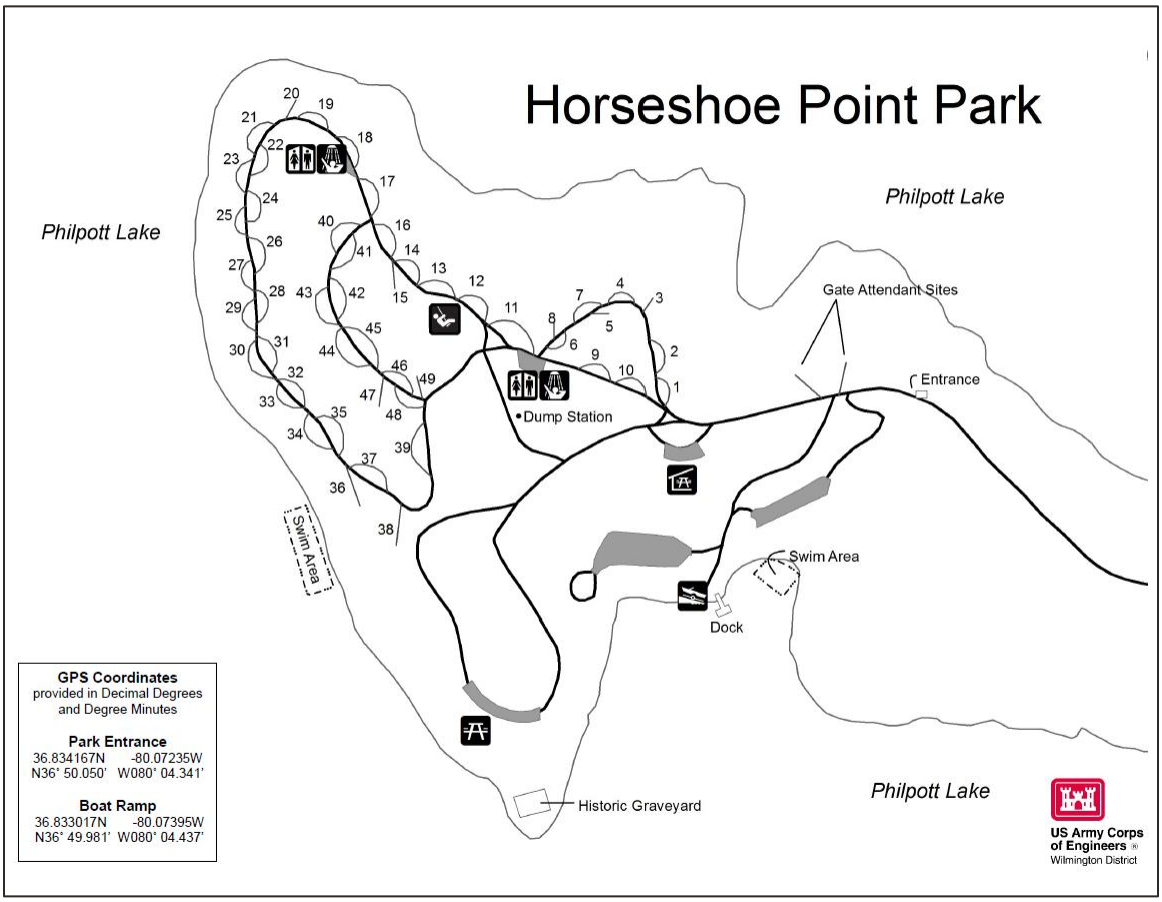

Figure 5-4: Horseshoe Point Park
Source: USACE, Horseshoe Point Park Brochure, 2012

Management Agency: USACE

Land Classification: High Density Recreation

Land Classification Resource Objectives: Future land classification for this site is not anticipated to change. See Chapter 3 of this report, Resource Use Objectives.

Rationale: Horseshoe Point Park is an established campground that operates to support intensive recreational activities intended to attract high visitor usage. Facilities at this location include bank fishing access, 49 camping sites (15 have water, electricity, and sewer service), a playground, a boat ramp, a courtesy dock, and two separate beaches for swimming. Recreational amenities at this facility site are primarily located in the peninsula point of the land tract. No major land improvements at Horseshoe Point Park have been identified.

With overnight camping and RV visitation of Philpott Lake supported by both those residing locally and regionally, this overnight-use site meets both local and regional recreational demands.

Location: Horseshoe Point Park (see Ji in Appendix A), is approximately 108 acres and is physically located 4.5 miles upstream from the Dam. This location is accessible by road using SR 903 (Horseshoe Point Road) and SR 772 (Holley Ridge Road), or SR 798 (Knob Church Road).

Description: Horseshoe Point Park is located on a Philpott Lake peninsula and is considered to be one of the more popular destinations at the lake. Its scenic beauty makes it a heavily utilized location. There is one cultural resource identified as a historic graveyard within the boundary of the site.

The site is served by a gate attendant, and fees are required for day use and camping". The site is open from May to September. Use of firearms is prohibited on site. UAS are allowed by permit only.

Site-Specific Resource Objectives:

- Maintain site to fulfill its congressionally authorized purpose for which lands were acquired, including flood control, hydropower generation, recreation, and fish and wildlife management.
- Optimize the use of leveraged resources (e.g. cost sharing) to maintain and provide a quality public recreational experience.
- Continue to maintain access to water via boat launching facilities, beaches, and swim areas.
- Continue to maintain this site for optimum design of road and utility costs, operation and maintenance expenses, ease of user fee collection, and the prevention of vandalism.
- Provide appropriate facilities for recreational and overnight use activities.
- Promote sustainability initiatives in the efficient use of energy and water.

Development Needs: There is currently no proposed or projected item needed in the future that helps achieve the resource objectives identified.

5.1.5 Ryans Branch Park

Management Agency: USACE

Land Classification: Multi Resource Management Lands: Low Density Recreation and Multiple Resource Management Lands: Wildlife Management

Land Classification Resource Objectives: Future land classification for this site is not anticipated to change. See Chapter 3 of this report, Resource Use Objectives.

Rationale: Given the minimal amount of infrastructure at this day-use site and its location in the northern reaches of the lake, the future land use classification is best suited for low density recreation that supports passive public recreational use. Amenities at this facility site include a boat launch, a picnic area, bank fishing, a public boat ramp, vault toilets, and a courtesy dock. The majority of the site has a steep slope, which limits the future expansion of recreational amenities. Visitation to this site is relatively low compared to others at Philpott Lake. Access to the water via the provided boat ramp is an important resource for those interested in accessing the northern reaches of the lake. No major land improvements at Ryans Branch Park have been identified.

Location: Ryans Branch Park (see Ji in Appendix A), is located in the northern reaches of Philpott Lake, approximately seven miles upstream from the Philpott Dam. The site consists of a 128-acre tract. The site can be accessed by vehicle using SR 623 (Fairystone Park Road) or SR 788 (Thompson Ridge Road) via SR 605 (Henry Road).

Description: The site is heavily wooded, with the exception of a paved parking lot, boat ramp, and courtesy dock on the east bank of Ryans Branch. The picnic area is further removed from the waterfront and in a relatively isolated location of the site. The site’s secluded setting in the narrow area of the lake makes it especially scenic.

Site-Specific Resource Objectives:

- Maintain site to fulfill its congressionally authorized purpose for which lands were acquired, including flood control, hydropower generation, recreation, and fish and wildlife management.
- Continue to maintain in support of passive recreational activities, including bank fishing.

- Maintain the unique aesthetic character of the resource for its enhancement in the overall aesthetic value of the lake environment.
- Maintain boat launching facilities to provide access to visitors desiring to access the northern reaches of Philpott Lake.

Development Needs: There is currently no proposed or projected item needed in the future that helps achieve the resource objectives identified.

5.1.6 Runnett Bag Park

Management Agency: USACE

Land Classification: Multi Resource Management Lands: Low Density Recreation

Land Classification Resource Objectives: Future land classification for this site is not anticipated to change. See Chapter 3 of this report, Resource Use Objectives.

Rationale: Runnett Bag Park is a day-use site with limited recreational amenities. Due to the site's remote location and the limited amount of infrastructure, which includes a gravel road leading to a boat ramp, this resource supports the land classification of low-density recreation. The majority of the site is not suitable for recreation because of excessive slopes. Runnett Bag is one of the least visited sites and is mainly used as an access site for boat launching. No major land improvements at Runnett Bag Park have been identified.

Description: Runnett Bag Park is located in the northwestern extremity of Philpott Lake in Franklin County and provides the closest access to Philpott Lake for those traveling from the western part of Virginia. It is the westernmost recreational site at Philpott Lake near Ryan's Branch Park and the Union Bridge over the Smith River in Patrick County. Use of firearms is prohibited on site. UAS are allowed by permit only.

Location: At approximately 82 acres, Runnett Bag Park it is located approximately nine miles from the Philpott Dam (see Ji in Appendix A). This site can be accessed by vehicle by SR 785 (Johnny's Ridge Road) via SR 40.

Site-Specific Resource Objectives:

- Maintain site to fulfill its congressionally authorized purpose for which lands were acquired, including flood control, hydropower generation, recreation, and fish and wildlife management.
- Continue to maintain the support of passive recreational activities, including bank fishing.
- Maintain the unique aesthetic character of the site for its enhancement in the overall aesthetic value of the lake environment.
- Maintain boat launching facilities to provide access to visitors desiring to access the northern reaches of Philpott Lake.
- Develop appropriate interpretive and educational resources pertaining to the site's geology (e.g., large outcrop above the lake).

Development Needs: There is currently no proposed or projected item needed in the future that helps achieve the resource objectives identified.

5.1.7 Philpott Park (Including Philpott Marina & Group Camp)

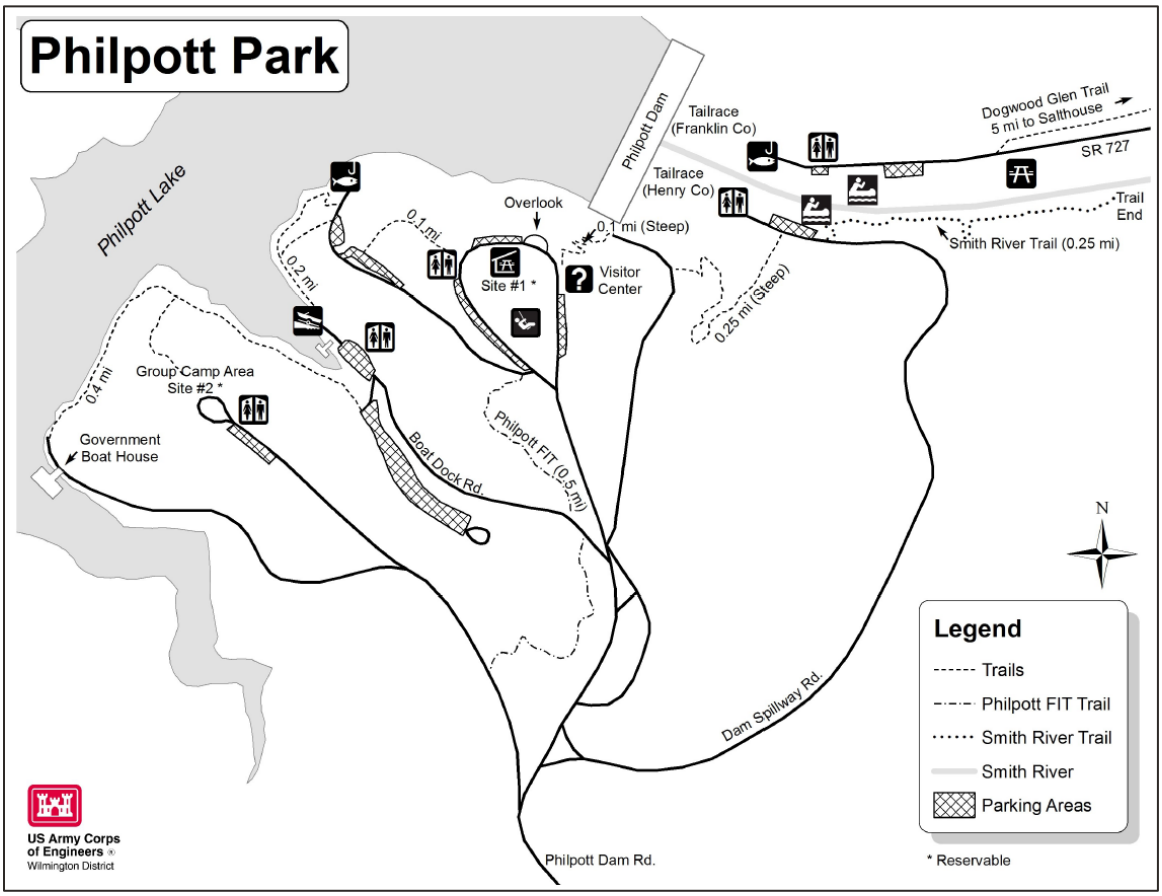

Figure 5-5: Philpott Park
Source: Philpott Park Brochure, 2016

Management Agency: USACE / Philpott Marina and Group Camping are leased to Henry County Parks and Recreation

Land Classification: Project Operations/High Density Recreation

Land Classification Resource Objectives: Future land classification for this site is not anticipated to change. See Chapter 3 of this report, Resource Use Objectives.

Rationale: Philpott Park was developed for intensive recreational activities that attract a high density of visitation. This park offers amenities to support day use. It is the most versatile of recreation sites at Philpott Lake. It is the most heavily developed in terms of infrastructure and is at (or very close to) its carrying capacity in terms of development. The majority of the site is extremely steep, limiting development to the flat ridgetops. Philpott Park is central to the development of adjacent land uses from both an aesthetic and operational standpoint. No major land improvements at Philpott Park have been identified.

Facilities at this location include the Philpott Dam, Philpott Lake's Visitor Center and Museum, and the Philpott Marina. The Philpott Marina is leased by the Henry County parks and Recreation and consists of 58 reserved slips, a fuel slip, a marina store, restrooms, and a picnic area. Overlooking the Marina is a group camp that offers 10 camping spaces and extra room for tents. Each camping space has water, as well as electric and sewer hook-up. Other amenities offered at these various park facilities include the Philpott Park overlook adjacent to the Visitors Center and Museum, hiking trails, bank fishing access, 17

picnic sites and one reservable picnic or event shelter, a canoe launch, an amphitheater (located at Group Camp and is only available to registered campers), restrooms, public boat ramp, and playground. This site has the highest rate of visitation at Philpott Lake.

Location: Philpott Park is approximately 155 acres (see Ji in Appendix A). This location can be accessed through the lake's main entrance via Virginia Highway 57 (Fairystone Park Highway).

Description: Philpott Park is best known for its scenic overlook of Philpott Dam, the lake, and the surrounding mountains. In areas without infrastructure, the site is heavily forested with pines and hardwoods similar to other recreational sites at Philpott Lake.

The Philpott Lake's Visitor Center and Museum is open 7 days a week from April through October and Monday to Friday the rest of the year. It offers exhibits to learn about vegetation and animals that can be found in and around Philpott Lake, as well as the history of Philpott Lake and the Philpott Dam.

There are two interpretative trails in Philpott Park.

Site-Specific Resource Objectives:

- Maintain site to fulfill its congressionally authorized purpose for which lands were acquired, including flood control, hydropower generation, recreation, and fish and wildlife management.
- Provide quality recreational experiences through the continuation of facility upgrading that supports an accessible, safe, and healthful environment for the visiting public.
- Continue appropriate interpretive and educational resources pertaining to electric power generation, flood control, and the project's natural and cultural resources.
- Maintain visitor-oriented displays and programs.
- Provide appropriate facilities for day-use activities.
- Continue to maintain this site for optimum design of road and utility costs, operation and maintenance expenses, ease of user fee collection, and the prevention of vandalism.
- Continue to maintain boat and canoe launching facilities.
- To continue to provide the desired recreational facilities within the carrying capacity of the project.
- Promote sustainability initiatives in the efficient use of energy and water.
- Continue coordination with applicable outside agencies and organizations for facility improvement through volunteerism and out grant opportunities.

Development Needs: Future development plans may include minor facility additions such as an amphitheater in Philpott Park at the overlook and possible expansion of the hiking trails.

5.1.8 Salthouse Branch Park

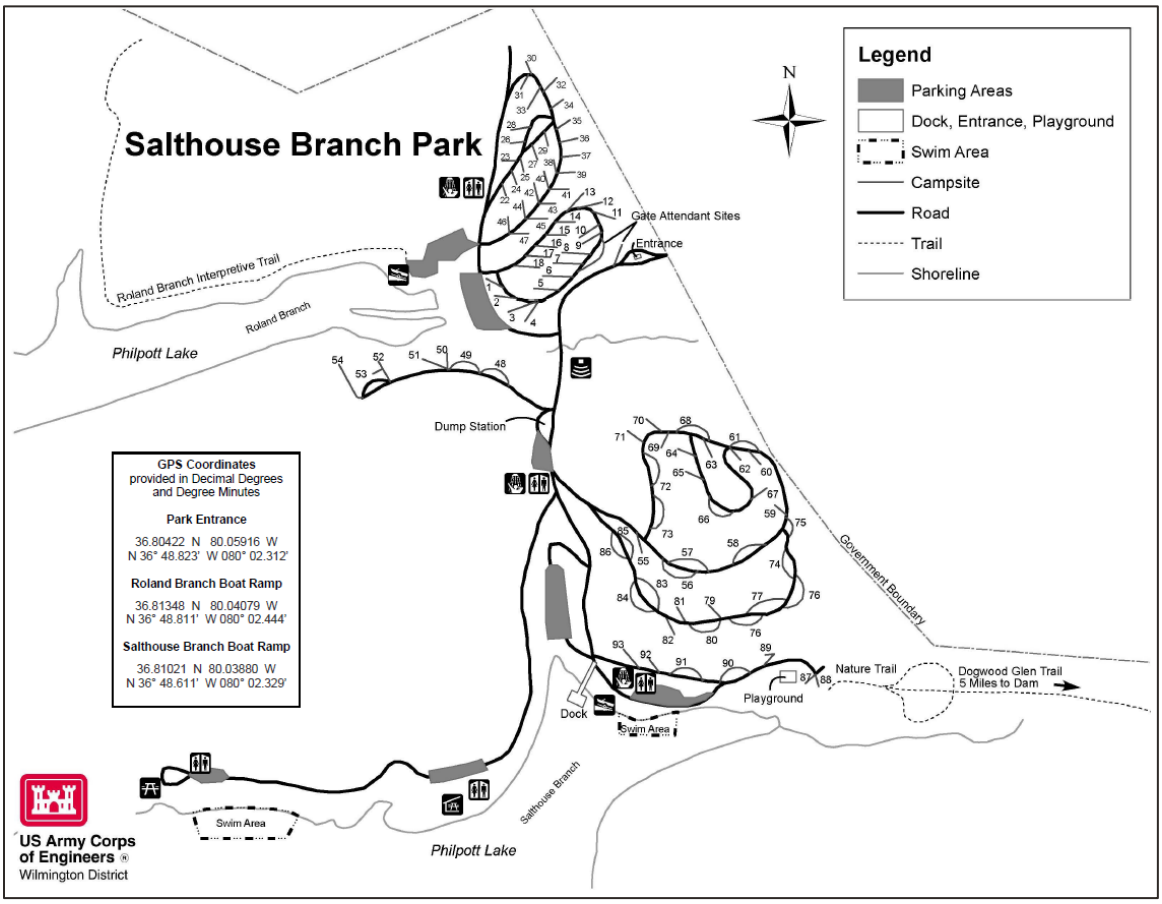

Figure 5-6: Salthouse Branch Park
Source: USACE, Salthouse Branch Park Brochure, 2012

Management Agency: USACE

Land Classification: High Density Recreation

Land Classification Resource Objectives: Future land classification for this site is not anticipated to change. See Chapter 3 of this report, Resource Use Objectives.

Rationale: Salthouse Branch Park is an established campground that operates to support intensive recreational activities intended to attract high visitor usage. This location experiences heavy recreational use with amenities for both day-use and overnight camping. Facilities at the site include the Salthouse Branch Nature Trail, a trail head for Dogwood Glen Trail, Roland Branch Interpretive Trail (a short section of the Laurel Ridge Trail which runs 2.25 miles to Twin Ridge), bank fishing access, picnic sites and shelter, playground, two beaches for swimming, approximately 90 campsites (44 of which have water and electricity service), an amphitheater, restroom facilities, two public boat ramps on either side of the peninsula, courtesy and handling docks, and paved parking lots. The steep slope on most of the site limits future development. The site is compatible with adjacent land uses, which can be categorized as rural with sparse residential development. The site is open from April through October, with bumper seasons in March and November when limited facilities are open. Future development plans support the current land classification.

Location: This 79-acre site is located about three miles north of the Philpott Dam (see Ji in Appendix A). This site is considered to be among those that are centrally located in Philpott Lake. It can be accessed by vehicle by Virginia Highway SR 773 (Salthouse Branch Road) and SR 798 (Knob Church Road) via Virginia Highway SR 605 (Henry Road)/US 220.

Description: Salthouse Branch Park is on a peninsula between Roland Branch and Salthouse Branch. Due to the accommodations for RV camping, there is a notable amount of infrastructure (i.e., parking pads, connector roads, etc.) supporting recreational activities. Salthouse Branch Park is among the top three sites chosen for overnight RV camping at Philpott Lake.

Site-Specific Resource Objectives:

- Maintain site to fulfill its congressionally authorized purpose for which lands were acquired, including flood control, hydropower generation, recreation, and fish and wildlife management.
- Provide quality recreational experiences through the continuation of facility upgrading, which supports an accessible, safe, and healthful environment for the visiting public.
- Provide appropriate facilities for day-use activities and for overnight-use patrons.
- Continue to maintain this site for optimum design of road and utility costs, operation and maintenance expenses, ease of user fee collection, and the prevention of vandalism.
- Continue to maintain access to water through beaches, swimming areas, and boat launching facilities.
- To continue to provide the desired recreational facilities within the carrying capacity of the project.
- Promote sustainability initiatives in the efficient use of energy and water.
- Continue coordination with applicable outside agencies and organizations for facility improvement through volunteerism and out-grant opportunities.

Development Needs: Future development plans may include minor facility additions such as a new picnic shelter. Renovation plans may include the demolition of the old Salthouse Branch picnic shelter and associated restroom as well as the relocation of the main swim beach located adjacent to the Salthouse Branch shoreline.

5.1.9 Twin Ridge Park

Management Agency: USACE

Land Classification: High Density Recreation

Land Classification Resource Objectives: Future land classification for this site is not anticipated to change. See Chapter 3 of this report, Resource Use Objectives.

Rationale: Twin Ridge Park has the infrastructure to support intensive recreational activities for the day-use visiting public. Its operation is consistent with authorized project purposes. Facilities at this location include multi-use trails and access to the Laurel Ridge Trail, picnic area and shelter, restrooms, two-lane public boat ramp, and courtesy and handling docks. These facilities are located on SR 624 at the water's edge. Twin Ridge Park serves both a local a regional need as the location for boat launching, fishing, and tournaments. The site offers a customized facility to accommodate larger-scale fishing events. The tournaments support the local economy in Franklin County. No major land improvements at Twin Ridge Park have been identified.

Location: Twin Ridge Park is 150 acres and located approximately two miles from the Philpott Dam (see Ji in Appendix A). It is accessible by vehicle via SR 624 (Twin Ridge Marina Road). The main arterial to access the site is SR 605 (Henry Road).

Description: Twin Ridge Park is on a peninsula with the boat ramp stationed at the top on Roland Branch. This location is centrally located within Philpott Lake and among the largest recreation sites at Philpott Lake. At one time, this site had an operating marina under lease to a concessionaire, but the

marina is no longer operational due to a fire at the marina in 2001. This location is known locally for its customized fishing tournament facility. The Laurel Ridge Trail, connecting Salthouse Branch to Twin Ridge Park, was completed in 2019. Twin Ridge is open year-round.

Site Specific Resource Objectives:

- Maintain site to fulfill its congressionally authorized purpose for which lands were acquired, including flood control, hydropower generation, recreation, and fish and wildlife management.
- Continue to support local needs through the operation of facilities supporting fishing tournaments.
- Provide quality recreational experiences, which include an accessible, safe, and healthful environment for the visiting public.
- Optimize the use of leveraged resources to maintain and provide a quality public recreational experience.
- Continue coordination with applicable outside agencies and organizations for facility improvement and out-grant opportunities.

Development Needs: There is currently no proposed or projected item needed in the future that helps achieve the resource objectives identified.

5.1.10 Turkey Island

Management Agency: USACE

Land Classification: Multiple Resource Management Lands: Low Density Recreation

Land Classification Resource Objectives: Future land classification for this site is not anticipated to change. See Chapter 3 of this report, Resource Use Objectives.

Rationale: Turkey Island is utilized mostly for passive public recreational use, predominately bank fishing and picnicking. There is minimal development or infrastructure located primarily on the southern tip of the island, including pit toilet facilities. Turkey Island is reachable by water only, which limits access by many recreational users. It is designated as a day-use area. No major land improvements at Turkey Island have been identified.

Location: Turkey Island, (see Ji in Appendix A), located approximately 1.5 miles upstream of the Dam and is among the recreational sites that are centrally located at Philpott Lake.

Description: Turkey Island is a heavily wooded site with amenities located adjacent to the water's edge. This location is one of the smallest recreational sites encompassing approximately 30 acres. There are two picnic sites, and bank fishing is accessible.

Site-Specific Resource Objectives:

- Maintain site to fulfill its congressionally authorized purpose for which lands were acquired, including flood control, hydropower generation, recreation, and fish and wildlife management.
- Provide appropriate facilities for day-use activities.
- Continue to maintain in support of passive recreational activities, including bank fishing.
- Maintain the unique aesthetic character of the island for its enhancement in overall aesthetic value to the lake environment.

Development Needs: There is currently no proposed or projected item needed in the future that helps achieve the resource objectives identified.

5.1.11 Jamison Mill Park (including Jamison Mill Picnic Area)

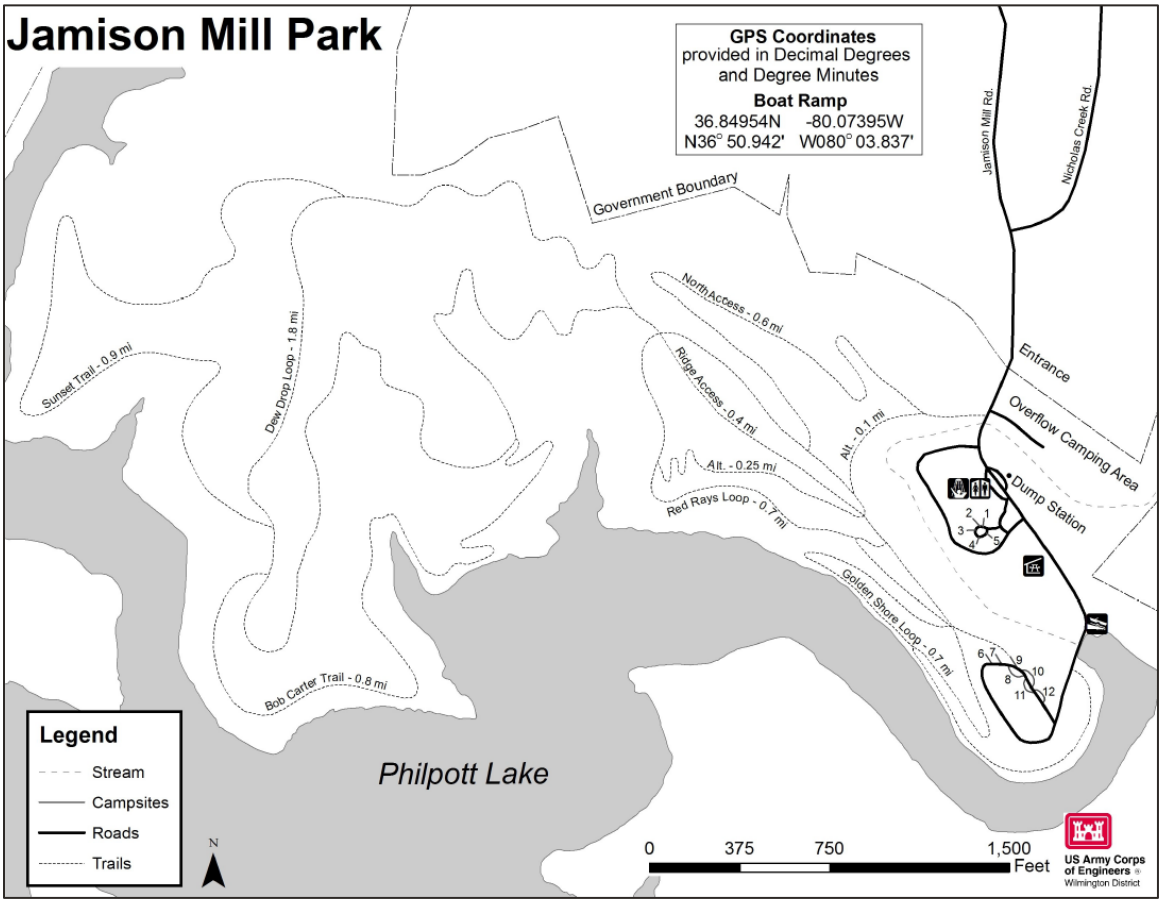

Figure 5-7: Jamison Mill Park
(Resource: USACE, Jamison Mill Park Brochure, 2012)

Management Agency: Franklin County Park and Recreation

Land Classification: High Density Recreation

Land Classification Resource Objectives: Future land classification for this site is not anticipated to change. See Chapter 3 of this report, Resource Use Objectives.

Rationale: Jamison Mill Park has established camping sites that support intensive day-use and overnight use of recreational resources. The site maintains 10 camping units, five of which offer utility hook-ups for electricity. The other five camping sites are located closer to the shoreline and do not have electricity. All camp sites have boat ramp access. Camping facilities are notably smaller than other sites that accommodate overnight camping, but it offers camping facilities closer to those traveling to Philpott Lake from its northeast regions of influence. This site is an important resource not only for the local community but also Franklin County Parks and Recreation, non-profit organizations, and special interest groups that support Philpott Lake's mission to provide quality recreational opportunities for hikers and trail bikers alike. Several of these groups and organizations actively supported and participated in the trail system improvements at this site. The site is consistent with adjacent land uses, which include low-density residential in a rural setting. Hunting with firearms and fishing are prohibited. The campground is open from April through October. No major land improvements at Jamison Mill Park have been identified.

Jamison Mill Picnic Area is a heavily wooded island situated immediately adjacent to Jamison Lake Park. It is accessible by boat only; thus, access to the location is limited and not supportive of high-density visitation.

Location: Both the Jamison Mill Park and Picnic Area are included in the 115-acre site (see Ji in Appendix A). Jamison Mill Park can be accessed by vehicle by way of SR 780 (Jamison Mill Road) or SR 778 (Nicholas Creek Road).

Description: Jamison Mill Park is in the north perimeter of Philpott Lake. It is utilized for both day and overnight recreational activities. Among its amenities is a 6.25-mile hiking trail system (Jamison Mill Trail System) consisting of three interconnected loops. The trail system is used predominately by both hikers and bicyclists and utilizes interpretative signage to bring to life the history of the local community in the early to mid-1900s. Interpretive information at this site suggests that, historically, portions of this site were utilized for a water-powered grist mill, and that mill was a place of social gathering until about 1949 when the community made way for Philpott Lake.

Site-Specific Resource Objectives:

- Maintain site to fulfill its congressionally authorized purpose for which lands were acquired, including flood control, hydropower generation, recreation, and fish and wildlife management.
- Provide quality recreational experiences through the continuation of facility upgrading that supports an accessible, safe, and healthful environment for the visiting public.
- Optimize the use of leveraged resources to maintain and provide a quality public recreational experience.
- Continue coordination with applicable outside agencies and organizations for facility improvement through volunteerism and out grant opportunities.
- Maintain the unique aesthetic character of the island for its enhancement to the overall aesthetic value of the lake environment.
- Continue to maintain the boat launching facility.
- Provide appropriate facilities for recreational and overnight use activities.
- Develop appropriate interpretive and educational resources for cultural resources.

Development Needs: There is currently no proposed or projected item needed in the future that helps achieve the resource objectives identified.

5.1.12 Philpott Lake Park

Management Agency: USACE

Land Classification: High Density Recreation

Land Classification Resource Objectives: Future land classification for this site is not anticipated to change. See Chapter 3 of this report, Resource Use Objectives.

Rationale: The future classification of the site is anticipated to remain as a high density recreational area for day users. No major land improvements at Philpott Lake Park have been identified. The Park has some of the more popular hiking trails which are also accessible to equestrians and their horses. This area is a common spot for fishing, especially trout fishing. It is also an area that is frequented by kayakers and those paddling a canoe.

Location: Philpott Lake Park (see Ji in Appendix A), encompasses areas around the Philpott Dam as well as areas downstream from the Dam on the Smith River

Description: Philpott Lake Park is an easily accessible recreational area that includes hiking trails and a gravel access road to the Dam on the Franklin County side of the Lake. It has picnic tables and a wingwall at the base of the Dam.

Site-Specific Resource Objectives:

- Maintain site to fulfill its congressionally authorized purpose for which lands were acquired, including flood control, hydropower generation, recreation, and fish and wildlife management.
- Provide appropriate facilities for day-use activities.
- Continue to maintain in support of passive recreational activities, and bank fishing.
- Maintain the unique aesthetic character of the island for its enhancement in overall aesthetic value to the lake environment.

Development Needs: There is currently no proposed or projected item needed in the future that helps achieve the resource objectives identified.

6 Special Topics/Issues/Considerations

6.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses items that are unique to the project and not covered in other parts of the plan.

6.2 Special Topics

6.2.1 Partnerships

Philpott Lake is vitally important to Henry, Patrick, and Franklin Counties in terms of economic benefits and recreational opportunities. Local communities and special interest organizations continue to support the USACE's mission to provide high-quality recreational venues while preserving the natural resources and pristine environment of Philpott Lake. The USACE, being stewards of the lands and water at Philpott Lake, strives to leverage partnerships and out-grant opportunities as a way to further enhance high-quality recreational activities and their efforts in preserving the natural resources and pristine environment within Philpott Lake's borders.

Examples of successful partnerships that should continue to be cultivated in the future include those with the Planning, Parks and Recreational staff of Franklin, Henry, and Patrick Counties, Henry County Bike Club, Franklin Freewheelers, Inc., Southern Virginia Mountain Biking Association, Dan River Basin Association, Martinsville-Henry County Rivers and Trails Group, and Activate Martinsville. While these examples are in no way meant to be comprehensive or exclusive in nature, they do represent the importance of Philpott Lake, both locally and regionally, and suggest that continued partnerships with these entities and many others will be essential in meeting the goals laid out in the Master Plan Update (USACE[32]).

6.2.2 Environmental Operating Principles

The USACE EOPs were developed for the purpose of ensuring that USACE missions include total integration of sustainable environmental practices.

The EOPs were initially introduced in 2002. These concepts remain vital to the success of the USACE; however, new priorities have evolved (USACE, 2021[33]). These are as follows:

- Foster sustainability as a way of life throughout the organization.
- Proactively consider the environmental consequences of all USACE activities and act accordingly.
- Create mutually supporting economic and environmentally sustainable solutions.
- Continue to meet corporate responsibility and accountability under the law for activities undertaken by the USACE, which may impact human and natural environments.
- Consider the environment in employing a risk management and systems approach throughout the life cycles of projects and programs.

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[32] (USACE, 2021) Available on the internet at: https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Locations/District-Lakes-and-Dams/Philpott/Recreation/Trails/. Last accessed on 1/29/2021.

[33] (USACE, 2021) Environmental Operating Principles, https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Environmental-Operating-Principles/. Last accessed on 1/29/2021.

- Leverage scientific, economic, and social knowledge to understand the environmental context and effects of USACE actions in a collaborative manner.
- Employ an open, transparent process that respects the views of individuals and groups interested in USACE activities.

6.3 Carrying Capacity

Visitation is increasing due to greater public awareness of events and opportunities at Philpott Lake. The steep slopes and poor soil conditions present a serious problem for the expansion of amenities at Philpott Lake. As shown on the slope map in Appendix A (see Plate), topographic characteristics limit the amount of land suitable for infrastructure to support recreational activities, in addition to the project's primary purpose to protect against damaging flood conditions. It has been reported that approximately 588 acres out of a total 2,137 possible recreation acres are suitable for intensive recreation development (USACE, 1992[34]). This shortage of usable recreation land is anticipated to influence decisions regarding future projects, including new facility sites or the rehabilitation of existing ones.

Many of the existing recreation sites have been developed such that their readily usable lands that provide ready access to the water are at capacity. Several of the existing camping sites have been reported as being at maximum capacity during the summer months. There are still a few instances where conflict of use between day-use and camping remains, but this issue has lessened over the years as camping area conversions have been completed. Areas still experiencing some level of conflict include Goose Point, Salthouse Branch, and Horseshoe Point. Visitor demand further indicates transitioning more to full hook-up sites for RV usage would further increase visitation and visitor satisfaction.

Future recreational development will require plans and studies to account for the carrying capacity of environmental and social dimensions, including water quality, the recreational balance between day-use and overnight use, and how to accommodate new demands within the existing footprint in a manner that are environmentally and economically sustainable. Additionally, cultural resources associated with the site will need to follow guidance set forth in the Archaeological and Historical Survey and Historic Properties Management Plan for Philpott Lake, 2020, prior to the initiation of on-site improvements.

Stakeholder input indicates that RV sites at Goose Point, Salthouse Branch, and now also Horsehoe Point often are at maximum capacity. The utilization of a reservation system is beneficial for preventing carrying capacity exceedances, but operations at maximum capacity for prolonged periods of time have the potential to hasten the need for unplanned maintenance and/or restoration of a site or its amenities.

A long-term solution to sites experiencing maximum capacity is to rehabilitate the sites so that they can withstand the heavy use that they currently experience. The use of impact areas and walkways can help to reduce the adverse impacts on the sites. Manned control gates can also help reduce visitor pressure by limiting the number of visitors to the recreation sites. Without readily accessible additional recreation lands, it may become necessary to limit public access to some recreation areas. In some instances, the sites that are accessible only by water can alleviate overcrowding, but the setting limits access and is suited to a more low-density environment.

[34] (USACE, 1992) US Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, Philpott Lake Master, March 1992.

7 Agency and Public Coordination

In 2020, USACE initiated the planning process to update the Philpott Lake Master Plan. The planning process involved federal, Commonwealth, and local agencies; leaseholders on the project; and the public. Additional information on the agency and public coordination efforts of this document are included herein.

ER 1120-2-400 states:

> *"During the investigation, planning, development, and operation and maintenance of all Civil Works projects, close and continuing coordination will be maintained with federal, state, and local agencies with interests and responsibilities in the fields of public recreation, fish and wildlife, preservation of archaeological and historical resources, and environmental quality."*

In accordance with this directive, extensive coordination was initiated by the USACE Wilmington District with federal, Commonwealth, and local agencies, as well as leaseholders on the project. In addition, public participation meetings were held with a Public Assistance Committee, established to provide input to the Master Plan Update and the public. The following sections summarize the coordination efforts undertaken in the preparation of the Master Plan Update.

7.1 Agency Coordination

7.1.1 Federal Agencies

Several federal agencies were contacted early in the planning process to solicit their concerns and suggestions for the Philpott Lake Master Plan Update. Few of these agencies indicated any concerns. Some asked only to be informed about the progress of the planning effort. Those federal agencies that were contacted for input are listed below.

- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Environmental Protection Agency

7.1.2 Commonwealth of Virginia

Representatives of several Commonwealth of Virginia agencies were contacted early in the planning process to contribute to the development of the Master Plan Update. Those Commonwealth agencies contacted for comments include:

- Council on the Environment
- Virginia Board of Wildlife Resources (formerly the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries) Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Department of Conservation and Economic Development
- Division of Parks
- Water Control Board
- Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- Department of Health
- Virginia Research Center for Archaeology
- Historic Landmarks Commission
- Office of Emergency and Energy Services
- Department of Highways and Transportation

7.1.3 Local Agencies

Several local agencies were contacted to solicit their comments on the Master Plan Update and to participate on the Public Assistance Committee. These agencies included:

- Franklin County
- Patrick County
- Henry County
- West Piedmont Planning District Commission

Also, several local residents were invited to serve on the Public Assistance Committee.

7.2 Public Coordination

7.2.1 General Public

A notice was placed in area newspapers requesting input from the public for the Master Plan.

7.2.2 Leaseholder

The leaseholder representative of the new marina area (located at Philpott Park and leased/managed by Henry County Parks and Recreation), Mr. Roger Adams, was contacted so he could express any of his concerns related to operating a marina on Philpott Lake. The other lease area is Jamison Mill, which is leased by Franklin County Parks and Recreation. Representatives from the Franklin County Parks and Recreation also participated in the project scoping meetings.

7.3 Scoping Process

As part of the initial phase of the planning process for the project, two separate meetings were held on December 3, 2020. The first was the agency scoping meeting, and the latter was the public scoping meeting. The purpose of these meetings was to describe the master plan update process and its purpose, which was to provide an opportunity to discuss topics or issues that the agencies or public felt should be examined as part of the master planning and NEPA process. Due to pandemic concerns, both meetings were held virtually, with supporting mapping and data visualization of the project site provided electronically.

7.3.1 Agency Scoping Meeting

Agencies were invited by a formal letter to participate in the scoping process. The USACE sent out 22 scoping notification letters, which described the purpose of the update, the NEPA review that would be undertaken, and the date and time for the scheduled agency meeting. Agencies notified by letter were:

- Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Franklin County Parks & Recreation
- Franklin County, Virginia, County Administration
- Henry County Parks & Recreation
- Henry County, Virginia, County Administration
- Martinsville-Henry County Tourism
- Patrick County, Virginia, County Administration
- Dan River Association

A list of agencies, organizations, and local representatives that were sent scoping notification letters can be found in Appendix C. There were 36 participants on the agency scoping meeting call.

An email meeting notification was also sent to the same list of people on November 10, 2020. The notification included a copy of the scoping letter and meeting details.

The virtual agency meeting was held from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. It consisted of a PowerPoint presentation that included the purpose of the Master Plan Update, up-to-date information on the project schedule, and the USACE's environmental review process. A question-and-answer session was also included in the presentation, allowing participants to inquire about specific topics or recommend land management modifications given their innate understanding of the needs of the communities they serve.

Specific questions asked of the agencies and local representatives were:

- What is your vision for Philpott Lake over the next five to 20 years?
- What issues are most important to you as we update our land management plan?
- What could be done to enhance resource management objectives?

7.3.2 Public Scoping Meeting

A public scoping meeting was held on December 3, 2020. This first scoping meeting was to inform the general public and agencies of the master plan process and to gather information about their perspective of management needs and operations. The USACE published a notice of the scoping meetings on the Philpott Lake webpage. A notice about the Master Plan Update was also placed on the online reservations system, www.Recreation.gov, which notified recreational users who were making reservations for the upcoming season. The meeting was held virtually from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. A copy of the presentation is provided in Appendix C.

The public meeting's objectives were similar to that of the agency meeting, which was to inform the public of the project and to receive their input on issues of importance in their communities. Specific questions asked of participants included the following:

- What changes would you like to see at Philpott Lake over the next five to 20 years?
- What improvements would you like to see at Philpott Lake?
- What opportunities should be pursued for community partnership during the next stages of the project?

A total of 23 participants, including leaseholders Henry County Parks and Recreation and Franklin County Parks and Recreation, joined the public scoping call. Mr. Roger Adams represented Henry County Parks and Recreation. Franklin County Parks and Recreation was represented by Mr. Paul Chapman and Mr. Matt Ross. DWR, Region 2 Office, currently has a license agreement with the USACE. Those representing DWR were Mr. Pete Shula, Mr. Kevin Cox, Mr. Scott Smith, and Mr. George Palmer. Since the meeting was virtual, call-in participants were identified as "caller," and the total number of participants was recorded.

7.4 Digital Outreach and Engagement Tools

7.4.1 Website

The USACE hosted a "Philpott Lake Master Plan Update" link on its webpage menu. The site went live on November 11, 2020, and included a project information sheet describing the project, its purpose, and how and when the public could engage and be involved in the scoping process. The virtual meeting information, also posted on the website, provided an easily accessible way for the public to participate in the virtual meetings amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. A virtual tour was also posted on the site with points of reference and important park facility information.

The website was updated as new information became available. The website link is listed below.

https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Locations/District-Lakes-and-Dams/Philpott/Philpott-Lake-Master-Plan-Update/

7.4.2 Online Survey

An online survey, focusing on Philpott Lake Master Plan Update's community priorities and preferences, went live on November 11, 2020. The survey consisted of 23 questions aimed at understanding what natural resources and recreational facilities were most desirable from the community's perspective. On average, the survey took 5-7 minutes to complete, and 257 participants provided their input in the online survey. The survey link is listed below.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PhilpottLakeMPSurvey1

7.5 Summary of Comments

The following presents a collective summary of comments provided on behalf of the various stakeholder agencies and the public during the outreach and engagement process.

7.5.1 Summary of the Agency Scoping Meeting Comments

A summary of some of the key talking points is provided below.

- There may be opportunities for better representation of the heritage and cultural identity of Philpott Lake that could offer tangible links to the past while protecting and preserving cultural resources.
- In many instances, camping facilities have reached their maximum carrying capacity restricting the use of some of Philpott Lake's facilities and amenities.
- Consideration should be given to potential partnership opportunities with recreational outfitters providing bike rentals, fishing guides, boathouse rentals, yurts, etc.
- Preserving and protecting water quality should be addressed in the Master Plan Update.
- Consideration should be given to expanding the trail system, especially single-use trails (equestrian, mountain bike, running, and walking).
- Lack of parking at the marina during peak season is an ongoing concern.
- Consideration should be given to allowing more bank fishing.
- Opportunities to partner include the Jamison Mill Community Group.
- Consideration should be given to expanding unique events at Philpott Lake, such as Concerts by Canoe.
- Grant opportunities should be pursued to fund improvements at Philpott Lake.

7.5.2 Summary of the Public Scoping Meeting Comments

A summary of some of the key talking points is provided below.

- Improvements to the existing 21 docks are needed, especially for current landowners with adjacent property. Additionally, docks are needed at Horseshoe Point.
- Boat slips need to be improved to avoid damage to boats when used.
- Consideration should be given to increasing the number of day passes for locals and landowners that provide them access to Goose Point. Granting local passes would ensure locals can visit the lake during the busy season.

- The uniqueness of Philpott Lake can be partly attributed to its pristine beauty. No shoreline development is wanted, and improvement within the boundaries of the lake should be weighed against the loss of natural resources.
- The campsites are at their maximum carrying capacity. As such, more camping facilities should be provided.
- Parking should be increased at Goose Point.
- Additional event planning is needed to provide more exposure to the unique happenings at the lake, such as Concerts by Canoe.

7.5.3 Summary of the Public Assistance Committee Concerns

The following statements present the summary of the Public Assistance Committee's concerns.

- The primary concern expressed by the Public Assistance Committee was the possible overdevelopment of Philpott Lake, and that the natural environment of the lake and surrounding area would be destroyed by the addition of large new recreation areas on government land, as well as by residential development on adjacent private lands.
- The Public Assistance Committee was also concerned as to how new needed recreational facilities would be provided with the present limitations of cost-sharing.
- The Commonwealth of Virginia expressed very few concerns about Philpott Lake. Virginia expressed no interest in cost-sharing but did express an interest in leasing additional lands for wildlife management.
- The marina leaseholder representative, Mr. Roger Adams, expressed several concerns that he felt were affecting his marina operation. His first concern was that the USACE was not providing the proper signs along area roads for direction to the marina. The other concern was that the marina could not purchase gasoline as cheaply as service stations outside the project boundary, and this represents a loss in business.

7.5.4 Summary of the Online Survey Comments

Findings from the survey are as follows:

- Most survey respondents live in Henry and Franklin Counties; 98 percent of all survey respondents have visited Philpott Lake. Most survey respondents travel 30 miles or less to visit Philpott Lake and take approximately one to five trips per year. While there, the majority of respondents spend a half-day, others stay a full day, and some camp overnight.
- Most respondents have a strong interest in boating, fishing, swimming, kayaking, and spending time in nature. Seventy percent of respondents have camped at Philpott Lake. More than 50 percent have stayed overnight at Goose Point and/or Salthouse Branch.
- More than half of survey respondents have visited the marina, the Philpott Dam, Goose Point, and Salthouse Branch in the past 12 months. More than half of survey respondents have most often used the boat ramp, parking, swimming beach, and marina at Philpott Lake. Seventy-nine percent of survey respondents have used Philpott Lake's boat ramps, primarily the Twin Ridge and marina locations.
- In regard to the USACE's mission statement, 82 percent of respondents stated USACE has been very effective when they "offer safe and memorable outdoor recreation experiences," 74 percent stated USACE has been very effective when they "manage environmental resources," and 69 percent stated USACE has been very effective when they "meet downstream water flow requirements for recreational purposes." However, only 55 percent stated that USACE has been very effective when they "enhance public awareness through educational outreach opportunities."
- Improved boat ramp(s), expanded boat ramp and dock facilities, rentable hand-powered watercraft (kayaks, paddleboards, etc.), expanded parking, and additional walking/hiking trails

were the top expansions/additions survey respondents felt should be included at Philpott Lake. Other open-comment requests for amenities included more full hookup campsites (and more campsites in general), a restaurant/food vendor, waterfront campsites, improved marina parking, more tent camping locations, more day-use facilities, an additional marina, and allowing adjacent landowners access to their own small docks.

- A boat ramp, parking, swimming beach, fishing pier, and boat-in facilities (picnicking along the shoreline) were the top five requested amenities that should be expanded at Philpott Lake to accommodate future demand. If these additional amenities were provided, survey participants indicated a stronger interest in visiting Philpott Lake, ranging from more than one trip every two to three weeks (21 percent), with one trip every month and one trip every week (both tied for second at 19.25 percent), compared to their initial response of one to five trips per year based on current conditions.
- Most survey participants typically get their information about Philpott Lake through family, friends, or word of mouth (69 percent); the internet (57 percent through web pages, including National Recreation Reservation service's website); and social media (49 percent).
- Survey respondents were evident across all age groups. Ages seventeen and under were represented by one percent of survey respondents, 18 to 39 was 25 percent, 49 to 55 was 38 percent, 56 to 69 percent was 28 percent, and 70 or older was 7 percent. One percent chose "prefer not to specify" when answering this question.
- 53 percent of survey respondents were male, 44 percent were female, and 2 percent chose not to specify their gender when answering this question.
- 90 percent of survey respondents were white, one percent of survey respondents indicated from multiple races, and 10 percent chose not to specify.
- The zip code survey question, which indicates where people live to help shed light on how far people taking the survey are in relation to Philpott Lake, had 61 zip codes listed. The most common zip codes included 24055 (14 percent - Bassett, VA), 24088 (11 percent - Ferrum, VA), 24102 (9 percent - Henry, VA), 24112 (9 percent - Martinsville, VA), and 24171 (6 percent - Stuart, VA).

A report of the summary results, including all respondent comments, is provided in Appendix B.

7.6 Public Review and Comment on the Draft Master Plan/PEA

Comments received during the scoping phase of project development were considered during the development of the draft master plan. When comments were feasible and consistent with the purpose of the Master Plan Update, USACE would incorporate the input and suggestions provided through the scoping comments.

Agencies, organizations, local representatives, and the general public will have the opportunity to comment on the draft version of the PEA and the Master Plan documents during a 30-day review period on the project website.

8 Summary and Recommendations

The preparation of this Master Plan Update for Philpott Lake followed the current USACE master Plan Guidance in ER 1130-2-550 and EP 1130-2-550, both dated November 15, 2015. Major requirements set forth in the guidance include:

1. The preparation of contemporary Resource Objectives (included in this Master Plan Update as Chapter 3)
2. Classification of project lands using approved classification standards (included in this Master Plan Update as Chapter 4)
3. The preparation of a Resource Plan (included in this Master Plan Update as Chapter 5), describing in broad terms how the facility sites in each of the land classifications will be managed into the foreseeable future

Factors considered in the development of the Master Plan Update were identified through public involvement, and readily available plans and studies. Through coordination with local county leadership in Henry, Patrick, and Henry Counties, it was recognized that management initiatives and actions implemented at Philpott Lake could complement efforts taken by Commonwealth, non-profit, and special interest organizations in the preservation of Philpott Lake's heritage and aesthetic beauty, while affording activities and resources to help meet the recreational needs of our communities.

Future recreational rehabilitation and development will require plans and studies to account for the carrying capacity of environmental resources (including water quality), and the demand recreational venues come under balancing day-use and overnight use. Attempts will be made to contain future improvements within the existing boundaries of existing developed areas and in a manner that is environmentally and economically sustainable.

The policies and objectives within this Master Plan Update are consistent with authorized project purposes and resource capabilities and accommodate federal, Commonwealth, and local needs. These policies and objectives represent sound stewardship of resources and will result in increased opportunities for public enjoyment of the recreation activities available at Philpott Lake today, and in the future.

8.1 Using the Master Plan

As a land management tool, this Master Plan Update provides the USACE and the public with the current classification and preferred future uses for project lands while protecting and managing the project's natural and cultural resources through sustainable environmental stewardship programs. The Land Classification 1982 to 2020 Difference Comparison map in Appendix A (see Plate 0) illustrates how changes recommended in land classifications will serve as guidance in the maintenance and future enhancements of land within the project.

The Master Plan Update objectives were individually assessed using the factors listed below as a way of determining the likely benefits and detriments in potential re-classification of USACE land and water surfaces.

- Local and regional needs
- Facility site resource capabilities and suitability
- Expressed public interests that are compatible with Philpott Lake's authorized purposes
- Environmental sustainability elements

8.2 Summary of Changes

The Master Plan Update will consist of two primary changes in land management. One change is the redefining of land classifications to meet newer USACE land management directives and management policies. The other change is a project's management shift away from a construction-based activity

guidance document to a more policy-based document. The reclassification of lands from Intensive Use to MRML would likely reduce the amount of land available for intensive recreational use, thus fostering recreational land use that is more supportive of low-density recreation and habitat preservation. A summary in Table 8-1 of the land use classification changes by facility reflects the changes in terminology classifications.

Table 8-1: Changes in Land Classification

Facility Site	Land Allocation (1982)	Land Classification (2021)
Bowens Creek Park	Recreation: Intensive Existing	High Density Recreation
Deer Island	Recreation: Intensive Existing	Multiple Resource Management Lands (MRML): Low Density Recreation
Goose Point Park	Recreation: Intensive Existing	High Density Recreation
	Wildlife Management and Forest Reserve	
Horseshoe Point Park	Recreation: Intensive Existing	High Density Recreation
Jamison Mill Park	Recreation: Intensive Existing	High Density Recreation
	Recreation: Low Density Existing	
Philpott Park	Project Operations	Project Operations
	Recreation: Intensive Existing	
	Wildlife Management and Forest Reserve	High Density Recreation
Runnett Bag Park	Recreation: Low Density Existing	MRML: Low Density Recreation
Ryan's Branch	Recreation: Intensive Existing	MRML: Low Density Recreation
		Multiple Resource Management Lands (MRML): Wildlife Management
Salthouse Branch Park	Recreation: Intensive Existing	High Density Recreation
	Recreation: Intensive Future	
Turkey Island	Recreation: Low Density Existing	Low Density Recreation

Twin Ridge Park	Recreation: Intensive Existing	High Density Recreation

A summary of the acreage changes from prior land classification to the current classification is provided in Table 8.2. The rationale that accompanied those changes is provided in Chapter 5.

Table 8-2: Land Allocation Changes by Acreages

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Previous Land Allocation (1982)	Acreage (1982)	Master Plan Update Classification (2021)	Acreage (2021)
Project Operations	160.4	Project Operations	63.0
		High Density Recreation	49.8
		MRML: Low Density Recreation	47.6
Recreation: Existing Intensive Use	866.3	High Density Recreation	571.2
		Project Operations	6.9
		Multiple Resource Management Lands (MRML): Wildlife Management	18.2
		Multiple Resource Management Lands (MRML): Low Density Recreation	251.7
		Multiple Resource Management Lands (MRML): Low Density Recreation, No Hunting*	130.5
Recreation: Future Intensive Use	750.0	High Density Recreation	8.4
		MRML: Wildlife Management	419.8
		MRML: Low Density Recreation	137.4
		MRML: Low Density Recreation, No Hunting*	184.4
Recreation: Existing Low Density Use	375.3	MRML: Low Density Recreation	311.3
		MRML: Low Density Recreation, No Hunting*	31.6
		High Density Recreation	28.2
		MRML: Wildlife Management	4.1
Recreation: Future Low Density Use	25.6	MRML: Low Density Recreation	25.6
Licensed Lands	256.2	MRML: Wildlife Management	256.2
Wildlife Management and Forest Reserve	4097.00	MRML: Wildlife Management	3571.9
		Environmentally Sensitive Area	106.3

Previous Land Allocation (1982)	Acreage (1982)	Master Plan Update Classification (2021)	Acreage (2021)
		High Density Recreation	25.7
		MRML: Low Density Recreation	321.6
		MRML: Low Density Recreation, No Hunting*	71.5
Easement Lands	243.3	Flowage Easement	243.3
Water**	2741.5	Water Surface: Designated No Wake	41.8
		Water Surface: Designated No Towing***	308.2
		Water Surface: Open Recreation	2382.7
		Water Surface: Restricted	8.8
Total Acreage	9515.6		9515.60
*Designated No Hunting does not fall under traditional classifications and is noted separately.			
**Water areas were not given secondary allocation values in the 1982 MP.			
***Designated No Towing does not fall under traditional classifications, and is noted separately			

Land classification acreages were derived using geographic information systems technology that was not available during the 1982 classification. These totals do not reflect the official land acquisition records.

8.3 Including Others in the Master Planning Process

This Master Plan Update emphasizes the need for consultation and coordination with regulatory agencies prior to implementing elements included in the Resource Use Objectives and Development Needs outlined in Chapter 5. Coordination also may occur in updating the Master Plan and obtaining additional data sources to inform the plan.

In some cases, coordination with other government agencies is required by regulation. The regulatory requirements applicable to the USACE in implementing any action are generally outlined in the OMP. In all cases, however, coordination with the appropriate groups and agencies prior to implementing an action will ensure a well-informed plan that avoids unnecessary impacts to project resources. Such an approach also streamlines the review and approval process with regulatory agencies. Table 8.3 lists the federal and local agencies that have been included in the consultation process for this Master Plan Update and, therefore, would be consulted again for a proposed project at Philpott Lake. It should be noted that similar agencies and groups exist at various other levels (federal, Commonwealth, and local) and may want to be considered in the planning process.

Further agency consultation and coordination is critical to the success of this policy-based, programmatic document and associated PEA.

Table 8-3: Federal and Local Agencies Included in Regular Consultation Process

Commonwealth Agencies
Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Local Agencies
Franklin County Parks and Recreation
County of Franklin, Virginia, County Administration
Henry County Parks and Recreation

County of Henry, Virginia, County Administration
Martinsville-Henry County Tourism
County of Patrick, Virginia, County Administration
Dan River Association

8.4 Master Plan Summary of Problems and Recommendations

This Master Plan Update has reviewed the Philpott Lake project and has identified several problems that need to be resolved in the future. A summary of these problems, with recommendations, is listed below:

Table 8-4: Summary and Recommendations

Problem	Recommendation
The steep slopes, quality vegetation, and clear water are all aesthetic qualities that are susceptible to the adverse effects of development. (See Chapter 2).	The aesthetics of the area must be maintained and enhanced for both future development and existing development.
Visitation projections indicate that recreation use at Philpott Lake is going to continue increasing even though the carrying capacity of the project has been reached. There must be a balance between the objectives of providing adequate recreation and preserving the resource. (See Chapters 4 and 6).	Provide measures that can increase the project's carrying capacity while protecting the resource. Recreation areas must be closed when they have reached their capacity.
Operation and maintenance activities may be limited by budgetary constraints (See Chapter 3).	Consolidation of recreation facilities will help to reduce O&M costs. The closing of areas that are experiencing low visitation will also help to reduce O&M costs.
Several recreation areas are experiencing conflicts between day use and camping facilities. (See Chapter 3).	Facilities should be separated by relocating a particular use from one area to another which has similar facilities, resulting in each area dedicated to either day use or camping.

8.5 Conclusion

This Master Plan Update should serve as a tool for both the USACE Resource Manager and the Wilmington District Office. It will provide guidelines for the development and operation of the project. However, it should also be noted that conditions are always changing, which may affect the priorities set forth in this plan. This Master Plan Update is intended to be flexible and may change in response to changing conditions at Philpott Lake. Any planned site-specific projects or enhancements should be consistent with the goals and objectives set forth in this Master Plan Update.

Appendix A Figures

Appendix B Scoping and Survey Summary

Appendix C List of Stakeholder Agencies

Appendix D Pertinent Data

Appendix E U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Planning Process

Appendix F Historic Maps of Philpott Lake

Appendix G Programmatic Environmental Assessment

moffatt & nichol