

## APPENDIX F– Public and Stakeholder Comments

Table F.1 Public Comments from 21 August 2019 Public Scoping Meeting

Comment	USACE Response
<p><b>Comments from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</b></p>	
<p>After being in the field with you for the wildlife habitat assessments, we were able to find some quality areas that need to be classified as Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA), and we came across areas that would be suitable as Multiple Resource Management classification (low density recreation, wildlife management, vegetation management, and future/inactive recreation). TPWD recommends ESA classification for native prairies, stream and riparian corridors, scenic bluffs, and bottomland forests/wetlands, as USACE indicated in the public meeting presentation. TPWD also supports addressing invasive species, restoring degraded prairies, addressing encroachments &amp; trespass, improving recreational infrastructure and opportunity as appropriate to the meet public demand without exceeding carrying capacity of the property and its resources, while balancing the stewardship of the natural resources. The upcoming prairie habitat assessments will provide additional information to guide selection of revised classifications specific to prairie ESAs and prairie restoration areas. TPWD encourages conservation of quality native grasslands and restoration of degraded grasslands to provide diverse floral resources for pollinators and habitat for grassland wildlife.</p>	<p>Concur. Areas that received a high score in the WHAP including several grasslands, riparian corridors, scenic bluffs, wetlands, and both upland and bottomland forests have been changed to an ESA classification. Other areas were classified as Multiple Resource Management, either Wildlife Management or Vegetative Management, to reflect management and stewardship of natural resources. The prairie assessment also helped differentiate the quality of prairies and informed in the decision to designate a prairie as an ESA or Vegetative Management.</p>
<p>Please refer to the TPWD WHAB website for the recently updated rare, threatened, and endangered species lists (RTEST) for the project area at <a href="https://tpwd.texas.gov/gis/rtest/">https://tpwd.texas.gov/gis/rtest/</a>. With recent updates, you will see additional species of greatest conservation need within RTEST that</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

Comment	USACE Response
align more closely with the Texas Conservation Action Plan.	
Please continue to coordinate the Master Plan Revision and Environmental Assessment with the TPWD WHAB program through my email as well as our project review repository: whab@tpwd.texas.gov. Feel free to share preliminary land use classifications with me.	Noted.
<b>Comments from City of Benbrook</b>	
[Comments from the City of Benbrook in their entirety are provided in Figure F.1]	These requests are outside the scope of the Master Plan. Lease holders should contact the USACE Lake Office for specific requests to their lease area.
[After further communication to clarify the purpose of the Master Plan, The City of Benbrook would like to ensure that their lease area remains High Density Recreation, and possibly expand their lease area to additional HDR with plans to make additional improvements, possibly including a comprehensive development/resort.]	Noted. Lease areas including those conducive for a comprehensive development/resort will remain HDR. Please contact the Lake Office for specific requests to expand/increase the lease area, and for requests to make improvements to existing lease areas.
<b>Comments from the Public</b>	
Open roads around lake for free public access.	Non-Concur, USACE does not have the resources to maintain free public access. USACE policy requires fees to be charged in parks where certain facilities are provided.
Keep the fees in place, and reinstate the fees at Rock Creek to pay for improvements.	Concur.
I think it would be awesome if there was a fly over bridge from the intersection of 377 & 2871 over the lake & arrives at Southwest Christian School. That way it would unclog a lot of the traffic that backs up along 377 near the YMCA.	TXDOT is responsible for developing major highways, while cities develop secondary roads and arterials. USACE is willing to work with government organizations to further develop road and highway networks. USACE policy regarding roads on USACE property: new roads must be major arterials.

Comment	USACE Response
Keep the park open year-round (except when closure is needed for flooding)	Some parks are open year-round. Low demand dictates that some parks are not economical to keep open during off seasons.
Expand the dates that Bear Creek Campground is open. Closing Bear Creek on October 1 is too early in the season. Some of the best weather for camping occurs in October and November. If it is necessary to close Bear Creek during the winter months, I suggest closing no earlier than December 15 and reopening March 1 so that the park would be open for Spring Break weeks.	Our campground seasons are always under review, but our current visitation demand doesn't justify keeping it open during extended seasons.
Consider adding an aircraft training center located at the south of the field to enable instruction, course development and other interaction between the public and the organization.	Current USACE policy relies on the lessee to provide all facilities and O&M associated with the lease.
The Thunderbird Club would like assistance in extending the runway to improve support of turbine aircraft operations.	Current USACE policy relies on the lessee to provide all facilities and O&M associated with the lease.
The Thunderbird Club would like assistance in clearing trees that have now encroached in the take-off and landing zones thus present hazards to aircraft operations.	Current USACE policy relies on the lessee to provide all facilities and O&M associated with the lease.
No alcoholic beverage - strictly enforced - would solve most of the behavior problems	USACE relies on local municipalities to make these decision and partners with those municipalities for enforcement.
The west end of Alta Mesa Blvd and it's turn into Lakeside Dr. all the way to Winscott Rd. are in desperate need of widening and improvement. It is likely this will/would be a multi-year or multi-decade project in connection with the City of Fort Worth and possibly the City of Benbrook. Having lived in Fort Worth all my life, and southwest Fort Worth most of my life, I travel that road frequently. You are no doubt very aware of this need. If there is a more appropriate/additional place for my comments,	This is an existing road, and USACE will work with municipalities on a case by case basis; these roads are part of Fort Worth.

Comment	USACE Response
<p>please share that information and I will be happy to further address the issue.</p>	
<p>Consider adding more bird watching amenities such as boardwalks, bird blinds, feeding features, and similar facilities. Consider working with the Audubon Society for member activities. Many unique birds are located at Benbrook Lake, including bobwhite quail near the lake office. With shrinking habitats, projects like Benbrook Lake are increasingly important to many birds and to bird watching activities/birding.</p>	<p>USACE currently partner with several organizations who maintain and monitor bird boxes and are open to more partnerships with those and other organizations. USACE has 85 bluebird boxes around the lake. Some prime birding areas are very flood prone which limits the types of facilities which can be built and maintained.</p>
<p>Improve boat ramps and launch areas for times when the lake level is low by lengthening existing boat ramps and building new ones. An additional boat ramp near the old marina or Saint Francis Village would be nice. The public ramps near Benbrook Marina are not steep enough into the water - difficult to launch because the water is not deep enough.</p>	<p>Concur; many boat ramps are not useable when the water level is low. Fluctuating water levels are not a topic governed by the Master Plan, and these concerns have been forwarded to those the appropriate individuals affecting water levels and water supply contracts.</p>
<p>It would be nice if the Benbrook Marina would do some basic maintenance to their boat ramp and launch areas. Drivers literally risk breaking an axel to launch there. Sometimes the boat ramp at the marina is the only one available, highlighting the importance for improving roads here.</p>	<p>Concur; but current USACE policy relies on the lessee to provide all facilities and O&amp;M associated with the lease.</p>
<p>Improve cycling opportunities and trails and include cycling access in the Master Plan. A separate concrete road bike trail similar to Trinity Trail would be much safer than on the two-lane black-top park road on the west side of the lake.</p>	<p>USACE would welcome the opportunity to partner with cycling organizations to make additional cycling improvements.</p>
<p>Allow walkers and bicyclists to use roads and trails when parks are closed due to high water. When the lake levels are above conservation pool and force the closure of the picnic areas along the lake, there needs to be continued access to the main park road thru Dutch Branch Park and Holiday to walkers and cyclist. This is one of the safest roads for</p>	<p>USACE keeps parks closed for as short time as possible, but they are closed for emergency maintenance or other immediate safety reasons.</p>

Comment	USACE Response
cyclist to ride, and to have it shut down for weeks or months while the lake level is receding is hazardous to their health as they are forced to ride on roads with heavy auto traffic.	
Allow official bicycle access to the “Nice Hill” by-pass in Holiday Park. That hill can be very difficult for novice or weaker cyclist, having the option to bypass the hill opens up a few more miles of safe road. The park road is one of the safest roads for cyclist to ride in all of Tarrant County.	That road in question is a separate campground for paid campground use. USACE attempts to separate user groups for visitors' safety and recreational satisfaction.
It would be great if there were some boat docks to park boats around the picnic areas.	There are four courtesy loading docks, but they are not for boat parking, and picnic areas are not suitable for boat parking or docks.
Improve the drainage of Dutch Branch Creek at the low water crossing on Lake Shore Dr. near Stevens Drive. The culverts under this road get clogged up on a regular basis. This causes water to flow over the surface of the road instead of underneath. Which in turn, makes it hazardous for cyclist to cross.	This area is leased by the city of Benbrook. The city closes the road when the water level causes unsafe conditions. Additional improvements would be the responsibility of the lessee.
Improve education opportunities about the history, biological diversity, ecological functions and importance of the native prairie.	Concur. USACE is looking for additional partnership opportunities to improve public education and outreach opportunities.
Have available bulletin boards with illustration of the birds, mammals, lizards people are likely to see around this area.	Concur. USACE is looking for additional partnership opportunities to improve public education and outreach opportunities.
Manage land to protect threatened and endangered species.	USACE policy is to manage for threatened and endangered species when present. Benbrook Lake has no listed T&E species, but sensitive habitat is included in environmentally sensitive areas.
Keep out all horses and no longer provide equestrian trails. We don't want invasive plants.	USACE manages for multiple types of recreation. The trails at Benbrook Lake used by equestrians is a multiuse trail to include pedestrians

Comment	USACE Response
	and horses. USACE does manage for invasive species and welcomes partnerships with other organizations to help manage invasive plants.
Hire park rangers who are familiar with horseback riding. The ranger who is in charge of equestrian trails should be familiar with horseback riding, which [Ranger Name] is NOT!!	Trail management is done in partnership with other organizations and is ongoing. USACE welcomes partnerships with other organizations to help manage and maintain equestrian recreation.
We need more camping areas for the equestrian riders besides Holiday Park which only has room for (two) trailers.	USACE currently has one campsite with two paddocks, however demand and use for that campsite remains low.
Also, we need a better designated area for the horses along Holiday Park for the horses and riders to picnic. The current one has no shade what so ever except for (1) covered picnic table. Rocky Creek Park has a camping area that would be perfect for equestrian camping.	USACE welcomes partnerships with other organizations to make improvements to the camping and picnic areas.
<p>The Clearfork river has been gradually changing its course, and it is effecting properties. We are worried about the continual erosion to our property, and would like to know how we can best fix this major issue.</p> <p>The Clearfork river has been changing shape over time, and it has been eroding properties that are on the outside of the curves. There are several properties that have this problem, and loss of soil is substantial. The erosion has caused land to sag, support structures to be damaged and structures in backyards (pools, courts) to be displaced.</p> <p>This spring we had a lot of rain and the river was high and flowed fast. Benbrook lake also empties excess water into the river as well. A future water treatment plant will empty more water into Mary's Creek, which joins the Clearfork not to far from our property. This will cause more water to flow through the Clearfork river as well, causing more erosion.</p>	Noted. Erosion and the changing river channel are not topics covered by the Master Plan, and these concerns have been forwarded to those the appropriate individuals affecting operations.

Comment	USACE Response
What can we do? How can you help us?	
Have TPWD conduct a survey on the fish population. It may need restocking.	TPWD frequently conducts surveys and restocking, and USACE works with TPWD to continue fish management at Benbrook Lake.
I'd love to see more fishing opportunities from the banks of the lake, i.e. floating docks or crappie houses. Places where families without boats can take kids to actually have a chance to catch fish from shore. Keep Benbrook lake accessible to the public, secure the fishing and hunting access for future generations and develop the land so that wildlife flourishes.	Due to the shallow shoreline in park areas, much of Benbrook Lake is not conducive to floating docks or fishing houses.
I encourage that more green spaces be used to help with flood control off of the newly developed spaces.	Concur; we encourage developers to practice best management practices (BMP) to help reduce runoff and storm water management.
Professional gate attendants - our current gate attendants are rude, profane, and unprofessional.	USACE requires that gate attendants abide by a code of conduct and request feedback from users on our gate attendants.
Manage all prairie and wildland habitat for ecological integrity, optimal grassland nesting bird habitat, and whole prairie ecosystem functionality.	USACE policy is to manage for threatened and endangered species when present. Benbrook Lake has no listed T&E species, but sensitive habitat is included in environmentally sensitive areas.
Protect old [historic] structures such as the one located to the west of West Creek Circle.	Concur.
Ban clay pigeon shooting and the use of all lead bullets which can lead to lead poisoning of land, water, and wildlife.	Per Title 36 Chapter 3 Part 327 Code of Federal Regulation, firearm use is only for permitted hunting. Target practice of any kind is not allowed, and lead ammunition is governed and enforced by TPWD.
Keep existing hunting grounds or add more land to hunting grounds.	Concur.
Keep hunting permits the same or increase hunting slots for permit lottery.	Hunting permits are based on a variety of factors including hunter

Comment	USACE Response
	safety, adjacent landowners, size of hunting areas, available space, user enjoyment, and balancing other recreational uses. Other hunting opportunities are available at nearby USACE lakes, and hunters are encouraged to check with each lake for policies, regulations, and hunting availability.
Telephone connection to provide internet, communications and to facilitate security.	Current infrastructure does not support improved communication networks.
Abandon new aquatic vegetation work ... recent TPWD attempts have failed due to water fluctuations	Need additional information. USACE works with TPWD on both native vegetation and controlling invasive species.
Classify native, old-growth prairie habitat as Environmentally Sensitive Areas.	Concur.
Landscaped areas should include native, low-water plants.	Concur.
Explore additional concessionaires/subleases.	USACE is open to new concessionaires and subleases.
Artificial lighting should follow established best practices for reducing light pollution. I realize there is little hope of reducing light pollution near the metroplex, but our public parks should not contribute to the light pollution problem. <a href="https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nightskies/practices.htm">https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nightskies/practices.htm</a>	Concur. As USACE makes improvements, they will replace existing lights with those that reduce glare and light pollution.
Maintenance and signage for unpaved trails - currently these trails are poorly maintained - needs regular mowing, grading, and signage. I would prefer to volunteer to help maintain.	Concur. USACE is improving signage and trails and welcome partner organizations and volunteers. Volunteers are encouraged to contact the Lake Office for volunteer opportunities.
Suggestion: the roads need to be repaired. Replace and update barriers to keep traffic off of grass.	Many USACE roads have ongoing repair needs. Existing barriers are operational, and traffic is not permitted on grass except in Mustang Park.



Comment	USACE Response
<p>You would see a huge boost in income, which pays for maintenance, if you would be interested in improving the parks. This is a family area and families would flock to the parks if the amenities were updated.</p>	<p>Park fees go to the Department of the Treasury and do not directly fund park budgets. USACE welcomes working with other organizations to make additional park improvements and opportunities.</p>
<p>Close under-utilized parks in order to make improvements to the more popular parks.</p>	<p>USACE will continue to monitor demand at all parks and will close or open parks due to seasonal fluctuations and other changes in demand.</p>
<p>Consider dredging out the marina to improve access during low water levels or consider other changes to improve access during low water. A nice marina to rent a boat slip would be beneficial as well as a smooth driving area down to the ramp.</p>	<p>Current USACE policy relies on the lessee to provide all facilities and O&amp;M associated with the lease.</p>
<p>Traveling RV'ers would also "find" the parks if you simply market the parks with this updated information in a typical browser search, or Facebook page.</p>	<p>USACE lake website are currently undergoing updates. The Fort Worth District has a Facebook page at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/usacefortworth/">https://www.facebook.com/usacefortworth/</a>. Both the lake websites and Facebook page can be found via internet search engines.</p>
<p>Open access of existing equestrian trails to mountain bikes and dirt bikes. There are no mountain bike trails in the southwest part of Fort Worth. The trails around Benbrook Lake are awesome and should be made available everyone. This could be similar to the one at Cedar Hill State Park on Joe Pool Lake.</p>	<p>For safety, USACE separates the uses of biking and horses. Mountain bike lakes are available at other regional lakes including Joe Pool, Grapevine, and Ray Roberts Lakes.</p>
<p>Pearl Ranch Road is in "severe decay" and in need of maintenance and resurfacing. It is a danger for both cars and cyclists who use the road to enter the park as well as communities along the road. There have been several blowouts and near accidents due to potholes and crumbling shoulders, and it's only a matter of time before it results in a severe accident. Repairs will also improve access to the park.</p>	<p>USACE is aware of the road condition and is working with Tarrant County on maintenance and repairs.</p>

Comment	USACE Response
Include more pet-friendly designated areas.	Pets are allowed at all areas except swim beaches.
No plastic allowed around the lake.	Need additional information.
Local native pollinators are critical to the environment, and the Corps should ensure landscaping is beneficial to pollinators as well as preserve existing pollinator habitat.	Concur.
Prevent prairie degradation by no longer providing equestrian trails, managing for invasive species, and preventing habitat fragmentation.	Equestrian use is limited to specific multi-use trails. USACE strives to protect and preserve natural resource while providing diverse recreational opportunities.
Preserve as much as possible: wildlife, habitat, prairie, trees, and green space. Consider closing off some lesser-used area to increase habitat for wildlife.	USACE strives to protect and preserve natural resource while providing diverse recreational opportunities.
Please do not sell or lease land to any private party.	There is currently no plan to sell or lease additional land to any private entity.
Please consider building into the plan a primary focus on families and kids. Technology is robbing children of the opportunity to explore and enjoy the outdoors. This WILL require being open to new ideas beyond camping sites and swing sets.	Recreational opportunities at the lake provide many opportunities to explore and enjoy the outdoors. USACE welcomes the chance to work with other organizations to enhance other outdoor education opportunities.
Consider the reintroduction of Texas horned lizards and bison.	The Fort Worth Zoo has a horned lizard breeding program and looked at Benbrook Lake as a potential release site. USACE would welcome the opportunity for the Fort Worth Zoo or other organization to reintroduce horned lizards. Reintroducing bison would require a significant management program to ensure safety of recreational users as well as bison. Although USACE is not opposed to reintroducing bison, an organization wanting to do so on USACE property would need to invest into upgrades required to

Comment	USACE Response
	contain the bison as well as maintaining the upgrades and monitoring the bison herd.
Campground reservations - this is a great place for us to take the kids fishing and camping. I know in the past, there have been some mismanagement issues with this area - on a few occasions, we've been told there was a "mix-up" with the reservations we made on recreation.gov and they would assign us a different spot.	Recreation.gov is constantly undergoing maintenance and updates to improve their reservation system.
Restore degraded habitat, primarily prairie habitat. And adopt and implement a management plan that will protect this prairie in its native state, for use by native grassland birds, butterflies and other wildlife, and by people who wish to see and imagine the prairie as it once was.	USACE is aware of the importance of prairie habitat and has conducted habitat assessments in many of the prairie locations. These grasslands have been considered when creating the revised Land Classifications of the Master Plan.
Upgrade porta potty to permanent restroom facility near the Fort Worth Thunderbirds flying field.	Current USACE policy relies on the lessee to provide all facilities and O&M associated with the lease.
Update/renovate restroom facilities and increase number of permanent restroom facilities.	USACE is constantly making repairs and improvements as budget allows.
Old Rock Creek marina area opened up for day use - but just the old marina area. Despite some nice primitive type campsites up the road from there, I understand and appreciate keeping that area/road that goes up behind the retirement village closed for safety/security purposes. We, as well as many of the residents of the retirement village use that road for walking - and the horse trails go through there - none of us want to deal with dodging automobile traffic.	Currently that area is considered unsafe for vehicle traffic. Plans are underway to reopen the park when it is deemed safe.
Since the park was built, RVs have become longer and in need of both 30 and 50 amp service. 50 amp is especially important since we have such high summer temperatures. Many long-distance travelers also have longer RVs. Improve infrastructure to handle more large RVs, add new loops or modify existing	USACE is constantly making repairs and improvements as budget allows.

Comment	USACE Response
<p>loops, trim trees to fit larger rigs, make it possible to back into each pad, add loops with RV pull-throughs, add loops to service both RVs and tents. Also increase the number of RV spots. Provision for RV parking for overnight stays. This is in huge demand and the CoE is missing out on income.</p>	
<p>Clean up shoreline as small trees/bushes are taking over the west side - very dangerous for guests. Weed eater with cutting blade could easily solve this.</p>	<p>USACE maintains a natural shoreline except in specific recreation areas where safety is a concern.</p>
<p>Personally, I don't want to see any lakefront development at all - commercial or homes with docks especially.</p>	<p>Concur.</p>
<p>Benbrook needs free, family-friendly amenities like a Splash Pad. If this is not in line with what the Corps is envisioning. I think improving the beach access to make something similar to the public beach at Eagle Mountain Lake or Granbury would also be nice!</p>	<p>Benbrook Lake does offer many free, family-friendly amenities. However, a splash pad is not consistent with recreational development policy unless it is part of a larger comprehensive resort.</p>
<p>Also, please give maximum authority to local municipal governments that you intersect with. They have a pulse on their community that you do not. Moreover, it's their land. Please be willing to distribute power to the lowest level possible. Please be open to new ideas and projects.</p>	<p>USACE works with local municipalities to provide recreation opportunities at Benbrook Lake. The cities of Fort Worth and Benbrook operate on a lease agreement and USACE retains ownership of all fee lands.</p>
<p>Create a state or national park to provide a refuge for wildlife including monarch butterflies, grazing animals, and protected habitat.</p>	<p>USACE is willing to work with TPWD to designate a state park at Benbrook Lake. USACE also maintains habitat for wildlife and would welcome the opportunity to work with other organizations to make improvements.</p>
<p>Conduct regular annual maintenance in existing swimming designated areas/beaches (such as sand) and include additional swimming areas. Also include water-based recreation equipment in swimming areas.</p>	<p>USACE refreshes the swim beaches with pea gravel every year. They also provide life jackets in swimming areas.</p>

Comment	USACE Response
<p>The Fort Worth Thunderbirds enjoy working with the Corps and field would like to continue operations, and also take opportunities to make further improvements to their facilities: restrooms, landing strip improvements, co-located lodging amenities (cabins, camp sites, RV sites, etc.), water-based (fly-float) operations, and include aviation history/education.</p>	<p>Current USACE policy relies on the lessee to provide all facilities and O&amp;M associated with the lease.</p>
<p>I would like more trails for walking and bikes; separated paths would be better. Resurface existing roads and trails for better access.</p>	<p>USACE is constantly making repairs and improvements as budget allows. USACE also welcomes the opportunity to work with other organizations to make other trail and path upgrades and improvements.</p>
<p>Also, expanded trails (concrete or good DG) that loop around the whole lake would be great.</p>	<p>Although a trail or path around the entire lake would expand recreational opportunities for the community, there would be many obstacles to connecting separate existing trails. Many areas have narrow shoreline or are not conducive to a trail without expanding trails onto neighboring private property. Many wetlands and riparian corridors are also without trails or do not connect trails on either side of a river or creek, which would require bridges and other trail upgrades. However, USACE does welcome the opportunity to work with organizations to make trail and path upgrades and improvements.</p>
<p>My biggest suggestion is to maintain the trail through the prairie just south of Winscott. This is one of the most beautiful spots in Ftw that I would hate to see anything happen to this natural beauty.</p>	<p>Concur. This prairie will be designated as an Environmentally Sensitive Area which limits the permissible activities. Paved trails normally would not be permitted, but existing paved trails would be grandfathered. This area is leased by the City of Fort Worth, who is managing it as a trail through a wild prairie. Fort Worth will be given the</p>

Comment	USACE Response
	opportunity to comment on the proposed change from High Density Recreation to Environmentally Sensitive Area.
<p>The bike trail loop toward the south through Day Use Area #2 as depicted in the 1972 Plan Plate 3.2 does not exist - instead, bicyclists going to or coming from the Art Cowsen Trailhead must traverse Memorial Oak between that trailhead and the start of the bike trail across the prairie along Winscott Road. Due to Memorial Oak being narrow and somewhat twisty, the situation seems somewhat hazardous between cars and bicycles/walkers/runners. A dedicated bike/running/walking path basically paralleling Memorial Oak is suggested, perhaps using the unused soap box derby plot of land.</p>	<p>That area is leased to the City of Fort Worth, and any improvements to that area would need to be included in Fort Worth's development plan.</p>
<p>Despite the wonderful efforts of the volunteer trash crew, the cove and adjacent shoreline near the boat ramp at Longhorn Park are overrun with trash. Perhaps installing additional trash receptacles would help. But a more active approach is also suggested, that is, could this area be included as a cleanup location for TRWD annual Trinity Trash Bash? This could help provide a heavy-lift boost to the current volunteer trash pickup program. Also be more proactive moving trash receptacles before flood events (2019 was better than 2015).</p>	<p>USACE appreciates the efforts by staff and volunteers to remove trash and also provides trash receptacles in many convenient locations around the lake. USACE would welcome the opportunity to partner with other volunteer groups to host a "Trash Bash" or another volunteer trash pickup program.</p>
<p>Improve fluctuating water level. Water level drops too quickly to allow recreational water use for much of the recreational boating season.</p>	<p>Noted. Fluctuating water levels are not a topic affected by the Master Plan, and these concerns have been forwarded to those the appropriate individuals affecting water levels and water supply contracts.</p>
<p>Need more buoys marking underwater hazards.</p>	<p>USACE typically does not mark underwater hazards.</p>
<p>Is there within or beyond the Benbrook Lake Master Plan to increase water supply capacity by either expanding the lake or building</p>	<p>Noted. Fluctuating water levels are not a topic affected by the Master Plan, and these concerns have been</p>

Comment	USACE Response
<p>another reservoir? During the last drought cycle, lake levels dropped to extreme (record?) lows for a long while. It's only a matter of time before we experience another such occurrence.</p>	<p>forwarded to those the appropriate individuals affecting water levels and water supply contracts.</p>
<p>Website page - <a href="http://www.swf-wc.usace.army.mil/benbrook/index.asp">http://www.swf-wc.usace.army.mil/benbrook/index.asp</a> - we use this page daily for lake elevation data. My gripe is the "Facility Closure Report" portion of this page is always behind - just needs to be updated promptly.</p>	<p>Changes are noted on the website as they occur.</p>
<p>I'd also love to see some additional habitat management specifically to encourage deer and Turkey populations.</p>	<p>USACE manages under a stewardship concept and do not manage for a specific species unless they are a species of concern.</p>

DRAFT

## Figure F.1 Comments from the City of Benbrook

September 17, 2019



Mr. Joshua Quiring  
Project Manager  
Benbrook Lake  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Regional Planning and Environmental Center  
Fort Worth District  
P. O. Box 17300  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300

Dear Mr. Quiring:

Below please find the City of Benbrook's comments to the Benbrook Lake Master Plan update:

### Policy or Operational Recommendations

- Stabilize lake level.
- Commission new Environmental Assessment.
- Establish plan to improve Benbrook Marina operations – dredging, increase pool level, relocate to near Baja Beach, etc.
- Grant ROW/Easement for widening of Benbrook Boulevard from Winscott Road south toward Whitestone Golf Course.
- Increase number of mowing occurrences on Fort Worth and COE controlled property along Winscott Road to improve overall appearance and reduce fire hazards.
- Classify entire park as a "resort".
- Evaluate drainage throughout park and establish corrective action plan.
- Allow free pedestrian and bicycle access to Holiday Park.
- Authorize City to review and approve all Special Events (within COE accepted guidelines) held at Dutch Branch Park.
- Consider utilizing the land surrounding the lake to meet the additional demands of our citizenry. Develop play fountains, small splash pads, dog parks, small amphitheaters, areas for food trucks, and other similar amenities that would draw families with children.
- Consider allowing additional vendors the opportunity to lease equipment like kayaks, canoes, and jet skis.
- Provide the City of Benbrook greater access and flexibility to utilize the lease areas based on citizen interests.

### Physical/Operational Improvements to Dutch Branch Park

- Establish an R.V. resort to include restaurant and water access, perhaps in the Baja Beach area.
- Establish additional soccer fields – with parking.
- Increase pasture land for Benbrook Stables, but not increase the number of horses.
- Connect Creekside Drive to Lake Shore.

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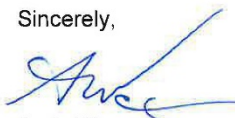
- Eliminate low water crossing by constructing a bridge or a bridge-class culvert crossing.
- Establish trailhead and commercial pad site at SE Corner of Winscott Road at Benbrook Boulevard for recreational support businesses (i.e. bike shop, sporting outfitter, snack shop, etc.).
- Allow expansion of YMCA building and operations (possibly to include an outdoor splash pad).
- Add pedestrian tunnel under Benbrook Boulevard at Overcrest Drive with sidewalk connecting to trails throughout the park.
- Eliminate Par 3 building and move its operations to driving range building. Driving range building may need expansion.
- Add new signs to match City Hall design:
  - Park entrance sign at Cary Conklin Drive.
  - YMCA.
  - Driving Range.
  - Wayfinding sign for Par 3 and Baja Beach at Winscott Road at Beach Road and intersection/corner improvements.
  - New Benbrook Marina and Power Play sign at Benbrook Boulevard at Stevens Drive.
- Revise the horse trail map by Pavilions 1 and 2.
- Add bird watching stations in the park and at Baja Beach.
- Add nature trail from Dutch Branch Park to lake to better tie park to the lake.
- Change out park equipment as needed (replace Castle Park and Robot Park equipment and update baseball fields as needed) as part of a new Master Park Plan.
- Revive the swimming and beach areas to include water-based play equipment (e.g. slides, balloon pads, etc.).
- Consider utilizing the land surrounding the lake to meet the additional demands of our citizenry. Develop play fountains, small splash pads, dog parks, small amphitheaters, areas for food trucks, and other similar amenities.
- Add a food truck court, where vendors are on a rotating basis.

#### Other Recommendations

- Improve connectivity between Tiger Trail and Lakeview Drive. Create a nice entrance to the south end of the lake.
- Regrade areas north of Winscott Road to improve drainage of dead-end streets.
- Evaluate drainage ditch from Cozby West to south of Winscott Road. City streets will be impacted by erosion over time.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Andy Wayman  
City Manager

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## Figure F.2 Comments from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

September 25, 2019

After being in the field with you for the wildlife habitat assessments, we were able to find some quality areas that need to be classified as Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA), and we came across areas that would be suitable as Multiple Resource Management classification (low density recreation, wildlife management, vegetation management, and future/inactive recreation). TPWD recommends ESA classification for native prairies, stream and riparian corridors, scenic bluffs, and bottomland forests/wetlands, as USACE indicated in the public meeting presentation. TPWD also supports addressing invasive species, restoring degraded prairies, addressing encroachments & trespass, improving recreational infrastructure and opportunity as appropriate to the meet public demand without exceeding carrying capacity of the property and its resources, while balancing the stewardship of the natural resources. The upcoming prairie habitat assessments will provide additional information to guide selection of revised classifications specific to prairie ESAs and prairie restoration areas. TPWD encourages conservation of quality native grasslands and restoration of degraded grasslands to provide diverse floral resources for pollinators and habitat for grassland wildlife.

Please refer to the TPWD WHAB website for the recently updated rare, threatened, and endangered species lists (RTEST) for the project area at <https://tpwd.texas.gov/gis/rtest/>. With recent updates, you will see additional species of greatest conservation need within RTEST that align more closely with the Texas Conservation Action Plan.

Please continue to coordinate the Master Plan Revision and Environmental Assessment with the TPWD WHAB program through my email as well as our project review repository: [whab@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:whab@tpwd.texas.gov). Feel free to share preliminary land use classifications with me.

Sincerely,

Karen Hardin  
Natural Resource Specialist  
Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, TX 78744