

**APPENDIX B – NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)
DOCUMENTATION**

Final

Environmental Assessment for the Benbrook Lake 2021 Master Plan

Trinity River Basin, Clear Fork Trinity River
Tarrant County, Texas



August 2021



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
Fort Worth District

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**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE
BENBROOK LAKE 2021 MASTER PLAN
TRINITY RIVER BASIN
TARRANT COUNTY, TX**

Engineering Regulation (ER) 1130-2-550 Change 07, dated January 2013 and Engineering Pamphlet (EP) 1130-2-550 Change 05, dated 30 January 2013, require Master Plans for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water resources development projects having a federally owned land base. The revision of the 1972 Benbrook Lake Master Plan was conducted pursuant to this ER and EP, and is necessary to bring it up to date to reflect current ecological, socio-demographic, and outdoor recreation trends that are affecting the lake, as well as those anticipated to occur within the planning period of 2020 to 2045.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, including guidelines in 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 230, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District (USACE) has conducted an environmental analysis on the Benbrook Lake 2021 Master Plan. The Benbrook Lake 2021 Master Plan addresses the need for an updated comprehensive land management document for Benbrook Lake in Tarrant County, Texas. The final recommendation is contained in the Benbrook Lake 2021 Master Plan.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Benbrook Lake 2021 Master Plan evaluated an alternative that would revise the 1972 Benbrook Lake Master Plan to meet current policy.

The revision of the *1972 Benbrook Lake Master Plan* (hereafter Plan or Master Plan) is a framework built collaboratively to serve as a guide toward appropriate stewardship of USACE administered resources at Benbrook Lake over the next 25 years.

In addition to a “no action” plan, one alternative that fully meets the project purpose was evaluated (recommended plan). Section 2.0 of the Benbrook Lake 2021 Master Plan EA discusses the alternative formulation and selection as well the summary of the new goals and objectives. Section 8, Tables 8-1, 8-2, and 8-3 summarizes the changes to the land classifications. The recommended plan includes coordination with the public, updates to comply with the USACE regulations and guidance, and reflects changes in land management and land uses that have occurred since 1972. Land classifications were refined to meet authorized project purposes and current resource objectives that address a mix of natural resources and recreation management objectives that are compatible with regional goals, recognize outdoor recreation trends, and are responsive to public comments.

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Recommended Plan

Resource	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Air quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic resources/wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Invasive species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fish and wildlife habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Threatened/Endangered species/critical habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic properties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other cultural resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous, toxic & radioactive waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hydrology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Land use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Socio-economics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects have been analyzed and incorporated into the recommended plan. The recommended plan will not entail any ground-disturbing activities. Future ground-disturbing activities on USACE property will be subject to all necessary environmental evaluations and compliance regulations.

No compensatory mitigation is required as part of the recommended plan.

Public review of the Master Plan, Environmental Assessment, and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was completed on April 5, 2021. All comments submitted during the public review period were responded to in the Benbrook Lake 2021 Master Plan and Environmental Assessment.


Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that the recommended plan will have no effect on federally listed species or their designated critical habitat.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that the recommended plan will have no effect on historic properties.

All applicable environmental laws were considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials has been completed.

All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on the report, the reviews by other Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the recommended plan will not cause significant adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment, therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

20210907
Date



Jonathan S. Stover, P.E., PMP
Colonel, EN
Commanding

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ORGANIZATION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of the 2021 Benbrook Lake Master Plan revision. This EA will facilitate the decision process regarding the Proposed Action and alternatives.

- SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION* of the Proposed Action summarizes the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, provides relevant background information, and describes the scope of the EA.
- SECTION 2 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES* examines alternatives for implementing the Proposed Action and describes the recommended alternative.
- SECTION 3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT* describes the existing environmental and socioeconomic setting.
- ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES* identifies the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects of implementing the Proposed Action and alternatives.
- MITIGATION* summarizes mitigation actions required to enable a Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed Action.
- SECTION 4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS* describes the impact on the environment that may result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions.
- SECTION 5 COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS* provides a listing of environmental protection statutes and other environmental requirements.
- SECTION 6 IRRETRIEVABLE AND IRREVERSIBLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES* identifies any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources that would be involved in the Proposed Action should it be implemented.
- SECTION 7 PUBLIC AND AGENCY COORDINATION* provides a listing of individuals and agencies consulted during preparation of the EA.
- SECTION 8 REFERENCES* provides bibliographical information for cited sources.
- SECTION 9 ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS*

SECTION 10 *LIST OF PREPARERS* identifies persons who prepared the document and their areas of expertise.

ATTACHMENT A: National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Coordination and Scoping

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

2021 Master Plan

Benbrook Lake Tarrant County, Texas

SECTION 1:INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to evaluate the proposed Benbrook Lake 2021 Master Plan (MP). The Master Plan is a programmatic document that is subject to evaluation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, (Public Law [PL] 91-190). This EA is an assessment of potential impacts that could result with the implementation of either the No Action or Proposed Action and has been prepared in accordance with 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 230 and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), as reflected in the USACE Engineering Regulation, ER 200-2-2.

The MP is a strategic land use management plan that provides direction to the orderly development, administration, maintenance, preservation, enhancement, and management of all natural, cultural, and recreational resources of a USACE water resource project, which includes all government-owned lands in and around a reservoir. It is a vital tool for responsible stewardship and sustainability of the project's natural and cultural resources, as well as the provision of outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities on Federal lands associated with Benbrook Lake for the benefit of present and future generations. The MP identifies conceptual types and levels of activities, but does not include designs, project sites, or estimated costs. All actions carried out by USACE, other agencies, and individuals granted leases to USACE lands must be consistent with the MP. Therefore, the MP must be kept current in order to provide effective guidance in USACE decision-making. The original Benbrook Lake Master Plan was approved in 1966 and was later updated in 1972 with no revisions occurring since then.

1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Benbrook Lake Dam is located at river mile (RM) 15 on the Clear Fork of the Trinity River. The dam site is located in Tarrant County, within the Fort Worth metroplex in north central Texas. The lake extends from Benbrook to Fort Worth (Figure 1-1). Benbrook Lake is located in the Lower Clear Fork watershed in the Upper Trinity River Basin. The headwaters of Lower Clear Fork begin in the eastern part of Parker County in North Central Texas and flow north and northeasterly until it joins the West Fork of the Trinity River. The watershed is in the southwestern portion of Fort Worth, Texas and comprises portions of Tarrant, Parker, Hood, and Johnson Counties. It is roughly 65 miles long with 55 miles draining directly in the lake, the above dam portion has a width of about 11 miles, and the entire watershed contains total area of 429 square miles, of which 232 square miles drain into Benbrook Lake.

The principal tributaries contributing to the Clear Fork upstream of Benbrook Dam are the South Fork, Bear Creek, Mustang Creek, Rock Creek and Squaw Creek. The South Fork is formed by the joining of Town Creek and Willow Creeks. Squaw Creek is the only major left-bank tributary above the dam. The only major downstream tributary is Marys Creek, which has a drainage area of about 55 square miles. Marys Creek enters the Clear Fork from the left-bank approximately 4.5 miles below the dam.

Benbrook Lake was authorized for construction in 1945 as a part of the River and Harbor Act of 1945 (Public Law [PL] 14, 79th Congress, 1st Session). Its current authorized use is to serve as a multi-purpose reservoir for flood control, water conservation, fish and wildlife, and recreation. The dam and lake are named for the City of Benbrook, whose border abuts the lake. Construction of Benbrook Lake Dam began May of 1947, and was completed in December 1950. Deliberate impoundment began in September of 1952 and the conservation pool was filled in on May 12, 1957.

Benbrook Dam and Lake Project is an integral part of the USACE plan for flood control and water conservation in the Trinity River Basin. The plan presently consists of eight major flood control projects, known as Benbrook Dam, Bardwell Dam, Grapevine Dam, Joe Pool Dam, Lavon Dam, Lewisville Dam, Navarro Mills Dam, and Ray Roberts Dam. The eight flood control projects in the Trinity River system control approximately 1,591,300 acre-feet of flood control area. Benbrook Lake controls 232 square miles of drainage area.

1.2 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE ACTION

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to ensure that the conservation and sustainability of the land, water, and recreational resources on Benbrook Lake are in compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations and to maintain quality lands for future public use. The Benbrook Lake 2021 MP is intended to serve as a comprehensive land and recreation management plan with an effective life of approximately 25 years.

The MP must be kept current in order to provide effective guidance in decision-making that responds to changing regional and local needs, resource capabilities and suitabilities, and expressed public interests consistent with authorized project purposes and pertinent legislation and regulations. The current 1972 Benbrook Lake Master Plan is over 45 years old and does not currently reflect ecological, socio-political, and socio-demographic changes that are currently affecting Benbrook Lake, or those changes anticipated to occur through 2045. Changes in outdoor recreation trends, regional land use, population, current legislative requirements and USACE management policy have indicated the need to revise the plan. Additionally, increasing fragmentation of wildlife habitat, national policies related to climate change and growing demand for recreational access and protection of natural resources are all factors affecting Benbrook Lake and project's region in general. In response to these continually evolving trends, the USACE determined that a full revision of the 1972 plan is needed.

The following factors may influence reevaluation of management practices and land uses:

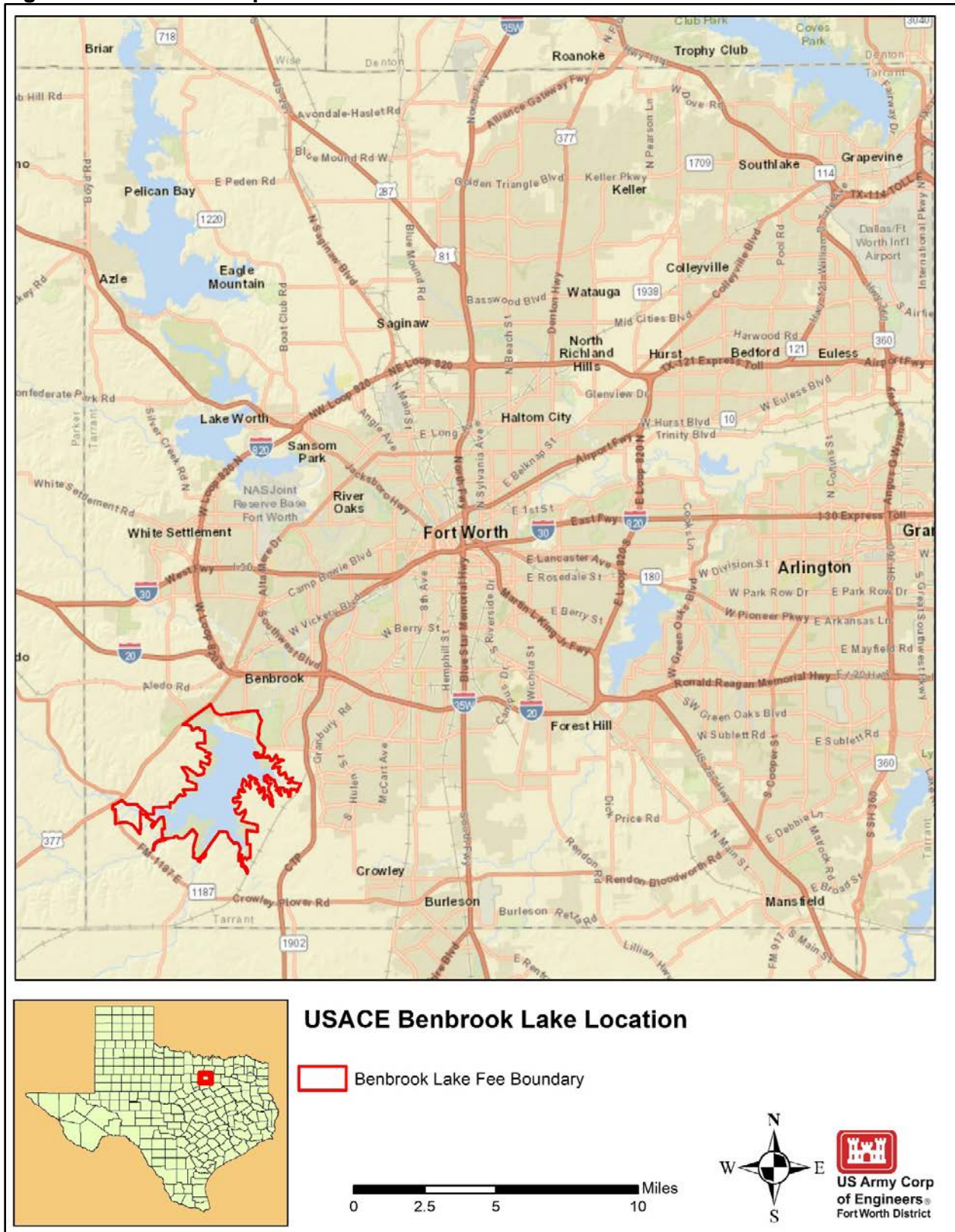
- Changes in national policies or public law mandates;

- Operations and maintenance budget allocations;
- Recreation area closures;
- Facility and infrastructure improvements;
- Cooperative agreements with stakeholder agencies (such as Texas Parks and Wildlife Department [TPWD] and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS]) to operate and maintain public lands; and
- Evolving public concerns.

1.3 SCOPE OF THE ACTION

This EA was prepared to evaluate existing conditions and potential impacts of proposed alternatives associated with the implementation of the 2021 Master Plan (MP). The alternative considerations were formulated with special attention given to revised land classifications, new resource management objectives, and a conceptual resource plan for each land classification category. The Benbrook Lake 2021 MP is currently available and is incorporated into this EA by reference. This EA was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Figure 1-1. Location Map



The application of NEPA to more strategic decisions not only meets the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) implementing regulations (CEQ 2005) and USACE regulations for implementing NEPA (USACE 1988), but also allows the USACE to consider the environmental consequences of its actions long before any physical activity is implemented. Multiple benefits can be derived from such early consideration. Effective and early NEPA integration with the master planning process can significantly increase the usefulness of the MP to the decision maker.

SECTION 2:PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

The purpose and need of the proposed action is to revise the 1972 Master Plan so that it is compliant with current USACE regulations and guidance, incorporates public needs, and recognizes surrounding land use and recreational trends. As part of this process, which includes public outreach and comment, two alternatives were developed for evaluation, including a No Action Alternative and a Proposed Action Alternative. The alternatives were developed using land classifications that indicate the primary use for which project lands would be managed. USACE regulations specify five possible categories of land classification: Project Operations (PO), High Density Recreation (HDR), Mitigation, Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA), and Multiple Resource Managed Lands (MRML). MRML are divided into four subcategories: Low Density Recreation (MRML-LDR), Wildlife Management (MRML-WM), Vegetation Management (MRML-VM), and Inactive/Future Recreation (MRML-IFR) Areas.

USACE guidance recommends the establishment of resource goals and objectives for purposes of development, conservation, and management of natural, cultural, and man-made resources at a project. Goals describe the desired end state of overall management efforts, whereas resource objectives are specific task-oriented actions necessary to achieve the overall MP goals. Goals and objectives are guidelines for obtaining maximum public benefits while minimizing adverse impacts on the environment and are developed in accordance with 1) authorized project purposes, 2) applicable laws and regulations; 3) resource capabilities and suitabilities; 4) regional needs; 5) other governmental plans and programs; and 6) expressed public desires. The five project-wide management goals established for Benbrook Lake that were used in determining the Proposed Action, as well as the nationwide USACE Environmental Operating Principles, are discussed in detail Chapter 3: Resource Goals and Objectives of the Benbrook Lake 2021 Master Plan and are incorporated herein by reference (USACE, 2021).

The goals for Benbrook Lake Master Plan include the following:

GOAL A. Provide the best management practices to respond to regional needs, resource capabilities and capacities, and expressed public interests consistent with authorized project purposes.

GOAL B. Protect and manage the project’s natural and cultural resources through sustainable environmental stewardship programs.

GOAL C. Provide public outdoor recreation opportunities that support project purposes and public interests while sustaining the project's natural resources.

GOAL D. Recognize the project's unique qualities, characteristics, and potentials.

GOAL E. Provide consistency and compatibility with national objectives and other State and regional goals and programs.

In addition to the above goals, USACE management activities are also guided by USACE-wide Environmental Operating Principles as follows:

- Strive to achieve environmental sustainability. An environment maintained in a healthy, diverse, and sustainable condition is necessary to support life.
- Recognize the interdependence of life and the physical environment. Proactively consider environmental consequences of USACE programs and act accordingly in all appropriate circumstances.
- Seek balance and synergy among human development activities and natural systems by designing economic and environmental solutions that support and reinforce one another.
- Continue to accept corporate responsibility and accountability under the law for activities and decisions under our control that impact human health and welfare and the continued viability of natural systems.
- Seek ways and means to assess and mitigate cumulative impacts to the environment; bringing systems approaches to the full life cycle of our processes and work.
- Build and share an integrated scientific, economic, and social knowledge base that supports a greater understanding of the environment and impacts of our work.
- Respect the views of individuals and groups interested in USACE activities; listen to them actively and learn from their perspective in the search to find innovative win-win solutions to the nation's problems that also protect and enhance the environment.

Specific resource objectives to accomplish these goals can be found in Chapter 3 of the MP.

USACE will not address dam operations or water management of Benbrook Lake under either the No Action or Proposed Action alternatives. Water management, which includes flood risk management and dam operations, is established in the Trinity River

Basin Master Reservoir Regulation Manual and the Benbrook Lake Water Control Manual.

2.1 ALTERNATIVE 1: NO ACTION

Under the No Action Alternative, the USACE would not approve the adoption or implementation of the MP. Instead the USACE would continue to manage Benbrook Lake's natural resources as set forth in the 1972 MP. The 1972 Master Plan would continue to provide the only source of comprehensive management guidelines and philosophy. However, the 1972 Master Plan is out of date and does not reflect the current ecological, socio-political, or socio-demographic conditions of Benbrook Lake or those that are anticipated to occur through 2045.

The No Action Alternative, while it does not meet the purpose and need, serves as a benchmark of existing conditions against which Federal actions can be evaluated, and, therefore, is included in this EA pursuant to CEQ regulations 40 CFR § 1502.14(d)).

2.2 ALTERNATIVE 2: PROPOSED ACTION

Under the Proposed Action, the USACE proposes to adopt and implement the 2021 MP, which guides and articulates USACE responsibilities pursuant to Federal laws to preserve, conserve, restore, maintain, manage, and develop the land, water, and associated resources. The MP will replace the 1972 MP and provide an up-to-date management plan that follows current Federal laws and regulations while sustaining the project's natural resources and providing recreational opportunities for the next 25 years. The MP will meet regional goals associated with good stewardship of land, water, and recreational resources; address identified recreational trends; and allow for continued use and development of project lands without violating national policies or public laws.

The MP proposes to classify all Federal land lying above elevation 694.0 NGVD29 into management classification categories. These management classification categories will allow uses of Federal property that meet the definition of the assigned category and ensure the protection of natural resources and environmental stewardship while allowing maximum public enjoyment of the lake's resources.

The new land classification categories are defined as follows:

- Project Operations: Lands required for the dam, spillway, switchyard, levees, dikes, offices, maintenance facilities, and other areas used solely for the operation of Benbrook Lake.
- High Density Recreation: Lands developed for the intensive recreational activities for the visiting public including day use and campgrounds. These areas could also be for commercial concessions and quasi-public development.
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas: Areas where scientific, ecological, cultural, or aesthetic features have been identified.

- Multiple Resource Management Lands (MRML): Allows for the designation of a predominate use with the understanding that other compatible uses may also occur on these lands.
 - MRML Low Density Recreation: Lands with minimal development or infrastructure that support passive recreational use (primitive camping, fishing, hunting, trails, wildlife viewing, etc.).
 - MRML Wildlife Management: Lands designated for stewardship of fish and wildlife resources.
 - MRML Vegetation Management: Lands designated for stewardship of vegetative resources.
- Surface Water: Allows for surface water zones.
 - Restricted: Water areas restricted for Benbrook Lake operations, safety, and security.
 - Designated No-Wake: Water areas to protect environmentally sensitive shoreline areas and recreational water access areas from disturbance and areas to protect public safety.
 - Open Recreation: Water areas available for year-round or seasonal water-based recreational use.

Table 2-1 shows the new classifications and acres contained in each classification, Table 2-2 shows the water surface classifications, and Table 2-3 provides the justification for the new reclassification.

Table 2-1. Change from Prior Land Classification to New Land Classification

Prior Land Classifications (1972 Plan)	Acres		New (2021) Land Classifications	Acres
Operations and Maintenance	176		Project Operations	234
Recreational Areas	2,896		High Density Recreation	1,761
Special Use Areas	146		--	
--	--		Environmentally Sensitive Areas	1,122
Aesthetics Area and Multiple Use Recreation Areas	1,254		--	--
--	--		Multiple Resource Management – Vegetative Management	1,129
Wildlife Area	193		Multiple Resource Management – Wildlife Management	128
Total Land Acres	4,665		Total Land Acres	4,375

Table 2-2. Change from Prior Water Surface Classification to New Water Surface Classification

Prior Water Surface Classifications (1972 Plan)	Acres		New Water Surface Classifications	Acres
Flowage Easement	2,823		Flowage Easement	3,200
Permanent Pool	3,770		Permanent Pool	3,635
--	--		-- Restricted	9
--	--		-- Designated No Wake	115
--	--		-- Open Recreation	3,511

Table 2-3. Justification for the Proposed Land Reclassifications

Land Classification	Description	Justification
Project Operations (PO)	<p>The Project Operations classification was increased from 176 acres to 234 acres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 1.4 acres of PO along Old Grandbury Road and near water surface for municipal water operations. • Adjust PO around dam so it more precisely matches the dam footprint and most recent GIS shoreline, including approximately 80.2 acres. • Approximately 77.7 acres of Recreation to PO between dam and Lakeside Drive, area used for dam maintenance and operations as well as municipal water operations. • Approximately 74.7 acres to include spillway and outlet channel were changed from Recreation to PO. 	<p>The increase in acreage for Project Operations is to account for areas used for operations that are not currently classified as PO. The new area expands to include the entire dam, uncontrolled spillway, and discharge channel. The area also classified operations by others which includes municipal water operations near the dam and along Old Grandbury Road.</p>

<p>High Density Recreation (HDR)</p>	<p>Approximately 1,761 acres have been classified as HDR. The previous classification Recreation Areas contained 2,896 acres and is similar to the current HDR classification. Additionally, 146 acres previously classified as Special Use Recreation Areas were reclassified as HDR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 521.7 acres of Dutch Branch Park was classified from Recreation to HDR. • In North Holiday Park, approximately 140.1 acres adjacent to Dutch Branch Park changed from Recreation to HDR, which includes space for future recreational development. • Within South Holiday Park approximately 153.0 acres on the lake side of Lakeview Drive are classified from Recreation to HDR. • At the south end of the lake, 51.1 acres between campground at Westcreek Circle, Bear Creek Campground, and Mustang Park are changed from Recreation to HDR. • Approximately 264.0 acres containing Thunderbird Field and north of Peninsula Road is also classified as HDR. • Approximately 16.2 acres around the entrance from Briar Creek Road and Winscott Plover Road are also classified from Recreation to HDR. • Approximately 182.9 acres on the southeast side of 	<p>The previous Recreation Areas and Special Use Recreation Areas date back to 1972 and did not account for types or intensity of recreational use. Since 1972, the recreational demand and usage has changed to include many well-developed parks. The new HDR classification includes areas with existing intense recreational development and many undeveloped acres that have the potential to meet future recreation needs. The City of Benbrook has expressed interest in expanding facilities, and there is ample undeveloped HDR acreage within Dutch Branch Park, North Holliday Park, and Baja Beach to accommodate their future needs. There are also many undeveloped acres in Mustang Park and Rocky Creek Park to accommodate future demand as residential developments continue to expand in areas East and South of Benbrook Lake.</p>
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	<p>the lake at Rocky Creek, from Rocky Creek Park Road to the shoreline is HDR all the way until the road ends near St. Francis Village. This area also includes the site of the long-closed marina and approximately 55 acres of high ground available for future recreational development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 63.4 acres at Longhorn Park which does not include the area around the Benbrook Lake Office is classified from Recreation to HDR up to Southwest Christian School. • Below the dam, 368.4 acres including Pecan Valley Park and Golf Course were classified from Recreation to HDR. This includes the old soapbox derby and Memorial Oak trailhead. 	
<p>Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA)</p>	<p>Approximately 1,122 acres have been classified as ESA areas. Most of the acres were classified from former Recreation Areas, Aesthetics Area, and Multiple Use Recreation Areas. Of the Recreation Areas changed to ESA, approximately 34 acres were from Rocky Creek Park, 114 acres from South Holiday Park, and 181 acres from North Holiday Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Section 5.4 for a detailed breakdown of all ESA areas. 	<p>The Environmentally Sensitive Area classification did not exist when the 1972 plan designated land classifications. The new areas classified as ESA include unique or sensitive prairies, woodlands, wetlands, and aesthetic areas. In Holiday Park, most of the acreage west of Lakeview Drive was reclassified as ESA from the original Recreation Areas classification. Much of the riparian and wetland acreage associated with the Clear Fork Trinity River was changed from Wildlife Area and Recreation Area to ESA. On the east side of the lake, several sensitive prairies</p>

		and aesthetic areas were changed from Wildlife Area and Recreation area to ESA. See Table 5.1 for a complete description of each ESA.
MRML – Wildlife Management (WM)	<p>Approximately 128 acres have been classified as MRML – Wildlife Management. This is similar to the previous Wildlife Area classification, which included 193 acres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the northeast side of the lake, between Southwest Christian School and the municipal water supply, approximately 128.5 acres between the shoreline and the trail/service road were classified as WM. 	The land previously classified as Wildlife Area along Clear Fork Trinity River has been reclassified as ESA. A new area has been classified as WM along the shoreline of Longhorn Park. This area currently allows hunting but also acts as an important corridor for wildlife.
MRML – Vegetation Management (VM)	<p>Approximately 1,129 acres have been classified as MRML – Vegetation Management. There was no previous land classification similar to MRML – VM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the northeast side of the lake, between Southwest Christian School and the municipal water supply, approximately 197.8 acres between the trail/service road and the boundary are classified from Aesthetic to VM. On the south side of the lake, a narrow strip composing of approximately 136.7 acres between the shoreline and boundary were classified as VM from the park entrance at Winscott Plover Road and the entrance to Rocky Park 	Parcels were selected to recognize current and future native prairie restoration efforts. Efforts to date have required clearing of woody species on select parcels that are good candidates for prairie restoration. These areas are periodically burned to promote the native grasses and forbs already present on the sites along Clear Fork Trinity River. The area previously classified as Wildlife Area and not changed to ESA was changed to VM. This area includes frequently flooded hardwood and herbaceous wetlands as well as former grazing land undergoing early succession to mixed shrub and forest habitats. On the south and southeast sides of the lake, less developed park areas that were not unique or critical enough to designate as an ESA were changed to VM. Much of this area also includes early succession

	<p>Approximately 52.6 acres was previously classified Aesthetic while the rest was Recreation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between Winscott Plover Road, Peninsula Road, and Briar Creek Drive, approximately 346.3 acres was classified from Recreation to VM, south to the boundary. • South of the Clear Fork Trinity River near US 377, the 265.7 acres not included as ESA and south to the boundary was changed from Aesthetic to VM and includes former agricultural and grazing land. • Approximately 49.2 acres north of Winscott Road which includes a trail, stormwater drains, and utilities was classified from Recreation to VM. • Approximately 14.2 acres of mowed area between Lakeside Drive and the golf course was classified from Recreation to VM. • Approximately 19.2 acres of prairie near Rocky Creek were classified from Recreation to VM. • Approximately 98.4 acres near the Rocky Creek Park Road entrance was classified from Recreation to VM. 	<p>with many young cedar elms, hackberries, ash, and other pioneer species and demonstrates significant signs of browsing by wildlife. Along the northeast side of the lake, in Longhorn Park, the area between the WM area and neighboring property was also designated as VM. This area is contiguous to neighboring grasslands but did not score as high and were not as unique as other nearby grasslands which were designated as ESA. The area north of Winscott Road and a narrow band north of Lakeside Drive are regularly mowed but contains some native vegetation which is beneficial to native pollinators has also been changed to VM.</p>
<p>Water Surface Restricted</p>	<p>Approximately nine acres of water surface have been classified as Restricted water surface where boats are not allowed.</p>	<p>These are comparatively small parcels that surround water intake structures, the USACE gate control tower, the approach to the uncontrolled spillway, and designated swimming beaches</p>

Water Surface No Wake Designation	Approximately 115 acres of water surface have been classified as Designated No Wake area where vessels are not allowed to create a wake when underway.	These parcels include areas surrounding boat ramps, the marina area at Dutch Branch Park, and former marine area located at Rocky Creek Park.
Water Surface Open Recreation	Approximately 3,511 acres of water surface have been classified as Open Recreation that are available for water-based recreation.	Water surface that has not been classified as Restricted or No Wake are available for water-based recreation. Operation of a boat in these areas is at the owner's risk. Specific navigational hazards may or may not be marked with a buoy.

Note: The land classification changes described in this table are the result of changes to individual parcels of land ranging from a few acres to more than 100 hundred acres. Acreages were measured using GIS technology. The acreage numbers provided are approximate.

2.3 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION

Other alternatives to the Proposed Action were initially considered as part of the scoping process for this EA. However, none met the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action or the current USACE regulations and guidance. Furthermore, no other alternatives addressed public concerns. Therefore, no other alternatives are being carried forward for analysis in this EA. The following resources were excluded from further impact analysis because the No Action nor the Proposed Action will not have any impact on them: hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste.

SECTION 3: AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND CONSEQUENCES

This section of the EA describes the potential impacts of the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives, outlined in Section 2 of this document. For descriptions of existing conditions of various resources within the USACE Benbrook Fee Boundary please refer to Chapter 2 of the MP. Based on resources described in Benbrook 2021 MP Ch. 2, each resource with potential to be impacted as a result of the No Action alternative, or by the Proposed Alternative is evaluated below.

Impacts (consequence or effect) can be either beneficial or adverse and can be either directly related to the action or indirectly caused by the action. Direct effects are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place (40 CFR § 1508.8 [a]). Indirect effects are caused by the action and are later in time or further removed in distance but are still reasonably foreseeable (40 CFR § 1508.8 [b]). As discussed in this section, the alternatives may create temporary (less than 1 year), short-term (up to 3 years), long-term (3 to 10 years following the master plan revision), or permanent effects.

Whether an impact is significant depends on the context in which the impact occurs and the intensity of the impact (40 CFR § 1508.27). The context refers to the setting in which the impact occurs and may include society as a whole, the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality. Impacts on each resource can vary in degree or magnitude from a slightly noticeable change to a total change in the environment. For the purpose of this analysis, the intensity of impacts will be classified as negligible, minor, moderate, or major. The intensity thresholds are defined as follows:

- Negligible: A resource would not be affected or the effects would be at or below the level of detection, and changes would not be of any measurable or perceptible consequence.
- Minor: Effects on a resource would be detectable, although the effects would be localized, small, and of little consequence to the sustainability of the resource. Mitigation measures, if needed to offset adverse effects, would be simple and achievable.
- Moderate: Effects on a resource would be readily detectable, long-term, localized, and measurable. Mitigation measures, if needed to offset adverse effects, would be extensive and likely achievable.
- Major: Effects on a resource would be obvious and long-term, and would have substantial consequences on a regional scale. Mitigation measures to offset the adverse effects would be required and extensive, and success of the mitigation measures would not be guaranteed.

3.1 Land Use

Please refer to sections 2.5 and 2.6 of the MP for existing land use information in and around Benbrook Lake.

3.1.1 Alternative 1: No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, USACE will not implement the Benbrook 2021 MP, and thus the land use management will not be updated to current needs and demands. The operation and maintenance of USACE lands at Benbrook Lake will continue as outlined in the existing MP to the extent that current and future laws and regulations will permit. Management will continue to lag behind the current and future recreational needs and public preferences. As the regulatory environment continues to change, management at Benbrook Lake will diverge from the plan. This divergence will create a patchwork of management requirements that would be inefficient for Benbrook Lake staff to implement. The management will also increasingly lack transparency to the public, or alternately create more of a burden to staff to communicate how the lake management differs from that in the management plan. Implementation of the No Action Alternative will have moderate, adverse, short and long term impacts on land use within and on USACE Benbrook Lake project lands due to conflicting guidance and management of USACE lands.

3.1.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The objectives for revising the Benbrook Lake MP were to describe current and foreseeable land uses, taking into account expressed public opinion, regional trends, and USACE policies that have evolved to meet day-to-day operational needs. The new reclassifications in the 2021 Benbrook Lake MP were developed to help fulfill regional goals associated with good stewardship of land and water resources that will allow for continued use and development of project lands.

While HDR is technically a new management classification, the bulk of the 1,761 acres of HDR land is from areas previously classified as recreational area. Even though the acres are decreasing from 2,896 acres, recreational opportunities will not decrease. And that is because passive recreational activities will still be allowed as they are now within all lands regardless of the land classification. Specifically hiking, wildlife viewing, shoreline fishing can all still occur from ESA, WM, VM areas. Then all existing equestrian trails will not be impacted, and their use will continue as they are now. The change in acreages reflects current and foreseeable recreational trends for the area.

High Density Recreation is not the only new management classification introduced in the MP. The establishment and reclassification of 1,122 acres as ESA will allow for greater protection of sensitive habitats or cultural resources. Conservation efforts within USACE Benbrook Lake fee owned boundary will be further aided by the designation 1,129 acres as MRML-VM and 128 acres as MRML-WM.

On the waters of Benbrook Lake, the MP will add established surface water use categories in addition to the current ad hoc management of the lake. The establishment of 9 acres of Restricted, 115 acres of No Wake, and 3,511 acres of Open Recreation to the water surface, respectively, will allow for delineated, and safer management of the lake's waters when the lake is at conservation pool. These classifications will help to improve safety of those recreating on and around Benbrook Lake. This will be done by restricting boat access and speeds around certain parts of the lake, as well as establishing areas that boating can occur in. The Benbrook Lake office will still maintain the authority to make ad hoc adjustments as needed by lake level, which will prevent the classifications from being overly rigid or even ineffectual in various lake level conditions.

The 12 utility corridors as explained in section 6.2 and in Table 6.1 of the MP will have major positive short and long term impacts on land use within Benbrook Lake. The positive impacts comes from the condensing of disturbances associated with utility operations to limited areas which then frees up more land for other land uses. This condensing and limiting the use corridors to those already in existence will not increase the usage of nearby corridors as well as the need for more outside of the fee boundary.

The majority of the land use classifications in the MP will maintain the functional management that is currently occurring. While the terminology updates appear substantial, they have been implemented after considerable public input, and seek to maintain the values the public holds highest at Benbrook Lake. Additionally, the land

reclassifications provide a balance between public use, both intensive and passive, and natural resources conservation. Therefore, the implementation of the Proposed Action will have major, long term beneficial impacts to land use as the new land classes and utility corridors further refine areas for appropriate activities.

3.2 WATER RESOURCES

Please refer to section 2.1.6 of the MP for existing water resource information in and around Benbrook Lake.

3.2.1 Alternative 1: No Action

There will be no impacts on water resources as a result of implementing the No Action Alternative, since there will be no change to the existing Master Plan. There are no known water resource related problems that the 1972 MP are helping to increase nor maintain.

3.2.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The reclassifications and resource management objectives required for implementing the MP the Proposed Action will allow land management and land uses to be adjusted for current and reasonable foreseeable future changes in water resources. For example, the increase of 1,122 acres to ESA lands will help stabilize soils through the promotion of and restoration native habitat. In turn, the habitat will help buffer and filter storm runoff before making its way into the lake. Minor, beneficial impacts to water quality may be realized during storm events as the natural areas may help to reduce erosion and subsequent water turbidity. The establishment of 1,122 acres of ESA lands, 128 acres of MRML-WM lands, 234 acres of PO lands, and 1,129 acres of MRML-VM lands will result in more upland areas and wetlands being protected from erosion and sedimentation. 329 acres will be reclassified from areas formerly as known as Recreation (similar to HDR). This conversion helps to further reduce areas that otherwise be exposed to activities that will increase erosion and sedimentation rates. Project Operation (PO) lands will only allow actions that will promote flood risk management, which in turn will result in these lands being managed to limit erosion and sedimentation. In total there will be 2,437 more acres of upland areas and wetlands being protected from erosion and sedimentation from implementing the Proposed Action. Resource objectives makes it mandatory that all decision making processes take into consideration their impacts to Benbrook Lake watershed, lake water supply, and water quality.

Additionally, 115 acres of surface waters are to be classified as designated No Wake. These areas are near shorelines where wave action can increase erosion. This Designated No Wake classification will be expected to help prevent further erosion and further reduce water turbidity.

Therefore, implementation of the MP will have negligible positive short and long term impacts on water resources within and on USACE project lands.

3.3 CLIMATE, CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE GAS

Please refer to section 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 of the MP for existing climate, climate change and greenhouse gas information in and around Benbrook Lake.

3.3.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative would not result in any change in management of Benbrook Lake project land. Implementation of the 1972 MP would have no impact (beneficial or adverse) on existing or future climate conditions. Current policy (Executive Orders [EO] 13834 and 13783, and related USACE policy) requires project lands and recreational programs be managed in a way that advances broad national climate change mitigation goals including, but not limited to, climate change resilience and carbon sequestration. These policies would continue to be implemented under this Alternative which are not addressed in the 1972 MP goals and objectives, which is further proof of the 1972 MP inability to meet current laws and regulations.

3.3.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The MP will have negligible positive impacts to climate, climate change and GHG emissions in the region. The impacts will come from the MP promotion of land management practices and design standards that promote sustainability. Management under the 2021 MP will also follow current policy to meet climate change goals as described for the No Action Alternative. Ground disturbing activities that arise from guidance from this document will go through the NEPA and design process prior to implementation. It is during that time, that impacts to the climate will be analyzed for those ground disturbing activities. The MP will then promote land management practices and design standards that promote sustainability which will have negligible impacts.

3.4 AIR QUALITY

Please refer to section 2.1.4 of the MP for existing air quality information in and around Benbrook Lake.

3.4.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The continual implementation of the 1972 MP will not result in any changes to current and reasonably foreseeable future air quality in the region. No new increase in vehicular traffic, mass permanent vegetation removal, or the building of mass industrial facilities occur. The No Action Alternative will remain compliant with the Clean Air Act because the MP includes only guidelines and does not incorporate actions which produce criteria pollutants as explained in the previous sentence.

3.4.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

As with the No Action Alternative, the MP will not result in any change to current and reasonably foreseeable air quality in the region. The Proposed Action does not propose

any actions (i.e. ground disturbing activities) that directly or indirectly produce criteria pollutants (i.e. total emissions is 0); therefore, this action is compliant with the Clean Air Act and State Implementation Plan and is not subject to a conformity determination. Negligible air quality benefits may be realized through the classification of 1,122 acres as ESA lands, 128 acres as MRML-WM lands, and 1,129 acres as MRML-VM lands. These areas contain natural vegetation communities that filter and sequester air pollutants.

3.5 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY, AND SOILS

Please refer to section 2.1.5 of the MP for existing topography, geology, and soils information in and around Benbrook Lake.

3.5.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative does not involve any activities that would contribute to changes in existing conditions, so there would be no short- or long-term, minor, moderate, or major, beneficial, or adverse impacts on topography, geology, soils, or prime farmland as a result of implementing the No Action Alternative.

3.5.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The MP takes into consideration of the various topographical, geological, and soils aspects of USACE Benbrook Lake project lands. The reduction of HDR land (2,896 acres to 1,761 acres) and establishment of 1,122 acres as ESA, and 1,129 acres as MRML-VM lands will help to increase the long-term preservation and stabilization of the soils within USACE Benbrook Lake project lands. The reduction of MRML-WM lands from 193 to 128 acres, will still contribute because the acres loss was converted to ESA. In addition, resource objectives make it mandatory that erosion control and sedimentation issues are being monitored and alternatives be developed and implemented to resolve those issues. Construction of new utilities will be kept to the 12 new utility corridors. This will condense disturbances associated with utility operations to limited areas, further helping to reduce soil exposure to erosive wind and water forces. The establishment of ESA, MRML-VM and WM land classes as well as the implementation of resource objectives and goals discussed in Chapter 3 of the MP and the rest of the proposed action will have minor, positive, long-term impacts on soil conservation and topography, and geology at Benbrook Lake.

3.6 NATURAL RESOURCES

Please refer to section 2.2.1, 2.2.2, and 2.2.3 of the MP for existing natural resources information in and around Benbrook Lake, which in this EA includes vegetation as well as fisheries and wildlife resources.

3.6.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative does not involve any activities that would contribute to changes in existing conditions; therefore, no short- or long-term, major, moderate, or

minor, beneficial, or adverse impacts on natural resources would be anticipated as a result of implementing the No Action Alternative.

3.6.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The implementation of the reclassifications of land management classes, improvement of resource management objectives, and the overall improvement of the MP will allow natural resources within USACE Benbrook federal project lands to be better managed and accounted for. The better management will be from implementing the knowledge gained from the Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Procedure (WHAP) and Prairie Assessment surveys (Appendix C of the MP) done for Benbrook Lake, which helped to establish the high quality and unique areas, as evidenced in the establishment of the ESA areas explained in Section 5.4 and Table 5.1 of the MP. Based on the WHAP and Prairie Assessment scores ESA 1 through 8 and 13-14 were converted from Recreational Areas, while ESA 9 was converted from Wildlife Area, ESA 10 was converted from Wildlife and Aesthetic Areas, ESA 11 and 15 were converted from Recreational and Wildlife Areas, ESA 12 was converted from Aesthetic Areas, ESA 16 was converted from a mixture of Special Use and Recreational Areas, and ESA 17 was converted from Recreational Areas. The sites that were surveyed for the WHAP survey revealed that grasslands were the most abundant type of habitat found, as well as having the highest average score which resulted in the Prairie Assessment to be conducted which further revealed the makeup and structure of these high scoring grasslands.

The implementation of the new land reclassifications will allow project lands to continue and further support the USFWS and the TPWD missions associated with wildlife conservation and implementation of operational practices that will protect and enhance wildlife and fishery populations and habitat. The new resource objectives also allows for natural resources to be managed with consideration of how they will be impacted from the retention of flood waters. The establishment of 1,122 acres as ESA lands, 128 acres as MRML-WM lands, 1,129 acres as MRML-VM lands, and 234 acres as PO lands especially in prime ecological areas helps to protect natural resources from various types of adverse impacts such as habitat fragmentation. The conversion of 798 acres of Recreation Areas (similar to HDR), and 324.4 acres from Aesthetics Area and Multiple Use Recreation Areas helps to further reduce areas that otherwise be exposed to activities that will increase habitat destruction and harm wildlife. Project Operation (PO) lands will only allow actions that will promote flood risk management, which in turn will maintain the current habitat and wildlife that occurs in those areas. In total there will be 2,437 more acres of land being protected from habitat destruction and harm to wildlife from implementing the Proposed Action.

Limiting construction of new utilities to the 12 new utility corridors as described in section 6.2 and Table 6.1 of the MP will help to increase the acreage of habitat that will not be disturbed in the future as well as reduce the harm done to wildlife when new utilities are built. Therefore, under the Proposed Action, there will be major short- and long term major, beneficial impacts on natural resources as a result of implementing the MP.

3.7 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Please refer to section 2.2.4 of the MP for existing information on threatened and endangered species within the USACE fee owned boundary.

3.7.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative does not involve any activities that would contribute to changes in existing conditions; therefore, no short- or long-term, major, moderate, or minor, beneficial, or adverse impacts on threatened and endangered species would be anticipated as a result of implementing the No Action Alternative.

3.7.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The implementation of the MP will allow for better cooperative management plans with the USFWS and TPWD that will help to preserve, enhance, and protect vegetation and wildlife habitat resources that are essential to various endangered and threatened species that may be found within USACE Benbrook Lake federal project lands as explained in Table 2.4 and discussed in section 2.2.4 of the MP. It does not entail ground disturbing activities. To further management opportunities and beneficially impact habitat diversity, the reclassifications proposed in the MP include 1,122 acres as ESAs, 128 acres as MRML-WM lands, 1,129 acres as MRML-VM lands, and 234 acres as PO lands. The majority of ESA lands comes from areas previously classified as Recreational Areas, which is similar to the HDR classification. This conversion helps to further reduce areas that otherwise be exposed to activities that will increase habitat destruction and harm wildlife. The Project Operations (PO) lands will only allow actions that will promote flood risk management, which in turn will maintain the current habitat and wildlife that occurs in those areas. In total there will be 2,437 more acres of land being protected from habitat destruction and harm to threatened and endangered species from implementing the Proposed Action. Resource objectives makes it mandatory that threatened and endangered species are managed by various ecosystem management principles. In addition, all new utilities will be built along existing right-of-ways and within the 12 new utility corridors. This will help to reduce future loss of natural resources that could potentially occur from placement of utility lines on project lands. Any future activities that could potentially result in impacts on federally listed species will be coordinated with USFWS through Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Under the Proposed Action, the impacts to federally threatened and endangered species will be minor, long-term beneficial impacts. As a result, USACE has determined the MP revisions will have no effect on federally threatened or endangered species that occur at Benbrook Lake.

3.8 INVASIVE SPECIES

Please refer to section 2.2.5 of the MP for existing information on invasive species within the USACE fee owned boundary.

3.8.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative does not involve any activities that will contribute to changes in existing conditions, so Benbrook Lake will continue to be managed

according to the existing invasive species management practices. There will be no short- or long-term, minor, moderate, or major, beneficial, or adverse impacts from invasive species as a result of implementing the No Action Alternative.

3.8.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The implementation of the reclassifications of land management classes, improvement of resource management objectives, and the overall improvement of the MP will allow invasive species within USACE Benbrook federal project lands to be better managed and accounted for. The better management will be from implementing the knowledge gained from the Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Procedure (WHAP) survey and prairie assessment survey done for Benbrook Lake, which helps to identify high value and unique areas that may need further protection from invasive species so as to protect their value and uniqueness that invasive species may destroy or degrade. The addition of 1,122 acres as ESA lands, 128 acres as MRML-WM lands, and 1,129 acres as MRML-VM lands, especially in prime ecological areas helps to protect natural resources from various types of adverse impacts such as habitat fragmentation which increases the spread of invasive species and these areas also receive more invasive species management efforts. There are also resource objectives that calls for the monitoring and reporting of invasive species as well as the control of them. The limiting of construction of utilities to the 12 new utility corridors will help to further reduce the spread of invasive species by removing avenues of entry that they can be introduced and spread by keeping all new utilities being built along those areas. Therefore, under the Proposed Action, there will be short- and long-term minor, beneficial impacts on invasive species as a result of implementing the MP.

3.9 CULTURAL, HISTORICAL, AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Please refer to section 2.3 of the MP for existing information on cultural, historical, and archaeological resources within the USACE fee owned boundary.

3.9.1 Alternative 1: No Action

There will be no additional short- or long-term, minor, moderate, or major, beneficial, or adverse impacts on cultural, historical, or archaeological resources as a result of implementing the No Action Alternative, as there will be no changes to the existing Master Plan.

3.9.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The implementation of the reclassifications of land management classes, improvement of resource management objectives, and the overall improvement of the 2021 MP will allow cultural, historical, and archaeological resources within USACE Benbrook federal project lands to be better managed and accounted for. ESA and Wildlife Management lands will provide additional protection against ground disturbances. Additionally, the restriction of building utilities to the 12 new utility corridors will restrict any future pipelines, roads, or other infrastructure to already disturbed areas, further limiting impacts on cultural resources. Based on previous

surveys at Benbrook Lake, the required reclassifications, resource objectives, and resource plan will not change current cultural resource management plans or alter areas where these resources exist. All future activities will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Officer and federally recognized Tribes to ensure compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts on cultural, historical, or archaeological resources will occur as a result of implementing the MP. Beneficial impacts may occur as a result of the MP as lands classified as PO, ESA, MRML-VM or MRML- WM will generally protect any historic properties within those lands against ground disturbing activities.

3.10 SOCIOECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Please refer to section 2.4 of the propose MP for existing socioeconomic and environmental justice information in and around Benbrook Lake.

3.10.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The continual implementation of the 1972 MP will result in the existing beneficial socioeconomic impacts to continue, as visitors will continue to come to the lake from surrounding areas. In addition to camping, many visitors purchase goods such as groceries, fuel, and camping supplies locally, eat in local restaurants, stay in local hotels and resorts, play golf at local golf courses, and shop in local retail establishments. These activities will continue to bring revenues to local companies, provide jobs for local residents, and generate local and state tax revenues. There will be no disproportionately high or adverse impacts on minority or low-income populations or children with the implementation of the No Action Alternative.

3.10.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The implementation of the MP land reclassifications, resources objectives, and resource plan reflect changes in land management and land uses that have occurred since 1972. Benbrook Lake offers a variety of recreational opportunities for visitors. It is beneficial to the local economy through direct and indirect job creation and local spending by visitors. Beneficial impacts will be similar to the No Action Alternative. There will be no adverse impacts on economy in the area and no disproportionately high or adverse impacts on minority or low-income populations or children as a result of the Proposed Action.

3.11 RECREATION

Please refer to section 2.5 of the MP for existing recreation information in and around Benbrook Lake.

3.11.1 Alternative 1: No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no short- or long-term, minor, moderate, or major, beneficial, or adverse impacts on recreational resources, as there would be no changes to the existing MP.

3.11.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The USACE proposes to continue to lease recreation lands at Benbrook Lake to non-federal partners, who are anticipated to maintain and improve existing facilities with potential plans for future expansion.

Benbrook Lake is beneficial to the local visitors and also offers a variety of free recreation opportunities. Even though the amount of acreage available for High Density Recreation (HDR) will decrease (2,896 acres to 1,761 acres) with implementation of the 2021 Master Plan, this land reclassification reflects changes in land management and land uses that have occurred since 1972 at Benbrook Lake. Passive recreational activities will still be allowed as they are now within all lands regardless of the land classification. Specifically hiking, wildlife viewing, shoreline fishing can all still occur from ESA, WM, VM areas. All existing equestrian trails will not be impacted, and their use will continue as they are now. All new management decisions made under the MP will have to take into consideration how they might impact recreation. Then with 2021 MP, management will be monitored and adjusted to the recreational needs at the lake. These objectives and goals ensure the 2021 master plan is flexible and able to meet the recreational need of the present and of the future. Therefore, under the Proposed Action, there will no adverse, short- or long-term impacts on recreation as numerous recreation opportunities will remain in and around Benbrook Lake to accommodate various outdoor based recreation activities.

3.12 AESTHETIC RESOURCES

Please refer to section 2.2.6 of the MP for existing aesthetic resource conditions in and around Benbrook Lake.

3.12.1 Alternative 1: No Action

There would be no short- or long-term, minor, moderate, or major, beneficial, or adverse impacts on visual resources as a result of implementing the No Action Alternative, as there would be no changes to the existing MP.

3.12.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

Benbrook Lake currently plays a pivotal role in availability of parks and open space in Tarrant County and the greater Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. The amount of acreage classified for recreation will reduce from 2,896 to 1,761 acres for High Density Recreation with implementation of the MP. This land reclassification reflects changes in land management and land uses that have occurred since 1972 at Benbrook Lake. The conversion of these lands will have no effect on current or projected public use or visual aesthetics as views from natural and recreation areas will remain in place.

Furthermore, the increase in the acreage of land classified as ESAs by 1,029 acres and the establishment of 1,129 acres as MRML – VM, and 128 acres as MRML-WM will protect lands that are aesthetically pleasing and available for passive recreation activity Benbrook Lake and limit future development. All new utilities will be built along existing right of ways and the 12 new utility corridors to limit aesthetics impacts to natural landscapes. Additionally, the new resource objectives places an emphases on increasing public education on recreation, nature, cultural resources, and ecology resources at Benbrook Lake. Therefore, under the Proposed Action, there will be no

short- and long-term minor, adverse impacts to aesthetic resources as a result of implementing the MP.

3.13 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND SOLID WASTE

Please refer to section 2.1.7 of the MP for information concerning hazardous materials and solid waste in and around Benbrook Lake fee owned boundary.

3.14 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Please refer to section 2.1.8 of the MP for information concerning health and safety in and around Benbrook Lake fee owned boundary.

3.14.1 Alternative 1: No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, the existing Benbrook MP would not be revised. No significant adverse impacts on human health or safety would be anticipated.

3.14.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The implementation of the MP will result in the classification of Restricted Surface Water (9 acres), Designated No-Wake areas (115 acres), and Open-Recreation (3,511). These classifications maintain and, in some cases, improve boating, non-motorized recreation, and swimming safety near the Benbrook Lake Dam, water intake structures, and key recreational water access areas such as boat ramps and designated swimming areas.

The project will continue to have reporting guidelines in place should water quality become a threat to public health. Existing regulations and safety programs throughout the Benbrook Lake project area will continue to be enforced to ensure public safety. The resource objectives makes it mandatory that various factors that impacts human safety at the lake are monitored and that actions are taken to address, eliminate or reduce those factors. Additionally, the objectives places an emphases on educating the public on water safety and on flood risk management efforts at Benbrook Lake. Therefore, under the Proposed Action, there will be short- and long-term minor, beneficial impacts on health and safety as a result of implementing the MP.

3.15 SUMMARY OF CONSEQUENCES AND BENEFITS

Table 3-1 provides a tabular summary of the consequences and benefits for the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives for each of the 14 assessed resource categories.

Table 3-1. Summary of Consequences and Benefits

Resource	Change Resulting from the Benbrook Lake 2021 Master Plan	Environmental Consequences		Benefits Summary
		No Action Alternative	Proposed Action	
Land Use	No effect on private lands. Emphasis is on protection of wildlife and environmental values on USACE land and maintaining current level of developed recreation facilities.	Fails to recognize recreation trends and regional natural resource priorities.	Recognizes recreation trends and regional natural resource priorities identified by TPWD, and public comments.	Land classification changes and new resource objectives fully recognize passive use recreation trends and regional environmental values such as protection of prairies.
Water Resources Including Groundwater, Wetlands, and Water Quality	Small change to recognize value of wetlands.	Fails to recognize the water quality benefits of good land stewardship and need to protect wetlands.	Promotes restoration and protection of wetlands and good land stewardship.	Specific resource objective promotes restoration and protection of wetlands.
Climate	Minor change to recognize need for sustainable, energy efficient design.	Fails to promote sustainable, energy efficient design.	Promotes land management practices and design standards that promote sustainability.	Specific resource objectives promote national climate change mitigation goal. LEED standards for green design, construction, and operation activities would be employed to the extent practicable.
Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases	Minor change to recognize need for sustainable, energy efficient design.	Fails to promote sustainable, energy efficient design.	Promotes land management practices and design standards that promote sustainability.	Specific resource objectives promote national climate change mitigation goal. LEED standards for green design, construction, and operation activities would be employed to the extent practicable.
Air Quality	No change	No effect	No effect	No added benefit

Resource	Change Resulting from the Benbrook Lake 2021 Master Plan	Environmental Consequences		Benefits Summary
		No Action Alternative	Proposed Action	
Topography, Geology and Soils	Minor change to place emphasis on good stewardship of land and water resources.	Fails to specifically recognize known and potential soil erosion problems.	Encourages good stewardship that would reduce existing and potential erosion.	Specific resource objectives call for stopping erosion from overuse and land disturbing activities.
Natural Resources	Moderate benefits through land reclassification and resource objectives.	Fails to recognize ESAs, and regional priorities calling for protection of wildlife habitat.	Gives full recognition of sensitive resources and regional trends and priorities related to natural resources.	Reclassification of lands included 1,122 acres of ESA and an increase in lands by 1,129 acres emphasizing vegetative management.
Threatened and Endangered Species, including TXNDD species.	Minor change to recognize both federal and state-listed species.	Fails to recognize current federal and state-listed species.	Fully recognizes federal and state-listed species as well as SGCN listed by TPWD and Rare species listed by TPWD.	The master plan sets forth the most recent listing of federal and state-listed species.
Invasive Species	Minor change to recognize several recent and potentially aggressive invasive species.	Fails to recognize current invasive species and associated problems.	Fully recognizes current species and the need to be vigilant as new species may occur.	Specific resource objectives specify that invasive species shall be monitored and controlled as needed.
Cultural Resources	Minor change to recognize current status of cultural resources.	Included cursory information about cultural resources that is inadequate for future management and protection.	Recognizes the presence of cultural resources and places emphasis on protection and management.	Reclassification of lands included 1,122 acres of ESA and specific resource objectives were included for protection of cultural resources.
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice	No change	No effect	No effect	No added benefit

Resource	Change Resulting from the Benbrook Lake 2021 Master Plan	Environmental Consequences		Benefits Summary
		No Action Alternative	Proposed Action	
Recreation	Moderate benefits to outdoor recreation programs.	Fails to recognize current outdoor recreation trends.	Fully recognizes current outdoor recreation trends and places special emphasis on trails.	Specific management objectives focused on outdoor recreation opportunities and trends are included.
Aesthetic Resources	Minor benefits through land reclassification and resource objectives.	Fails to minimize activities that disturb the scenic beauty and aesthetics of the lake.	Promotes activities that limit disturbance to the scenic beauty and aesthetics of the lake.	Specific management objectives to minimize activities that disturb the scenic beauty and aesthetics of the lake.
Health and Safety	Minor change to promote public safety awareness.	Fails to emphasize public safety programs.	Recognizes the need for public safety programs.	Includes specific management objectives to increase water safety outreach efforts. Also, classifies 9 acres of water surface as restricted and 115 acres of designated no-wake for public safety purposes.

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SECTION 4:CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The most severe environmental degradation may not result from the direct effects of any particular action, but from the combination of effects of multiple, independent actions over time. As defined in 40 CFR 1508.7 (CEQ Regulations), a cumulative effect is the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions.

By Memorandum dated June 24, 2005, from the Chairman of the CEQ to the Heads of Federal Agencies, entitled “Guidance on the Consideration of Past Actions in Cumulative Effects Analysis”, CEQ made clear its interpretation that “...generally, agencies can conduct an adequate cumulative effects analysis by focusing on the current aggregate effects of past actions without delving into the historical details of individual past actions...” and that the “...CEQ regulations do not require agencies to catalogue or exhaustively list and analyze all individual past actions.” This cumulative impacts analysis summarizes expected environmental impacts from the combined impacts of past, current, and reasonably foreseeable future activities affecting any part of the human or natural environments impacted by the Proposed Action.

4.1 PAST IMPACTS WITHIN THE ZONE OF INTEREST

Benbrook Lake was originally authorized for construction in 1945 as a multi-purpose reservoir for flood control, water conservation, fish and wildlife, and recreation. Construction of Benbrook Lake Dam began May of 1947 and was completed in December 1950. Deliberate impoundment began in September of 1952 and the conservation pool was filled in on May 12, 1957. The total project area at Benbrook Lake encompasses 10,714.37 acres, including the 3,770 acres of surface water at normal pool elevation of 694.0, 8,745.33 acres as fee simple title, and 3,200 acres as Flowage Easements.

4.2 CURRENT AND REASONABLY FORESEEABLE PROJECTS WITHIN AND NEAR THE ZONE OF INTEREST

Future management of the 3,200 acres of Flowage Easement Lands at Benbrook Lake includes routine inspection of these areas to ensure that the Government’s rights specified in the easement deeds are protected. In almost all cases, the Government acquired the right to prevent placement of fill material or habitable structures on the easement area. Placement of any structure that may interfere with the USACE flood risk management and water conservation missions may also be prohibited.

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) coordinates with cities, counties and transportation partners to plan road, transit, bicycle and pedestrian transportation improvements for 16 counties comprising the NCTCOG and serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth Area. NCTCOG's Mobility 2040 plan was used as a reference document for this Master Plan. Items recommended for implementation in the Mobility 2040 plan that are of significance to the area surrounding Benbrook Lake include the following:

- Widening Chisolm Trail Parkway toll road from 2 to 4 lanes by 2028
- Widening IH 20 from 6 to 8 lanes by 2028
- Reconstruct FMR 1187 by 2045

National USACE policy set forth in ER 1130-2-550, Appendix H, states that USACE lands will, in most cases, only be made available for roads that are regional arterials or freeways (as defined in ER 1130-2-550). All other types of proposed roads, including driveways and alleys, are generally not permitted on USACE lands. The proposed expansion or widening of existing roadways on USACE lands will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

4.3 ANALYSIS OF CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Impacts on each resource were analyzed according to how other actions and projects within the zone of interest might be affected by the No Action Alternative and Proposed Action. Impacts can vary in degree or magnitude from a slightly noticeable change to a total change in the environment. For the purpose of this analysis the intensity of impacts will be classified as negligible, minor, moderate, or major. These intensity thresholds were previously defined in Section 3.0. Major growth and development are expected to continue in the vicinity of Benbrook Lake and cumulative adverse impacts on resources will not be expected when added to the impacts of activities associated with the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative. A summary of the anticipated cumulative impacts on each resource is presented below except for climate which there is not any anticipated cumulative impacts.

4.3.1 Land Use

A major impact will occur if any action is inconsistent with adopted land use plans or if an action will substantially alter those resources required for, supporting, or benefiting the current use. Land use around Benbrook Lake has experienced major change, it is rapidly being developed from grazed and ungrazed grasslands and woodlands fields into urbanized communities. Under the No Action Alternative, land use will not change. Although the Proposed Action will result in the reclassification of project lands, the reclassifications were developed to help fulfill regional goals associated with good stewardship of land resources that will allow for continued use of project lands.

Section 6.2 and Table 6.1 of the MP also identifies the need and location for the 12 new utility corridors which will be kept to those that are already in existence with none being added on. The purpose of utility corridors is to condense the footprint and associate impacts of any future roads and utilities crossings on USACE lands.

Therefore, cumulative impacts on land use within the area surrounding Benbrook Lake, when combined with past and proposed actions in the region, are anticipated to be negligible.

4.3.2 Water Resources

A major impact would occur if any action is inconsistent with adopted surface water classifications or water use plans, or if an action would substantially alter those resources required for, supporting, or benefiting the current use. Benbrook Lake was developed for flood control, water conservation, fish and wildlife, and recreation purposes. The reclassifications and resource objectives required to revise the Benbrook Lake MP are compatible with water use plans and surface water classification; further, they were developed to help fulfill regional goals associated with good stewardship of water resources that would allow for continued use of water resources associated with Benbrook Lake. Therefore, cumulative impacts on water resources within the area surrounding Benbrook Lake, when combined with past and proposed actions in the region, are anticipated to be minor.

4.3.3 Climate Change and GHG

Under the Proposed Action, current Benbrook Lake project management plans and monitoring programs will not be changed. In the event that GHG emission issues become significant enough to impact the current operations at Benbrook Lake, the 2021 MP and all associated documents will be reviewed and revised as necessary. Therefore, implementation of the MP, when combined with other existing and proposed projects in the region, will result in negligible cumulative positive impacts on climate change or GHG.

4.3.4 Air Quality

A major highway project is scheduled near the zone of interest for Benbrook Lake; therefore, increasing the amount of new emissions that could potentially affect air quality within the region. The Proposed Action will not adversely impact air quality within the area. Vehicle traffic along park and area roadways and routine daily activities in nearby communities contribute to current and future emission sources; however, the impacts associated with the reclassification of lands at Benbrook Lake under the Proposed Action will be negligible. Seasonal prescribed burning could occur on Benbrook Lake to help maintain the prairies within Benbrook Lake as well as partnering lands, but will have minor, negative impacts on air quality through elevated ground-level O₃ and particulate matter concentrations; however, these seasonal burns will be scheduled so that impacts are minimized. Implementation of the MP, when combined with other existing and proposed projects in the region, could result in minor adverse and beneficial cumulative impacts on air quality.

4.3.5 Topography, Geology, and Soils

A major impact could occur if a proposed future action exacerbates or promotes long-term erosion, if the soils are inappropriate for the proposed construction and will create a risk to life or property, or if there will be a substantial reduction in agricultural production or loss of Prime Farmland soils. Cumulative impacts on topography, geology,

and soils within the area surrounding Benbrook Lake, when combined with past and proposed actions in the region, are anticipated to be negligible.

4.3.6 Natural Resources

The significance threshold for natural resources will include a substantial reduction in ecological processes, communities, or populations that will threaten the long-term viability of a species or result in the substantial loss of a sensitive community that could not be offset or otherwise compensated. Past, present, and future projects are not anticipated to impact the viability of any plant species or community, rare or sensitive habitats, or wildlife. The establishment of ESA, MRML-WM, and MRML-VM areas, as well as resource objectives that favor protection and restoration of valuable natural resources will have beneficial cumulative impacts. No identified projects will threaten the viability of natural resources. Therefore, there will be major long-term beneficial impacts to natural resources resulting from the revision of the MP when combined with past and proposed actions in the area.

4.3.7 Threatened and Endangered Species

The Proposed Action and No Action Alternative will not adversely impact threatened, endangered and TXNDD species within the area. Should federally listed species change in the future (e.g., delisting of previously listed species or listing of new species), associated requirements will be reflected in revised land management practices in coordination with the USFWS. The USACE will continue cooperative management plans with the USFWS and TPWD to preserve, enhance, and protect critical wildlife habitat resources.

No new projects are proposed for USACE lands within the Benbrook Lake project area, and past, present, and future projects are not anticipated to impact threatened and endangered species as they will be coordinated with the appropriate resource agencies. Therefore, there will be minor long-term beneficial impacts on threatened and endangered species resulting from the revision of the Benbrook Lake 1972 MP when combined with past and proposed actions in the area.

4.3.8 Invasive Species

To the extent that funding will allow, USACE will continue its proactive, cooperative herbicide treatments with TPWD to control these species that affect not only the natural biological resources, but also recreational opportunities. Pesticide treatment for invasive ants will also continue. The USACE will also continue to monitor for zebra mussels and take all practicable measures to prevent them from becoming a nuisance to Benbrook Lake.

Invasive species control has and will continue to be conducted on various areas across the project lands. Implementing Best Management Practices (BMP) will help reduce the introduction and distribution of invasive species, ensuring that proposed actions in the region will not contribute to the overall cumulative impacts related to invasive species.

Therefore, there will be minor long-term beneficial impacts on reducing and preventing invasive species within the area surrounding Benbrook Lake.

4.3.9 Cultural, Historical, and Archaeological Resources

The Proposed Action will not affect cultural resources or historic properties, as the master plan revision does not involve any ground disturbing activities. However, ESA and Wildlife Management lands provide additional protection against ground disturbances. Additionally, use of the 12 new utility corridors will restrict any future pipelines, roads, or other infrastructure to already disturbed areas, further limiting impacts on cultural resources. Therefore, this action, when combined with other existing and proposed projects in the region, will not result in major cumulative impacts on cultural resources or historic properties.

4.3.10 Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice

The Proposed Action will not result in the displacement of persons (minority, low-income, children, or otherwise) as a result of implementing the reclassifications, resources objectives, and resource plan in the MP. Therefore, the effects of the Proposed Action on environmental justice and the protection of children, when combined with other ongoing and proposed projects in the Benbrook Lake area, will not be considered a major cumulative effect.

4.3.11 Recreation

Benbrook Lake provides regionally significant outdoor recreation benefits including a variety of recreation opportunities. Even though the amount of acreage available for High Density Recreation and Low Density Recreation will decrease as a result of implementing the reclassifications, resources objectives, and resource plan in the MP, these changes reflect changes in land management and historic recreation use patterns that have occurred since 1972 at Benbrook Lake. The conversion of these lands will have no effect on current or projected public use. Therefore, the Proposed Action, when combined with other existing and proposed projects in the region, will result in negligible beneficial cumulative impacts on area recreational resources.

4.3.12 Aesthetic Resources

No impacts on visual resources will occur as a result of implementing the reclassifications, resources objectives, and resource plan in the MP. The Proposed Action, especially the classification of ESAs, in conjunction with other projects in the region, will result in minor beneficial cumulative impacts on the visual resources in the Benbrook Lake area.

4.3.13 Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste

No hazardous material or solid waste concerns will be expected with implementation of the MP; therefore, when combined with other ongoing and proposed projects in the Benbrook Lake area, there will be no major cumulative effects on hazardous materials and solid waste.

4.3.14 Health and Safety

No health or safety risks will be created by the Proposed Action. However, the implementation of the new surface water classifications will help to improve safety on and around the water. The effects of implementing the MP, when combined with other ongoing and proposed projects in the Benbrook Lake area, will not be considered a major cumulative effect.

SECTION 5: COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

This EA has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of all applicable environmental laws and regulations, and has been prepared in accordance with the CEQ's implementing regulations for NEPA, 40 CFR Parts 1500 – 1508, and the USACE ER 200-2-2, *Environmental Quality: Procedures for Implementing NEPA*. The revision of the 2021 MP is consistent with the USACE's Environmental Operating Principles. The following is a list of applicable environmental laws and regulations that were considered in the planning of this project and the status of compliance with each:

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958, as amended – The USACE initiated public involvement and agency scoping activities to solicit input on the MP revision process, as well as identify reclassification proposals, and identify significant issues related to the Proposed Action. Information provided by USFWS and TPWD on fish and wildlife resources has been utilized in the development of the 2021 MP.

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended – Current lists of threatened or endangered species were compiled for the 2021 MP. There will be no adverse impacts on threatened or endangered species resulting from the revision of the 1972 MP. However, beneficial impacts, such as habitat protection, will occur as a result of the revision of the MP by classification of ESA and MRML-VM & WM lands.

Executive Order 13186 (Migratory Bird Habitat Protection) – Sections 3a and 3e of EO 13186 direct Federal agencies to evaluate the impacts of their actions on migratory birds, with emphasis on species of concern, and inform the USFWS of potential negative impacts on migratory birds. The 1972 MP revision will not result in adverse impacts on migratory birds or their habitat. Beneficial impacts will occur through protection of habitat as a result of the MP revision.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as amended – The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 extends Federal protection to migratory bird species. The nonregulated “take” of migratory birds is prohibited under this act in a manner similar to the prohibition of “take” of threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. The timing of resource management activities will be coordinated to avoid impacts on migratory and nesting birds.

CWA of 1977, as amended – The Proposed Action is in compliance with all state and Federal CWA regulations and requirements and is regularly monitored by the USACE and TCEQ for water quality. A state water quality certification pursuant to

Section 401 of the CWA is not required for the MP. There will be no change in the existing management of the reservoir that will impact water quality.

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended – Compliance with the NHPA of 1966, as amended, requires identification of all properties in the project area listed in, or eligible for listing in, the NRHP. All previous surveys and site salvages were coordinated with the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer. Known sites are mapped and avoided by maintenance activities. Areas that have not undergone cultural resources surveys or evaluations will need to do so prior to any earthmoving or other potentially impacting activities.

Clean Air Act of 1977, as amended – The USEPA established nationwide air quality standards to protect public health and welfare. Existing operation and management of the reservoir is compliant with the Clean Air Act and will not change with the MP revision.

Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) of 1980 and 1995 – The FPPA’s purpose is to minimize the extent to which Federal programs contribute to the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses. There are Prime Farmland and farmland of state importance on Benbrook Lake project lands, but these will not be significantly impacted.

Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, as amended – EO 11990 requires Federal agencies to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands in executing Federal projects. The Proposed Action complies with EO 11990.

Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, as amended – This EO directs Federal agencies to evaluate the potential impacts of proposed actions in floodplains. The operation and management of the existing project complies with EO 11988.

CEQ Memorandum dated August 11, 1980, Prime or Unique Farmlands – Prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, and is also available for these uses. The Proposed Action will not impact Prime Farmland present on Benbrook Lake project lands.

Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice – This EO directs Federal agencies to achieve environmental justice to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law, and consistent with the principles set forth in the report on the National Performance Review. Agencies are required to identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations. The revisions in the MP will not result in a disproportionate adverse impact on minority or low-income population groups.

SECTION 6: IRRETRIEVABLE AND IRREVERSIBLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

NEPA requires that Federal agencies identify “any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources which will be involved in the Proposed Action should it be implemented” (42 U.S.C. § 4332). An irreversible commitment of resources occurs when the primary or secondary impacts of an action result in the loss of future options for a resource. Usually, this is when the action affects the use of a nonrenewable resource or it affects a renewable resource that takes a long time to regenerate. The impacts for this project from the reclassification of land will not be considered an irreversible commitment because subsequent MP revisions will result in some lands being reclassified to a prior, similar land classification. An irretrievable commitment of resources is typically associated with the loss of productivity or use of a natural resource (e.g., loss of production or harvest). No irreversible or irretrievable impacts on Federally protected species or their habitat is anticipated from implementing revisions to the Benbrook Lake MP.

SECTION 7: PUBLIC AND AGENCY COORDINATION

In accordance with 40 CFR §§1501.7, 1503, and 1506.6, the USACE initiated public involvement and agency scoping activities to solicit input on the revision of the 1972 MP, as well as identifying reclassification proposals and significant issues related to the Proposed Action. The USACE began its public involvement process with a public scoping meeting to provide an avenue for public and agency stakeholders to ask questions and provide comments. This public scoping meeting was held on 21 August 2019 at the Benbrook Senior Center in Benbrook, Texas. The USACE, Fort Worth District, placed advertisements on the USACE webpage, social media, and print publications prior to the public scoping meeting.

Because of the COVID-19 virus pandemic and concerns over public safety, the draft release for public comment and information meeting to present the draft of 2021 Master Plan was cancelled and replaced with an online video and other information resources that summarizes the Master Plan and posted on the Fort Worth District website. Public comments on the draft 2021 MP and EA were accepted until April 21, 2020.

At the close of the 30-day public review period, public comments received were incorporated and formally addressed in Appendix F of the MP. Attachment A includes the ads published in the local newspaper, the agency coordination letters, and the distribution list for the coordination letters. The EA was coordinated with agencies having legislative and administrative responsibilities for environmental protection. A copy of the correspondence from the agencies that provided comments and planning assistance for preparation of the EA are included in Attachment A.

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SECTION 8: REFERENCES

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). 2005. Executive Office of the President. *Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act*.

United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). 2021. Benbrook Lake Master Plan, Trinity River Basin, Tarrant County, Texas. USACE, Fort Worth District.

USACE. 1988. *Engineering Regulation 200-2-2, Procedures for Implementing NEPA*. Washington, DC.

SECTION 9: ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

%	Percent
°	Degrees
ac-ft	acre-feet
AQCR	Air Quality Control Region
BMP	Best Management Practice
BP	Before Present
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	cubic feet per second
CHSP	Cedar Hill State Park
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
CO ₂ e	CO ₂ -equivalent
CRMP	Cultural Resources Management Plan
CWA	Clean Water Act
DSHS	Department of State Health Services (Texas)
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMS	Ecological Mapping System (TPWD)
EO	Executive Order
EP	Engineer Pamphlet
ER	Engineer Regulation
ERS	Environmental Radiation Surveillance
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
F	Fahrenheit
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GCWA	Golden-cheeked Warbler
gpm	gallons per minute
HDR	High Density Recreation
HTRW	Hazardous, Toxic, Radioactive Wastes
IFR	Inactive/Future Recreation
IPAC	Information for Planning and Consultation (USFWS)
LDR	Low Density Recreation
MP	Master Plan
MRML	Multiple Resource Management Lands
msl	mean sea level
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NCTCOG	North Central Texas Council of Governments
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NGVD	National Geodetic Vertical Datum
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NO	Nitrogen Oxide
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NRRS	National Recreation Reservation Service
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory (USFWS)

O ₃	Ozone
OAQPS	Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
Pb	Lead
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyls
PCPI	Per Capita Personal Incomes
PL	Public Law
PM _{2.5}	Particulate Matter Less than 2.5 Microns
PM ₁₀	Particulate Matter Less than 10 Microns
PO	Project Operations
RM	River Mile
ROD	Record of Decision
RPEC	Regional Planning and Environmental Center
SGCN	Species of Greatest Conservation Need
SMU	Southern Methodist University
SO ₂	Sulfur Dioxide
SUPER	USACE Suite of Computer Programs
TCAP	Texas Conservation Action Plan
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TCLP	Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
TPWD	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
TSWQS	Texas Surface Water Quality Standards
TXNDD	Texas Natural Diversity Database
U.S.	United States
U.S.C.	U.S. Code
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGCRP	U.S. Global Change Research Group
VOC	Volatile Organic Compounds
WHAP	Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Procedures
WM	Wildlife Management
VM	Vegetation Management
ZOI	Zone of Interest

SECTION 10: LIST OF PREPARERS

Paul E. Roberts - Biologist, Regional Planning and Environmental Center, Fort Worth District- 6 years of USACE experience.

ATTACHMENT A: NEPA COORDINATION AND PUBLIC SCOPING



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TX 76102-0300

August 6, 2019

Public Notice

Benbrook Lake Master Plan Study Initiation

The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), hereby informs the public of the initiation of the revision to the Benbrook Lake Master Plan. The Plan is a vital tool produced and used by USACE to guide the responsible stewardship of USACE-administered lands and resources for the benefit of present and future generations. Public participation is critical to the successful revision of the Master Plan.

An open house style public meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at the Benbrook Senior Center, 1010 Mercedes St, Benbrook, Texas 76126. A brief overview outlining the purpose and scope of the Master Plan, as well as the proposed schedule and opportunities for public involvement will be presented at 6:30 p.m., followed by a session to view maps, ask questions, and provide written comments about the project.

The public meeting information is available to download at the following USACE website:

<https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/About/LakesandRecreationInformation/MasterPlanUpdates/Benbrook-Lake/>

Key topics to be addressed in the revised Master Plan include revised land classifications, new natural and recreational resource management objectives, recreation facility needs, and special topics such as invasive species management. Revision of the Master Plan will not address in detail the technical operational aspects of the reservoir related to the water supply or flood risk management missions of the project.

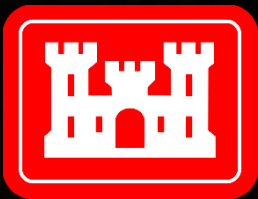
In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and other applicable laws and regulations, a 30-day written comment period begins on Wednesday, August 21, 2019. Comments and questions pertaining to the proposed revision may be submitted at the public meeting; mailed to Joshua Quiring, Project Manager, CESWF-PEC-TM, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Planning and Environmental Center, Fort Worth District, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300; or emailed to CESWF-PER-Benbrook@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angela Lane".

Angela M. Lane
Acting Chief, Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center

Benbrook Lake Master Plan Revision Public Information Meeting August 21, 2019



US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG®

Benbrook Senior Center
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fort Worth District

Purpose of this Meeting

- Describe the purpose and intent of a Master Plan
- Describe the revision process
- Explain why the Benbrook Lake Master Plan is in need of revision and how it may affect nearby communities and the public at large
- Answer questions
- Ask for your participation



The Corps' Vision for Benbrook Lake

The land, water surface and recreational resources of Benbrook Lake will be managed to protect, conserve, and sustain natural and cultural resources, especially environmentally sensitive resources, and provide outdoor recreation opportunities that complement overall project purposes for the benefit of present and future generations.



Benbrook Lake Missions



- Flood Risk Management
- Water Supply
- Environmental Stewardship
- Public Outdoor Recreation
- Future Navigation*

* Although still part of the lake's mission, a portion of navigation storage is contracted for water supply.

Benbrook Lake – Construction
Began..... 1947
Completed..... 1950
Impoundment..... 1952



Facts about Benbrook Lake

- Conservation pool elevation (694.00 MSL)
- Top of Flood Control Pool and Spillway Crest (724.00 MSL)
- Top of Dam (747.00 MSL)
- At conservation pool, there is 3,635 surface acres of water and 4,463 acres of public land.
- The federal property boundary line is 46 miles long
- The shoreline at normal pool is 40 miles long
- Benbrook Lake has an annual visitation of approximately 1.1 million visits.



More Fun Facts

- 9 parks/recreational areas
- 19+ miles of hiking & biking trail network
- \$41 million in sales and \$23 million in added value to the local economy within a 30 mile radius

- **Between 1952 and 2015, Benbrook Dam and Lake prevented an estimated \$7.3 billion in flood damages, including \$390 million in 2015 alone.**



Purpose and Intent of Master Plans



The Corps defines a Master Plan as...

The strategic land use management document that guides the comprehensive management and development of all project recreational, natural and cultural resources throughout the life of the water resource development project.

Source: Chapter 3 of EP 1130-2-550 at www.usace.army.mil/library/publications



BUILDING STRONG®

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- Applies to all Federal Actions that affect the environment such as Master Plan revisions
- Requires Federal agencies to *CONSIDER and DOCUMENT the environmental impacts of their proposed actions as part of an agency's OVERALL planning and decision-making process*
- Requires Federal agencies to cooperate with federal, state and local governments, and other concerned public and private organizations and citizens during project planning
- Scoping is where the federal agency asks for initial input from other agencies, citizens and organizations regarding project area, resources and uses



Key Points Regarding Master Plans

- Main focus is stewardship of natural and cultural resources and provision of quality outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities
- Proposed effective life of a Master Plan is 25 years
- Recreational use of the water surface is addressed



Additional Key Points

- Key sections of the Master Plan Revision include
 - ▶ Resource management objectives
 - ▶ Revised land use classifications
 - ▶ Conceptual management plan for each land classification
- Potential outcomes could be
 - ▶ Designation of lands for utility corridors, environmentally sensitive areas...
- Protection of environmentally sensitive areas is given priority



What Master Plans Are Not

- Master Plans **do not** address in detail the technical aspects of:
 - ▶ Regional water quality
 - ▶ Water management for flood risk management
 - ▶ Water supply or water level management
 - ▶ Shoreline management



What About Drought/Flood?

- Master Plans cannot change how water in the lake is managed – addressed in separate Water Control Plan
- Natural resources and recreation management must be implemented within the constraints of the primary missions of flood risk management and water supply



Why Revise the Benbrook Lake Master Plan?

- Current Master Plan is dated March 1972 and has exceeded its useful life. The way the Lake is managed today is different from the vision set forth in the 1972 plan.
- Land classifications have not been updated since the 1972 Master Plan
- Population in the area has grown significantly:

	1950 Population	2018 Population	% Change
City of Benbrook	617	23,566	+3,719%
City of Fort Worth	278,778	895,000	+221%
Tarrant County	361,253	2,084,931	+477%

- The Master Plan must be revised to address current and projected future growth in the region

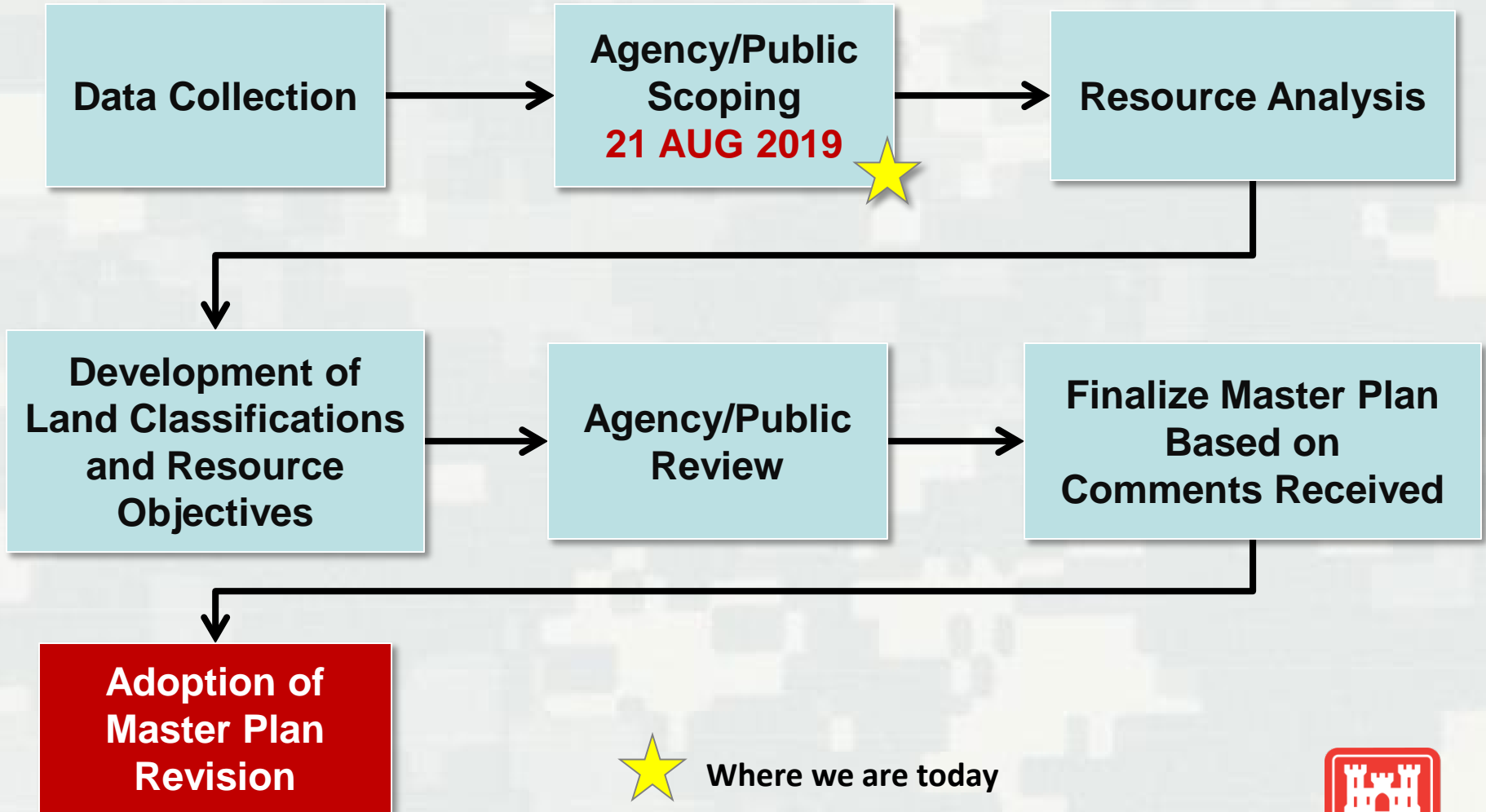


Master Plan Revision Process

- Accomplished by a team of Corps employees with input from other agencies
- Public and stakeholder input will be carefully considered
- An Environmental Assessment of the Master Plan will be prepared and included as an appendix



The Master Planning Process



What Major Changes Are Needed in the Current Master Plan?

- Re-examine the classification of all project lands and water surface
 - ▶ Some currently designated parks (those that were never developed) may be reclassified as wildlife or low intensity recreation lands
 - ▶ New or expanded high density recreation areas could be designated
 - ▶ Anticipate some lands being classified as environmentally sensitive areas, especially areas with Endangered Species Habitat
 - ▶ Possibly designate utility corridors



Additional Major Changes

- Prepare New Resource Management Objectives
 - ▶ Need current recreation objectives that reflect major trends identified by TPWD and through public input (specify types and number of facilities and related amenities needed to meet demand)
 - ▶ Need current natural resource objectives that reflect major habitat and open space needs identified by TPWD, USFWS, and public input



Benbrook Lake Land Classification

Current (1972) Land Classifications	Proposed New Land Classifications
Operation and Maintenance	Project Operations
Recreational Areas	High Density Recreation
	Environmentally Sensitive Areas
Aesthetic Areas Multiple Use Recreation Areas Special Use Recreation Areas Wildlife Areas	Multiple Resource Management -Low Density Recreation -Wildlife Management -Vegetation Management -Future/Inactive Recreation
Water Surface	Water Surface Restricted No Wake Open Recreation



Land Classification	Definition
Project Operations	Those lands required for the dam, operations center, office, maintenance compound and other areas that are used solely for project operations
High Density Recreation	Land developed for intensive recreational activities by the visiting public, including developed recreation areas and areas for marinas and related concessions, and resorts
Multiple Resource Management	Recreation – Low Density: Activities such as hiking, primitive camping, wildlife observation, and hunting
	Wildlife Management General: Fish and wildlife management activities
	Vegetative Management: Management activities for the protection and development of a specific vegetative cover
	Inactive and/or Future Recreation Areas: Recreation areas planned for the future or that have been temporarily closed
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	Areas where scientific, ecological, cultural or aesthetic features have been identified. These areas must be considered by management to ensure they are not adversely impacted
Easement Lands	All land for which 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



Water Surface Classification	Definition
Restricted	Water areas restricted for project operations, safety, and security purposes
Designated No-Wake	To protect environmentally sensitive shoreline areas, recreational water access areas from disturbance, and for public safety
Fish and Wildlife Sanctuary	Annual or seasonal restrictions on areas to protect fish and wildlife species during periods of migration, resting, feeding, nesting, and/or spawning
Open Recreation	Those waters available for year round or seasonal water-based recreational use



Land Classifications

Project Operations - This category includes those lands required for the dam, spillway, powerhouse, switchyard, levees, dikes, offices, maintenance facilities, and other areas that are used solely for the operation of the project.



Land Classifications

High Density Recreation - Lands developed for intensive recreational activities for the visiting public including day use areas and/or campgrounds. These could include areas for concessions (marinas, comprehensive resorts, etc.).



Land Classifications

Environmentally Sensitive

Areas - 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 State statutes. These areas must be considered by management to ensure they are not adversely impacted.

Examples may include mature bottomland forests, river and stream corridors, scenic bluffs, and native prairie.



Land Classifications

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.)



Land Classifications

Wildlife Management - Lands designated for stewardship of fish and wildlife resources



Land Classifications

Vegetative Management - Lands designated for stewardship of forest, prairie, and other native vegetative cover



Water Classifications



- Water Surface - Restricted
- Water Surface - Designated No Wake
- Water Surface - Fish and Wildlife Sanctuary
- Water Surface - Open Recreation



Utility Corridors

- Linear strips of Federal land used for consolidation of multiple utility lines
- Establish only where no viable alternative to crossing Federal land exists
- Main purpose is to reduce negative environmental impacts
- Generally follow existing roads or utility lines



Examples of Resource Objectives

- **Recreation Objective:**

- ▶ Expand existing trails and create new trails for a variety of users
- ▶ Extend key boat ramps to accommodate low or high lake levels
- ▶ Leasing Corps operated parks to other entities

- **Natural Resource Objective:**

- ▶ Restore degraded prairie sites to support a diversity of native grasses and forbs
- ▶ Implement invasive species control programs
- ▶ Identify and protect environmentally sensitive areas
- ▶ Refine wildlife management programs

- **General Objective:**

- ▶ Protect resources by reducing encroachments and trespass through improved boundary marking and surveillance



How Can I Participate?

- Attend Meetings
- Visit our website at:
(<https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/About/Lakes-and-Recreation-Information/Master-Plan-Updates/Benbrook-Lake/>)
- Send us an e-mail:
(CESWF-PER-Benbrook@usace.army.mil)
- Visit with our lake staff at the Benbrook Lake Office
- Tell your friends
- Fill out a comment card now or take it home and send later (30 days)



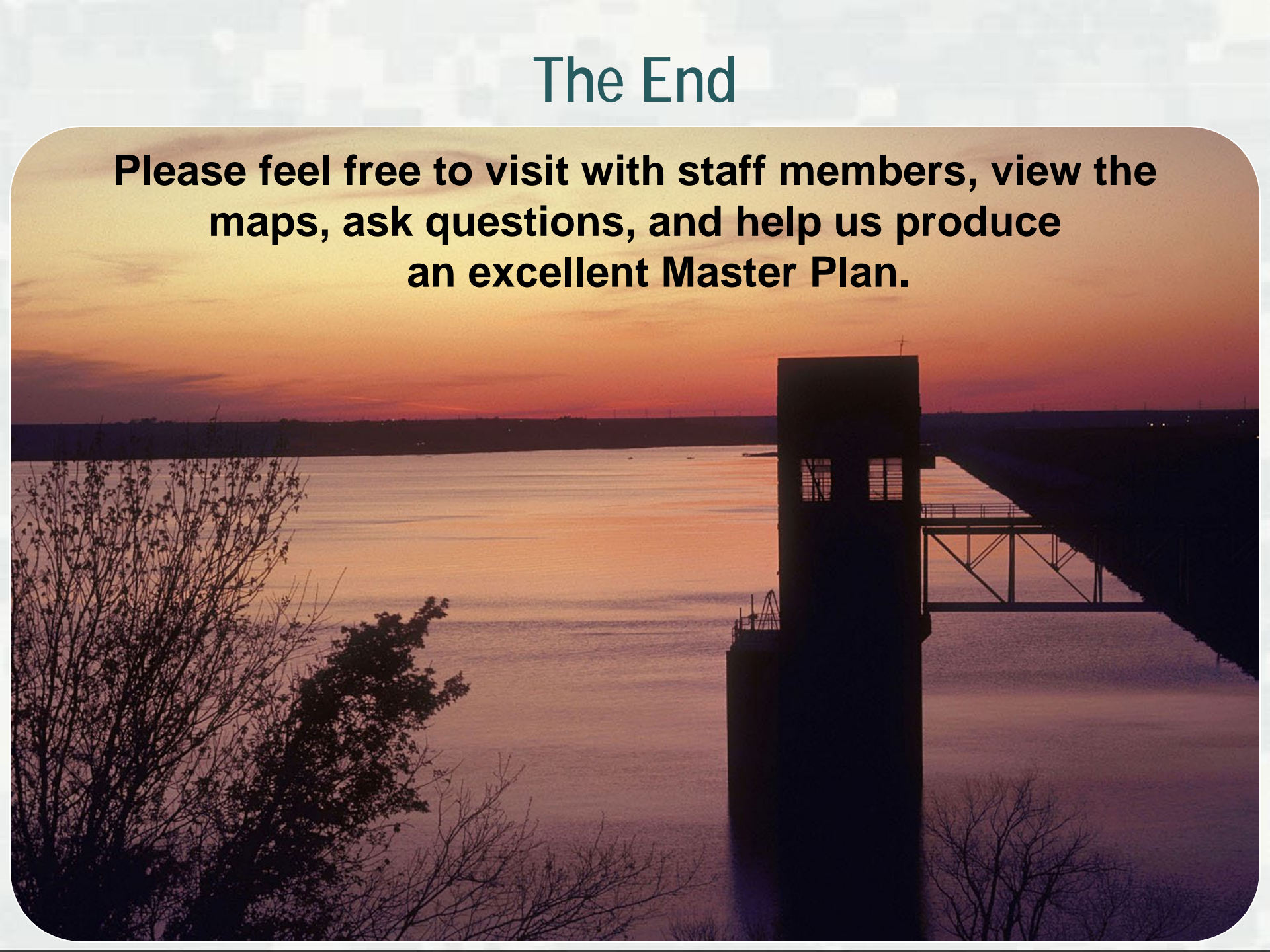
Master Plan Next Steps

- Typical lake master plan update will take 24 to 36 months to finalize. The Benbrook Lake Master Plan update is in the early stage of development
- First 30 day public comment – 21 Aug through 20 Sep
- Prairie Habitat Assessment – 7-11 October 2019
(Wildlife Habitat Assessment was 8-12 April 2019)
- Draft MP / EA public meeting in May 2020, followed by another 30 day Public/Agency comment period
- Final document: 4 - 6 months (Fall 2020)



The End

Please feel free to visit with staff members, view the maps, ask questions, and help us produce an excellent Master Plan.





Benbrook Lake Master Plan Revision

General Information

The Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Fort Worth District, is revising the Benbrook Lake Master Plan. The Master Plan is intended to serve as a comprehensive land and recreational management plan with a life span of 25 years. It guides the stewardship of natural and cultural resources and the provision of outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities to ensure sustainability of federal land associated with Benbrook Lake.



About Benbrook Lake

Benbrook Lake is in the Trinity River Basin and is located in Tarrant County. The lake proper is bordered by the cities of Fort Worth and Benbrook as well as unincorporated Tarrant County. When originally built, the dam and lake's purpose were primarily flood control and navigation. Today the lake and dam is a multi-purpose reservoir for flood control, water supply, fish and wildlife management, recreation, and future navigation. In addition to these primary missions, USACE has an inherent mission of environmental stewardship of project lands and works closely the cities of Fort Worth and Benbrook to provide regionally important outdoor recreation opportunities. Tarrant County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1 controls the water supply aspect of Benbrook Lake. The dam at Benbrook Lake was completed in 1950, and impoundment began in 1952. At the conservation (normal) pool elevation of 694.0 feet NGVD, the lake covers 3,635 acres. Benbrook Lake is home to Holiday Park, Bear Creek Park, Mustang Park, Rocky Creek Park, Longhorn Park, Pecan Valley Park (operated by the city of Fort Worth), and Dutch Branch Park (operated by the city of Benbrook).

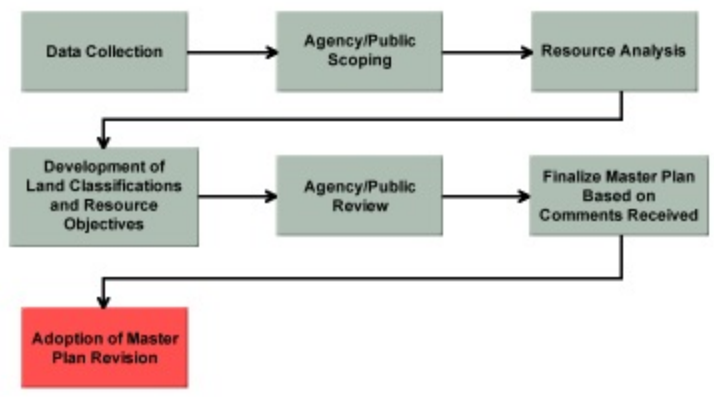
What is a Master Plan?

The Master Plan is the strategic land use management document that guides the comprehensive management and development of all project recreational, natural, and cultural resources throughout the life of the water resources project. Revision of the Master Plan will not address in detail the technical operational aspects of the reservoir related to the water supply or flood risk management missions of the project.

Why Revise the Benbrook Lake Master Plan?

The current Master Plan for Benbrook Lake was published in March 1972. Since then, many changes have taken place including major utility and highway construction, urbanization, and evolving recreational uses. The Plan and the land classifications are in need of revision to address changes in regional land use, population, outdoor recreation trends, and USACE management policy. Key topics to be addressed in the revised Master Plan include revised land classifications, new natural and recreational resource management objectives, recreation facility needs, and special topics such as invasive species management and protection of sensitive wildlife habitat. Public participation is critical to the successful revision of the Master Plan.

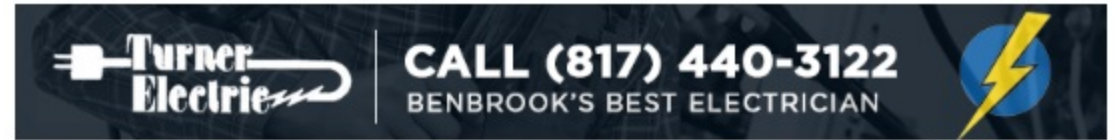
The Master Planning Process



Related Files

August 2019

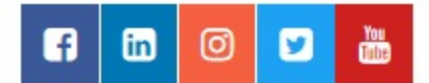
- Benbrook Lake Master Plan Study Initiation (28.8 MB)
- Benbrook Lake Master Plan - 1972 (28.8 MB)
- Comment Form with Instructions
- August 21, 2019 Public Meeting - Presentation (4.2 MB)
- August 21, 2019 Public Meeting - Pamphlet with map (4.4 MB)



Home / Politics

Corps of Engineers to Hold Public Meeting for Input on Potential Revisions to Lake Master Plan

By Benbrook Life Published August 21, 2019



BENBROOK, TX

37°

fog
humidity: 100%
wind: 8mph S
H 50 • L 37

50°	61°	53°	57°	49°
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON

Weather from OpenWeatherMap

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will hold a public meeting to discuss potential revisions to the Benbrook Lake Master Plan at 6:30 pm. Wednesday, August 21, 2019, at the Benbrook Senior Center, [1010 Mercedes St., 76126](http://www.ci.benbrook.tx.us/1010-Mercedes-St.-76126).

Key topics include revised land classifications, new [natural](#) and recreational resource management objectives, recreation facility needs and invasive species management. Revisions will not address in detail the technical operational aspects of the reservoir related to the [water supply](#) or flood risk management.

Read the entire article on the City's website here: <http://www.ci.benbrook.tx.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=381>

Local Politics



Corps of Engineers to Hold Public Meeting for Input on Potential Revisions to Lake Master Plan

August 21, 2019



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The original item was published from 9/19/2019 4:41:00 PM to 9/19/2019 4:42:08 PM.

News Updates

Posted on: August 22, 2019

[ARCHIVED] Corps of Engineers Seeking Public Input on Benbrook Lake Master Plan

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is proposing revisions to the Benbrook Lake Master Plan. Through approximately September 21, a **30-day written comment period** is going on, and the Corps is **actively encouraging public input**. Questions and comments can be submitted to the Corps in writing or email. For more information about the plan and how to participate, please see the links below. The Corps wants to hear from our community!

[Read the Corps' introduction to the Master Plan Revisions](#)

[View the Corps' public presentation](#)

[Download the Public Comment Form](#)

You also may email your comments to CESWF-PER-Benbrook@usace.army.mil



 Like

 Comment

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Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



August 14 at 5:10 PM · 

Benbrook Lake Master Plan Public Meeting:

<https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/Media/Public-Notices/Article/1933999/benbrook-lake-master-plan-study-initiation/>

An open house style public meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at 6:30 p.m., Benbrook Senior Center, 1010 Mercedes St, Benbrook, Texas 76126. Key topics to be addressed in the revised Master Plan include revised land classifications, new natural and recreational resource management objectives, recreation facility needs, and special topics such as invasive species management.




 15

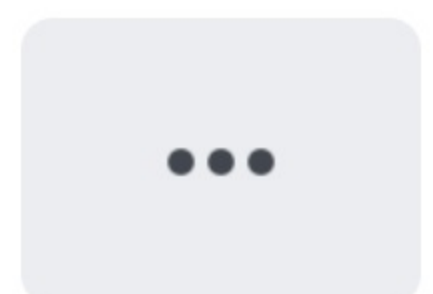
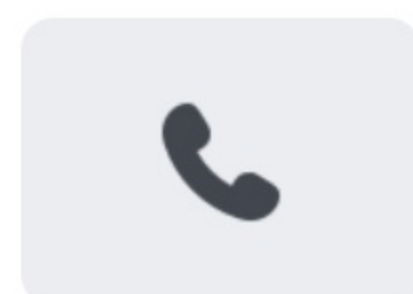
2 Comments 15 Shares

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Fort Worth Chapter of the Native Prairies Association of Texas

What's Happening on the Fort Worth Prairie!



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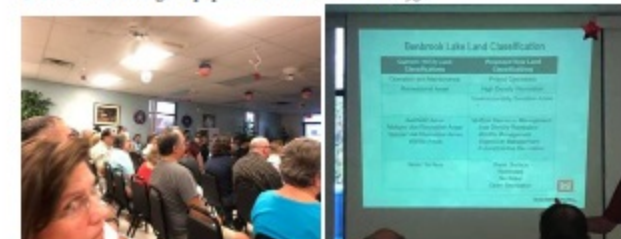
← Patch burn grazing workshop and Sept. 17-18 in Decatur Article from Arlington's Post Oak Journal: Widescape Update

Search input field with a search button

Benbrook Lake Master Plan Public Input

Posted on August 27, 2019 by fwpnat

FWNPAT is standing up for prairie conservation and appreciation at the public meeting discussing the Benbrook Lake Master Plan. The master plan was last updated in the 70's! Check out the change in population in this area since 1950!



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the Benbrook Lake office staff are working on a revision of their Strategic Land Use Management Master Plan. The process of updating the Master Plan will categorize the current and future land use when it comes to recreation, natural resources and cultural resources on Corps property at Benbrook Lake. One of the major changes would be to classify previous areas that may have been fisheries and wildlife lands or recreation areas that need to be changed to Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) which are defined as: "Areas where scientific, ecological, cultural or aesthetic features have been identified."

These areas must be considered by management to ensure they are not adversely impacted. " Native remnant prairie (especially at Benbrook Lake), bottomland hardwoods among others have been identified via habitat surveys to be included in the ESA designation. ESA designation will provide further protection of the resources than previous land designations. Once completed and approved, the plan is usually good for the next 25 years.

Please email comments: CESWF-PER-Benbrook@usace.army.mil

Anyone may make comments via email, via a comment form at the meeting, can mail written comments or can drop off paper comments to the lake office. USACE needs them in writing in some form, and they do have 30 days after the meeting to provide comments.

There is also a website which has relevant information and documents, and will be updated with the presentation and handout after the meeting:

<https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/~/Media/Plan/Benbrook-Lake/>

The website already has the 1972 Master Plan and comment form.

Archives

- December 2019
- October 2019
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Corps of Engineers seeks public input on Benbrook Lake Master Plan

Posted Aug. 19, 2019

 **Archived Content**
Information and links provided may no longer be accurate.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will hold a public meeting to discuss potential revisions to the Benbrook Lake Master Plan at **6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 21**, at the Benbrook Senior Center, 1010 Mercedes St. in Benbrook.

Key topics include revised land classifications, new natural and recreational resource management objectives, recreational facility needs and invasive species management. Revisions will not address in detail the technical operational aspects of the reservoir related to water supply or flood risk management.

The meeting will begin with a brief overview of the Master Plan and will allow time to view maps, ask questions and provide written comments about the project.

[View the Master Plan revision information.](#)

To learn more, [contact the Corps of Engineers.](#)



The lake is bordered by the cities of Fort Worth and Benbrook and unincorporated Tarrant County.

City News

- [MedStar implements field-deployable stop-the-bleed kits](#)
- [Get into the holiday spirit at your local community center](#)
- [Battle of the Badges pits police officers, firefighters](#)
- [Public meeting to seek public comments on State Highway 170 improvements](#)
- [City Council preview: Tuesday, Dec. 10](#)
- [More News »](#)

Calendar



Media / Public Notices

Public Notices by Year

- 2019 (31)
- 2018 (23)
- 2017 (19)
- 2016 (19)
- 2015 (25)
- 2014 (40)
- 2013 (56)
- 2012 (10)

Benbrook Lake Master Plan Study Initiation

Published Aug. 14, 2019 / Expiration date: 8/22/2019

[PRINT](#) | [E-MAIL](#)
[View full public notice](#)

Benbrook Lake Master Plan Study Initiation

Benbrook Lake master plan



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

February 25, 2021

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

DRAFT MASTER PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS BENBROOK LAKE 2021 MASTER PLAN TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Fort Worth District, hereby informs the public of the release of the draft Benbrook Lake 2021 Master Plan (hereafter Plan), draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and draft Environmental Assessment (EA).

The Plan is a vital tool produced and used by the USACE to guide the responsible stewardship of the USACE-administered lands and resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The Plan provides direction for appropriate management, use, development, enhancement, protection, and conservation of the natural, cultural, and manmade resources at Benbrook Lake. The Plan presents an inventory and analysis of land resources, resource management objectives, land use classifications, resource use plan for each land use classification, current and projected park facility needs, an analysis of existing and anticipated resource use, and anticipated influences on overall project operation and management. The most current Master Plan for Benbrook Lake was approved in March of 1972.

In lieu of a face-to-face public meeting due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the USACE will provide a virtual presentation that gives an overview of the proposed changes to the current Benbrook Lake Master Plan and instructions on how to submit comments. A 30-day public comment period will begin on March 5, 2021 and end on April 5, 2021. The draft Plan, FONSI, EA, and comment instructions will be available for download starting March 5, 2021 at the following Fort Worth District website:

<https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/About/LakesandRecreationInformation/MasterPlanUpdates/Benbrook-Lake/>

Comments, suggestions, and questions on the proposed revision can be emailed to CESWF-PER-Benbrook@usace.army.mil, or mailed to Joshua Quiring: Project Manager, CESWF-PEM-E, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Planning and Environmental Center, Fort Worth District, P.O. Box 17300, Room 3A12, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300.

Sincerely,

Amanda McGuire

Amanda M. McGuire
Chief, Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center

Benbrook Lake Draft Master Plan Online Public Review March 2021

Presented By Joshua Quiring
Master Plan Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fort Worth District



Hello, my name is Joshua Quiring I am the US Army Corps of Engineers Project Manager for the Benbrook Lake Master Plan. I have been working with a planning team for approximately two years to revise the Benbrook Lake Master Plan. We now have a draft revision ready for public review. Normally, we would hold face-to-face public workshops to announce the draft, but the COVID 19 virus has made it necessary to conduct our public involvement effort on-line.

Following the slide show, I urge you to read the draft 2021 revised Master Plan and the related Appendices, as well as the 1972 Master Plan to see where we have been - compared to where we are going. All the documents you will need for the review are posted on the USACE Fort Worth District website at the link provided later in this presentation. Thank you for taking time to view this website and listen to this presentation.

Purpose of this Presentation

- **Announce the availability of the draft revision** of the Benbrook Lake Master Plan and accompanying Environmental Assessment.
- **Highlight changes** proposed in the revised Master Plan compared to the previous 1972 version.
- The draft Master Plan with Environmental Assessment is **available for 30-day public comment period beginning March 5, 2021.**



Benbrook Lake



BUILDING STRONG®



The primary purpose is to publicly announce the availability of the draft Master Plan and related Environmental Assessment for public review and comment. This presentation will highlight the main proposed changes from prior master plan to the current draft. The draft Master Plan and Environmental Assessment will be available for public comment for 30 days beginning March 5, 2021 and ending April 5, 2021. This presentation is available in the following formats:

- A pdf version on this website that can be read and
- A video that is posted to a YouTube link provided on this website.

The Process Followed to Date

- Initial public meetings held on August 21, 2019
- Workshops also held with City of Benbrook, TPWD, and a local nonprofit
- **All comments were considered.** See Chapter 7 and Appendix of the draft for comments and Government response
- Wildlife habitat evaluation and prairie assessment completed for entire lake area
- **A Draft Environmental Assessment is available in the Appendix of the draft)**



Benbrook Lake Master Plan



BUILDING STRONG®

The process to date included a public workshop held on August 21, 2019. The workshop was well-attended, with approximately 125 individuals attending meeting, and comments were received from Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, the city of Benbrook, and 72 individuals.

Meetings were held with key stakeholders including TPWD, the City of Benbrook, and a nonprofit organization with interest in lands around Benbrook Lake.

All comments received following the initial public meeting and stakeholder meetings were considered in preparing the draft revised Master Plan. The comments and Government responses are included in Chapter 7 of the draft revised Master Plan.

The Corps conducted a Wildlife Habitat Appraisal of the Federal lands surrounding Benbrook Lake in April 2019 and included stakeholders from TPWD. Approximately 124 sample points were surveyed in the major habitat types found at Benbrook Lake. In addition, the Corps conducted an additional Prairie Assessment with stakeholders from TPWD, NRCS, and a local nonprofit group in October 2019 to gather additional diversity data in many of the grasslands and prairies around the lake. The results of the appraisals are included in the Appendix of the draft revised Master Plan.

What Master Plans are Not

- Master Plans **do not** address in detail the technical aspects of
 - ▶ Regional water quality
 - ▶ Water management for flood risk management
 - ▶ Water supply or water level management
 - ▶ Shoreline management (mowing firebreaks, paths, etc.)



Flood risk management is not addressed in the Master Plan



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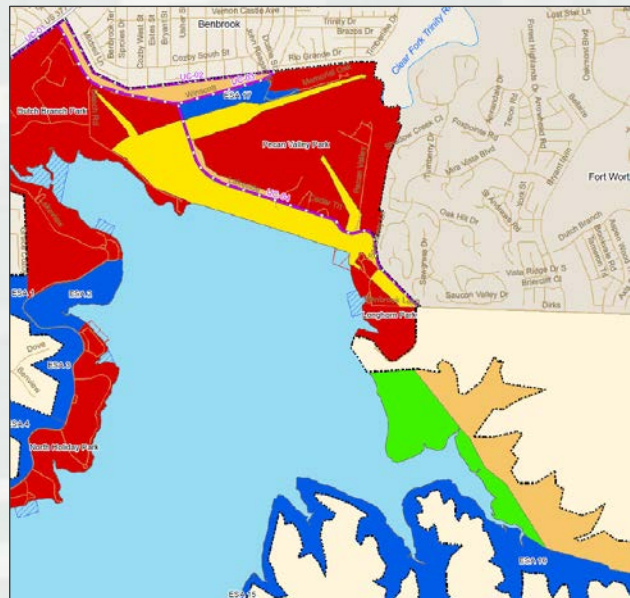
Master Plans do not address all things at a lake. As was explained at the initial public workshops, the Corps defines a Master Plan as a plan that addresses land and recreation program management. The management of Corps lands, including the developed parks and concession sites, must adapt to changing lake conditions resulting from primary project missions of flood risk management, water supply, and in some cases hydroelectric production.

Master Plans do not address:

- Regional water quality
- Water management related to flood risk management
- Water supply or water level management
- Shoreline Management Policy...which is developed by the Corps to address the management of allowable private activities such as mowing firebreaks and pedestrian paths. The Shoreline Management Policy for Benbrook Lake is briefly mentioned in Chapter 6 of the draft revised Master Plan.

Principal Changes from Current Master Plan to Revised Plan

- **Changes to Land Classifications**
 - ▶ Project Operations
 - ▶ High Density Recreation
 - ▶ Environmentally Sensitive Areas
 - ▶ Multiple Resource Management Areas
- **Comprehensive new land management objectives**
- **Utility Corridors**



Benbrook Lake
Land Classifications



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Listed on the slide are the principal changes from the 1972 Master Plan to the draft revised Master Plan. While these are the primary changes, it is important to read Chapters 4,5, and 8 of the draft revised Master Plan to understand the full scope of proposed changes.

- The areas designated as Project Operations changed to better match the areas used for Project Operations including the footprint of the dam.
- The 1972 Plan had a general Recreation land classification, Special Use Recreation Area, and Multiple Use Aesthetic and Recreation Areas. These areas were changed to match current land classifications, and include High Density Recreation, Environmentally Sensitive Areas, and Multiple Resource Management Areas.
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas are a separate Land Classification used to designated areas with unique scientific, natural resource, aesthetic, or other features to be protected and preserved.
- Multiple Resource Management Areas include Vegetative Management lands and Wildlife Management lands at Benbrook Lake.
- The new Master Plan also designates new Management Goals and Resource Objectives.
- And lastly, 12 Utility Corridors were designated at Benbrook Lake. These corridors generally follow existing roads and utility lines and are meant to consolidate the locations where utilities cross Corps property and results in the least environmental damage.

Land Classification Definitions

Land Classification	Definition
Project Operations	Those lands required for the dam, operations center, office, maintenance compound and other areas that are used solely for project operations
High Density Recreation	Land developed for intensive recreational activities by the visiting public , including developed recreation areas and areas for marinas and related concessions, and resorts
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	Areas where scientific, ecological, cultural or aesthetic features have been identified. These areas must be considered by management to ensure they are not adversely impacted
Multiple Resource Management Land	Vegetative Management: These lands are designated for the stewardship of forest, prairie, and other native vegetative cover.
	Wildlife Management: Lands managed primarily for fish and wildlife management and conservation.



BUILDING STRONG®



The draft revised Master Plan includes a new Land Classification scheme with four dominant classifications and two sub-classifications as described on the slide. These are Project Operations, High Density Recreation, Environmentally Sensitive Areas, and Multiple Resource Management Lands which includes the two sub-classifications Vegetative Management and Wildlife Management. The Land Classification Maps in the Appendix of the draft revised Master Plan show the location and extent of each of the proposed Land Classifications.

Changes in Land Classification Acreage

Prior (1972) Land Classifications	Acres	New Land Classifications	Acres
Operations and Maintenance	176	Project Operations	234
Recreation Areas	2,896	High Density Recreation	1,761
Special Use Areas	146	--	--
--	--	Environmentally Sensitive Areas	1,122
Aesthetic and Multiple Use Recreation Areas	1,254	Multiple Resource Management – Vegetative Management	1,129
Wildlife Areas	193	Multiple Resource Management – Wildlife Management	128
TOTAL Land Acres	4,665	TOTAL Land Acres	4,375
Flowage Easement	2,823	Flowage Easement	3,200

Total Acreage differences from the 1972 total to the 2021 totals are due to improvements in measurement technology, deposition/siltation, and erosion. As real estate boundaries are researched, acreages may change slightly to reflect more precise boundary mapping. The fee simple and easement acreage identified in this Master Plan was obtained from the Real Estate Management Information System and is subject to change as the acquisition documents are audited. All areas measured with lake at Conservation Pool of 694.0 feet NGVD29.



BUILDING STRONG®



This slide is important and shows the proposed acreage changes from the Prior (1972) land classifications to the new land Classifications. These proposed changes are described in more detail in Chapter 8 of the revised Master Plan. Rather than listening to the type and extent of each change, I urge you to read the pdf version of this presentation posted on this website for more detailed descriptions and to read Chapters 4, 5 & 8 of the draft revised Master Plan to gain a full understanding of the proposed land classification changes. Briefly, the changes are as follows:

Project Operations (PO): An increase of acreage accounts for areas used for operations that are not currently classified as Project Operations. The new area expands to include the entire dam, uncontrolled spillway, and discharge channel. The area also classifies operations by others which includes municipal water operations near the dam and along Old Granbury Road.

High Density Recreation (HDR): The previous Recreation Areas and Special Use Recreation Areas date back to 1972 and did not account for types or intensity of recreational use. Since 1972, the recreational demand and usage has changed to include many well-developed parks. The new HDR classification includes areas with existing intense recreational development and many undeveloped acres that have the potential to meet future recreation needs. The City of Benbrook has expressed interest in expanding facilities, and there is ample undeveloped acreage within Dutch Branch Park, North Holliday Park, and Baja Beach to accommodate their future needs. There are also many undeveloped acres in Mustang Park and Rocky Creek Park to accommodate future demand as residential developments continue to expand in areas East and South of Benbrook Lake.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA): The Environmentally Sensitive Area classification did

not exist when the 1972 plan designated land classifications. The new areas classified as ESA include unique or sensitive prairies, woodlands, wetlands, and aesthetic areas. In Holiday Park, most of the acreage west of Lakeview Drive was reclassified as ESA from the original Recreation Area classification. Much of the riparian and wetland acreage associated with the Clear Fork Trinity River was changed from Wildlife Area and Recreation Area to ESA. On the east side of the lake, several sensitive prairies and aesthetic areas were changed from Wildlife Area and Recreation area to ESA. See Table 5.1 for a complete description of each Environmentally Sensitive Area.

Multiple Resource Management Lands (MRML): The land previously classified as Wildlife Area along Clear Fork Trinity River has been reclassified as ESA. A new area has been classified as Wildlife Management along the shoreline of Longhorn Park. This area currently allows hunting but also acts as an important corridor for wildlife. // In designating Vegetative Management Areas, parcels were selected to recognize current and future native prairie restoration efforts. Efforts to date have required clearing of woody species on select parcels that are good candidates for prairie restoration. These areas are periodically burned to promote the native grasses and forbs already present on the sites. Other Vegetative Management areas includes frequently flooded hardwood and herbaceous wetlands as well as former grazing land undergoing early succession to mixed shrub and forest habitats and demonstrates significant signs of browsing by wildlife. Also included in Vegetative Management Areas are some narrow and isolated pockets that are often mowed, maintained as grasslands, or are contiguous to neighboring grasslands but were not unique enough to be designated as an ESA.

Total Land Acres were reduced since the 1972 Plan: This reduction was due in part to lands not needed for project purposes that were reconveyed to former owners, new lands created by sediment deposition, and improved accuracy of current measurement technology. After reconveyance, most of the acreage was changed from total fee acres to flowage easement acres. These acres are still undergoing audits to improve the accuracy of the project boundary and acreages.

Flowage Easement: Flowage Easements are not a land classification but are mentioned in the MP for informational purposes. Flowage easements are acquired by USACE to allow lands to be periodically inundated during flood events, but USACE does not own fee simple title to these lands. The 1972 MP listed 2,823 acres of flowage easements, but the acreage mentioned in the revised MP will be 3,200. The changes in flowage easement lands is a result of disposal of some fee-owned lands, changes from erosion and sedimentation, as well as more precise measurement technologies. These flowage easement acres are also undergoing audits to improve the accuracy of the boundaries and acres within the flowage easement.

Management Goals & Resource Objectives

- Chapter 3 of the Master Plan
- Consists of 5 Goals (**broad generalized statements**)
- Consists of 5 Resource Objective Categories (**details**)
 - ▶ Recreational Objectives
 - ▶ Natural Resource Management Objectives
 - ▶ Visitor Information, Education, and Outreach Objectives
 - ▶ General Management Objectives
 - ▶ Cultural Resource Management Objectives



This slide is self explanatory. These goals and objectives were developed for the 2021 Master Plan to help manage the resources at Benbrook Lake. For a complete description of these revised goals and objectives, please review Chapter 3 of the revised draft Master Plan.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

- Applies to federal actions that affect the environment such as **Master Plan revisions**
- Requires federal agencies to **CONSIDER and DOCUMENT** the environmental impacts of their proposed actions as part of an agency's **OVERALL** planning and decision-making
- Requires federal agencies to **cooperate with other federal, state and local governments** as well as with organizations and citizens during project planning
- Scoping is where the federal agency asks for initial input from other agencies, citizens, and organizations regarding project area, resources, and uses

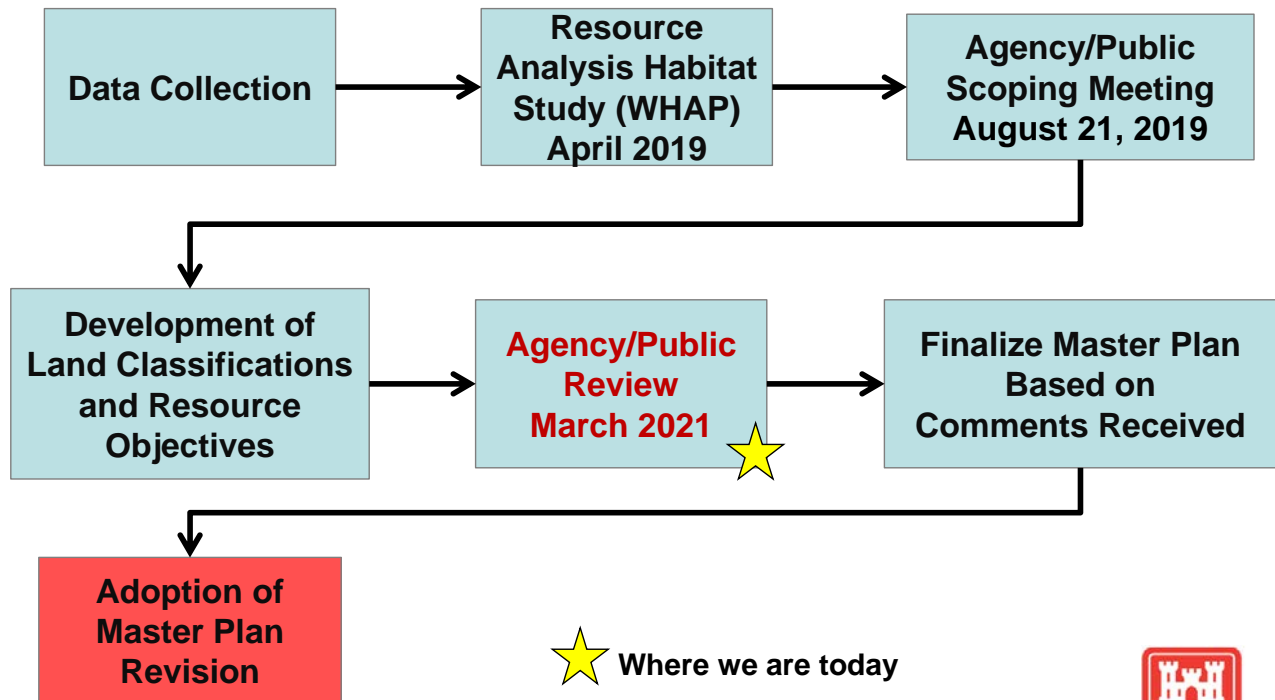


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The National Environmental Policy act of 1969 applies to all federal actions that affect the environment including the draft revised 2021 Master Plan. I want to emphasize that the “Proposed Action” is the revision of the Master Plan and the Environmental Assessment will assess the impacts of that action. The EA identifies possible Alternatives, including a No Action alternative and will describe which alternative is the “Preferred Alternative”. Basically, the revision of the Master Plan triggers the need to prepare an EA. The EA will be prepared as an Appendix to the Master Plan Revision.

The Master Planning Process



 Where we are today



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This seven-step planning process describes the path we have followed to date. We are currently at the yellow star where Agencies and the Public Review the draft revised Master Plan and Environmental Assessment. The review and comment period takes place beginning March 5 and ends April 5, 2021. At that point, we will review comments provided by Agencies and the Public in order to complete a final Master Plan Revision.

How to Participate

- **Review the draft revised Master Plan.** It is posted on this website along with all related documents needed for your review.
- Use the link provided on this website to **submit a written comment** via email. Also, a link is provided on this website where you can watch a video of this presentation. You may also print the comment form provided on the website, fill it out by hand and mail it to the Corps at the address on the comment form.
- **Verbal comments cannot be considered.** Comments are due by close of business on April 5, 2021.



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Your participation is the key to preparing a Master Plan for Benbrook Lake that will guide management of the lands and water surface for approximately the next 25 years. Please review the documents posted on this website.

A convenient link is provided on this website where you can submit a comment via email. A link is also provided where you can watch this presentation as a video. The video has the advantage of being able to use a pause button to more carefully view the information being presented.

When the lake office reopens to the public, a printed copy of the draft revised Master Plan will be available for in-office review.

I want to emphasize that only written comments can be accepted. While we encourage you to call the office if you have questions, only written comments can be considered.

If You Have Questions

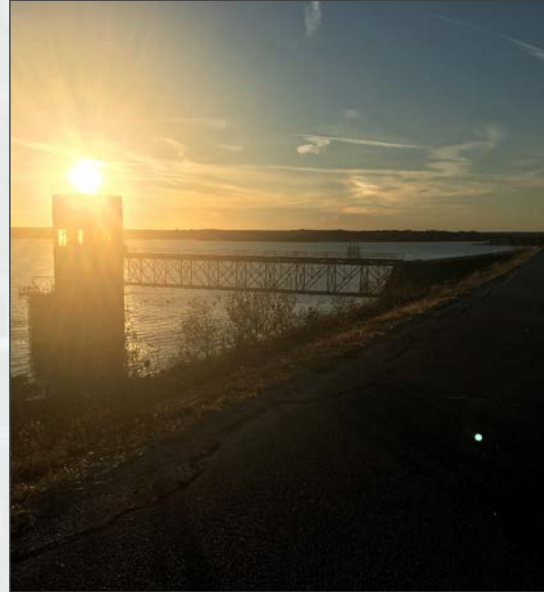
Questions about the Master Plan can be addressed by:

- Contacting Benbrook Lake Project Office at:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Benbrook Lake Manager
7001 Lakeside Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76132
Phone: (817) 292-2400

- Emailing the Corps at:

CESWF-PER-Benbrook@usace.army.mil



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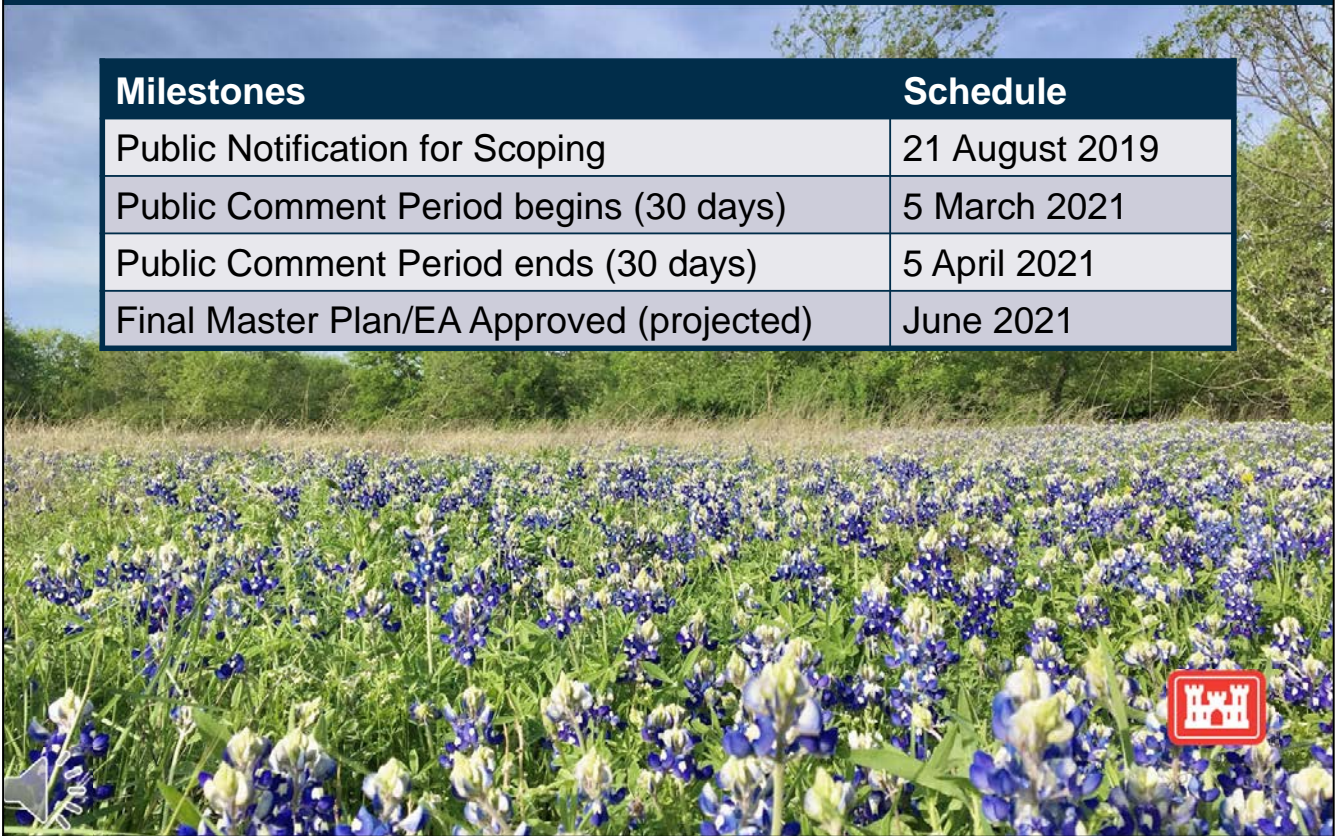


If you have questions regarding the master plan, please call or email the Corps project office or district staff.

You can also send questions to the Email address setup for this project as listed on this slide.

Projected Master Plan Schedule

Milestones	Schedule
Public Notification for Scoping	21 August 2019
Public Comment Period begins (30 days)	5 March 2021
Public Comment Period ends (30 days)	5 April 2021
Final Master Plan/EA Approved (projected)	June 2021



Public notification for scoping initiated on August 21, 2019.

The draft document is scheduled to be available for public review by March 5, 2021 which begins the 30-day comment period which will end April 5, 2021.

The final approved Master Plan and EA are scheduled to be completed **June 2021**.

This Concludes the Presentation

Thank you for viewing this presentation and participating in the Master Plan revision process at Benbrook Lake.

Website address:

<https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/About/Lakes-and-Recreation-Information/Master-Plan-Updates/Benbrook-Lake/>

Email: CESWF-PER-Benbrook@usace.army.mil

USACE Office Address:

Benbrook Lake Manager
7001 Lakeside Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76132



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Thank you for viewing this presentation and participating in the Master Plan revision process at Benbrook Lake

Project documents are available at this website.

Please send your comments to the Email address or USACE Office Address listed here. Remember that we can only consider written comments.

I am excited about where we are at in the Master Plan process and look forward to having the final Master Plan approved later this year.

Thank you again, and please remember water safety when you are out enjoying the lake, and always wear a properly fitted life jacket.

This concludes the presentation.



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of Engineers®**

Comment Form Instructions

Draft Benbrook Lake Master Plan Revision

Comment Period Ends 5 April 2021

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is in the process of revising the Benbrook Lake Master Plan. The Master Plan revision will guide the land and recreational management of the federally owned property that make up the lake and its shoreline for the next 25 years. Management activities include protecting natural and cultural resources, providing public land and water recreation, protecting the public, and ensuring reservoir and dam operations. Pertinent information and a copy of the current land use map can be found on the USACE website below.

To add your comments, ideas, or concerns about the future land and recreational management for Benbrook Lake, please submit comments using any of the following methods:

- **Fill out and return a comment form available below or at:**

<https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/About/Lakes-and-Recreation-Information/Master-Plan-Updates/Benbrook-Lake/>

- **Provide comments in an email message or use comment form and send to:**

EMAIL: CESWF-PER-Benbrook@usace.army.mil

- **Provide comments in a letter or use comment form and mail to:**

Joshua Quiring, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District
P.O. Box 17300
Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300

Thank you for your participation in helping develop the Master Plan for JW Flannagan and NF Pound Lakes.



US Army Corps
of Engineers ®

Public Workshop Comment Form

***Draft Benbrook Lake Master Plan Revision
Tarrant County, TX
Comments Due By 5 April 2021***

Questions, comments, or suggestions?

Your input into the master plan revision and related environmental concerns under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is key to developing a successful master plan for the lake project. Please write your questions, comments, or suggestions in the space provided here and mail or e-mail them to the address below no later than the date of this form. Thank you for your participation!

Optional Information (used for mailing list to keep you informed and will not be used for any other purpose):

Name: _____ Affiliation: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip code: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mail or email comment sheet to the following Point of Contact:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Joshua Quiring, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District
P.O. Box 17300
Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300

EMAIL: CESWF-PER-Benbrook@usace.army.mil

Additional information and comment sheets can be found at the following:
<https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/About/Lakes-and-Recreation-Information/Master-Plan-Updates/Benbrook-Lake/>



Benbrook Lake Master Plan Revision



Presentation for Public and Agency Input

The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is hosting an online review to provide information and receive public input on the draft revised Benbrook Lake Master Plan. Normally, USACE would conduct a face-to-face public workshop to announce the review of the draft revision and to request comments from the public. However, precautions associated with the COVID-19 virus have made it necessary to conduct the public involvement process online instead of hosting a face-to-face workshop. Please watch the following video presentation or download the PDF copy to read the presentation. **The existing Master Plan documents and maps are available to download at the bottom of the page as well as a comment form with instructions on how to send comments.**

[Watch video presentation on YouTube](#)

[Download a PDF copy to read the presentation.](#)

General Information

The Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Fort Worth District, is revising the Benbrook Lake Master Plan. The Master Plan is intended to serve as a comprehensive land and recreational management plan with a life span of 25 years. It guides the stewardship of natural and cultural resources and the provision of outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities to ensure sustainability of federal land associated with Benbrook Lake.

About Benbrook Lake

Benbrook Lake is in the Trinity River Basin and is located in Tarrant County. The lake proper is bordered by the cities of Fort Worth and Benbrook as well as unincorporated Tarrant County. When originally built, the dam and lake's purpose were primarily flood control and navigation. Today the lake and dam is a multi-purpose reservoir for flood control, water supply, fish and wildlife management, recreation, and future navigation. In addition to these primary missions, USACE has an inherent mission of environmental stewardship of project lands and works closely the cities of Fort Worth and Benbrook to provide regionally important outdoor recreation opportunities. Tarrant County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1 controls the water supply aspect of Benbrook Lake. The dam at Benbrook Lake was completed in 1950, and impoundment began in 1952. At the conservation (normal) pool elevation of 694.0 feet NGVD, the lake covers 3,635 acres. Benbrook Lake is home to Holiday Park, Bear Creek Park, Mustang Park, Rocky Creek Park, Longhorn Park, Pecan Valley Park (operated by the city of Fort Worth), and Dutch Branch Park (operated by the city of Benbrook).

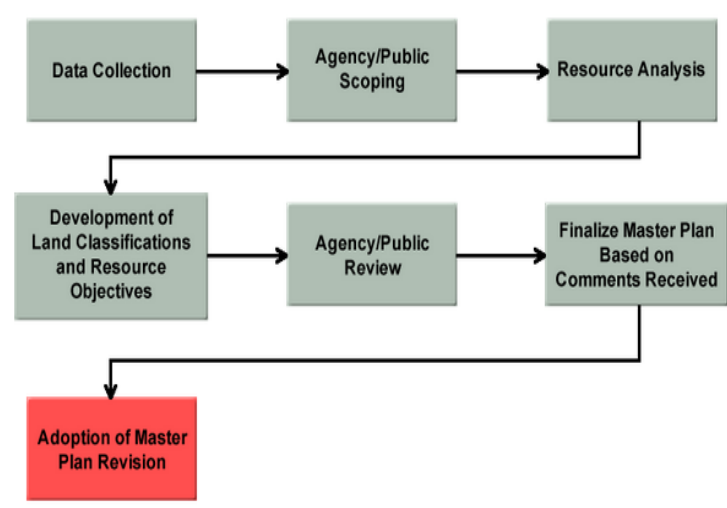
What is a Master Plan?

The Master Plan is the strategic land use management document that guides the comprehensive management and development of all project recreational, natural, and cultural resources throughout the life of the water resources project. Revision of the Master Plan will not address in detail the technical operational aspects of the reservoir related to the water supply or flood risk management missions of the project.

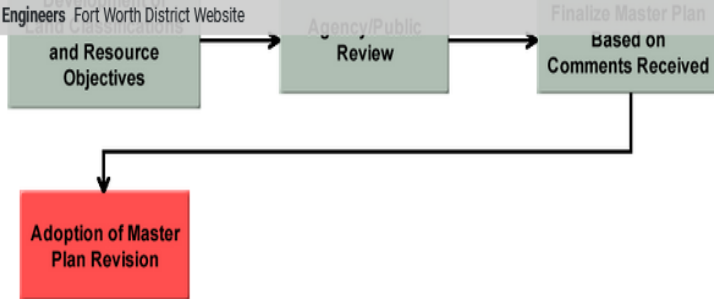
Why Revise the Benbrook Lake Master Plan?

The current Master Plan for Benbrook Lake was published in March 1972. Since then, many changes have taken place including major utility and highway construction, urbanization, and evolving recreational uses. The Plan and the land classifications are in need of revision to address changes in regional land use, population, outdoor recreation trends, and USACE management policy. Key topics to be addressed in the revised Master Plan include revised land classifications, new natural and recreational resource management objectives, recreation facility needs, and special topics such as invasive species management and protection of sensitive wildlife habitat. Public participation is critical to the successful revision of the Master Plan.

The Master Planning Process



Provide Comments or Questions



Provide Comments or Questions

Comments may be submitted online by filling out the Comment Form below and clicking the submit link provided on the comment form, or by mailing the comments to the address below. Only written comments will be accepted. Comments are also acceptable by sending in an email message or a letter. **The comment period ends on April 2, 2021.** Comments and questions pertaining to the master plan revision can be addressed to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 Attn: Justin Berndt, Lake Manager
 Benbrook Lake
 7001 Lakeside Drive
 Fort Worth, TX 76132

Phone: (817) 292-2400
 OR
Email: CESWF-PER-Benbrook@usace.army.mil

- [Draft Revised Master Plan \(5.3 MB\)](#)
- [Appendix A - Land Classification, Managing Agencies, and Recreation Maps \(3.9 MB\)](#)
- [Appendix B - National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\) Documentation \(1.5 MB\)](#)
- [Appendix C - Wildlife Documents \(65 MB\)](#)
- [Appendix D - Pertinent Public Laws \(1.2 MB\)](#)
- [Appendix E - Fort Worth District Notice to Seaplane Pilots \(1.1 MB\)](#)
- [Appendix F - Public and Stakeholder Comments \(1.5 MB\)](#)
- [Appendix G - Acronyms \(110 KB\)](#)
- [Comment Form with Instructions \(445 KB\)](#)
- [PDF Copy of the Video Presentation \(2.6 MB\)](#)

Related Files

August 2019

- [Benbrook Lake Master Plan Study Initiation \(28.8 MB\)](#)
- [Benbrook Lake Master Plan - 1972 \(28.8 MB\)](#)
- [Comment Form with Instructions](#)
- [August 21, 2019 Public Meeting - Presentation \(4.2 MB\)](#)
- [August 21, 2019 Public Meeting - Pamphlet with map \(4.4 MB\)](#)

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