US ACE Recreation – Healthy, Accessible Outdoor Opportunities for America

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is one of the largest Federal providers of outdoor recreation in the nation. Its 402 multi-purpose projects that support recreation, which often contain multiple parks and facilities such as boat ramps, day use areas and campgrounds, provide diverse and dynamic recreational opportunities. These USACE projects – 90 percent of which are within 50 miles of metropolitan areas – are located in 43 States and host about 270 million visits a year. USACE provides health and safety services and directly manages 2,766 parks and provides management oversight to an additional 2,099 parks that are out-granted to USACE partners. The recreational facilities at these projects are a significant enhancement for many communities, contribute to their quality of life and those of park visitors, and support State and local governments’ economic development and job creation efforts.

Funding
The President’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) includes $4.827 billion in gross discretionary funding for the Civil Works program of USACE and includes $248.6 million for the recreation program. USACE is committed to providing visitors a level of service that will enable a secure, safe, quality experience. FY20 funding will be directed toward the maintenance of grounds and sanitary facilities, the protection of project assets and public property, security, and visitor safety. The Budget was developed using a risk management approach that provides support to USACE recreation projects, and prioritizes investments in both recurring and non-recurring maintenance activities, including visitor health and safety services, accessibility improvements for persons with disabilities, and facility efficiency improvements.

Program Objectives
- Provide outdoor recreation opportunities in an effective and efficient manner at USACE-operated water resources projects.
- Provide a safe and healthful outdoor recreation environment for USACE customers.

Key Messages

- USACE is one of the largest Federal providers of outdoor recreation in the nation with 90 percent of USACE recreational facilities located within 50 miles of metropolitan areas.
- USACE manages nearly 12 million acres of public lands and waters, including natural and cultural resources, and open space. Some of these lands also provide important habitats for fish, wildlife, and endangered species.
- Visitor safety is the highest priority at USACE projects, and includes water safety and education.
- USACE works to build strong local relationships and provide opportunities for thousands of volunteers.
- USACE projects provide environmental learning opportunities for schools and youth organizations, introducing young people to conservation and appreciation of the outdoors.

Facts & Figures

- The USACE recreation program manages 55,000 miles of shoreline, 7,400 miles of trails and 3,600 boat launch ramps.
- Approximately 620,000 advance reservations and 200,000 walk-up transactions are made at USACE campsites and shelters annually.
- Approximately 31,000 volunteers worked 1.6 million hours at USACE projects in FY18.
- Approximately $10.6 billion was spent by visitors at Corps projects in FY16.
- 189,000 jobs are supported by visitation.
- For more information about USACE’s efforts, visit http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Recreation.aspx