USACE Recreation – Healthy, Accessible Outdoor Opportunities for America

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is the largest Federal provider of water-based outdoor recreation in the nation. Its 402 recreation projects—which often contain multiple parks and facilities such as boat ramps and campgrounds—provide diverse and dynamic recreational opportunities. USACE recreation projects, 90 percent of which are within 50 miles of metropolitan areas, are located in 44 States and host about 370 million day-visits a year. These recreation projects are a significant economic driver for many communities and the Nation, contribute to the quality of life of park visitors and neighboring communities, and are a key element of State and local government economic development and job creation efforts.

Funding
The President’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2016 (FY 2016) includes $4.7 billion in gross discretionary funding for the Civil Works program of USACE and includes $261 million for the recreation program. USACE is committed to providing visitors a level of service that will enable a secure, safe, quality experience. FY 2016 funding will be directed toward maintenance of grounds and sanitary facilities, protection of project assets and public property, security, and visitor safety. The Budget was developed using a risk management approach to provide support to USACE recreation projects, provide health and safety services on about 2,857 parks managed directly by USACE and provide management oversight to an additional 2,124 parks that are out-granted to USACE partners. The Budget prioritizes investments in both routine and non-routine 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 healthy outdoor recreation environment for USACE customers.

Key Messages
- Visitor safety is the highest priority at USACE projects, and includes water safety and education.
- USACE is the largest Federal provider of outdoor and water-based recreation in the nation with 90 percent USACE recreational facilities located within 50 miles of metropolitan areas.
- USACE manages nearly 12 million acres of public lands and waters, including natural landmarks, cultural resources, and open space. USACE also provides important habitats for fish, wildlife, special and endangered species.
- 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
- Approximately 700,000 reservations are made at USACE campsites and shelters annually.
- Approximately 48,000 volunteers work 1.5 million hours at USACE projects providing $34 million in service value each year.
- Approximately $18 billion was spent by visitors at Corps projects in FY 2013.
- 270,000 jobs (full or part time) are supported by visitation.
- 10 percent of U.S. population visits a Corps project at least once each year.
- The USACE recreation program manages 54,000 miles of shoreline, 10,200 miles of trails and 3,670 boat launch ramps.
- For more information about USACE’s efforts, visit http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Recreation.aspx