

Partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Co-Manage Parks. Strengthen Communities. Expand Your Mission.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) invites nonprofit organizations to join us in a groundbreaking opportunity to co-manage and enhance recreation areas at our nation's lakes and rivers.

If your organization is passionate about outdoor recreation, conservation, and community impact, this is your chance to make a tangible difference—while expanding your mission and creating sustainable funding for your programs.

A New Era of Partnership

As we begin to implement a new authority granted to USACE under the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2024, we are expanding our ability to collaborate directly with nonprofit organizations. This new flexibility opens the door to innovative co-management arrangements that strengthen local stewardship, improve visitor experiences, and keep parks thriving for years to come.

Why This Opportunity Matters

Across the country, USACE recreation areas serve over 260 million visitors each year and generate \$16.6 billion in local economic impact. Yet, like many agencies, we face growing demands and limited resources. That's where you can help.

Through a Challenge Cost-Sharing Cooperative Management Agreement, nonprofits can take an active role in managing USACE recreation sites—keeping parks open, improving visitor services, and ensuring that fee revenue stays right where it belongs: in the community.

What This Partnership Looks Like

Every agreement is flexible and built around the **strengths of your organization**. Together, we'll design a plan that fits your capabilities and the needs of the specific site.

Your organization might help with:

- Collecting and reinvesting user fees
- Providing park hosts or volunteer staffing
- Maintaining facilities and landscapes
- Managing reservations and visitor services
- Enhancing natural resources and education programs
- Extending park hours and seasons

In return, USACE provides **oversight, operational support, and a shared vision for success**.

How Your Organization Benefits:

- ☑ **Sustainable Funding:** Retain and reinvest up to 100% of collected user fees directly into the park you manage.
- ☑ **Mission Growth:** Expand your impact by connecting more people with outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship.
- ☑ **Shared Responsibility:** Partner with a trusted federal agency while maintaining flexibility and autonomy in daily operations.
- ☑ **Community Visibility:** Become a recognized leader in preserving local recreation and quality of life.

How the Public Benefits:

By partnering with USACE, nonprofits help ensure that:

- **Parks stay open** and accessible to all
- **Facilities improve** and visitor satisfaction grows
- **Local economies thrive** from tourism and recreation
- **User fees are reinvested locally**—not sent to Washington, D.C.

Why USACE?

With **4,800 recreation areas** across **43 states**, USACE manages more recreation sites than any other federal agency. Our lakes, rivers, and parks are anchors for local communities—drawing visitors, volunteers, and economic activity.

We're not just looking for help—we're building **long-term partnerships** that sustain America's outdoor legacy.

Ready to Get Involved?

1. Find a USACE Project Near You:

🔗 corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/visitors/visitors.cfm

2. Reach Out to Learn More:

- **Heather Burke**, National Partnership Program Manager
✉ heather.d.burke@usace.army.mil
- **Ryan Hartwig**, National Recreation Program Manager
✉ ryan.d.hartwig@usace.army.mil

A **Notice of Availability** will be issued to interested organizations, outlining how to submit a proposal for consideration.

Build Something That Lasts

Join us in preserving and enhancing America's natural and recreational treasures. Together, we can ensure that the parks and waterways people love today will continue to inspire generations tomorrow.

Partner with USACE—because great parks need great partners.