

## Information Paper Lavon Lake Recreation Improvement Study

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has launched a study to determine how to improve future park operations around Lavon Lake.

**Background.** Currently, many of the recreation facilities at Lavon Lake fall short of the standards that both the public and our organization expect. While some parks and recreation facilities are in good condition, a significant number are rated as fair or poor. Although federal funding levels support our Flood Risk Management and Environmental Stewardship missions, they fall short in meeting the needs of our Recreation mission. Current funding levels allow for routine maintenance, safety patrols, and programmatic oversight and compliance; however, they do not cover capital improvements like road replacement, utility upgrades, and building refurbishment. The maintenance backlog for all parks on Lavon Lake exceeds \$35M, a level that is not achievable with the current funding levels. We remain committed to exploring new solutions to enhance Lavon Lake's facilities and improve visitors' experiences.

**Process.** We have launched a study that will develop a comprehensive strategic plan focused on improving recreation areas at Lavon Lake. This study is exploring multiple options, including internal restructuring, potential leases with government agencies at the local, county, and state levels, and partnerships with local municipalities. While park closures would be considered only as a last resort, our priority is to identify sustainable ways to improve and maintain the park facilities.

We have already begun meeting with local, county, and state governmental staff and elected officials. This will allow interested governmental agencies the opportunity to investigate options for leasing or partnering for parks in their local areas while we conduct our own internal analysis. With input from these officials, we will draft a tentative plan and hold public meetings to gather feedback before making any final decisions.

Public meetings are tentatively scheduled for March 2025, where we will present the draft plan and provide a 30-day comment period for community input. Once we gather feedback from the public and local officials, we will finalize decisions and develop an implementation plan, which will be shared with the public.

**Public Comments.** We understand the importance of this study and are mindful of the potential impacts the decisions might have to local businesses and the community. Public feedback is invaluable, and we encourage everyone to share your thoughts with us, your local officials, or both. Our goal is to make decisions that reflect the needs and priorities of the community. For comments directly to USACE, please go to the Lavon Lake main web page at <https://www.swf-wc.usace.army.mil/lavon/RecreationImprovementStudy.shtml> and click on (Recreation Improvement Study – Public Comments).