

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

REVISING THE 1977 BALL MOUNTAIN LAKE MASTER PLAN

Public Workshop
29 July 2026



U.S. ARMY



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

New England District



PURPOSE

- Announce the availability of the draft Ball Mountain Lake Master Plan revision and accompanying Environmental Assessment.
- Highlight changes proposed in the revised Master Plan compared to the previous 1977 version.
- The draft Master Plan with Environmental Assessment documents are available for 30-day public comment period beginning July 29, 2026 and closing on August 28, 2026.



PROCESS FOLLOWED TO DATE

- Initial public open house was conducted on April 15, 2025.
- All comments were considered. See Appendix E of the draft Master Plan for comments and Government responses.
- A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared and is available in the Master Plan Appendix.



WHAT IS A MASTER PLAN?

- The purpose of a Master Plan is to establish guidelines for comprehensive management and development of all recreational, natural and cultural resources
- 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



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 (including boat docks, mowing, or other permits)



LAND CLASSIFICATION DEFINITIONS

Source: Engineering Pamphlet (EP) 1130-2-550

Land Classification	Definition
Project Operations	Lands required for the dam, spillway, levees, office, maintenance facilities and other areas that are used solely for project operations.
High Density Recreation	Land developed for intensive recreational activities for the visiting public, including day use areas and campground areas for commercial concessions, and quasi-public development.
Multiple Resource Management Lands	Low Density Recreation: Lands with minimal development or infrastructure that support passive public recreational use (e.g., trails, primitive camping, wildlife observation, fishing and hunting).
	Wildlife Management: Lands designated for the stewardship of fish and wildlife resources.
	Vegetative Management: Lands designated for the stewardship of forest, prairie, and other native 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.
Mitigation	Lands acquired or designated specifically for offsetting losses associated with development of the project. Lands allocated as separable mitigation lands can only be given this classification.



WATER SURFACE CLASSIFICATION DEFINITIONS

Source: Engineering Pamphlet (EP) 1130-2-550

Water Surface Classification	Definition
Open Recreation	Those waters available for year-round or seasonal water-based recreational use.
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.



PROPOSED CHANGES IN LAND & WATER SURFACE CLASSIFICATIONS

Proposed Land Classifications (2026)	Acres
Project Operations (PO)	110
High Density Recreation (HDR)	100
Multiple Resource Management Lands (MRML)	
Low Density Recreation (MRML-LDR)	387
Wildlife Management (MRML-WM)	311
LAND TOTAL	908
Proposed Water Surface Classifications (2026)	Acres
Open Recreation	83
Restricted	16
WATER TOTAL	99
TOTAL FEE	1007



MANAGEMENT GOALS & RESOURCE OBJECTIVES

- Goals and objectives were developed during the revision process specific to the following categories:
 - Recreation
 - Natural Resource Management
 - Visitor Information, Education, and Outreach
 - General Management
 - Cultural Resources Management
- A complete description of the revised goals and objectives can be found in Chapter 3 of the draft Master Plan revision.



NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

- The Master Plan Revision process includes compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.
- Purpose of NEPA is to:
 - Ensure federal agencies give proper consideration to the environment prior to undertaking a federal action.
 - Involve the public (scoping) in the decision-making process.
 - Document the process by which agencies make informed decisions.
- NEPA Scoping Process:
 - Opportunity for public comments and questions on the potential impacts of proposed federal actions.
 - Includes comments by other federal, state, and local governments, and American Indian Tribal Nations.



NEPA INCLUDES

- Public exchange of information related to problems to be solved, issues to be addressed, and potential alternatives
- Identification and evaluation of a broad range of alternatives
- Identification and quantification of potential impacts
- Screening of non-relevant issues from analysis
- Documentation of analysis and coordination through preparation of NEPA documents, such as an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Federal, state, and public review of NEPA documents



NEPA RESOURCES

Available on NEPAnet: <http://www.NEPA.gov>

NEPAnet Includes:

- A Citizen's Guide to NEPA – Having Your Voice Heard
- Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508)



THE MASTER PLAN REVISION PROCESS





HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

Review the below documents at website:

www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/recreation/ball-mountain-lake/ball-mountain-lake-master-plan/

- Public Meeting PowerPoint
- Draft Ball Mountain Lake Master Plan
- Draft Ball Mountain Lake Land Classification Map
- USACE Master Planning Policies and Procedures

Submit a comment with your input on the proposed MP revision.



BALL MOUNTAIN LAKE MASTER PLAN REVISION COMMENTS

SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS:

- Using comment forms available at this public meeting
- Visit the website and complete the comment box for submittal via email.
- By mail: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Ball Mountain Lake
c/o Project Manager
88 Ball Mountain Lane
Jamaica, Vermont 05343
- By email: CENAE-BallMountain-Townshend@usace.army.mil