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## USACE to host Hopkinton-Everett Master Plan Open House April 8 in Contoocook

**CONCORD, Mass.** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will host an open house on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, to kick off a process to revise the 1978 Hopkinton-Everett Lakes Master Plan. The open house will be held from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Slusser Center at 41 Houston Drive, Contoocook, NH. During the open house session, there will be no formal presentation. The public is invited to visit at any point during the 5:00-7:00 p.m. time frame to interact with USACE team members. Team members will be stationed around the room and can share information about the revision process, provide the general schedule, and gather initial feedback from the public.

### Master Plan Overview

The Master Plan is defined as the strategic land use management document that guides the comprehensive management and development of all recreational, natural, and cultural resources throughout the life of the water resource development project. It defines "how" USACE will manage the resources for public use and conservation.

The current Hopkinton-Everett Lakes Master Plan, last approved in 1978, needs revision to address changes in regional land use, population, outdoor recreation trends, and the USACE management policy. Key topics to be discussed in the revised Master Plan include revised land use classifications, new natural and recreational resource management objectives, recreation facility needs, and special issues such as invasive species management and threatened and endangered species habitat. The Master Plan revision will not address the technical and operational aspects of the lake related to flood risk management or the water conservation missions of the project.

### Initial Comments

An initial 30-day comment period will begin April 8, 2025, and end May 9, 2025. The public can send comments, suggestions, and concerns during this time. Comments must be submitted in writing at the open house or digitally via the comment form on the Master Plan Revision web page: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/recreation/hopkinton-everett-lake/hopkinton-everett-lake-master-plan/>. The web page also contains a presentation which will be running during the open house. The presentation provides a schedule as well as details on an additional comment period after the draft report is released (currently scheduled for December 2026).

## **About Hopkinton-Everett Lakes**

Hopkinton-Everett Lakes in Henniker and Hopkinton, New Hampshire is located in the upper Merrimack River Basin. This is a multi-purpose project built and maintained by the USACE New England District. The dams were first authorized by Congress for flood risk management in 1938 and has become popular for recreation. Construction of Hopkinton-Everett Lakes started in 1959 and was completed in 1963, at a cost of \$21,100,000. While the main purpose of Hopkinton-Everett Lakes are to provide flood risk management to the Merrimack River Basin, over the years the lake has become a recreational hotspot. With miles of trails, hunting, fishing, boat ramps, and developed recreation areas at Elm Brook Park and Clough State Park, the lakes can accommodate all kinds of outdoor enthusiasts. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages the natural resources at Hopkinton-Everett Lakes for multiple uses: flood risk management, wildlife habitat, forestry, watershed protection, and outdoor recreation. Hopkinton-Everett Lakes receives approximately 410,000 person-visits per year.

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