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## USACE hosts open house June 10 in Mansfield, CT, for Mansfield Hollow Lake Master Plan revision

**CONCORD, MA.** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District will host an open house on June 10, 2025, in Mansfield, CT, to share details on a draft revision of the 1979 Mansfield Hollow Lake Master Plan.

The open house will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Mansfield Library Buchanan Auditorium at 54 Warrenville Road in Mansfield Center. The public open house will cover the proposed changes to the current Mansfield Hollow Lake Master Plan. Team members will share instructions on how to submit comments and provide an opportunity for the public to ask questions and provide feedback. A 30-day public comment period will begin on June 10th, 2025, and end on July 10th, 2025.

### 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 Mansfield Hollow Lake Master Plan, last approved in 1979, 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.

### Submitting Comments & Reviewing Draft Plans:

Comments must be submitted in writing at the open house or digitally via the comment form on the Master Plan Revision webpage during the 30-day public comment period that begins on June 10th, 2025, and ends on July 10th, 2025 (<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Mansfield-Hollow-Lake/Mansfield-Hollow-Lake-Master-Plan/>) or emailed to [mansfieldhollowmasterplan@usace.army.mil](mailto:mansfieldhollowmasterplan@usace.army.mil).

On June 10, the website will also have digital copies of the draft Master Plan, Environmental Assessment and associated documents, a comment form with instructions, and a downloadable presentation covering the topics highlighted in the open house.

### **About Mansfield Hollow Lake**

Mansfield Hollow Dam lies on the confluence of the Natchaug, Fenton and Mt. Hope Rivers in Mansfield. The dam is part of a network of six flood risk management dams in the Thames River Basin constructed and maintained by the New England District. Construction of the dam began in 1949 and was completed in May 1952 at a cost of \$6.5 million. The dam consists of earthfill with stone slope protection. It has a length of 14,050 feet and a height of 68 feet. The project also consists of six earthfill dikes with stone slope protection that total 2,656 feet in length and have a maximum height of 53 feet.

USACE manages the natural resources at Mansfield Hollow Lake for multiple uses to include flood risk management, wildlife habitat, forest production, watershed protection and outdoor recreation. While the main purpose of Mansfield Hollow Lake is to provide flood risk management to the Thames River Basin, over the years the lake has become a recreational draw for approximately 575,000 visitors a year. With over 15 miles of trails, 2,472 acres of land, 450 acres of water, picnic areas, and a boat launch, the lake can accommodate a wide range of outdoor enthusiasts. USACE owns 2,472 acres at the project site, of which the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection leases approximately 2,300 acres for recreation and natural resource management.

For more information about Mansfield Hollow Lake, visit the project website at <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Mansfield-Hollow-Lake/>.

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