



# REVISING THE 1971 KAW LAKE MASTER PLAN



**Draft Master Plan Document Release  
17 December 2025**

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District**



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# Purpose

- Announce the availability of the draft Kaw Lake Master Plan revision and accompanying Environmental Assessment.
- Highlight changes proposed in the revised Master Plan compared to the previous 1971 version.
- The draft Master Plan with Environmental Assessment documents are available for 45-day public comment period beginning December 17, 2025, and closing on January 30, 2026.



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# Process Followed to Date

- Initial public open house was conducted on July 24, 2024.
- 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.



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# 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)



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# Land Classification Definitions

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

Land Classification	Definition
<b>Project Operations</b>	Lands required for the dam, spillway, levees, office, maintenance facilities and other areas that are used solely for project operations.
<b>High Density Recreation</b>	Land developed for intensive recreational activities for the visiting public, including day use areas and campground areas for commercial concessions, and quasi-public development.
<b>Multiple Resource Management Lands</b>	<b>Low Density Recreation:</b> Lands with minimal development or infrastructure that support passive public recreational use (e.g., trails, primitive camping, wildlife observation, fishing and hunting).
	<b>Wildlife Management:</b> Lands designated for the stewardship of fish and wildlife resources.
	<b>Vegetative Management:</b> Lands designated for the stewardship of forest, prairie, and other native vegetative cover.
	<b>Inactive and/or Future Recreation Areas:</b> Recreation areas planned for the future or that have been temporarily closed.
<b>Environmentally Sensitive Areas</b>	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.
<b>Mitigation</b>	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.



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# Water Surface Classifications

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

Water Surface Classification	Definition
<b>Open Recreation</b>	Those waters available for year-round or seasonal water-based recreational use.
<b>Restricted</b>	Water areas restricted for project operations, safety, and security purposes.
<b>Designated No-Wake</b>	To protect environmentally sensitive shoreline areas, recreational water access areas from disturbance, and for public safety.
<b>Fish and Wildlife Sanctuary</b>	Annual or seasonal restrictions on areas to protect fish and wildlife species during periods of migration, resting, feeding, nesting, and/or spawning.



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# Proposed Changes in Land & Water Surface Classifications

Prior Land Classifications (1971)	Acres	Proposed Land Classifications (2025)	Acres
Project Operations (PO)	143	Project Operations (PO)	127
Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA)	0	Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA)	2,407
Operations Recreation - Intensive Use (OR/IU)	4,154	High Density Recreation (HDR)	3,022
Operations Recreation - Low Density (OR/LD)	6,261	Low Density Recreation (LDR)	4,568
Operations Recreation - Quasi-Public	112		
State Area (SA)	11,692		
Wildlife Management - National	8,588	Wildlife Management (WM)	20,370
Wildlife Management - Recreational Lands (WMRL)	119		
<b>TOTAL LAND ACRES</b>	<b>31,069</b>	<b>TOTAL LAND ACRES</b>	<b>30,494</b>
Prior Water Surface Classifications (1971)	Acres	Proposed Water Surface Classifications (2025)	Acres
Water	18,840	Open Recreation (WS/OR)	19,192
		Restricted (WS/R)	19
		No Wake (WS/NW)	216
<b>TOTAL WATER SURFACE ACRES</b>	<b>18,840</b>	<b>TOTAL WATER SURFACE ACRES</b>	<b>19,427</b>
<b>TOTAL FEE</b>	<b>49,909</b>	<b>TOTAL FEE</b>	<b>49,921</b>

\* Total Acreage differences from the 1971 total to the 2025 totals are due to improvements in measurement technology, deposition/siltation, and erosion. Totals also differ due to rounding while adding parcels.



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# 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.



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# 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.



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# 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)

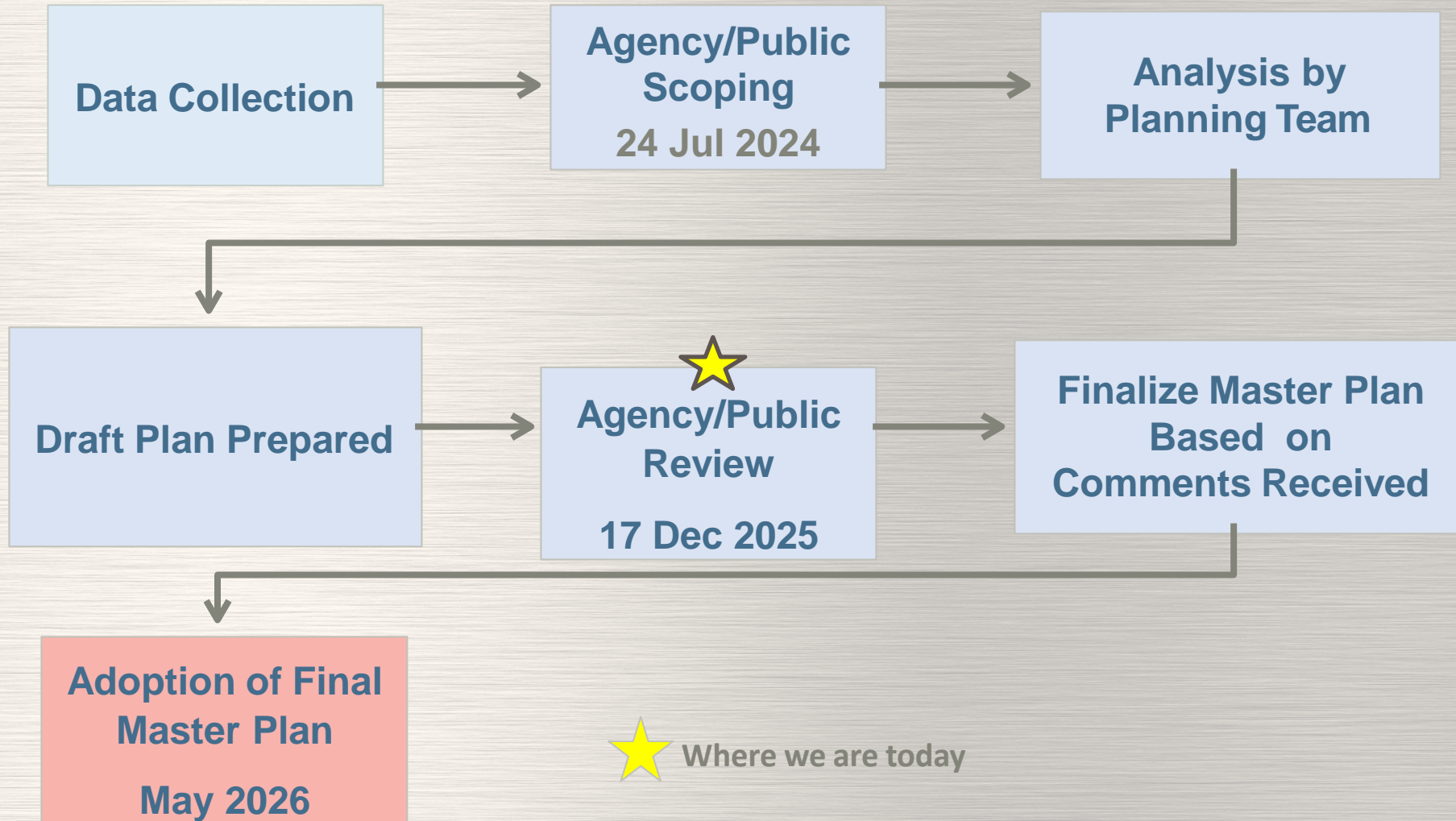


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# The Master Plan Revision Process



 Where we are today



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# How Can You Participate?

Review the below documents at website:

<https://www.swt.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Master-Plans/>

- Draft Master Plan Document Release PowerPoint
- Draft Kaw Lake Master Plan
- Draft Kaw Lake Land Classification Map
- Comment Form

Submit a written comment with your input on the proposed Master Plan revision.



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# Kaw Lake Master Plan Revision Comments

## HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS:

- Send an email, letter or use the comment form available on the website and either mail or email to USACE. All three methods are acceptable.
- By mail: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Lake Manager  
9400 Lake Road  
Ponca City, OK 74604
- By email: [CESWT-OD-NX@usace.army.mil](mailto:CESWT-OD-NX@usace.army.mil)



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