

CHAPTER 3 - PROJECT MASTER PLANS AND OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT PLANS

3-1. Purpose. This chapter establishes the policy for the preparation of master plans and operational management plans for USACE civil works projects.

3-2. Policy. It is the policy of the Corps of Engineers that:

a. Master Plans (MP) and Operational Management Plans (OMP) be developed and implemented for each USACE civil works project and are intended to work in tandem.

b. Master plans shall be developed and kept current for all civil works projects and other fee owned lands for which the Corps has administrative responsibility for management. Preparation of the master plan shall be initiated as soon as possible after approval of the general design memorandum (GDM), so that approved recreation and other feature developments shall become available as the project becomes operational. Lands may be exempted from this requirement with the MSC Commander's approval, where there is no demonstrated need or opportunity to manage them.

c. Master plans and operational management plans should take Tier II, III, and IV performance measures into account when the plans are developed and/or revised.

d. Master plans shall be prepared for projects not managed by the Corps of Engineers, such as local protection projects, at the discretion of the MSC Commander.

e. The master plan shall cover a single project or several projects, depending on what is best for management of the resources involved. For example, it is appropriate to lump a number of navigation projects (i.e., navigational structures), located in a given geographic region into a single master plan to address issues such as outgrants, public use, and appropriate use of fee lands. Each MSC shall coordinate with their respective districts on the scope, content, and organization of each master plan. The master plan shall cover all resources, including but not limited to fish and wildlife, vegetation, cultural, aesthetic, interpretive, recreational, mineral, commercial, and outgranted lands, easements, and water.

f. Interdisciplinary master plan teams, appointed by district team leaders, shall identify information needs and means for obtaining resources, study costs, schedules, tasks, and responsibilities. The interdisciplinary team shall include Corps district and project representatives of various disciplines, depending upon the resources involved.

g. Master plans shall focus on three primary components: (1) regional and ecosystem needs, (2) project resource capabilities and suitabilities, and (3) expressed public interests and desires. See Chapter 3 of EP 1130-2-550 for specific guidance on the format and content of a master plan. The master plan will ensure that environmental mandates and considerations are incorporated. The master plan shall ensure that economy and quality shall be given equal attention in the development of new recreation facilities.

h. District commanders shall be responsible for approving master plans, supplements and updates which meet the criteria listed in Chapter 3 of EP 1130-2-550. District commanders shall be responsible for ensuring that master plans are completed for all projects. Each master plan shall be reviewed on a periodic basis, such as five years, and shall be revised as required.

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15 Nov 96

i. Based on an approved MP, projects shall develop and implement an OMP to achieve the objectives outlined in the MP. See Chapter 3 of EP 1130-2-550 for specific guidance on the format and content of an OMP.

j. Project personnel shall develop and fully implement project OMP, in accordance with the approved project MP. The OMP will be approved by the District Commander.

(1) Objectives and implementation plans shall be established for each area of emphasis: Natural Resources Management and Park Management. During development and revision of OMPs, emphasis shall be given to achieving environmental mandates and other environmental considerations of a national, regional or ecosystem nature. Emphasis shall also be given to achieving economy in planning, designing, constructing, and managing recreational facilities. Specific guidance on the OMP preparation and implementation processes is provided in Chapter 3 of EP 1130-2-550.

(2) The OMP shall be updated annually at the project level. Costs for annual update of the Project OMP will be included in the project's budget as a baseline item.