

Midsummer, 2024

Dear SaveBCLP Friends,

During these "dog days of summer" I can't imagine Bear Creek Lake Park without its long stretches of shady cottonwood trees along Bear and Turkey Creeks. As the reallocation study drags on, we continue to advocate for the preservation of these critical ecosystems within the Park and oppose a significant "expansion" of the reservoir. Technically, the Corps is studying a *reallocation of use*: reallocating a portion of the reservoir's capacity FROM flood control TO water storage. Whatever you call it, if the volume of water in the reservoir is increased, the Park could lose much of its riparian ecosystem, thousands of trees, and miles of shady creekside trails.

It is important to remember that this is still in the study phase and the Corps is soliciting input from our community. Information for sending a comment is here: <https://savebearcreeklakepark.org/take-action/>.

We have not heard anything new from the Corps of Engineers about when the next Public Scoping Meeting will be. Updating site hydrology has taken longer than anticipated due to the technical review process. Earlier this year the Study Team reported that they plan to analyze potential reallocation alternatives in early June and expect to have meaningful information for an update by mid to late summer. While that window is slipping, I expect to get 30 days notice ahead of any public meeting. I will relay information to this group as I receive it.

As previously reported, the service and emergency gates inside the dam need to be repaired. If all goes as planned, the reservoir will be drawn down to 10 feet below the normal operating pool in November so the gates can be accessed. A 20 day construction window will be followed by fabrication of new gates in 2025. Depending on precipitation, refill could range from 14 days to 114 days. Then, in November of 2025, the reservoir will be drawn down again so the new gates can be installed. This is a routine maintenance project and is not part of the reallocation study.

Thank you for your patience and vigilance,

Katie Gill
Director, Save Bear Creek Lake Park