

Hello SaveBCLP community,

### **We're Still Waiting...**

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has not responded to our last few requests for an update on the status of the feasibility study to add a storage component to the reservoir at BCLP. While this isn't bad news for our effort, it shouldn't be considered good news either. If you have comments to share with the study team, we recommend that you do so now (<https://savebearcreeklakepark.org/take-action/>). And, please encourage your family and friends to do so as well. We need to let the Corps know we're still here and will continue to be vocal opponents.

### **Gate Replacement Project at BCLP Delayed**

The USACE held an open house on June 25, 2024 to provide the public with information about the need to replace the gates in the dam at Bear Creek Lake. (The gate project is NOT part of the reallocation feasibility study noted above.) According to a flyer distributed by USACE at the event:

*"Recent inspections of the Bear Creek Dam have shown the emergency gates, service gates, steel liners, and other metal components in the gate structure showed substantial corrosion. Although the gates are still functional, this corrosion has caused the emergency and service gates to not seal properly and allows water to leak while closed. .... It was determined that maintenance actions need to be taken to ensure that the gates remain functional in the future."*

On November 15, 2024, USACE sent an email to stakeholders, including our organization, announcing that the project will not proceed on the timeline announced at the meeting because bids for the work came in way above the dollar amount anticipated. The email stated:

*"USACE previously anticipated that construction would begin this year, with the first construction window beginning in late November of 2024. However, the contract price came in significantly higher than our budget. This has caused delays to the project schedule that will not allow for construction to begin this year."*

*"Although construction cannot begin, USACE will start designing the gates. It is necessary for USACE employees to enter the dam and verify the measurements of the gates. This work is not expected to take more than one day and will occur during the week of December 9th."*

*"Currently, USACE does not have an anticipated year that construction will begin but will communicate the plan as it becomes clear."*

*"The condition of the gates will continue to be routinely monitored by USACE staff to ensure they are functioning safely."*

### **Tree Removal Project Underway at Chatfield State Park**

The project to remove up to 5,000 mature trees at Chatfield State Park has begun. These trees have died or are dying after being flooded, beginning in 2023, when additional water was first stored for an extended period of time in Chatfield Reservoir.

IF the addition of a water storage component at BCLP gets a green light AND partners are enlisted to store water in Bear Creek Lake, the same fate awaits our beloved park. Economic viability, flood control, environmental impact and community input are considerations in the ongoing feasibility study.

The Chatfield project included “mitigation” of planting new trees in other areas of that park. Opponents to the plan argued (correctly, we believe) that these new, young trees planted in other areas of the park do not replace the lost riparian ecosystem. The plan also included off-site mitigation, as in, planting new trees in other parks/locations.

BCLP cannot accommodate real mitigation for the thousands of trees, or the creek that runs through them, that would be lost in a reallocation of the reservoir.

### **Take Action**

The most important things the public can do to protect BCLP are to send comments to the USACE, be on our email list and read our emails to stay informed. When we need everyone’s help, we’ll spread the word via email. If you’re reading this, you’re likely already in our choir. So, forward this email to family and friends and encourage them to sign up for emails and send comments.

To be added to our email list, send an email to [katie@savebearcreeklakepark.org](mailto:katie@savebearcreeklakepark.org) and ask to be included.

For information on how to send comments to the Army Corps of Engineers, go to: <https://savebearcreeklakepark.org/take-action/>

Happy Thanksgiving and thanks to all of you for your continued involvement and vigilance!

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Katie Gill  
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Save Bear Creek Lake Park