



Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area

Sustainable Recreation Strategy Final Objectives

12/31/19

STRATEGIC GOAL #1 - Anticipate changing recreation needs, demonstrate innovative management practices, and sustainably transform to meet 21st century expectations

Objectives:

1. Implement a Recreation/Environmental Education program operations budget, on an annual basis, no greater than the average of the past 3 Fiscal Years, focusing on:
 - a) providing a variety of dispersed and developed recreation opportunities,
 - b) reducing costs,
 - c) identifying new revenue sources and new partnerships,
 - d) reducing deferred maintenance,
 - e) creating efficiencies, and
 - f) planning for long term maintenance and infrastructure needs.

Note: this operating budget will consist of appropriated funds and revenue generated by the recreation and environmental education programs. Other funding (not included in this operating budget), including grants, one-time award of funds, donations, sponsorships, or other funding mechanisms will be used for special projects to reduce deferred maintenance, to strengthen infrastructure, or to accomplish a specific project for which the funding was requested. A portion of Strategic Goal #2, Objective 1 and all of Strategic Goal #2, Objective 2 are supported by a separate budget in the Environmental Stewardship Department.

2. Complete visitor services facility review (Golden Pond Visitor Center, South Welcome Station, and North Welcome Station) within 2 years. Review will include:
 - a) tracking existing uses,
 - b) tracking how many people services are provided to,
 - c) analyzing the needed workforce to complete the work at these facilities,
 - d) determining how these facilities should promote recreation/environmental education opportunities,
 - e) determining if there is a better way to provide services or if service is needed,
 - f) determining how any proposed changes might impact other facilities,
 - g) hold listening sessions with local Chambers of Commerce and Tourism Associations to assess regional needs, to ask how the FS can better support the local communities, how to better integrate the greater tourism agenda and how to better serve visitors.
3. Support regional cell connectivity, including Land Between the Lakes, by facilitating agreements with cell providers, as permitted by the Area Plan.
4. Provide public Wi-Fi within 5 years inside Piney Campground, Hillman Campground, Wranglers Campground, Energy Lake Campground, Woodlands Nature Station, Brandon Spring Group Camp, Homeplace 1850s Farm, Golden Pond Visitor Center, North Welcome Station, and South Welcome Center.



STRATEGIC GOAL #2 – Restore and sustain healthy habitats and scenic landscapes to be a destination for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing of abundant and diverse species and to provide locations for a wide variety of dispersed recreation opportunities.

Objectives:

1. Increase presence on traditional (includes outreach) and social media beyond a 40 mile radius (geo-extended population) and increase postings on social media by 20% to educate and inform the public and stakeholders on the why, what, when, and where of habitat management and environmental education within 5 years.
2. Use active habitat management, with collaboration, to provide dispersed recreation and environmental education opportunities, a diversity of habitats, vigorous forests that are resistant to insects and disease, and functioning watersheds within 10 years, by
 - a) creating and maintaining 550 acres of Shortleaf pine forest,
 - b) creating and maintaining 3000 acres of mature open oak forest,
 - c) creating and maintaining 3500 acres of woodland structure, and
 - d) regenerating 1500 acres of forest habitat.

STRATEGIC GOAL #3 – Inspire youth in neighboring counties and states to connect with their natural lands and cultural heritage.

Objectives:

1. Update Environmental Education Master Plan in 2021.
2. Promote a community approach to education by establishing partnerships to identify practical ways to incorporate cultural heritage and environmental education in the school curriculum, within 3 years.
3. Expand community engagement by participating in festivals and programs, in surrounding counties, by 50% within 3 years.

MANAGEMENT GOAL #4 – Respect the past and innovate for the future.

Objectives:

1. Complete a review of the volunteer program within 2 years. Review will include:
 - a) determine the housing and facility needs of volunteers,
 - b) identify best practices for management of volunteers, including supervision, paperwork management, prioritization of projects, hours tracking, and volunteer recognition,
 - c) analyze the pros and cons, and determine if there should be a USFS volunteer coordinator,
 - d) determine the potential for increasing volunteerism in wildlife and habitat management, visitor services, facility management, and interpretation and education programming
2. Establish volunteer events calendar that includes annual volunteer recognition event, national volunteer event days, and established cleanup days.