

REPLY TO:

- 135 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501  
(202) 224-3744  
TTY: (202) 224-4479  
e-mail: chuck\_grassley@grassley.senate.gov
- 721 FEDERAL BUILDING  
210 WALNUT STREET  
DES MOINES, IA 50309-2140  
(515) 284-4890
- 206 FEDERAL BUILDING  
101 1ST STREET SE.  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401-1227  
(319) 363-6832

## United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

REPLY TO:

- 103 FEDERAL COURTHOUSE BUILDING  
320 6TH STREET  
SIOUX CITY, IA 51101-1244  
(712) 233-1860
- 210 WATERLOO BUILDING  
531 COMMERCIAL STREET  
WATERLOO, IA 50701-5497  
(319) 232-6657
- 116 FEDERAL BUILDING  
131 E. 4TH STREET  
DAVENPORT, IA 52801-1513  
(563) 322-4331
- 307 FEDERAL BUILDING  
8 SOUTH 6TH STREET  
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501-4204  
(712) 322-7103

May 5, 2003

Colonel William J. Bayles, District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Clock Tower Building  
P.O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

Re: Dr. and Mrs. David Elliott  
Coralville Lake - Camp Daybreak Site

Dear Colonel Bayles:

Enclosed is a copy of a response from Dr. and Mrs. David Elliott, North Liberty, Iowa, to the January 22, 2003 reply from your office concerning the use designation for the Camp Daybreak site on Coralville Lake. The Elliotts maintain the land was never intended for intensive use, and further contend the continuation of the previous camp usage violates Corps policy. They state if the Corps decides to lease the land to the Muslim Youth Camps of America, the decision would violate the Master Plan. The Elliotts also question whether proper procedures have been used in choosing the lessee, gathering public input, and making final decisions.

I would appreciate any information you could send me regarding this matter. Please direct your response to my Cedar Rapids office.

Thank you for your attention to my request.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator

CEG/mlld

RANKING,  
FINANCE

Committee Assignments:

BUDGET  
JUDICIARY

CO-CHAIRMAN,  
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS  
CONTROL CAUCUS

May 1, 2003

Dr. and Mrs. David E. Elliott  
3480 Cumberland Ridge Road  
North Liberty, Iowa 52246  
(319) 665-6099

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
206 Federal Building  
101 1<sup>st</sup> Street SE  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
52401-1227

Dear Senator Grassley,

Colonel Bayles at the Rock Island District of the Corps of Engineers will soon decide on granting a lease to MYCA for use of the "Camp Daybreak" site previously leased to the Cardinal Council of Girl Scouts. At this time, we would like to comment regarding the letter by Lieutenant Colonel Torkild Brunso dated January 22, 2003. We have carefully evaluated his response and re-examined the 1977 Master Plan. We have examined Master Plans and Shoreline Management Plans for other Corps projects. We conclude that Lieutenant Colonel Brunso's response is not valid.

Thank you for forwarding the response by Lieutenant Colonel Brunso (dated January 22, 2003) to our letter dated January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003. In our letter dated January 5<sup>th</sup> (copy enclosed), we showed that the 1977 Master Plan does not designate the area previously leased to the Cardinal Council of Girl Scouts (Camp Daybreak) as recreation-intensive use. However, the Corps consistently represents the area as one designated "recreation intensive use" in the 1977 Master Plan. In his letter dated January 22, 2003, Lieutenant Colonel Brunso acknowledged that the 1977 Master plan does not actually designate the site as recreation intensive use. Yet, he argues that the site is "correctly identified" as recreation intensive use. A copy of his letter also is enclosed.

Lieutenant Colonel Brunso argues that the site is recreation intensive use based on its status as leased-land. Basically, he argues that all land leased to quasi-public non-profit groups is by definition recreation/intensive use. His argument is circular. To base his argument he sites page 65 of Volume 1 of the 1977 Master Plan. Those paragraphs are reproduced here:

Operations: Recreation/Intensive Use lands are those allocated for developments as public use areas for intensive recreational activities, including areas for concession and quasi-public development.

Operations: Recreation/Low Density Use areas are open spaces between intensive recreation developments or between intensive recreation development and other uses. Low density recreational uses such as hiking, trails, primitive camping and ecological workshops are acceptable in this zone.

Lieutenant Colonel Brunso argues that the Cardinal Council of Girl Scouts is a "quasi-public" group, therefore the site leased to the group is recreation/intensive use. Oddly, he argues that the terms "leased lands" and "quasi-public" are synonymous. That statement is obviously false.

The land was leased to the Cardinal Council of Girl Scouts, which is a "quasi-public" organization. However, the land was not leased as a "public use area for intensive recreational activities". The site was leased for recreation/low density use. Therefore, the argument offered

by Lieutenant Colonel Brunso fails. In our letter dated January 5<sup>th</sup>, we demonstrated that the site was never designated as recreation/intensive use. Furthermore, the site was never managed as recreation/intensive use. The land use designations on page 4 of the Appendix to the 1977 Master Plan states that "Natural succession will follow here" for Tracts #E-408, 409, 411, and 412. These tracts are the Camp Daybreak site and are identified as leased land. The wildlife practices and land management use designations in the 1977 Master Plan for sites identified as recreation/intensive use are much different (and quite complex) compared to those for the Camp Daybreak site. We also showed that throughout the lease period, the site was never developed beyond uses such as hiking, trails, primitive camping and ecological workshops. These are activities consistent with recreation/low density use.

As we previously showed, the site is clearly distinguished from sites that are designated recreation/intensive use. We have enclosed a copy of figure 11, entitled "Recreation Areas" from page 70 of the 1977 Master Plan. Many recreation sites are identified, some of which remain undeveloped to this day. The Camp Daybreak site is not identified as a recreation area in this figure. Nowhere, in the entire 1977 Master Plan is the site identified or designated as recreation/intensive use. Nowhere can that designation be inferred. Therefore, the Corps is actively misrepresenting the designation for that site.

In the 1977 Master Plan the site is clearly identified as "Leased land – existing use". Lieutenant Colonel Torkild Brunso does not explain the label "existing use" nor does he explain why the site is not grouped with other intensive use recreational sites. He does not explain why the land use designations are for "natural succession" rather than managed intensive use. All of the information in the 1977 Master Plan indicates that Camp Daybreak site was to be used for recreation/low density applications and only low density recreation.

Moreover, when the site was leased to the Cardinal Council of Girl Scouts, the 1964 Master Plan was in effect. Sites for non-profit organizations at that time were designated "Priority 2" sites. When the 1977 Master Plan was developed, some of the Priority 2 parcels were classified as Recreation-Intensive, including North Point (where the Boy Scouts had a lease) and Macbride Nature Recreation Area (which was and is currently being leased by the University of Iowa). However, the 1977 Master Plan failed to give the Daybreak parcel that same zoning classification. In fact, the Lakeshore Management Plan also set this site apart when it specified a Protected Lakeshore there whereas North Point and Macbride both have a Public Recreation shoreline.

It is apparent that the site falls under the Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 3, section 327.30 (h) "Existing Facilities Now Under Permit". The code states "Implementation of a Shoreline Management Plan shall consider existing facilities and prior written Corps commitments in their issuance. Facilities or activities permitted under special provisions should be identified in a way that will set them apart from other facilities or activities." The Camp Daybreak site is clearly identified as "Leased land – existing use" and is clearly set apart from other facilities and activities in the 1977 Master Plan.

Why then does the Corps not admit that the prior lease of this site was as an "existing facility under permit"? Probably because once the lease was vacated by the Cardinal Council of Girl Scouts, the site was no longer available for leasing. With the Corps' prior commitment no longer in force, the land returns to the designation of Reserve Forest and Recreation/Low Density Use.

The Corps has stated publicly and to your office that the proposed MYCA lease (Alternative 1) is the use most consistent with the 1977 Master Plan. This is blatantly false.

First, the site is not designated recreation/intensive use. Therefore, the proposed use should be prohibited. Second, the shoreline is designated as “Protected Lakeshore – No private or public development. Environmental area.” Lieutenant Colonel Brunso argues that the “purpose of the Lakeshore Management Plan is to provide guidance on limiting private exclusive use of the shoreline.” That is correct but incomplete and therefore misleading. The 1977 Master Plan is clear. It designates that Protected Lakeshores permit no private or public development. The Lakeshore Management Plan provides guidance on private and public use of the shoreline. The proposed MYCA lease is currently prohibited by the 1977 Master Plan on the basis that the site has a Protected Lakeshore.

Other sections in the 1977 Master Plan show that the proposed MYCA lease is inconsistent with the plan. The 1977 Master Plan predicts future pressure to increase the intensity of use at developed sites. On page 69 of Volume 1, the 1977 Master Plan states, “In the process of field development, it was realized that ... the region’s projected need cannot be satisfied on Corps land. It is felt that increasing the intensity of use on the developed sites would result in substantial degradation of their natural character, and the remaining needs should be satisfied at other parks in Linn and Johnson counties.” The Corps now proposes to dramatically increase the intensity of use for the Daybreak site. What was before a rustic, primitive camp would become, to our knowledge, the largest “lodge” facility constructed by a non-profit group on Corps land in the nation. The “lodge” has a 17,500 sq. ft. main floor and is approx. 24,000 sq. ft. when including the second floor. The main meeting room is approximately 9,000 sq. ft. and actually has a design capacity for nearly 900 people. Thus, the proposed MYCA lease is totally inconsistent with the 1977 Master Plan.

The Corps does not need to misrepresent the proposed MYCA lease as consistent with the 1977 Master Plan. The Corps could develop a new Master Plan that might permit the proposed use. The Corps has not chosen that avenue. Instead, the Corps has chosen to declare the site “recreation/intensive use” without documentary support, ignore the Protected Lakeshore designation, and disregard the guidance for future development provided by the 1977 Master Plan.

Colonel William Bayles will soon decide whether or not to lease the Camp Daybreak site to MYCA. If the Corps leases the land to MYCA for recreation/low density use (primitive camping, trails, hiking, and ecological workshops) then that decision may be consistent with the 1977 Master Plan. If the Corps decides to lease the land for use as proposed by MYCA (large compound with 24,000 square foot convention center) then the decision will be one prohibited by the 1977 Master Plan.

If the Corps issues a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) with intent to lease the site to MYCA for intensive use, we respectfully request that your office investigate these actions by the Corps Rock Island District. We believe the Corps has actively misrepresented the 1977 Master Plan. The United States Code, Title 18, Part 1, Chapter 47, Section 1001, (January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1995) likely applies. The code reads:

Whoever, in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States knowingly and willingly falsifies, conceals, or covers up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact, or makes any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations, or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or entry, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

Please instruct the Corps not to issue the lease until your office has investigated these actions.

Your office is well known for investigating the activities of governmental agencies. Your work has provided a great benefit to the citizens of our country. It may be time to take a hard look at the practices and culture within the Corps. Recent decisions by the Corps demonstrate necessity for congressional review. This is exemplified by the recent lease of 280 acres on Skiatook Lake, Oklahoma to Ronald W. Howell as reported in the New York Times on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2003. According to the report by Douglas Jehl, the Corps arranged for Mr. Howell to lease the land (free of charge) for a multi-million dollar development. Mr. Howell, a politically active millionaire, was granted the valuable lease without an open, competitive process. This provides for the appearance, if not the substance, of impropriety. We feel that a congressional investigation of the Corps should include:

- 1) How the lessee is chosen. Currently, this is an anachronistic "back room" process without public input. The process must be transparent, public, and uniform.
- 2) How public input is gathered. Public input is not actively sought by the Corps. In our situation, the "public comment period" provided by the Corps occurred during the time that there were 3 major holidays, making response difficult. Please determine the time periods provided for public comment of Corps projects over the last 5 years. If the comment periods are distributed throughout the year, then we were unlucky. If the comment periods are grouped around major holidays, then this demonstrates a pattern of disdain for public input (and congressional intent).
- 3) How final decisions are made. Currently, the decision on the MYCA lease rests with Colonel Bayles alone. Again, this is anachronistic. He is not a resident of our area and has no vested interest in the community. This allows the decision process to be shaped by career objectives rather than community concerns. The final decision should be in consensus with the community.
- 4) I am certain that members of the Sierra Club and other environmental groups, would be able to provide many more examples of questionable actions by the Corps and issues that would benefit from congressional review.

Again, thank you for your help with our concerns. We can document our conclusion that the Corps is misrepresenting the land designations for the Camp Daybreak site. We suspect that this misrepresentation is willful. It is definitely material. This misrepresentation was a major basis for the draft finding of no significant impact.

Sincerely,


David E. Elliott, M.D., Ph.D.  
Mrs. Andrea L. Elliott

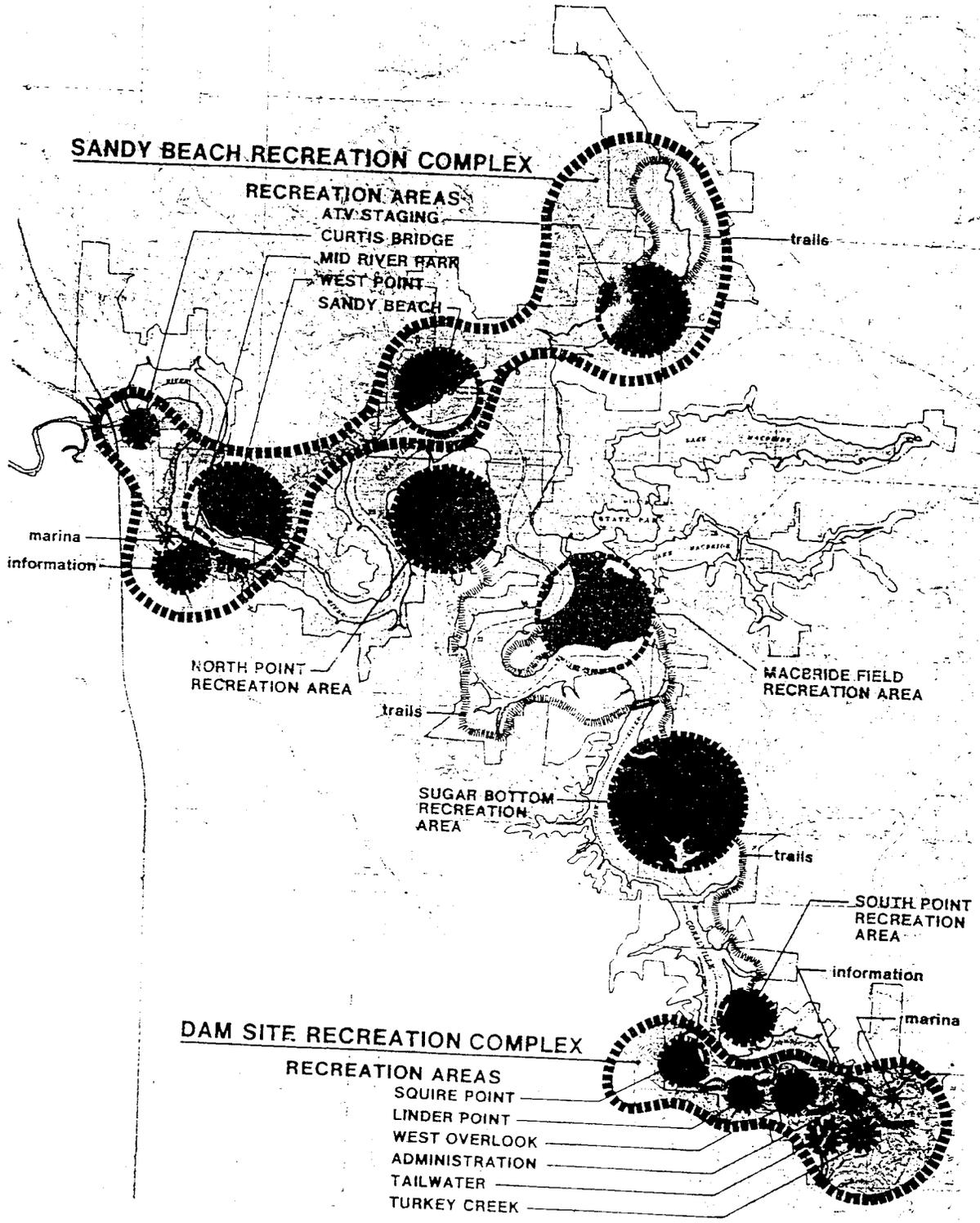


figure 11

**RECREATION AREAS**





REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING - P.O. BOX 2004  
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

January 22, 2003

Planning, Programs, and  
Project Management Division

Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator  
206 Federal Building  
101 -1st Street SE.  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401-1227

Dear Senator Grassley:

I am writing in response to your letter of January 8, 2003, with the accompanying letter from Dr. and Mrs. David Elliott. The letter concerned the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed lease at Coralville Lake and previous correspondence between our offices.

The concerns raised by Dr. and Mrs. Elliott have also been submitted to the Corps of Engineers as part of the Elliott's public comment letters. Dr. and Mrs. Elliott are correct in stating that the proposed lease site is not labeled Recreation/Intensive Use in the map set, Volume II of the 1977 Master Plan for Coralville Lake, but instead the area is labeled "leased lands" for the northern portion of the site and "reserve forest" for the southern portion of the site.

Page 29 of Volume I of the 1977 Master Plan describes all of the leased lands to non-Federal agencies or groups at Coralville Lake for various forms of public use. This list includes the Cardinal Council of Girl Scouts lease of the Camp Daybreak site. All of these organizations and their associated development are considered non-Federal recreation development. Another term used by the Corps of Engineers for this type of development is "quasi-public" development, to differentiate it from Federal or commercial development.

Page 65 of the Master Plan states "Recreation/Intensive Use lands are those allocated for developments as public use areas for intensive recreation activities, including areas for concession and quasi-public development." Thus, the terms "leased lands" and "quasi-public" are synonymous and, as noted on page 65, are classified as Recreation/Intensive Use. Therefore, the area is correctly identified as Recreation/Intensive Use for the northern portion of the site where the proposed development would occur.

The Natural Resource Inventory System (NRIS), now obsolete, was an internal resource tool, which used different measuring systems than the Master Plan. All planning documents at Corps of Engineers projects are guided by the project's Master Plan. If there is any perceived conflict in land use designations, the Master Plan land use designations predominate.

The shoreline adjacent to the proposed lease area is labeled "protected lakeshore" in the Lakeshore Management Plan, Appendix F of the Master Plan. The purpose of the Lakeshore Management Plan is to provide guidance on limiting private exclusive use of the shoreline. Our policy requires a balance of resource protection and the promotion of safe, healthy use of the shoreline for recreation by the public. The proposed beach construction, by adding sand to an existing sandy shoreline and placement of a summer canoe dock, which will be removed during the non-camping season, was evaluated in the Environmental Assessment. No significant environmental impacts were identified from these actions. Therefore, the integrity of the shoreline would not be compromised, and these actions are within the allowable parameters of the Lakeshore Management Plan and the proposed nonprofit lease.

The Rock Island District is very aware of the concerns raised by this proposed project and is working diligently to ensure public and environmental concerns will be addressed to the fullest extent possible.

I hope that this information satisfactorily addresses the concerns expressed in the letter you have received. If you have further questions regarding this matter, your staff may call Ms. Karen Hagerty in our Economic and Environmental Analysis Branch, telephone 309/794-5286.

Sincerely,



Torkild P. Brunso  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army  
Deputy District Engineer

Copy Furnished:

Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-1501



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING - P.O. BOX 2004  
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

May 21, 2003

Planning, Programs, and  
Project Management Division

Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator  
206 Federal Building  
101 -1st Street SE.  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401-1227

Dear Senator Grassley:

I am writing in response to your letter of May 5, 2003, with the accompanying letter from Dr. and Mrs. David Elliott. The letter concerned the land use designations for the former Camp Daybreak area at Coralville Lake, the proposed lease of this site, and previous correspondence between our offices.

I am disappointed to hear that Dr. and Mrs. Elliott were not satisfied with Lieutenant Colonel Brunso's explanation of the Corps of Engineers (Corps) land use designations provided to your office on January 22, 2003. Recreation/Intensive Use is the correct land use designation for the northern portion of the former Camp Daybreak site, where the proposed development would occur. I welcome this opportunity to clarify our policies and procedures.

The Elliotts are correct in their understanding that Recreation/Low Density use is appropriate for such activities as hiking, trails, and primitive camping. However, the use of Camp Daybreak by the Girl Scouts was more intensive. Their facilities included a lodge, tent platforms, latrines, a well and water supply lines, and a septic system for wastewater treatment. In addition, the Girl Scouts had permission from the Corps to construct and install a seasonal, floating boat dock. Such facilities are not permitted on Recreation/Low Density lands.

The Elliotts are also correct that the former Camp Daybreak site is distinguished from non-leased sites designated Recreation/Intensive Use. Camp Daybreak was a leased site and most leased lands at Coralville Lake are shown in the same manner in the 1977 Master Plan, dependent on expected future leases. These areas were leased to non-Federal, non-commercial organizations, also referred to as quasi-public, though that term is not used on pages 27 and 28 of the Master Plan. As defined in the Master Plan zoning classifications on page 65, this quasi-public use is considered intensive rather than low-density recreational use, unless the area is leased specifically for wildlife management. If, or when, leases expire or are terminated, these lands remain available for future leases to quasi-public organizations, as is the case for the former Camp Daybreak site. Since the northern portion of this site was never designated Recreation/Low Density, it cannot revert back to that land use designation without a revision

of the Master Plan. The southern portion of the site retains its Reserve Forest designation, in place since 1977. One of the purposes of the Master Plan is to designate suitable areas for future recreational development. If the Master Plan zoning changed based on actual use, no unoccupied lands would ever be designated for future development and recreational use. That would negate the purpose of the Master Plan.

The 1977 Coralville Lake Master Plan provides detailed development plans for Recreation/Intensive Use lands. Not all areas have yet been developed as Recreation/Intensive Use lands. One of these areas not yet developed is currently leased to the University of Iowa as the Macbride Nature Recreation Area. This less intensive use is allowable under Corps regulations provided that such a use would not permanently foreclose future Corps development plans of that area. The other area, a portion of North Point not yet developed as Recreation/Intensive Use, was formerly leased to the Boy Scouts.

The Shoreline Management Plan is being incorrectly interpreted by the Elliotts, and they have made erroneous conclusions as a result. On December 13, 1974, the Corps issued nationwide regulation (ER 1130-2-406) concerning the private exclusive use of project shorelines for private recreational boat docks and related structures. As a result, any project where construction was initiated prior to December 13, 1974, and where private exclusive use existed, was required to develop a Shoreline/Lakeshore Management Plan (LMP). Coralville Lake had private recreational boat docks in 1974, thus a plan was developed in compliance with the regulation. In keeping with Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulation (CFR), Chapter 3, Section 327.30 (h), existing private recreational structures were allowed to continue under the new provisions of the LMP with the issuance of a lakeshore use permit by the Resource Manager. Title 36 CFR 327.30 (h) does not apply to leases as stated by the Elliotts; it applied to private boat docks and related facilities. The Real Estate Handbook, Chapter 8, Section 1 (ER 405-1-12) states that leases to nonprofit organizations for park and recreational purposes do not constitute private exclusive use, as defined in Title 36 CFR Part 327 and ER 1130-2-406, and is therefore considered public use. The Elliotts quote the "Protected Lakeshore Area" definition from the Coralville LMP and claim that the definition prohibits the type of development proposed by MYCA. The complete definition for "Protected Lakeshore Areas" contained in the 1974 regulation, and the 1990 updated version of the regulation, do not prohibit public shoreline development of the type in the MYCA proposal. In fact, the 1974 regulation and the 1990 updated version of the regulation do not address public recreational development in any way, because this regulation was not meant to address or prevent future development of public shoreline access facilities such as beaches, boat ramps, mooring or courtesy docks, etc. In retrospect, we acknowledge that the abbreviated land use definitions displayed in Exhibit 4 of Coralville's LMP as referred to by the Elliotts could have been written more clearly. However, the sole purpose of the regulation was to address private recreational boat docks and related access facilities, and Coralville's LMP should be read in that context.

The lease of Camp Daybreak to the Girl Scouts included provision for waterfront improvements. Beaches and boat docks are traditional and expected features of group camps. Availability of shoreline facilities attracts group use. A beach and seasonal boat dock are part of the MYCA proposal and will be included in the proposed lease. The Corps is required to balance resource protection and safe, healthy use of the shoreline for recreation by the public. The proposed beach construction through the addition of sand to an existing sandy shoreline and the placement of a seasonal canoe dock were evaluated in the Environmental Assessment (EA). No significant environmental impacts were identified from these actions. The integrity of the shoreline would not be compromised. These actions are within the allowable parameters of the Master Plan, LMP, and the lease regulations.

The Corps maintains its position that the land use designations for the former Camp Daybreak site are correct. Use of this site by MYCA or any other nonprofit organization does not violate the 1977 Coralville Lake Master Plan or any of our rules and regulations. While local concerns are very important, our land use planning decisions must also be consistent and compatible with the Corps' national objectives for recreation programs and facilities at civil works water resource projects. These national objectives include providing a quality outdoor recreation experience, increasing the level of self-sufficiency for our programs, providing outdoor recreation opportunities on a sustained basis, and optimizing the use of leveraged resources to maintain and provide quality public experiences at our water resources projects. To accomplish these objectives, the Corps manages land and water resources in cooperation with other Federal, State, and local agencies, quasi-public organizations, such as MYCA, and the private sector.

The Rock Island District's procedure for choosing lessees is dependent on whether the potential lessee is a commercial or nonprofit organization. Our 1977 Master Plan designates the former Camp Daybreak area as leased lands for nonfederal and non-commercial recreation development for public use. When the Master Plan was developed, this area was leased to the Cardinal Council of Girl Scouts as a camp. The Girl Scouts chose not to renew their lease when it expired in 1991. In 1999, two nonprofit groups interested in leasing the former Camp Daybreak site approached our District. Our regulations do not require a competitive bid process for nonprofit leases. The District assembled an interdisciplinary team to evaluate the two proposals. An evaluation process was developed that included individual ratings of the proposals, as well as group discussions. The two proposals were rated on 18 different criteria. Based on the discussions and ratings, the MYCA was the selection of the group.

Public involvement in the EA process is a duty that the Corps takes very seriously. At the beginning of this process, a public scoping meeting was held on July 12, 2000, with both an afternoon and an evening session. These meetings were held to provide information about the proposed lease and the EA process, as well as to ascertain what the local issues and concerns entailed. Legal ads providing public notice for the meetings were published in the Cedar Rapids Gazette and Iowa City Press-Citizen. Individual notices were sent to more than 350 people.

Notices were also sent to radio stations KXIC and KCJJ to be included in their daily public service announcements. These sessions were attended by a total of 102 people, including neighbors, county government employees, and the media. Prior to this meeting, the Rock Island District developed an Internet site devoted to this project.

A copy of the EA was mailed to the appropriate Federal, State, and local governing agencies, to all neighbors and to every person who requested a copy. In addition, the EA was posted on the previously established Corps web site, and the Corps' Public Affairs Office issued a news release to all local media to coincide with the beginning of the public review period. The standard 30-day public review and comment period was extended to 45 days, from November 19, 2002, to January 2, 2003.

I, as District Engineer, will be responsible for making the final decision on the EA for this proposed lease. I will consider the EA, the public comments and responses, and the recommendations from the interdisciplinary project team. Planning for Corps project lands is based on national and regional needs and objectives, in addition to local needs. The concerns of the local communities and individuals are important and will be considered in the decision making process for the proposed lease of the former Camp Daybreak site. The Corps is obligated to implement projects on Corps' managed lands that benefit all segments of the public.

When the final decision on the EA is made, all parties on the original distribution list and any additional people who submitted public comments on the EA will be notified by mail of the availability of the decision documentation, comment letters and responses, and locations for viewing this package. This package will also be posted on the Corps web site. Hard copies will be available at area post offices, libraries, at the Coralville Lake project office, and at the Rock Island District office. This package will also be provided to all appropriate congressional offices.

I hope that this information satisfactorily addresses the concerns expressed in the letter you have received. If you have further questions regarding this matter, your staff may call Ms. Karen Hagerty in our Economic and Environmental Analysis Branch, telephone 309/794-5286.

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY**

William J. Bayles  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
District Engineer

Copy Furnished:

Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-1501