



Lake Sherwood Rehabilitation

Background Information, 1 of 2

Lake Sherwood Recreation Area is one of the most visited sites on the Monongahela National Forest. With more than 50,000 visitors each year, Lake Sherwood has been a destination for families since it opened in 1959. The site is now attracting second and third generation campers, as well as day-use visitors. It is common to encounter families that have been visiting the site for more than twenty years.



Lake Sherwood circa 1950s

When it first opened, Lake Sherwood offered boat launching facilities and roadside camping. The site has grown over the last sixty years to include a family campground with flush toilets, hot showers, 24-hour attendants, two swimming beaches, picnic shelter, 18 miles of trails, a boat launch, amphitheater, and a 165 acre lake (which is managed jointly with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources).

Many of the buildings and other facilities at Lake Sherwood Recreation Area are nearing the end of their useful life and are showing severe signs of disrepair. With the closing of Anthony Correctional Center in May 2018, the Forest lost the assistance of dozens of inmates who were vital to keeping the site clean, grounds maintained, and facilities repaired.

In 2019, a new problem emerged as water-shield began spreading across much of the lake. Although it is a native plant, when water-shield reaches high levels, it can impact swimmers, anglers, and boaters. A siphon was built to lower the water level of the lake during winter to freeze the plant, but this method has not been successful. Herbicide treatments have also failed to achieve the desired effects.



Water-shield infestation at Lake Sherwood



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Background Information, 2 of 2

Disaster hit Lake Sherwood in 2020 when the well failed to produce enough water to support the site. With limited drinking water available, most of the facilities remained closed for the 2020 season. While the Forest Service has invested more than \$250,000 in this recreation area over the last ten years, it has barely scratched the surface on the improvements needed.

The Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) established funding to address deferred maintenance of recreation sites on national forests. The highest priority projects for the agency are those are ready to implement and provide the greatest benefits to the public, including local economic development.

The Lake Sherwood Rehabilitation project received more individual letters than any other project across the country during the comment period for GAOA Projects. Because you care so much about this special place, we are asking you to help shape the direction and priorities for Lake Sherwood.

In the short-term, we will discuss how to best invest the GAOA funding that was received. However, this is only one piece of what is needed to make Lake Sherwood sustainable into the future.

We also invite you to join us for the longer journey to develop a sustainable recreation strategy to guide the management of Lake Sherwood into the future. Together, we can build a bold strategy that will allow us to work with partners and stakeholders to increase our organizational capacity and leverage resources.



Typical restroom facility at Lake Sherwood

*We are starting a journey and
hope you will join us!*