



Twin Lakes Recreation Area Congressional Directive

The Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2022 (House Report 117-83) included the following directive:

The Committee notes that the Twin Lakes Recreation Area in the Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania serves thousands of visitors each year. As the Forest Service works with local partners to consider future plans for improvements to the recreation area's drinking water and wastewater systems to enhance visitor experiences, the Committee encourages the Service to provide updates on management plan developments and other related actions.

Updates on Management Plan Developments and Related Actions

In February 2023, there was a meeting between the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) and the Friends of Twin Lakes ANF 501(c)(3) nonprofit group (FOTL), which is dedicated to preserving the Twin Lakes Recreation Area. Topics discussed at the meeting included:

- 1) Ongoing projects and unresolved issues such as: a) completion of the fully operational connection to the new groundwater source for the potable drinking water treatment system; b) summary of how the completed tree planting contracts went; c) notice of selection of the engineer that will help the committee design and install the universally accessible fishing platforms; d) explanation of the 2022 accomplishments and end-of-season report; and e) discussion of 2023 operating season in regards to what volunteer agreements have been renewed and the approved plan of operations.
- 2) New projects that will require investment over the next several years, including: a) rehabilitation and activation of existing water and wastewater systems for short term use which will be operational by the fall; b) development plans for a new amphitheater; c) status report on Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) and Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP) project for the main access roads to Twin Lakes Recreation Area (Dahoga Road and National Forest System Road 191); and d) stabilization and rehabilitation of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) era picnic pavilion utilizing HistoriCorps¹.
- 3) Nomination of the Twin Lakes Recreation Area to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)
- 4) Transition from existing participating agreement to potential historic properties lease in the future
- 5) Hosting the ANF Centennial Celebration in September 2023 at Twin Lakes Recreation Area
- 6) Implementation of Congressionally Directed Community Project Grant through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development for Twin Lakes Recreation Area
- 7) Twin Lakes Management Plan

Summary of The Twin Lakes Management Plan Timeline

In 2019, the Forest Service requested that FOTL develop a 10-Year management plan to guide investment in the Twin Lakes Recreation Area. This management plan is intended to identify deferred maintenance within the Twin Lakes Recreation Area, new infrastructure development proposals, develop funding strategies, and create a schedule for implementation. The management plan will

¹ <https://historiccorps.org/>



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combine the vision and capabilities of the FOTL with the long-term goals of the Forest Service for infrastructure development, within the historic framework of the Twin lakes Recreation Area.

A draft plan has been developed and a finalized plan will be issued in late September 2023.

Spotlight on Water and Wastewater System

The FOTL's proposed Twin Lakes Management Plan provides a detailed capital improvements plan for the water and wastewater systems at Twin Lakes Recreation Area. For the water system, the plan proposes to develop a groundwater source and connect it to the existing water distribution system, with later investments to extend water lines and refurbish the water treatment building and holding tanks. For the wastewater system (including the treatment plant, and collection and lift stations), the plan first proposes to provide interim system upgrades to allow the system to be operational and up to standards. The plan also includes later investments to fully replace the lift stations, controls, and disinfection system and to rehabilitate the liners and mechanics of the secondary and tertiary wastewater treatment systems.

The FOTL is currently working with the Forest Service to make the existing water and wastewater systems operational for the short term. In March 2023, the FOTL received a Congressionally Directed Community Project Funding Grant, administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, for the long-term upgrades of the water and wastewater systems at Twin Lakes.