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USACE commander makes inaugural visit to Louisville District





Falls City Engineer

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On the cover: Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Programs Director Mr. Steve Durrett and Louisville District Deputy Engineer Linda Murphy talk with Lt. Gen. Scott A. Spellmon, 55th Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during a tour of McAlpine Locks and Dam in Louisville, Ky. (USACE photo by Jack Sweeney)



Commander's Comments

Team Louisville,

Happy holidays everyone! As we continue to enjoy and celebrate the season, I hope you can spend quality time with family members and recharge during your well-earned leave over the Christmas holiday period.

As we bring 2020 to a close, I want to reiterate how much I appreciate everyone's flexibility this year as we have had to, and continue to, adjust during this pandemic. Again, I encourage everyone to reduce their potential for exposure in all aspects of your daily lives. Strive to keep your personal risk profile as low as possible and continue to follow CDC guidelines. Avoid COVID complacency especially as our society is getting closer to having an approved vaccine. It has been a long road to get to this point, and this is welcome news for sure.

Enjoy this issue of the Falls City Engineer, which focuses on the great efforts of our people and teams who comprise this district. Items of interest include a visit by the Chief of Engineers to the district and his signing of the Chief's Report for Louisville Metro Flood Protection System Reconstruction study, the ribbon cutting ceremony held for Fort Knox VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic, groundbreaking ceremony held for Intelligence Production Complex at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and much, much more.

Lastly, I extend a heartfelt wish to each of you for a safe and enjoyable holiday with your family. I look forward to seeing you back, even if it is on WebEx, MS Teams or Skype, in the new year so we can tackle 2021 head on as it



Col. Eric Crispino Commander and District Engineer Louisville District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

brings new challenges and opportunities to our district.

Thank you for what you do every day to make the Louisville District the great place it is.

Building Strong! Louisville Proud!

Col. Crispino

Eric D Crispino

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Civil Works

USACE commander signs Chief's Report for Louisville Metro Flood Protection System Reconstruction study



Lt. Gen. Scott Spellmon, USACE Commanding General and 55th U.S. Army Chief of Engineers, signs the Louisville Metro, Kentucky Flood Protection System Reconstruction Chiefs Report, Oct. 27, 2020, at the Washington, D.C., headquarters of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced that Lt. Gen. Scott Spellmon, USACE Commanding General and 55th U.S. Army Chief of Engineers, signed the Chief's Report for the Louisville Metro Flood Protection System Reconstruction Study, Oct. 27 – a major milestone for the project.

The Louisville Metro Flood Protection System consists of more than 26 miles of levee and floodwall, with 15 federally constructed pumping stations for maintaining interior drainage in times of flooding.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

constructed the project in response to devastating floods that occurred in the Ohio River Valley in 1937 and was assigned to local interests beginning in February 1957. The project affords protection for loss of life and property damage to Louisville against an Ohio River flood equal to the maximum flood on record in January 1937 with three feet of additional protection.

"The signing of the Chief's Report progresses the project to Congress for authorization and is the next step in allowing the Louisville District and our non-federal sponsor to proceed with project implementation," said Amy Babey,

Virtual public meetings held for Nolin, Barren River lakes' master plan updates

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District recently hosted virtual public meetings for Nolin River and Barren River lakes, as USACE is in the process of updating the master plans for both lakes.

Since public input is critical in the master plan update process, the Louisville District held the virtual workshops to provide the public and stakeholders with an opportunity to comment.

The district also created a geographical public comment tool, available on the Louisville District website, for those who could not attend the workshops, which were held Nov. 17 and 18.

"A key component of the master

plan is public involvement, both from stakeholders and the lake's visitors," said Glenn Myrick, Louisville District Master Plan project manager. "Public input is used to help guide the Project Delivery Team's decision-making process in such matters as resource management and land classifications toward future use."

A Master Plan is intended to serve as a comprehensive land and recreational management plan with a life span of 15-25 years. It guides the stewardship of natural and cultural resources and the provision of outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities to ensure sustainability of federal land associated with the lakes.

"We've already gotten a lot of great comments and questions through the

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Louisville District Civil Works Planning, Programs and Project Management Branch chief. "We are thankful for the efforts of our non-federal sponsor and our partners across local, state and federal levels for their strong support in advancing this project forward. Together, we will continue to work toward our collective goal of reducing risks to life, health, safety and property of residents by increasing system reliability for years to come."

Completed in cooperation with the non-federal sponsor - Louisville and Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District, also known as MSD - the study provides recommendations of rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts necessary to restore the city's Flood Protection System to its authorized level of flood risk management. Major components of the plan include repair and rehabilitation of 14 pump stations, modifications of two road closure structures, floodwall repairs and modifications, and gate repair and replacement. Once reconstructed, these measures will provide greater reliability to the Metro Louisville Flood Protection System by bringing 1950s-era components up to 2020 standards.

The next step will include authorization of the recommended plan in a Water Resources Development Act and execution of a Project Partnership Agreement with MSD. Once authorized and funded, design and construction are expected to take approximately five years.

More information on the Metro Louisville Reconstruction project can be found at: https://go.usa.gov/x7CPs.

interactive lake maps, and we hope to get a lot more," said Chris Boggs, Green River Lake Area manager. "People hit on a number of significant topics, including invasive species control, shoreline erosion and recreation development."

A Master Plan is the document that conceptually establishes and guides the orderly development, administration, maintenance, preservation, enhancement and management of all natural, cultural and recreational resources of a USACE water resource project. Master Plans do not include water management operations and associated prime facilities (dam, gates, powerhouses, spillways, etc.). In addition,

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lake shoreline management is not a part of the Master Plan revision process, nor is private exclusive use, such as private docks, private paths or roads.

"We want to hear from our stakeholders, visitors and neighbors," said Deryck Rodgers Nolin River Lake project manager. "While we may not be able to implement each and every idea, knowing what folks want from the lake helps us with the big picture."

The current Nolin River Lake Master Plan was completed in 1974 and has been used as a guide for recreational and environmental stewardship decisions. The plan needs revising to address changes in regional land use, population, outdoor recreation trends and USACE management policy.

"Our stakeholders showed a lot of interest and provided good feedback during the initial Master Plan meetings for both lakes," Boggs said. "We plan to incorporate all the feasible comments we can into the draft plan."

Similar to Nolin's, Barren River Lake's current Master Plan was completed in 1985. Key topics to be addressed in the revised Master Plan include revised land classifications, new natural and recreational resource management objectives, recreation facility needs and special topics such as invasive species management and threatened and endangered species habitat.

"Our current Master Plans are pretty old, so we're excited about updating



Aerial photo of Nolin River Lake in Edmonson, Grayson and Hart counties in Kentucky. Nolin River Lake was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1938. USACE, in cooperation with the commonwealth of Kentucky, manages the land and water for wildlife, fisheries and recreation. The Corps also manages the major recreation areas including approximately 350 campsites.

them into documents, which can guide development at the lakes over the next 15-20 years," Boggs said.

In addition to information collected during the public meetings, emails and social media, as of Dec. 8, the district has received 91 comments on the interactive lake map for Nolin River Lake and 61 comments for Barren River Lake, according to Myrick.

"Luckily for us, the response has been

great," Myrick said. "It's obvious that the public has great concern for the future of these two lakes, and we plan to produce master plan updates that are representative of these concerns and useful for many years to come."

Learn more about the Master Plan process and updates by visiting https:// www.lrl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Recreation/Lake-Master-Plan-Updates.



Aerial photo of Barren River Lake in Allen, Barren and Monroe counties in south central Kentucky. Barren River Lake was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1938. The primary project purposes are flood risk reduction, water supply, fish and wildlife and recreation.

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Military Intelligence Production Complex at WPAFB to protect services worldwide



Louisville District Commander Col. Eric Crispino speaks at the National Air and Space Intelligence Center Intelligence Production Complex III groundbreaking ceremony, Nov. 5, 2020, on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District will oversee the construction of the \$126 million facility.

Shatara Riis, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District, in partnership with the Air Force and the National Air and Space Intelligence Center, broke ground on the new Intelligence Production Complex III in a ceremony held Nov. 5.

The IPC will serve as a state-of-the-art intelligence facility from which NASIC will continue to protect forces all over the world.

This project is part three in a military construction sequence, which included the golf course, the road realignment and the Intelligence Production Complex, according to Louisville District Commander Col. Eric Crispino.

"For the Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District, we are proud to be a part of these events and help to deliver for our partners here at Wright-Patterson (Air Force Base)," Crispino said. "This project was awarded this summer, and we are excited to celebrate this milestone as we turn a new corner into the hard work of the construction phase."

The contract and the Notice to Proceed were awarded slightly ahead of schedule, and it was through the great teamwork of a high-performing project delivery team this was done. "A lot of hard work has brought us to this point. It is our collective goal to stay true to this milestone," Crispino said. "We will work diligently and safely to meet the needs and requirements of the Air Force and NASIC, while being mindful that the security components and final accreditation of this project are paramount."

The current schedule is slated to have



A row of shovels and hardhats wait for the start of the National Air and Space Intelligence Center Intelligence Production Complex III groundbreaking ceremony, Nov. 5, 2020.

the NASIC staff move into the new facility in early 2025.

"It's an exciting time as we embark on this new phase to see this home take shape," Crispino said. "We are certain to face challenges along the way, and it's my hope that the spirit of teamwork that has carried us to this point will carry us all the way to the ribbon cutting ceremony."



J.S. Air Force photo by R.J. Ori

Kevin Cozart, Messer Construction Company senior vice president; U.S. Sen. Rob Portman; Air Force Col. Patrick Miller, 88th Air Base Wing and installation commander; Air Force Col. Maurizio Calabrese, National Air and Space Intelligence Center commander; U.S. Rep. Mike Turner and Col. Eric Crispino, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District commander, ceremoniously break ground, Nov. 5, 2020, at the site of the new NASIC Intelligence Production Complex III soon to be constructed on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

BUILDING STRONG®

Interagency and International Services USACE turns over Fort Knox VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic, honors Veterans



U.S. Army Cadet Command Chief of Staff Col. Lance Oskey; Fort Knox Deputy Garrison Commander Emmet Holley; Louisville District Commander Col. Eric Crispino; VA MidSouth Healthcare Network Director Cynthia Breyfogle; Medical Center Director Stephen Black; and Semper Tek, Inc. Senior Vice President Jason Brinkmoeller, cut the ribbon to the new Fort Knox VA CBOC, Nov. 10.

Shatara Riis, public affairs

Veterans Day is a time to recognize all military servicemembers, who have honorably served in the U.S. Armed Forces, for their sacrifice and commitment to the nation.

In recognition of this time-honored day, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District and the Fort Knox community, celebrated the opening of the VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic with a ribbon cutting ceremony held Nov. 10 on Fort Knox.

"I can't think of a better way to recognize and honor our veterans for their

service and sacrifice than the dedication of this brand-new state-of-the-art VA clinic," said Stephen Black, Robley Rex VA Medical Center director. "Veterans in this area can now rest assured that they will be able to receive the highest level of care, efficient quality healthcare within their own community well into the future."

While the groundbreaking ceremony was held on a cold December day, the ribbon cutting brought beautiful, comfortable weather.

"I remember well being at this very spot, Dec. 11, 2018 for the groundbreaking," said Cynthia Breyfogle VA MidSouth Healthcare Network director. "It was different weather that day to say the least. It was very cold."

The groundbreakings are always exciting but moving into the building and being able to serve veterans is the most exciting, according to Breyfogle.

"As the director of the VA MidSouth Healthcare Network, I am proud to be here as we recognize and celebrate VA's commitment to caring for our nation's heroes," Breyfogle added.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District oversaw the construction of the 18,579 square feet clinic, which began March 4, 2019.

"The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District is proud to have played a part in delivering this state-of-the-art facility, which will provide a modern, convenient, comfortable location for veterans to receive the care they need," said Louisville District Commander Col. Eric Crispino. "We are proud of the dedicated team who saw this project to fruition."

The Corps' partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs demonstrates the ongoing commitment to proudly care for all those who serve.

"We are pleased to continue building that strong partnership between USACE and the VA to provide veterans and their families world class healthcare facilities across the United States," Crispino said. "We are proud to turn over this facility here at Fort Knox for our local veterans."

The Fort Knox VA CBOC served its first patient Oct. 15, 2020 and provides medical services to about 5,900 veterans, residing in a four-county area.



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Fort Knox Veterans Affairs Community Based Outpatient Clinic celebrated its grand opening in a ribbon cutting ceremony held Nov. 10, 2020.

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Environmental

Louisville District, Army Environmental Command assess environmental impacts of Old Timbers Lake Dam

Shatara Riis, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District is currently working with Army Environmental Command to assess the environmental impacts associated with the Old Timbers Lake Dam at Jeffersonville Proving Ground in Indiana.

The Old Timbers Lake Dam has been classified as a high hazard dam; therefore, some action is required to reduce the hazard classification and to comply with Army and state of Illinois dam safety regulations.

As the dam no longer serves any mission purpose for the Army, the Army is looking at several options and their associated impacts, including reducing its impounding capacity, modifications to the dam, or removal of the dam.

According to Louisville District Environmental Engineer Sandy Gruzesky, "OTLD does not meet Indiana, nor Army Dam Safety Management Program dam safety standards, and it does not function to support any U.S. Army mission requirements. The project is to develop an Environmental Impact Statement to analyze the effects to human health and the environment that may result from removing the dam or reducing its water impounding capacity."

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, federal agencies prepare an Environmental Impact Statement if a proposed major federal action is determined to significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

"It is a document required by the National Environmental Policy Act for certain actions significantly affecting the quality of the environment," Gruzesky



The team uses electrofishing to sample fish populations in evaluating environmental impacts of removing the Old Timbers Lake Dam, north of Madison, Indiana.

said. "It describes the positive and negative environmental effects of a proposed action, and it usually also lists one or more alternative actions that may be chosen instead of the action described in the EIS."

Old Timbers Lake supports significant biodiversity, which may be identified as threatened or endangered by the Endangered Species Act or by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

According to Gruzesky, the EIS will look at the potential impacts of removing the dam or reducing its impounding capacity to the biodiversity that Little Otter Fork and Old Timbers Lake Dam support.

The dam currently limits the release of sediments and contaminants to Little Otter Fork that are present within the watershed.



The environmental team samples for benthic macroinvertebrates. Benthic macroinvertebrates are small aquatic animals and the aquatic larval stages of insects. They include dragonfly and stonefly larvae, snails, worms and beetles.

Additionally, bald eagles and other migratory birds have been observed at Old Timbers Lake.

Thus, it is important for the Army to evaluate potential impacts and avenues to mitigate effects to make informed decisions, as stated by Gruzesky.

"While the removal of the dam will not impact military missions, it may impact recreational opportunities, such as fishing within the Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge," Gruzesky said. "The dam does not serve as a water supply nor a flood retaining structure."

The team is evaluating environmental impacts using various studies of current lake and stream conditions, along with hydraulic modeling associated with a controlled dam breech. Lake sediment was sampled and analyzed for explosives, pesticides and metals. Stream hydraulics will be evaluated to anticipate transport of sediment and how downstream habitats are affected as well as any safety concerns regarding flooding. Impacts to specific bird species are also investigated as per the Endangered Species Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, according to Gruzesky.

After the studies are completed, a Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives will be provided to the public and public input sought to further evaluate alternatives and inform future decisions. The public will have an additional opportunity to comment after the EIS is drafted.

BUILDING STRONG®

High-powered sensor results in better geophysical data at Camp Breckinridge munitions response project



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District Camp Breckinridge Environmental Restoration team uses the UltraTEM-IV technology to conduct a geophysical survey at Camp Breckinridge Military Munitions Response Program Project 06.

Shatara Riis, public affairs

In determining the impact of the past use of this Formerly Used Defense Site as an artillery range, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District Camp Breckinridge Environmental Restoration team has turned to advanced technology.

The UltraTEM-IV is the next-generation in geophysical classification technology that scans the ground from just feet away, while being towed over the surface.

According to USACE officials, this system covers a lot of ground and turns up greater results.

"It is a towed system, so production rates are much greater than other instruments," said Clayton Hayes, Louisville District project manager. "Additionally, it has the capability to perform 'one pass classification,' which allows us to classify subsurface objects as potential UXO (unexploded ordnance) or just clutter as they are detected. This greatly increases the quality and speed of data collection."

According to Hayes, this new technology is just the latest of several industry-standard sensors used at the Camp Breckinridge Military Munitions Response Program Project 06.

"The UltraTEM is considered the most technologically advanced system in performing this particular type of geophysical survey work," Hayes said.

This technology was employed after other metal mapping machines covered the same ground.

"There are many types of equipment used in geophysical surveys, each with its own purpose and specialties," Hayes said. "They each have their limitations. This system is more powerful, and it's faster."

With the UltraTEM, equipment availability is limited and cannot be easily used in densely vegetated areas or on rough or steep terrain, according to Nick Stolte, project engineer/contracting officer's representative. "Camp Breckinridge is primarily agricultural fields, which is near perfect for the UltraTEM," Stolte added.

The UltraTEM is meant to supplement the characterization data collected during the initial Remedial Investigation fieldwork conducted last year. The UltraTEM will more accurately predict anomaly density in the High Use Areas.

According to Stolte, earlier data identified areas where munitions were located on the surface and in the subsurface. Numerous fragments created a saturated response area resulting in individual anomalies not being distinguished due to the extremely high density.

The UltraTEM should provide the resolution needed to more accurately predict the anomalies, Stolte said.

"It is important to understand anomaly density, so we can develop remedial alternatives that will be successful in addressing risk and estimating costs," Stolte said. "Anomaly density is the primary cost-driver for remedial actions. More accurate prediction of the density is a critical component for cost estimating, planning, programming and budgeting for the future remedial action."

Located in western Kentucky, 30 miles southwest of Evansville, Indiana, Camp Breckinridge was once used for infantry housing, combat training and medical care.

In the past, it served as a prisoner of war camp and for troop training related to a peacetime draft and the Korean War, followed by annual field training support for summer National Guard troops, Reserve Soldiers and Army Units Special Field Training.

Did you know?

The Formerly Used Defense Sites Geographic Information System has an interactive map that provides information and general locations of FUDS properties across the Unites States.

Visit: <u>https://go.usa.gov/xnXQz</u>



Spotlight USACE commander makes inaugural visit to Louisville District

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

Lt. Gen. Scott Spellmon, 55th Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Command Sgt. Maj. Patrickson Toussaint visited the Louisville District, Oct. 21, 2020 to engage with senior leadership at the district and division levels.

While here, Spellmon and Toussaint toured the ongoing miter gate replacement project at McAlpine Locks and Dam and visited the existing Metro Louisville Flood Protection System in Louisville, Kentucky.

"There are 44 districts in USACE, and each one is unique," said Louisville District Commander Col. Eric Crispino. "It was a tremendous honor to host the Chief of Engineers and talk about the Louisville District's story and what makes it special."

To start the day, Louisville District Deputy Engineer Linda Murphy, provided a district overview to the USACE commander, and Craig Moulton, Operations Division Maintenance Section chief, briefed him on the McAlpine Locks and Dam miter gate replacement project before visiting the construction site.

Spellmon also received briefings on the Louisville District's Reserve and Veterans Affairs programs. He, along with division leadership, recognized several Louisville District employees during the visit; one of which was Amy Babey, Civil Works Planning, Programs and Project



Lt. Gen. Scott Spellmon, 55th Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers participates in a virtual reality demonstration of the new Soo Lock located in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Louisville District engineers, along with engineers from Detroit, Huntington, Nashville and Pittsburgh districts and the Inland Navigation Design Center, joined together to design the mega-project for the Detroit District, which operates and maintains the Soo Locks Facility.

Management Branch chief.

Maj. Gen. Robert Whittle Jr., Great Lakes and Ohio River Division commander, recognized Babey with the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division's Agents of the Revolution Award for leading the Louisville District's Civil



Amy Babey, Civil Works Planning, Programs, and Project Management Branch chief, was recognized with the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division's Agents of the Revolution Award for leading the Louisville District's Civil Works mission to identify solutions for stakeholders' water resources challenges. Babey is the third recipient, and the only civilian, to receive this award.

Works mission to identify solutions for stakeholders' water resources challenges. Babey is the third recipient, and the only civilian, to receive this award.

"It was an honor to be recognized as an Agent of the Revolution by Maj. Gen. Whittle," Babey said. "The Louisville District Civil Works staff and project delivery team members routinely think outside the box to pursue opportunities to accelerate project delivery and pursue alternative financing. I am proud to lead this group as we support the goal of revolutionizing the Corps nationwide."

During his visit, Spellmon also took part in a hands-on demonstration with Soo Locks BIM Model – a virtual reality demonstration of the new Soo Lock located in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Louisville District engineers, along with engineers from Detroit, Huntington, Nashville and Pittsburgh districts and the Inland Navigation Design Center, joined together to design the mega-project for the Detroit District, which operates and maintains the Soo Locks Facility.

To wrap up the visit, Spellmon toured some of the existing Metro Louisville Flood Protection project components to include electric stations, floodwall area and pump stations.

Natural Resources specialist runs Junior Ranger Program for kids around the U.S.

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District has a Junior Park Ranger Program, open to all ages, where children can complete a junior park ranger knowledge packet and earn a junior ranger certificate, official USACE junior ranger patch and a bag of surprises.

A 15-year USACE employee, Alicia Cannon, Louisville District's Barren River Lake Natural Resource specialist, developed the program in 2015.

"I think the whole thing started because I found some old "Junior Ranger" patches laying around," Cannon said. "I knew we used to do some programs that hadn't been done for quite some time, so I just figured out a way we could put those to use."

Cannon developed a packet with questions based on facts from the district's website. She also included information about visiting USACE's National Operations Center for Water Safety website, commonly known as bobber. info, where participants can print off free coloring and activity sheets that educate the public about water safety.

"They can mail or email the completed packet back to me, and then I send them a letter, certificate, patch and some of our water safety giveaways (pencils, stickers, bracelets, etc.)," Cannon said.

Cannon's junior ranger program has attracted participants from all over the U.S. to include submissions from Kentucky,



A student completes the Junior Ranger Program in 2016 and sends Alicia Cannon, Barren River Lake Natural Resource specialist, a drawing of Bobber, The Water Safety Dog.

California, Texas, Missouri, Ohio, Georgia, Michigan, Maryland, Nebraska and Utah.

"Alicia's program has reached children all across the country," said Alan Ramey, Barren River Lake project manager. "We are very proud of her hard work and creativity developing this program."

According to Cannon, it is an easy way

to engage with people that they wouldn't normally get to engage with.

ourtesy of Alicia Cannon

"Kids are able to learn about the project, get some safety information and some fun surprises at the end," Cannon said. "I really enjoy it."

To learn more about the program, visit https://go.usa.gov/xAqy3.

