

October 19, 1981

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge

Havana, Illinois

RECREATIONAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION

The Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge consists of approximately 4,480 acres of shallow water, seasonally flooded hardwoods, sloughs, upland woods, and retired cropland. The refuge extends for seven miles along the Illinois River, beginning three miles north of Havana in Mason County, Illinois.

A. PUBLIC USE AND POPULATION DATA

Public use from March through September is primarily fishing. Hunting and ice fishing account for most of the fall and winter use. During the spring and fall, half of all activity is related to birdwatching and wildlife observation. Other use of the refuge includes picnicking, hiking, and mushroom and berry picking.

Breakdown of Public Use Activity
1972 - 1980

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Approx. % of All Use</u>
Fishing	53
Wildlife Observation	43
Hiking/Interpretive Trails	2
Hunting	1
Mushroom/Berry Picking	1

The largest percentage (about half) of refuge visitors live within 60 miles of Chautauqua - Havana, Pekin, Peoria and Springfield. About one-third are from elsewhere in Illinois - particularly Bloomington, Chicago, Decatur, and Champaign-Urbana.

Origin of Refuge Visitors
February 1978 - September, 1981

<u>Locale of Refuge Visitors</u>	<u>Estimated % of All Visitors</u>
Within 60 mile radius	50
Illinois (other)	30
Midwest (except Illinois)	10
U.S.A. (other)	> 10
Outside U.S.A.	> 1

The following table gives the local population centers - their population and distance from the refuge.

<u>City</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Miles from Refuge</u>
Havana	4,500	10
		3 (by boat)
Lewistown	2,500	22
Liverpool	400	23
		1/2 (by boat)
Pekin	25,500	26
Canton	20,000	30
Peoria	150,000	34
Springfield	<u>80,000</u>	57
TOTAL	282,900	

Public use of the refuge peaked in the early 1970's. By mid-1970, use decreased sharply due to different factors some of which are listed below:

- decreased fishing quality due to increased siltation in the lake.
- loss of concessionaires at 2 boatyards.
- decreased emphasis on environmental education and tours.

It is anticipated that public use will remain fairly constant for the immediate future.

B. EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES LOCALLY AVAILABLE

Recreational facilities such as swimming pools, playgrounds, and picnic areas are available in most of the larger towns in this area.

Two State-owned and operated areas, Anderson and Rice Lakes, provide fishing, hunting, picnicking, and camping facilities. Other fishing lakes in the area include Lake Springfield, Canton Lake, and Peoria Lake. Boat docking and launching facilities are available on the Illinois River at Havana, Liverpool, Pekin and Peoria.

C. REFUGE FACILITIES

The present refuge recreational facilities are located on the east shore of Lake Chautauqua and include two boatyards and a picnic area. The Goofy Ridge boatyard (Boatyard No. 3) does not have a launching ramp, but provides an area where fishermen may dock their

boats throughout the spring and summer. A large parking lot accommodates the vehicles of those using the area to bank fish.

The Recreation Area boatyard, south of the cross dike, contains a boat launching ramp which is available to the public during the months when Lake Chautauqua is open to fishing. A large parking lot provides ample space for vehicles and their trailers.

Both boatyards provide a large combination men's and women's outdoor toilet.

A small picnic area is located at the refuge headquarters: Two tables, a trash barrel and an outdoor toilet are provided. The refuge also has several walking trails, one of which is a self-guided interpretive trail.

II. DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

A. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT - NEW FACILITIES

Very little land is available on the margin of Lake Chautauqua for recreational development.

The two existing boatyards and small picnic area are presently adequate in handling the visitor use at Chautauqua.

With no significant changes in public use anticipated in the near future, no development is planned.

B. PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS - EXISTING FACILITIES

1. The boat launching ramp at the Recreation Area, which is showing signs of deterioration, will need upgrading.
2. The foot trail leading from the overlook down to the cross dike needs extensive repairs. This trail receives considerable use from fishermen and birdwatchers walking out to the cross dike break. Runoff has created gullies which present a safety hazard, particularly for older or less agile persons. Stopgap measures using sandbags as fill have eliminated the worst of the ruts, but steps are needed for both safety and aesthetics.
3. The self-guided Wood Duck Trail was upgraded in 1981. Additional work on the second half is currently under way. Maintenance of sign faces will be the only future work required.

III. COST

A. DEVELOPMENT COSTS

None.

B. IMPROVEMENTS COSTS

1. Boat Launching Ramp

The addition of rock to stabilize the launching area is needed on a perpetual basis. Costs for this upgrading are limited to cost of the rock and labor.

2. Cross Dike Foot Trail

Plans for restoration of the foot trail are yet to be formulated. One possibility is creating a series of steps out of railroad ties; however, the cost for this may be prohibitive. Until a definite plan is designed, cost estimates are impossible to make.

C. MAINTENANCE COSTS

The ongoing task of maintaining the refuge's recreation areas is an important function in retaining an aesthetic and safe environment for visitors.

Annual maintenance costs are directed primarily to personnel salaries. Grass mowing, litter cleanup, parking lot grading, public use surveys and law enforcement patrol are more a function of time expended rather than materials.

The few materials required for maintenance of grounds include:

- paint (for toilets)
- Paint (for vehicle barriers and identification signs)
- gas (to operate lawn mower)
- gas (to operate road grader)
- batteries (for traffic counters)

IV. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

A. REGULATIONS AND CONTROLS

1. Recreational use of Chautauqua Refuge will be limited to the hours between sunrise and sunset.

2. No camping or fires are allowed on the refuge.
3. No swimming is allowed.
4. Each public use area, as well as restricted areas, is identified with recognition signs. Refuge regulations are posted at the boatyards, the cross dike, and the south dike.
5. Regulations concerning fishing and hunting are included in separate plans. Restrictions on the above and on wildlife observation are listed on the back of the attached map.

B. CABIN SITES

New cabin sites will not be permitted. The cottages presently located on the refuge on a lifetime basis will be removed as soon as possible after the permits expire or are forfeited.

C. MAINTENANCE

All maintenance of recreation facilities will be the responsibility of refuge personnel. This work can be accomplished by the regular staff with the help of the summer students.

V. MAP

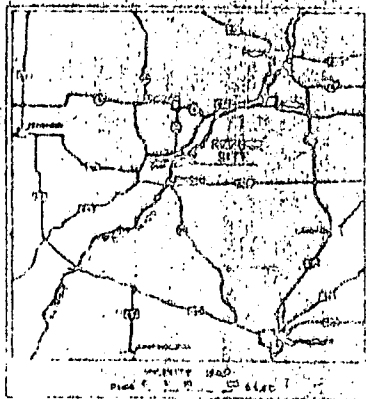
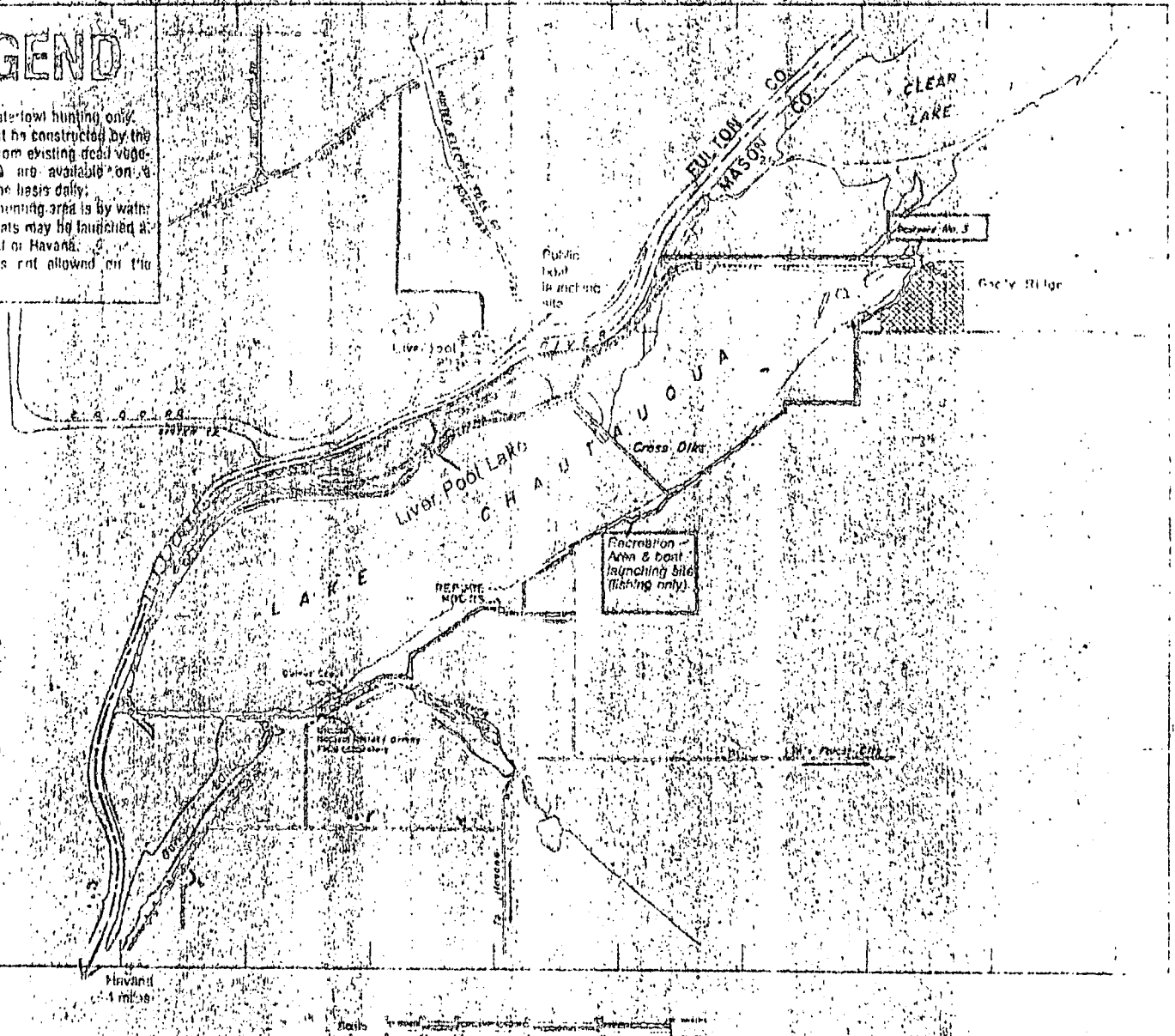
Recreational facilities are delineated on the accompanying map.

REFUGE MAP

CHAUTAUQUA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
MASON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

LEGEND

Open to water-fowl hunting only.
Blinds must be constructed by the hunter from existing dead vegetation & are available on a first-come basis daily.
Access to hunting area is by water only. Boats may be launched at Liverpool or Havana.
Camping is not allowed on the refuge.



Additional information regarding the Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge may be obtained at the Refuge Headquarters, which is located nine miles northeast of Havana, Illinois, or by writing to:

Refuge Manager
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge
Havana, Illinois 6244
Telephone: 309/352-290