

Recreation Vision Statement
For the Weiss Development

Weiss Lake is well known as the “Crappie Capital of the World”. The reservoir and its fishery account for much of Cherokee County’s tourism industry, including a significant number of out-of-state visitors. Heavy fishing pressure and a lack of good recruitment in recent years appears to be contributing to a decline in fishing quality. Bank fishing access to the reservoir shoreline as well as access to the tailwater below Weiss dam is limited.

Much of Weiss Lake is shallow. Boat navigation can be challenging and some coves are difficult to navigate into or out of at low water levels. Siltation over time has contributed to this problem. Shallow waters coupled with upstream pollution and shoreline run-off also contribute to water quality problems in the lake. The lake has been identified as an impaired waterway by the state.

The long-term vision for the Weiss development is to acknowledge the importance of its unique fishery, including its importance to the local economy, protect and sustain the quality of that fishery, and improve the water quality of the lake (with the goal of removing it from the 303d list). The vision also seeks to ensure adequate public access both to the reservoir shoreline and tailwater.

Improvements to be considered at the Weiss Development include:

- Improving access and facilities for bank fishing.
- Reevaluating current catch limits to reduce pressure on the crappie population.
- Providing education on the water quality of the lake.
- Developing maps and other navigational aids to improve safety and aid boat navigation on the reservoir.
- Optimizing the capacity of existing facilities to accommodate demand.
- Providing improved access to the downstream areas for motorized and non-motorized boating opportunities.
- Managing lake level drawdowns so as to minimize the occurrence of surface elevations lower than 561’, recognizing the need to meet flood control, power generation, and downstream flow responsibilities at Weiss.