

From: Graham Gerdeman
Date: Monday, March 15, 2021, 9:41AM
Subject: TN Bird Proposal to develop Cook Rec Area-Davidson County
To: tn-bird <ten-bird@freelists.org>

Hello all,

I wanted to write to make are that members of this forum are aware of a proposal by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to lease the entire 220 acres of the Cook Recreation Area in Nashville to private developers. See attached letter (2pgs) dated Feb 22, 2021 outlining the plan, and inviting public input for a period of 30 days, which ends one week from today.

As most of you know, Cook Rec Area is an important birding site in the area, as are all of the relatively undeveloped lands around Percy Priest Lake. It is home to nesting Baltimore Orioles, Red-headed Woodpeckers, and dozens of other species. It is used heavily by Bald Eagles, which have recovered in no small part in Middle TN due to such areas being accessible to them. At least One-hundred Forty species of birds have been recorded there (that is the number currently for the eBird hotspot, but there could be more, historically, and spring migrants are woefully under-reported—only SIX warbler sp??). In the winter, it is the best spot we have for observing roosting gulls and the myriad of loons and ducks which are winter residents. It is also one of Nashville's best places to simply see the sun set, or the moon rise, over the water in relative peace. Granted, there are already those who can't do that without their music pumped as loud as it will go.

Please write to, or call the contact in this letter...to insist that Cook not be leased to private developers....PLEASE, no! We must make our own voices heard.

Graham