



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
Walla Walla District

News Release

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Contact: Public Affairs Office

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Corps offers spring recreation opportunities at Mill Creek, Bennington Lake

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – Outdoors enthusiasts can enjoy spring at recreation facilities operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Corps recreation planners invite the public to "play it safe" while having some warm-weather fun. Although above-water temperatures are becoming warmer, springtime water temperatures can be cold enough to cause swimmers to develop hypothermia – a severe lowering of core body temperature. State boating, hunting and fishing regulations apply to visitors at Corps sites. Hunting on Corps property is allowed in designated areas and seasons only. Boaters should ensure personal floatation devices are on board for each person – children 12 and younger are required to wear PFDs when in a boat.

Recreation areas associated with Walla Walla District's Mill Creek Dam and Bennington Lake, located just east of Walla Walla, Wash., are scheduled to open as follows:

Contact information unless stated otherwise: Mill Creek Dam and Bennington Lake. Telephone: (509) 527-7160. Email: MillCreek@usace.army.mil.

Mill Creek Office – open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Getting there:* from Hwy. 12 at the east end of Walla Walla, exit south onto Tausick Way, continue past Walla Walla Community College, immediately on the south side of the Mill Creek crossing, turn left onto Reservoir Road and follow it about 1 mile to the office, located on the left side of the road.

Rooks Park – gates open to vehicles April 1, 7 a.m. to sunset (open year round to pedestrian traffic). *Facilities:* day-use area, picnic shelters (one of which can be reserved,) playground, restrooms, sand volleyball court, horseshoe pit. Pets need to be leashed at Rooks Park. *Getting there:* from Hwy. 12 at the east end of Walla Walla, exit south onto Tausick Way, at the stop sign, turn west onto Mill Creek Road and follow it 1 mile to Rooks Park Road on the right.

Bennington Lake Recreation Area – open year round, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. *Facilities:* day-use area, picnic shelters, boat ramp, pedestrian/horseback-riding trails, hunting, fishing. *Getting there:* from Hwy. 12 at the east end of Walla Walla, exit south onto Tausick Way, continue past Walla Walla Community College, immediately on the south side of the Mill Creek crossing, turn left onto Reservoir Road and follow it to the lake. Only paddle-powered or non-combustible-engine-powered boats allowed on the lake.

Mill Creek Recreation Trail – open year round. *Facilities:* day-use area, pedestrian, roller-blade, bicycle traffic allowed on paved trail. Pets must be on a leash. The trail follows Mill Creek from the city of Walla Walla to Rooks Park, forming part of a network of over 20 miles of multiple-purpose trails. Parking and access to these trails can be found at Rooks Park, Bennington Lake and the Mill Creek Office.

For more information on Corps parks, visit www.nww.usace.army.mil/corpsoutdoors/.

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