

Gettysburg Fishing Lake Concept Paper

A Community Conservation and Wellness Initiative

A Partnership of Waste Management • Sunlight Village • Hook'em Chards

Executive Summary

Gettysburg Fishing Lake is an innovative community initiative designed to combine exceptional recreational fishing with environmental stewardship, youth development, outdoor education, and family wellness. Through a unique partnership between **Waste Management, Sunlight Village, and Hook'em Chards**, the lake will serve as a premier fishing destination while creating meaningful opportunities for education, conservation, and community engagement.

Located in the heart of the Dayton community, Gettysburg Fishing Lake will provide affordable outdoor recreation in a safe, family-friendly environment while generating sustainable revenue to support Sunlight Village's youth leadership, mental health, and family support programs.

Our vision extends beyond fishing—we are creating a community asset where families gather, youth discover their potential, and future environmental stewards are developed through hands-on experiences in nature.

Mission

Gettysburg Fishing Lake is a collaborative partnership between **Waste Management, Sunlight Village, and Hook'em Chards** dedicated to providing an **exceptional fishing experience** in a safe, clean, and family-friendly environment.

Through quality fish stocking, responsible lake management, environmental education, and community engagement, we inspire youth and families to enjoy the outdoors, practice conservation, strengthen relationships, and support healthier communities.

Every visit helps sustain programs that promote youth development, mental health, wellness, and environmental stewardship throughout West Dayton.

Vision

To become the region's premier community fishing destination where anglers of all ages enjoy exceptional fishing, families create lasting memories, youth develop a lifelong appreciation for nature, and the community comes together to protect and preserve our natural resources for future generations.

Program Purpose

Gettysburg Fishing Lake was created to accomplish five important community goals:

Recreation

Provide one of the area's best family fishing experiences through healthy fisheries, quality fish stocking, and well-maintained facilities.

Environmental Education

Teach youth and families about conservation, water quality, wildlife protection, recycling, and environmental stewardship through hands-on learning experiences.

Community Wellness

Promote mental, emotional, and physical wellness by encouraging people to disconnect from daily stress and reconnect with nature.

Youth Development

Create leadership, volunteer, workforce development, and educational opportunities for youth through conservation projects, fishing clinics, community service, and outdoor recreation.

Sustainable Funding

Generate earned income that supports Sunlight Village's nonprofit programs serving youth, young adults, and families throughout West Dayton.

Our Commitment

“At Gettysburg Fishing Lake, every cast has a purpose.”

Gettysburg Fishing Lake is committed to:

- **Great Fishing:** Maintaining a well-stocked, healthy lake that provides an outstanding fishing experience for anglers of every skill level.
 - Promoting responsible fishing practices and conservation to protect our fisheries for future generations.
 - **Great Customer Service, Safety and a Welcoming Environment:** Providing a safe, clean, welcoming destination for families, youth, and outdoor enthusiasts.
 - Treat all attendees, participants, guest, volunteers, employees and visitors with respect and dignity.
 - **Meaningful Educational and Engagement Opportunities:** Offering hands-on environmental education that teaches youth about water quality, wildlife, recycling, and stewardship.
 - Supporting physical, mental, and emotional wellness through outdoor recreation and family engagement.
 - Creating opportunities for youth leadership, volunteerism, workforce development, and community service.
 - **Fun Community Experiences:** Hosting fishing tournaments, youth fishing clinics, family fishing days, conservation projects, and community celebrations.
 - Establishing partnerships and networks to promote and support healthy, educational and enjoyable activities and experiences for participants and the community.
 - **Generating sustainable revenue:** Establish a microbusiness/social enterprise that supports Sunlight Village's mission while creating sustainable revenue for ongoing activities, programs and services in our most underserved communities, with a focus on West Dayton.
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Through the partnership of **Waste Management, Sunlight Village, and Hook'em Chards**, we are building more than a fishing lake—we are creating a destination where recreation, conservation, education, and community come together to improve lives.

Environmental Education Initiative

Gettysburg Fishing Lake will offer year-round educational programming focused on:

- Fishing ethics
- Fish biology & Lake ecology
- Water quality

- Native plants
- Recycling education
- Pollution prevention
- Shoreline restoration
- Environmental careers
- Community cleanup events

Students will learn through fishing, exploration, volunteer service, group mentorship experiences and conservation projects.

Community Impact

Gettysburg Fishing Lake will:

- Increase access to affordable outdoor recreation.
 - Improve community health through nature-based activities.
 - Reduce barriers to outdoor experiences for underserved families.
 - Expand youth leadership opportunities.
 - Encourage environmental responsibility.
 - Strengthen neighborhood pride.
 - Support local partnerships.
 - Generate sustainable nonprofit revenue.
 - Create seasonal employment and workforce development opportunities.
 - Enhance quality of life throughout West Dayton.
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Funding Opportunities

Grant investments and gifts will help support:

- Fish stocking and habitat enhancement.
 - Shoreline restoration and native and environmental plant landscaping
 - ADA-accessible fishing opportunities.
 - Environmental education programming and conservation projects.
 - Youth fishing equipment and activities.
 - Family and community fishing events.
 - Safety improvements.
 - Community outreach.
 - Workforce development for youth.
 - Mental health and wellness programming connected to outdoor recreation.
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Employee & Partner Mission Alignment

Every employee, volunteer, and partner of Gettysburg Fishing Lake plays an important role in fulfilling our mission. Staff members and volunteers are expected to provide outstanding customer service, promote safe and enjoyable fishing experiences, encourage environmental stewardship, and represent the values of Sunlight Village, Waste Management, and Hook'em Chards through professionalism, integrity, teamwork, and respect for every visitor. All Partners and Program providers are expected to work collectively in a manner that promotes great communication, accountability, safety and community health and wellbeing.
