

Smithville Visitor Center Hiking and Biking Trail Agreement

In 2009, the Clay County Parks & Recreation entered into a Challenge Partnership Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Smithville Lake Project to develop the Smithville Visitor Center Hiking and Biking Trail for a total project cost of \$150,000. Prior to this project, no trails existed along this stretch of the lakeshore.

Visitors to Smithville Lake enjoy the access to many miles of hiking and biking trails, whether they are looking for a safe place to exercise or just a nice scenic place to walk the dog. The trails offered beautiful lake views virtually along its entire length. However, no trails existed along the southwest corner of the lake near the Jerry L. Litton Visitor Center. As a result, Clay County Parks & Recreation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Smithville Lake entered into a Challenge Partnership Agreement to develop and construct the Smithville Visitor Center Hiking and Biking Trail. Clay County Parks & Recreation provided \$50,000 for all the necessary labor and equipment to construct the approximately 2 miles of 12' wide hiking and biking trails made of compacted AB3 gravel. Upon completion, it was agreed that the county would also continue to maintain the trail. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Smithville Lake provided \$100,000 for the necessary design elements defining the trail location, seedbed preparation, and grass seeding in the areas adjacent to the construction areas. As well, the government provided the necessary materials for construction, AB3 gravel for trail surfacing, equipment fuel, culverts for crossings, and grass seed. The completed trail offers approximately 2 more miles of hiking and biking trails starting near the Quail Ridge subdivision and winding around to Smiths Fork Park. The new trail offers beautiful views of the southwest portions of the lake and easier pedestrian access to the Jerry L. Litton Visitor Center.

The new trail resulting from the Challenge Partnership Agreement between Clay County Parks & Recreation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Smithville Lake Project, has been a tremendous success. Hikers and bikers can be seen enjoying the trail regularly; many of the visitors choose this trail to walk their dogs. The trail is making it easier for the lakes visitors to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Also, because of the close proximity of the visitor center, many trail users will come into the center and take advantage of the numerous exhibits and educational displays.



Breaking ground on the new trail.



Trucks starting to deliver the AB3 gravel.



Gravel trucks running in a series, getting things done quickly.



New trail with a beautiful lake view.



Completed trail running next to a shelter house.



A couple of nice picnic areas looking over Smithville Lake.



New trail running adjacent to the Jerry L. Litton Visitor Center.



Visitor enjoying a scenic walk on the new trail with her dogs.