



# SOMERFIELD RECREATION AREA IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 2020

Pittsburgh District



## **Events:**

- The USACE staff at Youghiogheny River Lake, in coordination with volunteers from the Friends for the Youghiogheny River Lake (FOY), have completed construction work to improve the Somerfield North Boat Ramp.

## **Communication Objectives:**

- Improve a popular recreation area through incorporation of public input and cooperation with donated resources from volunteers.
- Reassure the public that the Recreation staff is accommodating and willing to listen to concerns and input so that words translate into actions.

## **Activities:**

- USACE staff were approached by several members of the recreation community about improving the boat ramp and the surrounding recreation area at Somerfield.
- In coordination with FOY and other public volunteers, USACE staff were able to develop a plan of action and procure services for excavation and paving.
- Carl Fekula, of Carl P. Fekula, Inc. provided outstanding volunteered excavation services due to his involvement in recreating around the Yough area.
- The boat ramp was widened and paved by 18 feet, extending 250 feet, for a total of 4,500 sq. feet of new pavement added.
- This 18-foot widening will allow for safer water access for recreational boaters by providing additional space for heavy recreational season traffic, and the ramp will accommodate vehicle access at low water for those with impaired mobility requirements.

## **Key Take-Aways:**

- Making improvements to recreation areas, like Somerfield, allows for higher visitation and a wider diversity of clientele to be accommodated during the recreation season.
- When USACE staff can coordinate with the public on matters such as this the sky is the limit.
- Try to coordinate as often as possible with members of the recreation community so that word spreads fast about improvements like this so that more people can make use of the area and enjoy the amenities.
- In working with these types of projects old partnerships can be strengthened and new ones can even arise.

