



DeGray Lake Geo-Trek Bike and Hiking Trail

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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DeGray Lake Interpretive Geo-Trek & Mountain Bike/Hiking Trail System Handshake Partnership Agreement

In 2011, the Corps entered a Handshake Partnership Agreement with Clark County Strategic Planning (CCSP), to construct an accessible trail in the Spillway cut area and an adjacent 8.5 mile mountain bike trail at DeGray Lake, Arkansas.

Before

Public access to the Spillway cut area was a walk into the cut with no trails on Corps property. The nearest parking was in the Spillway boat launching area on the opposite side of the cut. Parking in the cut area can be muddy but with lots of parking available. The area itself, though very informational, was impassable by wheelchairs or strollers because of rocks and mud. Furthermore, emergency access to the cut was by foot or ATV only, so victims had to be carried out on a litter.

During

Trail construction has been occurring during the hot months when the cut is dry; July and August 2012 & 13. The Corps has worked with O&M contracting to haul in the trail bed materials and CCSP who has utilized the Clark County road department for trail bed work specifically in trail compaction. Signage is currently being developed and constructed for the trail head and stops for the finishing touches on the trail. CCSP utilized a contractor and volunteers to build the 8.5 natural surface trails. Trail work on the steep hills had to be done by hand but on the flatter areas equipment could be used.

After

Thanks to the Handshake Partnership Program, together we are creating a universally accessible trail, allowing people of all abilities to enjoy the natural ecological wonders at DeGray Lake. Interpretive programs from middle school to the professional world will now be able to easily access the geologic formations for learning and study. Emergency vehicles can now safely enter the area, greatly improving response time and visitor safety. An information kiosk is being placed at the beginning of the trail. Because of this Handshake project, for the first time ever visitors with physical disabilities can experience this unique geological formation. The mountain bike trail portion is now being utilized often and has received comments such as the "2nd best bike trail system in Arkansas"!



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – VICKSBURG
DISTRICT DEGRAY LAKE, ARKADELPHIA, ARKANSAS
www.CorpsLakes.us/DeGray

Handshake Partnership Program Report - FY 2011 Recipients

1. Name of Corps Project/Lake: DeGray Lake

2. Handshake Project Name: DeGray Lake Interpretive Geo-Trek & Mountain Bike/Hiking Trail System

3. What has been accomplished? Please provide photographs; before, during, and after!:
Geo-Trek portion has been cleared of all trees along trail and viewing area along the cliffs in the Spillway area. 3/4 of the trailbed has been layed along the 1 mile stretch. Our partners experienced a funding delay and received less amount than requested for their portion of the funding at the begining the project; therefore delaying our start also. We are currently awaiting on dryer conditions to finish the last 1/4 mile of trailbed and install a drainage area. A small drainage ditch with a walkway has been constructed to allow for easier viewing and conveince for our visitors. The mountain bike trail portion for this grant has been completed. Signage is currently being developed and constructed for the trail head and stops for the finishing touches on the trail.

	Total
Handshake Program Funding Amount	\$25,000
Local Corps Office Funds (total expended on labor, materials, contracts, etc.)?	\$30,000
Partner's Contributions (total value of funds, goods, services, volunteer hours, etc.)	
Partners Name	Total Value of Contributions
1 Clark County Strategic Planning (expenditures for bike trail & a portion of the Geo-Trek Trail)	\$81,279
2 University of Oklahoma	\$1,000
3 Schlumber J (working on signage)	\$
4	\$
5	\$
6	\$

4. Handshake Program Recipient Feedback

Please take this opportunity to provide feedback on all aspects of the Handshake Program and the Challenge Partnership Agreement authority. Your productive comments are important to the ongoing improvement of the program. Make sure to let us know how the Handshake funds have benefited your efforts to initiate and/or strengthen your partnerships.

A. Comments About Handshake Program: This is an outstanding program that allows funding for projects that might not otherwise be accomplished.

B. Comments About Challenge Partnership Agreement: This program allows us to connect with partners and groups that might not otherwise be interested or have the complete ability in supporting a project on Corps lands.

C. Recommendations: Keep the program.

5. Handshake Summary:

Please also include a separate one-page newspaper type article describing the project and the benefit to the Corps of Engineers and to the public as a result of this partnership project. Examples can be found on the gateway under Handshake Success Stories.