

Success Breeds Success - The Potter's Creek Story

Now that Canyon Lake had a high-quality day use park and "quick-fix" measures had been taken to address serious visitor safety issues at all parks, the next major challenge was to modernize a camping area. Current campgrounds were overused with non-designated sites and inadequate vault toilets. Potter's Creek Park was chosen as the first campground to be modernized. Again the team approach was used to develop a comprehensive plan for the design and construction of a Class A campground. The final plan included upgrading over 100 sites with electric/water hookups and long, level trailer parking pads. Restrooms were renovated to include flush toilets and hot showers.

Construction of the facilities began in 1996; however, no special funding was available. The needed construction was grouped into 13 separate phases and prioritized. Work is being accomplished yearly utilizing as much funding as the budgets at all Little River Lakes will allow. To date, of the 13 phases, 6 are completed, 4 are in progress and 3 remain to be started. This method has allowed us to keep parts of the park open while other sections are under renovation.

Again the changes have been received enthusiastically by the camping public. Occupancy rates are high in both winter and summer. Revenues in the park have greatly increased and vandalism and incidents have dropped to near zero.

Our next step is to continue to upgrade our remaining campgrounds. A new plan has been completed for Canyon Park and we are currently working on the plan for Cranesmill Park. Canyon Lake is a great example that modernization works. Not only does it provide updated facilities that we as an agency can be proud to manage; it also is cost effective. Upgraded facilities managed properly can increase revenues and decrease operational costs.

The biggest plus of all is that modernization provides the services and visitor safety our customer, the public, demands and deserves.