



Outdoor Adventure Campground Clarence Cannon Dam and Mark Twain Lake 2012 Handshake Partnership Program



Clarence Cannon Dam and Mark Twain Lake collaborated with the NEMO River Valley Chapter of the Show Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen, members of the Mark Twain Lake FOREST Council, to construct the Outdoor Adventure Campground. Recognizing a recreational opportunity to meet the needs of trail riding enthusiasts utilizing the 33-mile Joanna Trail, the Back Country Horsemen proposed a solution to develop four campsites, separate from the traditional use campground in Frank Russell Recreation Area, and designate them as “equine” friendly.

The project commenced in March 2012 when the Back Country Horsemen began clearing activities, and simultaneously constructing hitching rails and rehabilitating camp site amenity structures. June 2012 ushered the beginning of parking pad and hardened amenity area construction by Corps of Engineers IDIQ contractors.



Campsite Construction

Grant resources received from the Handshake Partnership Program funded construction of the asphalt parking pads, hardened amenity areas, waterline, and the electric service. The Back Country Horsemen provided resources to build steel hitching rails, and labor to construct sheltered hitching area, site grading, installation of campsite amenities, and a fellowship area. A Challenged Partnership Agreement was enacted January 2012, which formalized the commitment of the Show Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen to contribute to the community.



Back Country Horsemen Installing Grill

Work continued in September 2012 when the Back Country Horsemen installed campsite amenities (grills, picnic tables, lantern hooks) and installed the hitching rails. Construction was concluded in October 2012 when the Back Country Horsemen constructed a fire ring fellowship area and completed final site grading and turf establishment.

The contributions and efforts of our community partners made it possible for Mark Twain Lake to offer a quality recreational facility that serves multiple purposes, and will enhance our services offered to our visiting public.