

Stockton Lake Handshake Fishing Pond and Trail

By Brian Wright

Thanks to Handshake program funds and a Challenge Partnership agreement between the Kansas City District, and multiple local organiza-



tions and groups, Stockton Lake is now home to a 4.5 acre kids fishing pond and 1.0 mile nature trail.

Located below the Stockton Dam in the Old Mill Area, the kids fishing pond and nature trail were officially opened to the public on July 21, 2015. Since its opening, the area has been popular with youth fishermen, families, bikers, hikers, walkers and nature lovers. The fishing pond and nature trail is nestled within the Old Mill's 214-acre recreation area, which is owned and operated by the Corps.

It's a Team Effort

Brian Wright, Natural Resource Manager at Stockton Lake, led the effort on this project in which the Stockton Lake office partnered with multiple groups and agencies including the Missouri Department

of Conservation, Catch a Special Thrill, Stockton Community Foundation, Stockton R-I School District, Stockton American Legion Post # 230, Agape Boarding School, Citizens Memorial Healthcare, and the Stockton Trails Initiative Coalition. These agencies and groups helped with the design and construction of the area, stocking of the pond with channel catfish, hybrid bluegill and largemouth bass and the application for the Handshake program funding.

Work in Progress

Information Kiosk Under Construction

In addition to the partners and groups, local lake projects, Harry S. Truman and Pomme de Terre played an important role with their staff assisting in key components of the project.

USACE- Headquarters rated the applications based on several key factors including: Recreational Benefit, Partnership Value, Communication and Educational Value, Sustainability, Innovativeness and Environmental Stewardship Value. The proposed kids fishing pond and multi-use trail exceeded all of the criteria. In May 2014, the Corps Headquarters awarded Stockton Lake \$30,000 in federal funds as a source of seed money to complete the fishing pond and trail. The partner groups and agencies matched the grant by

donating an additional \$23,425 in volunteer efforts and \$9,275 in supplies and materials towards the project.

Volunteers like Marilyn Ellis, President of the Stockton Community Foundation and area resident, helped with the design of the trail. Ellis said "The Corps has been outstanding to work with and did a great job in coordinating the project. It was wonderful to be part of such an exciting partnership that will benefit the entire community and lake."

Other partners like Adam Boman, Missouri Department of Conservation Fisheries Biologist, helped in getting the initiative off the ground. Bowman said, "The area will play a vital role in the community and the lake area to ensure the outdoor recreational vitality of our community for generations to follow."

"The area will play a vital role in the community"

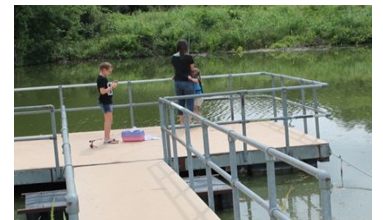
-Adam Bowman, Missouri Dept of Conservation



Community Ribbon Cutting (2015)



Finished Information Kiosk



Fishing Platform at the Fishing Pond