

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Corps, SORBA partners complete \$25K project at Paynes Creek Multipurpose Trail

SAVANNAH, Ga. – The <u>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District</u> announces the completion of a \$25,000 improvement to the existing Paynes Creek Multipurpose Trail at Hartwell Lake in Hart County, Ga.

The Corps' headquarters in Washington, D.C., awarded the funds as part of its Handshake Partnership Program, which provides a source of seed money to enhance recreation projects through community partnerships.

The Corps partnered with the Southern Off Road Bicycle Association, Athens Chapter, to construct a 2.3 mile addition to the existing 7.3 mile multipurpose trail. This addition connected the previously constructed multi-purpose trail (through a prior handshake agreement) open to hikers, bikers and joggers located within the 190 acre Paynes Creek Recreation Area. The design, mapping, and construction occurred through the combination of SORBA volunteer, Corps personnel and contractor labor. After the addition was completed, remaining funds were spent to enhance the area to include:

- Placement of a new trail head area with signage and bulletin board
- Safety cross walk addition where the trail crosses a Campground Road
- Purchase of supplies to build a bridge over a low area
- · Placement of new directional signage on the trail

"This partnership between SORBA and the Corps continues to grow as a result of this project. To see this Handshake Partnership Program work in this way is rewarding. Through utilizing this program the Corps gets to gain the expertise of an established partner while creating the benefit of a great recreation opportunity on public land. The visitors of this area are the benefactors of this project" said Natural Resource Program Manager Scott Kelley.

For more information on this project or other recreation opportunities on Hartwell Lake, please contact the Hartwell Lake Resource Office at 1-888-893-0678. Other resources of information include the Hartwell Lake website: http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/About/DivisionsandOffices/OperationsDivision/HartwellDamandLake.aspx



