

Contract No. 005-069
"Cattail Bay Boat Ramp Project"
 Submitted by Voices for Lake Oahe
 Principal Investigators: Tom Jochim, Doug Vannurden, Randy Bosch
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PARTICIPANTS

Sponsor	Cost Share	
Voices for Lake Oahe (cash)	<u>\$11,250</u>	
Subtotal Cost Share		\$ 11,250
North Dakota Industrial Commission	<u>\$33,750</u>	
Subtotal Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) dollars		<u>\$ 33,750</u>
Total Project Cost		\$ 45,000

Project Schedule – 6 months
 Contract Date – 9/4/2015
 Start Date – 6/10/2016
 Completion Date – 1/31/2018*

Project Deliverables:
 Status Report: October 31, 2016 ✓
 Status Report: October 31, 2017* ✓
 Final Report: January 31, 2018* ✓

OBJECTIVE/STATEMENT OF WORK:

The widening of the existing cement boat ramp to accommodate two lanes. Because of the high water levels the work is being delayed until 2016.

STATUS:

Contract has been executed.

A status report was received with the applicant requesting a no-cost extension for one additional year due to the high water levels. That request has been granted and an amendment has been partially executed.

The amendment has been fully executed.

10/31/2017 - Status Report received. It states in part: The Cattail Bay recreation area is located on Lake Oahe west of Highway 1804 in Emmons County. The existing boat ramp and recreational area was established by the US Army Corps of Engineers and is a very popular fishing access point to some of the most outstanding fishing areas on Lake Oahe in North Dakota. When fishing is good, 100 or more anglers and boats and others use this boat ramp daily. Voices for Lake Oahe identified the need to widen the existing ramp to provide better access, decrease congestion and improve the overall experience and access for the public. We sought and were able to receive a permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers to move forward with this project.

The existing ramp is 241 feet long and 17 feet wide and depending on the lake level, can be a real challenge for even experienced drivers -both sportsmen and women. Compound that challenge with a 3-4 foot wide dock located in the water on one side of the ramp or the other. The narrow ramp creates a bottleneck that can be frustrating as well as very hazardous when there is a rush to get off the water because of an approaching storm.

We were very excited to be able to get this grant from the ND Outdoor Heritage Fund to be able to make this improvement. However, since receiving the grant, we have been blessed with high water levels that were the result of high snow pack in the mountains, higher than average run off, and in many cases record rainfall in Missouri River areas below Lake Oahe resulting in Army Corps water releases that maintained higher than normal lake levels well into the fall. Our construction goal was to be able to pour cement as far as we could above the water level. As a result, we chose to delay this project in the anticipation that the elevation of the lake would drop. However, after three years it was determined that we needed to move forward with the construction as costs were rising and the lake level was staying above 1610 feet.

After advertising for interested contractors and inviting bids, we were able to contract with two separate contractors, Lehrkamp Enterprises and Climax Concrete. Lehrkamp was contracted to do all the site preparation, including placement of rock, spalls and other materials both above and below the water line. He was also responsible for placing the 16' by 6" by 38" concrete "planks" below the water line, insuring that they align with the existing ramp surface. This necessitated the hauling in and placement of over 1000 tons of rocks as a base for the ramp as well as to rip-rap the ramp for future stability.

Climax Concrete was contracted to construct the ramp above the waterline, this included doweling rebar into the existing ramp at 1' intervals as well as pouring a 1 foot thickened edge and bottom for the new ramp surface. The surface of the ramp was also finished with a grooved design to help improve traction for vehicles and trailers. Our original plans were to widen the ramp by 18 feet, however, the concrete planks provided to us by the Army Corps of Engineers were only 16 feet wide.

Construction of the ramp began on October 9th and the first cement was poured on October 21. The final cement was poured on October 25. The ramp was closed beginning on October 16 and is to remain closed through November 4 to allow proper curing time. The final rip-raping and rock placement will occur following 30 days of curing. At that time we will receive our final billing from Lehrkamp.

We also will be placing a sign recognizing the partnership to complete this project and install it at the boat ramp. Because of increased costs above our initial construction estimates we have approached many businesses and organizations in the southcentral region, including the Bismarck-Mandan area seeking to raise additional funds to cover our shortfall.

2/13/2018 - Final Report has been received. It states in part: Since our last report the final work was completed on the boat ramp project. All rip rap was in place and the ramp was available for traffic prior to freeze up. This ramp is currently being used for access to the lake for ice fishing. We received the final bill from our contractor and the construction costs have all been paid.

A sign recognizing these improvements has been designed and printed and will be placed at the ramp this spring after the spring thaw and ice out. (A copy of the sign is posted on the OHF website.)

Note: Since the construction on this project was completed, the Corps of Engineers has now dropped the lake level from 4 to 5 feet with current elevation of approximately 1606. It would have been much better for the level of the lake to have been this low when our project was underway -- this would have allowed us to pour much more concrete and greatly extend the length of the new ramp construction. We will see what the future will bring, hopefully lake levels will be back to pool levels that will allow for use of the new ramp without having to make adjustments.

Thanks to the partnership of the ND Outdoor Heritage Fund for making this improvement project possible. It will greatly improve the access and safe use of this outstanding natural resource available to North Dakotans -- Lake Oahe and we hope to continue to enhance the recreational areas available in the future.

This contract is now closed.

Updated: February 19, 2018