Operating a Sport Fish Restoration funded Boating Access Program in Large Southeastern State; Georgia USA

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Freshwater Boating Access Coordinator
2019 SOBA Annual Conference
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156 Facilities (3 canoe/kayak hand launches)

Ramp by waterbody type:
  • River – 62%
  • Reservoirs – 12%
  • Small Lakes – 26%

DNR Owned – 44%

Partnerships - 56%

Primary Partners – Municipalities, GDOT, USACE, TVA

Customers – 1 million plus anglers,
Registered boaters - 332,243
Program Structure

• Funding – Local Use (tax collection) – Wallop-Breaux/DJ Funding – USFWS State Level Appropriations – 75/25 breakdown of funding (Fed/State match)

• Expenditures – Personnel, Equipment, Materials, Contract Labor, Administrative

• Personnel – Boating Access Coordinator, 4-member construction crew

• Focus – Focus on New Construction, Maintenance of Existing Sites, Routine and Special Inspections

• Partnerships – Local municipalities, private entities entered through 25 year Property Lease and Operations & Maintenance Agreements
Boat Ramp Construction

- Program Planning – Underrepresented Areas of State, Regional Needs
- Program devoted to enabling Anglers better access – primarily on Rivers (large rivers south)
- Channel and Riverbank Characteristics (Stream Morphology)
- Regulatory Permitting and Engineering Considerations
- Environmental Controls & Site Work
- Specific Procedures and Techniques
- Project Close Out
New Boat Ramp Construction

Identification of site and suitability for boating access
(Region Supervisor and Boat Ramp Crew)
*Include FEMA Deed Restriction Review

Site Priority
(Headquarters and Boating Access Coordinator)
*Can be political

Obtain a 25-year Lease/Easement
(Approval by Board and Commissioner)
*GDOT ROW Encroachment Permit, if required

Obtain a 25-year O&M Agreement
(Approval by Director)
*One agreement can cover multiple sites

Archeological Concurrence
(DNR HPD)
30-day turn around

T&E Concurrence
(DNR WCS and FWS Ecological Services)
30-day turn around for each agency

Update/Amend F-41 Grant Document
(Tribal Review, EA, Section 7, and NEPA)

Receive Federal Aid Approval
30-day turn around

Develop Site Construction and
Erosion & Sedimentation Control Plans

Buffer Variance
*Mitigation implemented during construction
4-month turn around

LDA Permit and Others as Required
Eg. MRPA - Chattahoochee River

USACE
(NWPs 13, 18, & 36 required)
45-day turn around

EPD Notice of Intent (NOI)
Post-marked 14-days before ground breaking

USACE Pre-construction Notice
Post-marked 10-days before ground breaking

Construction Process Begins
Monitor Erosion and Sedimentation Controls
Rivers (Generally Summer/Fall)
Reservoirs (Generally Winter)

Bid Out Concrete

Bid Out Concrete Labor

Boat Ramp Crew Completes Onsite Work
Site Dedication

Notice of Termination (NOT)
Annual grass established and
BMPs removed prior to submitting NOT
Channel and Riverbank Characteristics

Chattahoochee River Project
Fulton County Georgia
Techniques - Sutton’s Landing & Memorial Park; Lee Co Ga

Perimeter Controls – Site Wrapping

Achieving Desired Slope – 15%
Techniques - Scuffle Bluff Landing at Horse Creek WMA

Site Controls

Stream Buffer Mitigation

Finishing Method of Boat Ramp
Site Clearing – Parking and Maneuver

Parking and Maneuver Completed
Mayor’s Park – Hiawassee Georgia

Push Slab Insertion

Regional Support and Use
Scuffle Bluff Landing at Horse Creek WMA

Grand Opening at Completed Ramp

Entrance and Parking Area (Pervious)
Hand Launch – Flint River Upson Co Georgia

Mussel Survey – Villosa and Ellipteo
Hand Launch – Flint River Upson Co Georgia
Sutton’s Landing Grand Opening

Georgia DNR, County Leaders & Members of the Angling Public
Accessibility

- Based on existing information, 14% of sites are ADA compliant for all three categories, however existing information is “qualitative”.
  
  By Element: Restrooms – 98%
  Docks – 65%
  Parking – 46%

- Assessment and measurements (e.g. slopes) currently underway are telling a slightly different story.

- Working to develop a strategy to meet full compliance at 10% of our facilities by program.

- Considering to develop program strategy geographically, by opportunity type (Lake Richard B Russell; Altamaha River, etc).