

Lake Ouachita Vista Trail
Watchable Wildlife Segment
ADA Accessible Elevated
Walkway Replacement Proposal



Lake Ouachita Vista Trail Overview

The Lovit is a system of hiking/biking trails stretching 42 miles along the southern shore of Lake Ouachita, passing through lush wetlands, high canopy, old-growth forest, and five scenic mountain peaks.



Lake Ouachita Vista Trail Overview

The LOVIT passage consists of 8 sections.



- **ADA Watchable Wildlife Loop.** 1.2 miles traversing an open meadow bordering Gap Creek as it empties into the wetlands of Lake Ouachita's Denby Bay.
- **Denby Bay to Tompkins Bend section.** 4.7 miles along the lake's western shoreline offering several elevated sunset-facing vistas.
- **Tompkins Bend to Joplin section.** 5.3 miles passing through several valleys of old-growth hardwood, a hillside of virgin short-leaf pines, and several springs.
- **Joplin to Hickory Nut Mt.** 4 miles of challenging ascent up the steep western flank of the mountain to its summit for beautiful vistas of Lake Ouachita.
- **Hickory Nut Mt. FSRD 47.** 3.5 miles of dramatic descent down the east flank of the mountain past imposing cliffs, waterfalls, cascades and an artesian spring.
- **FSRD 47 to Crystal Springs.** 4.2 miles passing a hidden lake bay, a historic pipe spring on to cross Walnut Creek before descending into Crystal Springs.
- **Crystal Springs to Brady Mt. road.** 10 miles of mountainous designated roadless area, ascending Little Bear and Big Bear Mountains, crossing Spring and Little Bear creeks while providing miles of unspoiled panoramic views of Lake Ouachita and its string islands.
- **Brady Mt. Road to Avery.** 6.2 miles ascending Brady Mountain to a huge rock outcropping and a unique balance rock before ascending Blakely Mountain.



Lake Ouachita Vista Trail Overview

A history of partnership and volunteerism



The trail was constructed in 8 sections over 10 years beginning in 2005 with the Derby Bay trail and terminating at the Blakely Dam in 2015.

The Friends Of Lake Ouachita (FOLO) and its coalition partners are the architects for the development and construction of the trail. FOLO is a volunteer group established in 2001 by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to seek citizens' input and support regarding Lake Ouachita.

The FOLO Trail Subcommittee's first concept proposal to the USACE in August of 2002 sought to improve the off-season tourism revenue stream for local businesses by enhancing and broadening the recreational opportunities around Lake Ouachita.

A plan was developed to link six resorts, 6 USACE Recreation Areas, and two US Forest Service recreation areas with a hiking/biking trail, supported by a coalition of 10 organizations:

- U.S. Forrester Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineer
- Arkansas Department of Highways & Transportation
- Arkansas State Game & Fish Commission
- Lake Ouachita Resort Owners Association
- Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce
- Montgomery County Judge
- Montgomery County Health Education Advisory Board
- Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism.
- Friends of Lake Ouachita, Inc.



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Lake Ouachita Vista Trail

Contagious volunteerism and expanding community

Thousands of volunteer hours drove the creation of the LOVIT, and community involvement remains central to the mission of the trail.

FOLO led trail construction supported by teams from the USFS, USACE, and the LOVIT Traildogs.

Since 2005, the FOLO Trails Committee, has facilitated agreements with the USFS, and USACE to support the trail through:

- The installation of 42 adoptable memorial benches along the trail.
- The installation of trailhead and directional signage, road crossing safety signs and marked crosswalks.
- The development of five trailhead-parking areas along the first two sections of the trail.
- The development of trail maps, trail guides and a web-site utilized by area resorts and businesses.
- The construction 12 foot path bridges.

In the 18 years of the trail's existence, groups as diverse as the Boy Scouts of America, the Student Conservation Association (SCA), area university students, Arkansas Wildlife Federation and US Air Force Community Outreach volunteers and the hiking organizations Friends of the Ouachita Trail and the Ouachita Mt. Hikers have all contributed to construction and maintenance.



The LOVIT Trail was designated an Epic Model Trail by the International Mountain Biking Association.



Lake Ouachita Vista Trail Funded initiatives

The Lake Ouachita Vista Trail partnerships have created an exponential multiplier affect through coordination and the managed use of funds.



| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| \$57,000.00 | National Recreation Trails in 2005 for the first section of the trail |
| \$30,300.00 | National Recreation Trails in 2006 for the ADA handicap accessible section |
| \$10,000.00 | USACE "Handshake Partnership" in 2006 |
| \$50,000.00 | USFS in 2005 and 2006 for SCA teams on first and second sections of the LOVIT |
| \$200,000.00 | AGFC in 2007 for the ADA Watchable Wildlife elevated walkway |
| \$231,000.00 | Four subsequent National Recreational Trails grants |
| \$1,260,000.00 | USFS and USACE labor and materials. |
| \$360,000.00 | Highway bridge and land donated by the AHTD to the USACE for inclusion in the trail |
| \$14,800.00 | Matching funds from the Lake Ouachita Resort Owners, Mt. Ida Area Chamber of Commerce and Montgomery County Health Education Advisory Board |
| \$315,000.00 | Value of 15,000 volunteer hours |
| \$2,528,100.00 | Grants and in-kind donations for the planning and construction of the LOVIT system garnered by FOLO to date |

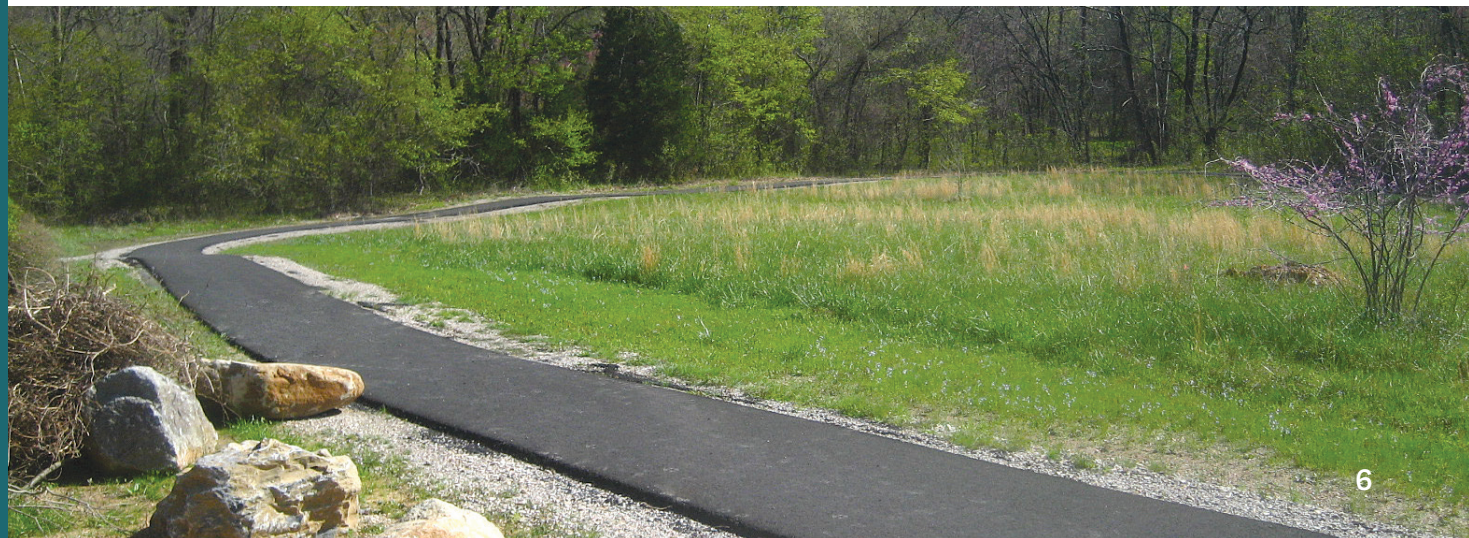
The Lovit Watchable Wildlife ADA Accessible Segment

Expanding access and inclusiveness

In the spring of 2008, a general understanding was reached with the USACE, USFS, FOLO, Montgomery County Judge, and the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission to construct a connecting handicap accessible Wildlife Watchable trail.

This ADA facility was built to provide outdoor exercise and wildlife viewing accessibility for users with physical limitations. It is the only ADA approved trail & exercise facility in the Lake Ouachita area.

This addition was built to ADA standards and includes a half-mile paved loop; a restroom, picnic kiosk, handicap exercise equipment area and adjacent quarter-mile elevated walkway through a wetland area of Lake Ouachita.



The LOVIT Watchable Wildlife ADA Accessible Segment

Construction during 2009-2011 was joint effort of the Friends Of Lake Ouachita, Inc. (FOLO) Traildogs and the USACE staff, built entirely on federal managed lands adjacent to the shores of Lake Ouachita.

Traildog volunteers, contributed over 2,000 volunteer hours to the construction effort.



LOVIT ADA Elevated Walkway
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Funding for the project was provided through an array of grant programs:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| \$200,000 | Watchable Wildlife Grant through the AG&F Commission |
| \$30,300 | National Recreational Trail Grant |
| \$25,000 | Blue & You Grant through Ark Blue Cross & Blue Shield |
| \$25,000 | Special Recreation Grant through USACE |



The Lovit Watchable Wildlife ADA Accessible Elevated Walkway



The Lovit ADA Accessible Elevated Walkway



The Watchable Wildlife Trail circles a large open meadow following the bank of Gap Creek to Denby Bay, and then ducks beneath the towering canopy of a densely wooded area changing from woods to marsh and then open water. The paved trail emerges from the woods at the access ramp to a 850' long elevated walkway extending through the wetlands to an ADA approved fishing pier at the confluence of the creek and Denby Bay where it connects to a bridge over Gap Creek.



Visitors of all physical abilities can view turtles sunning and red horse carp depositing their eggs in the clear rocky eddies along the shore of Gap Creek. During the winter months visitors using the interpretive signs can identify hundreds of Coots, Pin Tail Ducks, Loons, Wood Ducks congregate in the bay, attracting Bald Eagles fishing or harvesting Coots for lunch.

Since it's opening, the walkway has become of hub of community activity, The route is a favorite of daily walkers and hikers, but also an important point of access to the outdoors for wheel chair users and those seeking solace and inspiration during physical rehabilitation. Sunny days bring out families, soon-to-be brides and grooms, and aspiring high school and university graduates taking advantage of the beautiful setting for photos.

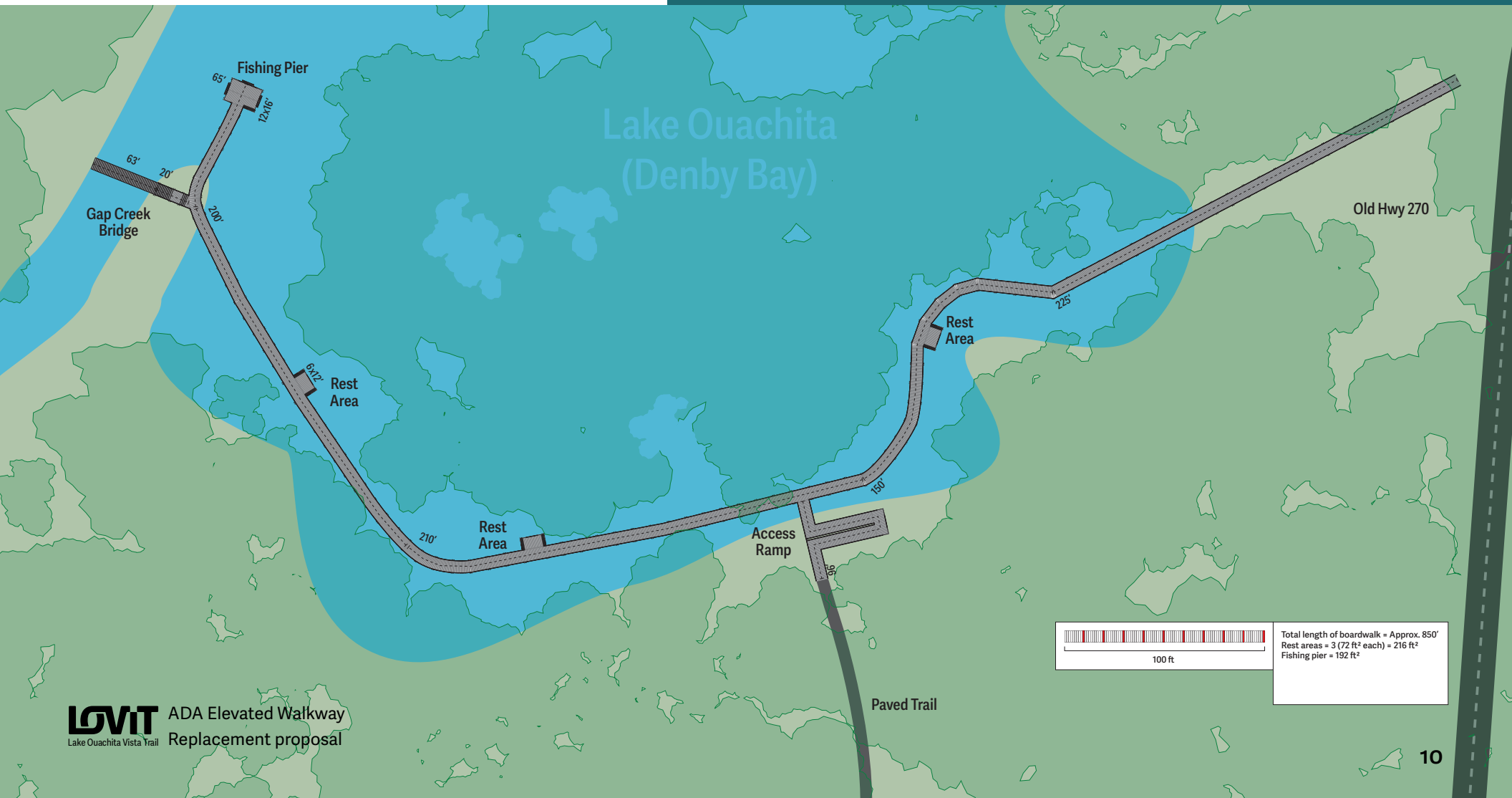


The Lovit ADA Accessible Elevated Walkway

Original Construction Specifications

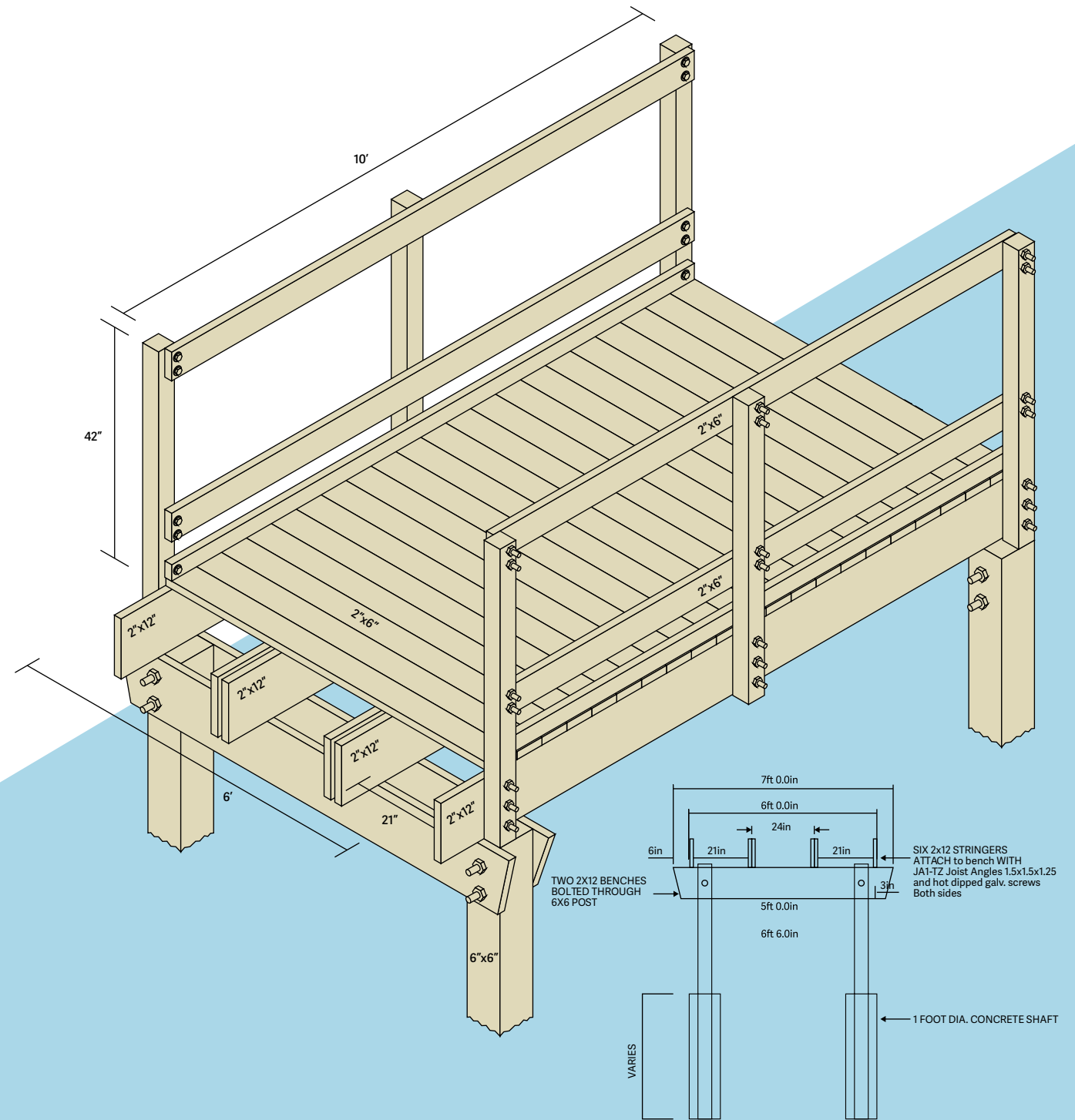
The six-foot wide 850-foot long elevated walkway was built of pressure treated lumber (Yellowwood Products) consisting of:

- 6' X 6"x 6" piers set in concrete,
- Three 12' X 12' push out rest areas,
- 100' X 6' ramp connecting the walkway to the paved trail
- 12' X 12' ADA fishing pier
- 60' X 6' bridge over Gap Creek a feeder stream to Lake Ouachita



The Lovit ADA Accessible Elevated Walkway

Original Construction Specifications



The Lovit ADA Accessible Elevated Walkway

Construction Materials Issues



2011 Seasonal flooding of the walkway



2008 walkway clearance

The construction took three years due to the fluctuating lake levels in the wetlands. Within four years of completion, the treated lumber began to show signs of deterioration, and at the end of five years was in need of significant repair. Yellowwood representatives agreed their product did not meet their standards and offered to provide the necessary better-treated materials for repair at no cost but failed to offer to pay for the significant labor necessary.

The Traildog Volunteers agreed to accept the materials and spent six weeks removing the rotting materials and replacing them with new materials. Within two years the new materials began showing signs of deterioration and by the year four following the repair the entire structure was unsafe for use and was demolished with the assistance of the Montgomery County Roads Department.



2011

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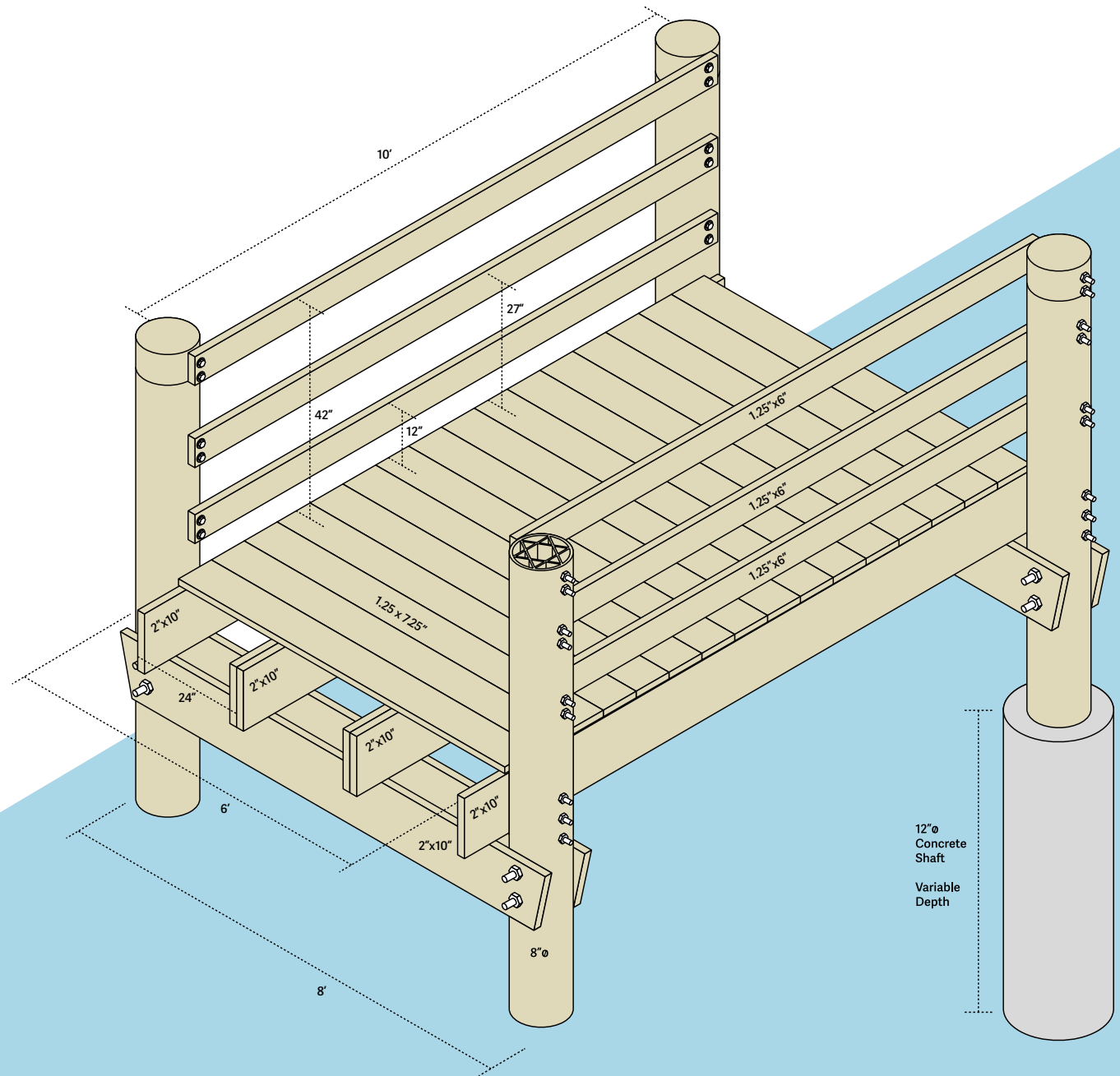
2022 walkway site post-demolition

The Lovit ADA Accessible Elevated Walkway

Replacement proposal

Led by the Friends of Lake Ouachita, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, a plan has been agreed upon to seek more durable building materials for the rebuilding of the walkway that would provide a 25-year life of the rebuilt walkway.

The committee has chosen *WearDeck* reinforced polymeric lumber and *EcoPile* PVC Pilings as the replacement materials for rebuilding the walkway. Each material has a 25-year warranty against any type of decay or discoloration.

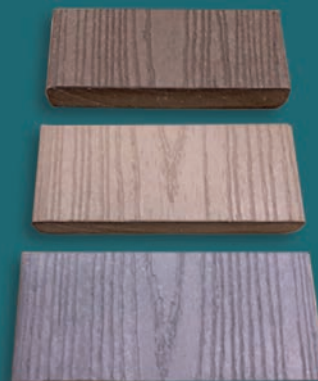


The Lovit ADA Accessible Elevated Walkway

Replacement proposal
estimated materials cost

| Total Cost | Price Per | Quantity | Material Description |
|-------------|-----------|----------|--|
| \$53,361.00 | \$63.00 | 847 | WearDeck Decking – 12" X 5/4" X 8" |
| \$31,500.00 | \$180.00 | 210 | EcoPile Piers – 12' X 8" Diameter |
| \$69,418.00 | \$122.00 | 569 | Stringers – 12' X 2" X10" |
| \$15,103.00 | \$48.72 | 310 | Railing – 12' X 5/4" X 6" |
| \$6,300.00 | \$30.00 | 210 | Piling caps |
| \$10,000.00 | TBD | TBD | Hardware – Screws/Bolts/Brackets/ Miscellaneous |
| \$5,200.00 | \$15.00 | 378 | Cement 80# Bag |

\$190,882.00



The Lovit ADA Accessible Elevated Walkway

Estimated B.O.M. quantities

| Quantity | Material Description |
|----------|--|
| 847 | WearDeck Decking – 12" X 5/4" X 8" |
| 210 | EcoPile Piers – 12' X 8" Diameter |
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| 378 | Cement 80# Bag |



The Lovit ADA Accessible Elevated Walkway Specifications

Entire structure must meet ADA specifications.

| Component | Specification |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Walkway Width | 6' feet wide |
| Railing Height | Railing must be 42-inches high above decking. |
| Railing | Railing shall consist of one pier. |
| Decking | 5/4" X 8" deck board |
| Piers | 8" in diameter EcoPile PVC Piers |
| Piers Installation | Pier may vary in depth but should be set in concrete at no less than 3' deep |
| Wheelchair Access Ramps | Must meet ADA slope standards and be 6' in width. |
| Rest Areas | A 6' X 12' area with two facing built in 6' benches are required every 250' along the walkway. |
| Gap Creek Bridge | The entire walkway should be connected to the existing bridge with a 6' wide walkway connector and stairs from the deck to the walk surface of the bridge. |

Note! All framing, decking must be of Wearwood reinforced polymeric lumber or better. All piers must be of EcoPile PVC or better. *Any deviation must be pre-approved by FOLO.*

Target Project Costs



\$200,000
Rebuilding Material Cost



\$300,000
Rebuilding Labor Cost

\$500,000
Total Project Rebuilding Target Cost

Contacts

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Lake Ouachita Vista Trail

Thank you for your consideration in the effort to restore the remarkable experience of the ADA Elevated Walkway to the vibrant culture of Lake Ouachita and all its surrounding communities.

