

FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

**OPELIKA COMMUNITY ARCHERY PARK
WILDLIFE RESTORATION PROGRAM**

GRANT NUMBER W-68

Segment 9

F21AF00706

ALABAMA HUNTER EDUCATION

April 01, 2021 -March 31, 2023

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES DIVISION

FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

STATE: ALABAMA Project #: W-68-9
GRANT TITLE: Opelika Community Archery Park
AGREEMENT PERIOD: April 01, 2021 thru March 31, 2023

OBJECTIVE: To construct/develop a 50-yard archery range on City Park Property in Lee County. The range will adhere to guidelines set forth by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Opelika City Employees will operate and maintain the archery range throughout its useful life. The City and BHA will develop programming to provide youth and adults an opportunity to become involved in various facets of archery.

Target Date of Achievement: March 31, 2023

Date of Accomplishments: November 09, 2022 – Grand Opening

Significant Deviations: Increase in timeline and cost

Need

Alabama is quickly becoming a highly urbanized state as a result of changes in the economy, industry, and other factors leading to a shift away from a rural way of life. Access to shooting ranges in Alabama is limited, especially in these increasingly urbanized areas. The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries operates five shooting ranges on state owned property and five in cooperation with wildlife management area lessors. In addition, the U.S. Forest Service operates five shooting ranges on its property throughout Alabama. There are very few privately operated shooting ranges in and around Alabama's major metropolitan areas.

WFF operates fifteen community archery parks in cooperation with City Parks and Recreation Departments, and three in cooperation with our state parks. These facilities are highly utilized and increase the visibility of archery within the respective communities.

Access to archery ranges, although not as impaired as firearms ranges, is becoming increasingly more difficult because of city ordinances. It is essential that the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries take action to develop and maintain additional shooting opportunities for the citizens of Alabama. Failure to develop additional public shooting ranges will result in decreased shooting opportunities and degradation of our shooting and hunting heritage. Lack of convenient locations to participate could be a barrier that prevents some individuals from becoming involved in the shooting sports.

Approach

The Opelika Archery Park project involves approximately 3 acres. The site is located at 32° 35'23.19" N and 85° 18'35.44" W. Street address is 1474 County Road 148, Opelika, AL 36804.

The range was developed through a partnership with the City of Opelika and the Bowhunters of Alabama, Lee County Chapter (BHA). Our Division paid for 90% of the total eligible and actual project costs of the materials, construction and labor for all archery related structures including the elevated platform, target frames, targets, covered shooting shelter and other archery related items using USFWS funding. The City paid for 10% and any amount over the \$130,000 limit. In addition, the City agrees to provide routine maintenance such as grass cutting and litter removal during the useful life of the project.

Performance Results for Needs/Threats:

Need 1: Need for more public access to areas or facilities for outdoor recreation

Objective 1: Archery Range Construction

To construct/develop a 50-yard archery range on City Park Property in Lee County. The range will adhere to guidelines set forth by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Opelika City Employees will operate and maintain the archery range throughout its useful life. The City and BHA will develop programming to provide youth and adults an opportunity to become involved in various facets of archery.

Actions/Results for Performance Period:

Planning took place during 2021 to discuss the layout and design of the community archery park. The process was delayed due to working out the fine details in the MOU. During this time, the cost of materials increased significantly, and the grant was increased to cover the costs. Once the MOU was agreed upon work continued in fiscal year 2022 and completed in the early part of fiscal year 2023. The grand opening of the archery park was held on November 9th, 2022.

The construction of a community archery park in Lee County will result in increased public access to an archery range. This range should enhance efforts to initiate participation of Lee County Schools in Alabama's National Archery in the Schools Program. The construction of this range should allow archers more opportunity to enjoy the recreational aspects of our shooting heritage and provide a location for hunters to prepare for hunting season. In addition, it should also improve the visibility of archery as a recreational activity that is part of mainstream America.