

# *Outdoor Classroom Accessibility Project*

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## **Objective:**

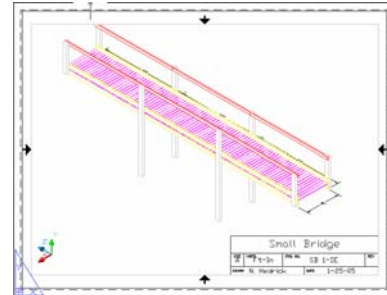
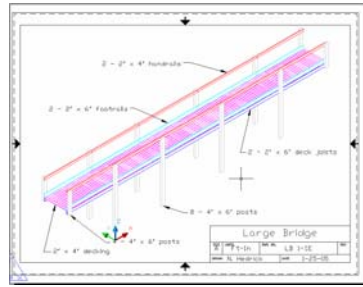
Wea Ridge Elementary and Middle School have an outdoor classroom that is currently inaccessible to students with disabilities. Two bridges were needed to cross a ditch in two different locations on the trail to provide access to the entire classroom. The following are objectives that we had for the project.

- Design bridges to cross the ditch at two different locations.
- Obtain approval from Wea Ridge Schools for the design and cost of the bridges
- Obtain funding and construction materials for the bridges
- Construct the bridges



## Design

Preliminary drawings were done by hand, then AutoCAD, a computer design program was used to design the two bridges. One design was for a 30 foot bridge and the other was for a 44 foot bridge. These designs were used for approvals and the construction process.



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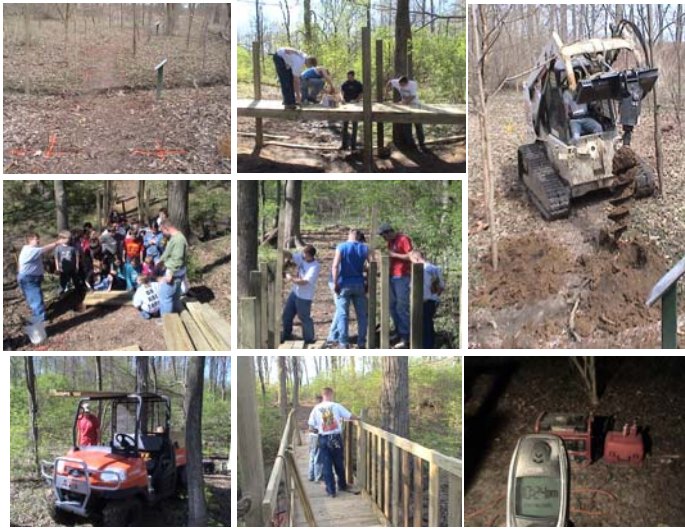
## Approval

The structural stability of the design was approved by Mack Strickland, a professor at Purdue University in the ABE department. The Wea Woods Committee and the Tippecanoe School Corporation also approved the design as far as the needs of the school and the insurance issues that needed to be met.

## Partners

Von Tobel lumber gave us a discount on the supplies we used to build the bridges. Dehaai Industrial donated a bobcat to auger the holes for the bridges. Purdue University approved grant money to be used for the construction supplies. The school of Ag donated money for supplies. The ABE department donated money. The department also donated a RTV



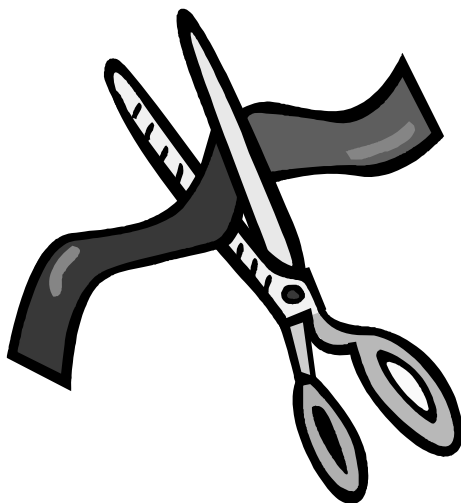


## Construction

The posts were set in advance on the 8<sup>th</sup>, then we returned on the 15<sup>th</sup> to finish construction. With the help of members of Alpha Mu Club and the use of an RTV from the ABE Department, the work went very smoothly.

## Final Product

Starting around noon and working till 10:30, everyone pitched in and worked hard so that the bridges were built in one day.



Unveiling to the Schools on Earth day.

A ribbon cutting ceremony is planned with the school on Monday April 25<sup>th</sup>.