

The Lake Dredging Process

The 2019 board inherited this project from the 2018 board. This project was budgeted for 2019. After doing our due diligence, the board unanimously voted to move forward with the project.

Reasons for dredging the lake

1. The lake had not been dredged in 15 years.
2. The lake was very low at the Trumpet end of the lake and water couldn't flow properly.
3. Since the last dredging, two new subdivisions and the Grove Shopping Center were developed. All of that construction flowed into our lake, causing an enormous amount of silt build up around our lake.
4. Drains from the neighborhood flow directly into our lake and several of those drains were stopped up and caused the formation of sandbars, threatening to divide our lake.

We received 3 bids and chose the one that we felt best fit our needs and budget: Sound Construction. Their bid was based on an hourly rate and the board approved a budget of \$25,000 for this phase of the project. The two other bids ranged from \$240,000 to \$125,000.

When we met with Sound Construction rep, he explained to us that he would go as far as his equipment would let him go. Not knowing the depth and conditions at the bottom of the lake, we would take it day by day. The first phase was completed and Sound Construction removed over 1,000 square yards of silt. The silt was deposited on land owned by Alabama Power. This was approved by Alabama Power. Total cost of the first phase was \$17,999.84 This included \$1,200 for repairing washed out areas from the lake bridge to Lake Crest Drive. Start date for Sound Construction was May 13 and end date was June 10.

Next David Walls, head of the lake committee, met with the lake committee. The committee expressed concern that the project was unable to reach further up the lake and couldn't reach the drains. The board agreed to look at other options which hopefully could utilize machines that could move further up the lake. Committee members are Bob Schneid, Paul Carter and Craig Kelley.

The committee found two companies that had machines that could reach further up the lake. The board unanimously selected Jordan Excavating. The bid was \$11,475. Since we were under budget on the first phase and the total budget for the lake management for 2019 was \$41,500, the committee voted unanimously to move forward to complete the project. David Walls then emailed the board and informed them of this development before the second phase began.

The second phase was a complete success as sandbars were removed and drains were opened. They were also able to use the smaller equipment to open up more channels at the Trumpet end, which greatly improved the water flow. The project began on August 12 and was completed on August 20. Total cost for the second phase was \$11,475. Cost to repair and extend the concrete for easier boat launching and pressure wash on the driveway used during the second phase was \$1,440. The concrete extension was needed to allow easier access (the only lake access area). Total cost for both phases was \$30,617.84. The lake is now healthy and should not need dredging for quite some time. All work was done under the lake maintenance budget of \$41,500 for 2019.