



200th RED HORSE Squadron Ottawa County Fairgrounds IRT, Ohio 2016



In October of 2015 the Ottawa County Fair Board Commission asked the 200th RED HORSE Squadron (RHS) to undertake three projects at the county fairgrounds: (1) parking lot repair, (2) river front beautification, and (3) construction of concrete pad for handicap

accessible seating at the race track. After several months of coordination and IRT package submission an approval a team of 14 airmen completed the project in 10 days.

Over the last few years the fairgrounds accepted a significant amount of asphalt millings from county highway projects, with the intent to use the millings for improvements of parking areas and other areas of vehicle use.



The main parking, roughly 37,400 square feet, consisted of poorly graded asphalt, which resulted in water penetration to the sub-grade and ultimately failure in multiple areas. Creating an eyesore and hazard with standing water, and ice in the winter. The RED HORSE team removed the



existing pavement and stabilized the sub-grade. Then, using the asphalt millings provided by the county, the airmen were able to spread, grade, and slope to implement a compaction plan that directed water shed and ensured proper drainage. In addition the airmen were able to utilize these millings to repair other vehicle area at the fairgrounds.



The river front beautification of the riverfront phase of the project was a bit simpler than the parking area grading. The Ottawa County fairgrounds are located on the shore of the Portage River, and incorporate a small sloped area used for public fishing. Unfortunately, this area had become a parking lot of old equipment, and dumping ground of unused soil and rock. 200 RHS equipment operators were able to move the unwanted materials and refuse, and then use a small top soil pile located at the fairgrounds to grade out the area, creating a much more visually appealing fishing area.

The last item of the project was installing handicap accessible seating at the grandstand. With a bit of ingenuity the 200 RHS team was able to develop a plan, involving three separate construction efforts. First a two obstacles a segregation fence and a concession building had to be removed. The fencing was carefully removed to allow reuse, and the building was relocated with no damage. Second, was the construction of a 20' x 35' concrete pad 6" thick, with a sloping walkway. The pad was would become the foundation for placement of the handicap seating. To ensure the pad would not interfere with existing structures and seating, airmen had to excavate approximately 450 cubic feet of soil, haul in fill material, and then grade, level, and compact the area to provide subgrade stabilization. The third, and last phase, was the assembly of the handicap seating on the foundation.



The project was completed in time for the annual Ottawa County Fair. IRT projects like this provide the 200 RHS Airmen valuable training opportunity while enhancing the civil-military relationship within the local area, a win-win for all!

(The 200th RED HORSE Squadron, Ohio Air National Guard, is based out of Camp Perry and Mansfield Ohio; story by MSgt Amanda Rosato and TSgt Adrian Wilson)