



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
441 G STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20314-1000

CECW-CO-N

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEFS, OPERATIONS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS
AND DISTRICT COMMANDS

SUBJECT: Handshake Partnership Program – Fiscal Year 2026 Recipients

1. I am pleased to announce the recipients for the fiscal year (FY) 2026 Handshake Partnership Program funding. These outstanding partnerships demonstrate the efforts and successes of our field projects in working with stakeholders to foster their involvement in improving and protecting our parks and natural resources. This initiative supports USACE efforts in working on grassroots partnering projects.
2. The enclosed list of the FY 2026 Handshake recipients are diverse in both geographic area and in project concepts. Six projects have been funded that span five Corps districts within three divisions.
3. The projects involve 22 partners who have pledged more than \$277,289 (55%) of the \$501,361 to be invested in these projects. There are two first-time recipients and three projects where the partner is funding more than half of the total project cost.
4. Collectively, these projects will improve recreational opportunities for many visitors, promote interpretive outreach, protect and conserve natural resources, enhance our environmental stewardship mission, and engage federal, state and local partners in a shared vision. We are very proud of the Corps team members and our valued partners!
5. The point of contact for this effort is Heather Burke, National Partnership Program Manager. If there are any questions, contact her at (678) 972-3824. She will be in touch with the recipients shortly to provide additional details and coordinate funds disbursement.

Encl

STEPHEN L. HILL, PMP, SES
Director, Operations and Regulatory
Programs

Enclosure 1
Handshake Partnership Program – 2026 Recipients

Location	Handshake Project	Partner(s)	Local Project Funding	Partner Funding	HQUSACE Handshake Funding
Black Warrior & Tombigbee Lakes (Mobile District)	Native Grassland Restoration	Demopolis High School, University of West Alabama, Alabama Cooperative Extension Service, Alabama Wildlife Federation, Friends of Foscue	\$8,002	\$23,972	\$25,000
Buckhorn Lake (Louisville District)	Fish Habitat Improvements	Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Eastern Fisheries, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Habitat Division, Jacksons Women's Club, Perry County Fiscal Court, Perry County Conservation, Muskies Inc. Chapter 52, BHA 7th District, Buckhorn Science & Agriculture Club	\$1,070	\$28,281	\$17,500
B.A. Steinhagen Lake, Town Bluff Project (Fort Worth District)	ADA Sidewalk & Additions	Pineywoods Service Association, SPRAYCO, Langley Mfg.	\$8,500	\$62,609	\$25,000
Burnsville Lake (Huntington District)	Historic Area Revitalization	Homespun Historical Ventures, Friends of Burnsville Lake	\$14,500	\$28,855	\$25,000
Lake Seminole (Mobile District)	Vessel Access Improvement	Stewards of Lake Seminole, Georgia Department of Natural Resources	\$64,000	\$64,000	\$25,000
J. Strom Thurmond Lake (Savannah District)	Trail System Hurricane Recovery	Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association-Central Savannah River Area, Colombia County Convention & Visitors Bureau	\$3,000	\$69,572	\$7,500