



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

CECW-CO-N (1130)

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

SUBJECT: 2024 Excellence in Partnerships Award Selection

1. I am pleased to announce that the Mississippi River Water Trail Association (MRWTA) at the Rivers Project Office, (MVD) has been selected as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) recipient of the 2024 National Excellence in Partnerships Award.
2. The MRWTA has been a partner with USACE since 2005, contributing over 20,000 volunteer hours, \$180,000 in professional services, and \$50,000 of materials and equipment donated to the St. Louis community and the Mississippi River. It is the shared mission of the Rivers Project and the MRWTA to create safe, accessible opportunities for lifelong enjoyment of paddling on the Mississippi River. In their pursuit of providing all people the opportunity and empowerment to enjoy safe paddling on the Mississippi River, it is worth recognizing the extraordinary achievements of the Mississippi River Water Trail Association.
3. All of the nominees for this year's award made significant contributions to their projects and demonstrated remarkable work being done across USACE. Four partners deserve special mention for their efforts: Phillips 66 Ponca City at the Kaw Project Office (SWT), AmeriCorps Cape Cod at the Cape Cod Canal (NAE), Whitman County Public Health at the Lower Granite Natural Resource Office (NWW), and the Scioto Area Corps Cooperating Association at Alum Creek Lake (LRH).
4. The Excellence in Partnerships Award is supported by the Corps Foundation in recognition of exceptional contributions to the natural resource management programs at USACE projects. The award will be presented to the Mississippi River Water Trail later in the year.
5. My point of contact for this award is Heather Burke, National Partnership Program Manager, who can be reached via e-mail at heather.d.burke@usace.army.mil or phone at 503-808-4313.

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