

## Handshake Partnership Program Report - FY 2008 Recipients

1. **Name of Corps Project/Lake:** John H Kerr Reservoir (SAW)
2. **Handshake Project Name:** Island Creek Veterans Park
3. **What has been accomplished?** Please provide photographs (before, during, and after):  
Please see attached document.
4. **Amount of Handshake funds received?** \$25,000
5. **Amount of Corps funds expended in addition to Handshake funds (labor, materials, contracts, etc.)?** \$28,176
6. **Partner's Contributions (total value of funds, goods, services, volunteer hours, etc.):**

Partner Name	Total Value of Contributions
1 Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #8163	\$80,000
2 Sgt. Earle Davis Gregory American Legion Post #45	\$80,000
3	\$
4	\$
5	\$
6	\$

### 7. Handshake Program Recipient Feedback

Please take this opportunity to provide feedback on all aspects of the Handshake Program and the Challenge Partnership Agreement authority. Your productive comments are important to the ongoing improvement of the program. Make sure to let us know how the Handshake funds have benefited your efforts to initiate and/or strengthen your partnership efforts.

**A. Experience with Handshake Program:** Great. A number of great projects that provide long term benefits to the visiting public have resulted from this program .

**B. Experience with Challenge Partnership Agreement:** The agreement and funds allow the Corps to get the ball rolling which in turn motivates the partners and their fund raising efforts. The small investment made by the Corps allows the vision of the larger project to become real to those that want to be involved, thereby creating excitement and action.

**C. Comments:** The Handshake Program allows lakes to gain attention at the National level, and demonstrates the focus the Corps has not just on serving the public, but encouraging and supporting their involvement in it. The partnership funds allows organizations like the above to

gain support and donations for funds to allow our wounded war veterans a location to enjoy a USACE facility.

**D. Recommendations:** Continue to help fund this program so other grass roots organization will be able to assist the Corps in serving the visiting public for generations.

## Island Creek Veterans Park John H Kerr Reservoir 2010 Handshake Partnership Report

The visiting public and our wounded warriors will have a much better place to access the shores of John H. Kerr Reservoir thanks to the partnership of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW), American Legion, and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Island Creek Park is having a face lift and will be gaining new facilities to better accommodate those with physical disabilities. The day use recreation area at Island Creek is being developed into a 100% wheel chair accessible family recreational facility for the public.

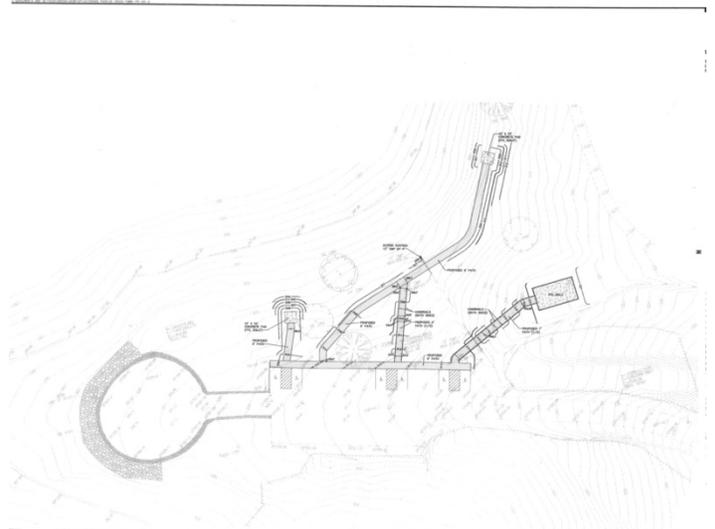
The Sgt. Earle Davis Gregory American Legion Post #45 and The Roanoke River Veterans of Foreign Wars Post # 8163 are partnering with the Corps to provide facilities to allow fishing, boating, and picnicking for handicapped visitors.

These additions were in response to services that the American Legion and the VFW currently provide to wounded veterans.

Island Creek Park is located within 2 hours drive from 3 Veteran Affairs Medical Centers in Salem, VA; Richmond, VA; and Durham, NC. Patients from these centers are brought by the VFW and American Legion volunteers as part of their



Island Creek Before





After Tree Clearing/paving

recreational therapy departments to fish, boat and picnic. These outings give them a chance to get out of the hospital environment and experience some level of normalcy. The local volunteers provide the boats, food and gas for these trips. Through the handshake program, Island Creek Park will be developed into a state of the art handicapped accessible park containing an 80' fishing pier, 80' boat loading dock, two picnic shelters and restroom facilities and a bus drop off location. In addition, ADA walkways to all the areas will be installed to make the park fully accessible.



**MG Semonite and COL Ryscavage meet with VFW and American Legion members at Island Creek Veterans Park.**

When not reserved the park will be open to the visiting public.

Currently, the partners are raising funds through corporate and private donations to purchase the boat and fishing docks along with required materials for the further development of the park. Donations have been given directly to the cause along with auctions and benefit golf and fishing tournaments that have been conducted to raise funds for the park.

The Corps has completed the clearing/grading of the site and constructed a small picnic shelter with the use of Handshake Funds. Improvements to existing parking and access have been accomplished with the use of O&M funds.



**Jason Brown with the Saint Louis Rams, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left, meets with American Legion and USACE representatives to discuss a future fishing tournament for the park.**

To help promote the park, a conceptual design, artist rendering, and boat dock plan have been provided free of charge to the partners by an engineering and design firm.



**Artists Concept of Island Creek Park**

The future park will help alleviate problems for the wounded veterans that exist at a local state park with loading and unloading patients on docks that were not designed for wheelchairs and solve problems with turning around large busses with those in wheel chairs.



**Disabled veterans getting ready to launch for a fishing trip on Kerr Lake.**



**Better facilities for large buses such as this one to unload visitors safely will be available at Island Creek Veterans Park.**

Upon completion of the fundraising, an overall cost for the improvements to the park will be in excess of \$213,000.

By providing support, through the Handshake Partnership, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be able to provide much needed recreational facilities for the handicapped public and better serve those wounded veterans that have given so much to their country.

Submitted by Shannon C. Maness  
21 November 2012  
John H Kerr Reservoir, Wilmington District