

## Handshake Partnership Program Report - FY 2010 Recipients

**1. Name of Corps Project/Lake:** Tully Lake

**2. Handshake Project Name:** Waterfall Overlook Wheelchair Access

**3. What has been accomplished?** Please provide photographs; before, during, and after!:  
A parking area and 900-foot trail was constructed to provide both wheelchair and emergency vehicle access to Lower Doane's Falls in Royalston, Massachusetts.

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Handshake Program Funding Amount</b>	\$12,000
<b>Local Corps Office Funds</b> (total expended on labor, materials, contracts, etc.)?	\$7,748
<b>Partner's Contributions</b> (total value of funds, goods, services, volunteer hours, etc.)	
<b>Partners Name</b>	<b>Total Value of Contributions</b>
1 The Trustees of Reservations	\$26,970
2	\$
3	\$
4	\$
5	\$
6	\$

#### **4. 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 partnerships.*

**A. Comments About Handshake Program:** This program is valuable because it both motivated and enabled us to accomplish a project that might not otherwise have been accomplished. Importantly, it also fostered a symbiotic relationship with a willing partner when they saw the Corps was actually putting money on the table instead of paying mere lip service to partnering.

**B. Comments About Challenge Partnership Agreement:** A little formal in my opinion for our little project, but it was necessary to satisfy program requirements.

**C. Recommendations:** Continue the program! More funding for more projects! Allow projects to apply every year.



# Waterfall Overlook Wheelchair Access

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

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## **Tully Lake Handshake Partnership Agreement**

In 2010, the Corps entered a Handshake Partnership Agreement with The Trustees of Reservations, a private non-profit conservation organization, to construct an accessible trail to Lower Doane's Falls at Tully Lake in Royalston, Massachusetts.

### **Before**

Public access to Lower Doane's Falls, which is owned by The Trustees of Reservations and flows into Tully Lake, was along an existing hiking trail on Corps property. The nearest parking was along the side of Doane Hill Road, but the parking area was muddy and only accommodated about 3 cars parked parallel. The trail itself, though scenic, was impassable by wheelchairs or strollers because of rocks, roots, and mud. Furthermore, emergency access to the falls was by foot only, so victims had to be carried out on a litter.

### **During**

Trail construction occurred in June 2010. The Corps hired a contractor to perform the excavation work and The Trustees hired a trail crew from the Student Conservation Association to do the handwork. Both agencies' employees worked together to get the job done. We also received helpful input from the Royalston Fire Department to ensure the completed trail would accommodate their rescue vehicle.

### **After**

Thanks to the Handshake Partnership Program, together we transformed the trail from a rough footpath into a universally accessible trail, allowing people of all abilities to enjoy the natural beauty of the waterfall. Should an emergency occur at the waterfall, the Royalston Fire Department now has the ability to drive a rescue vehicle there, greatly improving response time and visitor safety. The parking area was improved to accommodate 7 cars parked perpendicular. An information kiosk was placed at the beginning of the trail and a viewing area with log benches was placed at the end. Because of this Handshake project, for the first time ever visitors with physical disabilities can experience the waterfall.



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