

Handshake Partnership Program Report - FY 2012 Recipients

1. Name of Corps Project/Lake: Clinton Lake, Lawrence, KS

2. Handshake Project Name: Rockhaven Fence Project

3. What has been accomplished? Please provide photographs; before, during, and after!:
The Corps of Engineers, in partnership with Clinton Ridge Stables, Let's Ride, Ride Kansas, and the Clinton Lake Trailbusters, built a two-strand steel cable and pipe fence around the perimeter of Rockhaven Equestrian Campground to provide a safe environment for the recreationists, the equines, and for the natural resources. In addition, thirteen steel corrals were installed in conjunction with the fence.

In less than six weeks, volunteers provided over 500 hours of labor, much of which was skilled labor such as welding and equipment operation. The team installed approximately 2000 feet of permanent steel fencing, built thirteen adjoined steel corrals, and dug 196 post holes. They utilized nearly 3000 feet of pipe, 3500 feet of steel cable, 16,800 pounds of Quikrete (hailed and mixed by hand), 300 channel washers, and 40 pounds of welding rod.

See attachment for photos.

	Total
Handshake Program Funding Amount	\$7400
Local Corps Office Funds (total expended on labor, materials, contracts, etc.)?	\$5370
Partner's Contributions (total value of funds, goods, services, volunteer hours, etc.)	
Partners Name	Total Value of Contributions
1 Clinton Ridge Stable	\$600
2 Ride Kansas	\$8650
3 Let's Ride	\$1945
4 Clinton Lake Trailbusters	\$1665
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: What a great opportunity to strengthen our recreation program and to partner with our stakeholders! Every project has a list of items that need to be done, but they just do not have the time or funds to knock these items out. The Handshake Program provided that opportunity to complete this project which has long been on our list. With the funding from the program, we were able to meet with our partners and explain that we could buy the materials if they could volunteer to help us get the work done. With a little discussion and planning, we were able to make this project a win-win for both the Corps of Engineers and the stakeholders.

While we did have one partner drop out, this was still a great opportunity to build new partnerships and strengthen existing ones. Since we have run out of Handshake Funds, our partners have continued to build on the improvements we began with the Handshake Agreement. The partners are not only maintaining the fence and corrals built with the Handshake Funds, but also they are building new corrals. In addition, these same volunteers now put on an annual trail ride event, and all proceeds from that event are put directly back in to the Clinton Lake trails and Rockhaven campground.

B. Comments About Challenge Partnership Agreement: Two of the partners were apprehensive about signing the Challenge Partnership Agreement because of the strong wording, obligations, and processes required and the very governmental wording. Specific concerns were directed at the "Dispute Resolution" section and the "Method of Payment" section since most of their contributions were labor. After a face-to-face meeting with each partner, though, we were able to explain and make them comfortable with the governmental-type document.

C. Recommendations: Somewhere there was a breakdown in the communication, and we were late getting our Handshake Funds. Once we noticed the funds had not been received and passed the word on up the line, it was promptly corrected; however, we were never informed where the breakdown occurred. Overall, though, this is a great program! Keep up the good work and thank you!

5. Handshake Summary:

Please also include a separate one-page newspaper type article describing the project and the benefit to the Corps of Engineers and to the public as a result of this partnership project. Examples can be found on the gateway under [Handshake Success Stories](#).

Handshake Partnership Program Report (continued) - FY 2012 Recipients

The Corps of Engineers, in partnership with Clinton Ridge Stables, Let's Ride Trail Club, Ride Kansas Trail Club, and the Clinton Lake Trailbusters, has built a two-strand steel cable and pipe fence around the perimeter of Rockhaven Equestrian Campground to provide a safe environment for the recreationists, the equines, and for the natural resources. In addition, thirteen new steel corrals were installed in conjunction with the fence.

Rockhaven Campground and Day Use Area provides equestrian camping opportunities and public access to over 50 miles of equestrian trails. Recent improvements to the campground, including a showerhouse and electrical campsites, had brought in increased numbers of park visitors, which in turn, resulted in increased demand on our natural resources. Because the park had no delineating features other than the treeline and no corrals, horses and mules were being tied off in the trees and native grass fields. As a result, trees and native grasses were being killed off and the park boundaries were being pushed outward and were showing signs of stress. At the same time, visitors were concerned that if a horse were to get loose or out of control, there was no fence to stop the horse from leaving the park. Consequently, the Corps of Engineers met with our trail volunteers to come up with a solution that could fit all parties' needs.

With the funding provided by the Corps of Engineers' Handshake Program, the Clinton Lake Corps was able to purchase the materials for the Rockhaven Fence Project. In less than six weeks, volunteers provided over 500 hours of labor, much of which was skilled labor, such as welding and equipment operation. The team installed approximately 2000 feet of permanent steel fencing, built thirteen adjoined steel corrals, and dug 196 post holes. They utilized nearly 3000 feet of pipe, 3500 feet of steel cable, 300 channel washers, 40 pounds of welding rod, and 16,800 pounds of Quikcrete (hailed and mixed by hand). In addition, partners and volunteers donated \$600 worth of galvanized steel pipe to be used for the project.

With the help of the Handshake Program, the Corps of Engineers and their volunteers have rekindled their longstanding partnership, conserved natural resources, provided enhanced recreation opportunities, and improved the safety of Rockhaven Equestrian Park. Additionally, visitation has tripled since the project began, and frequent visitors are now coming from all over the state of Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and even Colorado to ride our trails and camp at Rockhaven. As the popularity of the park continues to grow, our partnerships with the volunteers and stakeholders of Rockhaven Park and Equestrian Trails will also grow.

Since this initial project, Ride Kansas and Let's Ride Trail Clubs have continued to make improvements, donating time and materials to the park and corresponding trail system. The clubs host an annual trail ride to raise funds to put back into the park. These funds have been utilized to build additional corrals and to purchase pre-made gates for the corrals. Also, the volunteers have requested permission to install mounting blocks, paint facilities, and install shelves in the showerhouse and shelter. This teamwork has provided the Corps of Engineers, the volunteers, and the users of the park the opportunity to work together toward a common cause of improving Rockhaven Park while ensuring the park is safe, sustainable, and user-friendly.

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Clinton Lake, Rockhaven Fence Project (continued)**



Volunteers Ken and Susan Johnson and Kenny Patterson team up to tackle installing 196 posts in the ground with Quikrete.



Volunteers Mary Mitchell (left) and Diana Skinner (right) ensure posts are level after placing Quikrete in the hole.



Volunteer Dale Mitchell cuts donated pipe to length for the perimeter fence uprights.



Left: Dale Mitchell welds the top rung of a corral.



Right: Volunteer Lori Tilson strings the bottom strand of steel cable fencing.



Channel washers were utilized to hold the cable in place rather than specialized cable clamps, cutting the cost for the hardware to less than 25% originally planned.



Finished perimeter fence and the beginnings of the corrals.



Corrals built into the perimeter fence provide a safe location for visitors to keep their horses where the horses will not damage trees, turf, or native grass fields.



Perimeter fence with a native grass field in the background. Horses were often tethered in the native grass fields which would trample the native grasses and allow weeds to come in. With the installation of the fence and corrals, visitors are blocked easy access to the fields and they have other options on locations to keep their horses, thus protecting our natural resource management areas.



Additional corrals built into the fence, prior to the installation of the gates, which were donated by the volunteers at a later date.



Mo, volunteer Diana Skinner's horse, is the first horse to try out the new corrals.



Finished perimeter fence and corrals.



Happy campers and horseback riders headed back to Rockhaven.