

## Handshake Partnership Program Report - FY 2012 Recipients

**1. Name of Corps Project/Lake:** Rough River Lake

**2. Handshake Project Name:** Visitor/Outdoor Learning Center

**3. What has been accomplished?** Please provide photographs; before, during, and after!:  
The completion of the remodeling of a storage building and former dam construction house into the Rough River Lake Visitor/Outdoor Learning and trail construction. Grand Opening of this facility occurred on 19 May 2012.

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Handshake Program Funding Amount</b>	\$30,000
<b>Local Corps Office Funds</b> (total expended on labor, materials, contracts, etc.)?	\$15,000
<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 Friends of Rough River Lake, Inc.	\$38,025.26
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:** During this time of government downsizing and limited funding the handshake program enabled the Corps, along with the help of our partners, to provide a location where youth groups and schools could come and learn hands on about outdoor recreation, community service, environmental stewardship and water safety. Without this program this project could not have been possible in 2012.

**B. Comments About Challenge Partnership Agreement:** The Challenge Partnership Agreement is an excellent tool for estimating and identifying what the government and the partner will provide. This agreement helped all parties stay on track.

**C. Recommendations:** Continue to encourage this program. The paperwork associated with the tracking of the funds was significant and time consuming but the final product was well worth it. We should however do a better job of identifying what types of tracking must be done. I would recommend a bullet list that provides info on tracking requirements, quarterly reporting, closing out the project, and final reporting.

**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.

## **5. Handshake Summary:**

Rough River Lake, KY – On February 14, 2011 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District's Rough River Lake (Corps) entered into a Cooperative Agreement with the Friends of Rough River Lake, Inc. (FRRL) for the purpose of working together to develop a Visitor/Outdoor Learning Center and promote outdoor recreation opportunities, water safety, community involvement, area history, corps history, project development, and corps/project mission.

The idea to develop a visitor/outdoor learning center at Rough River Lake began with a brain storming session to find ways to promote youth community involvement and promote outdoor recreation. The idea to convert a storage building that overlooked the lake (building was originally constructed and used in the late 50's and early 60's as a dam construction house and later as storage buildings) was eagerly accepted by the FRRL as a project they would fully support both with funding and volunteer hours.

To assist with this project and with the full support of the FRRL the Corps applied and was selected as the recipients of the 2012 Corps of Engineers Handshake Partnership Program Grant. The \$30,000 grant was used towards the Visitor/Outdoor Learning Center and establishment of a connection trail project.

On December 21, 2011 the FRRL entered into a Challenge Cost-Sharing Agreement with the Corps for the purpose of establishing a connection trail and a Visitor/Outdoors Learning Center at Rough River Lake. The mission of the agreement was to develop a central location to promote outdoor recreation opportunities, water safety, environmental stewardship, community involvement, Corps history, area history, natural history, and project mission. As part of this agreement the FRRL contributed \$38,025.26 which consisted of educational displays, furnishings, sheet rock, and 1,246 volunteer hours. The Corps contributed \$15,000 towards the project for signs, plumbing material, paint, sheet rock, displays, and projection equipment. The \$30,000 handshake funds were also identified in this document and were used to purchase trail bridge construction material and interpretive displays.

It is amazing what a group of people can do. In a 6 month period the FRRL and the Corps was able to take a 50+ year old building and convert it into a fully functional Visitor/Outdoor Learning Center. On May 19, 2012 the Rough River Lake Visitor/Outdoor Learning Center was formally dedicated and became fully operational. The facility is operated and maintained by FRRL volunteers throughout the recreation season on Friday, Saturday and Sunday May through September.

This partnership along with the grant funds enabled the Corps with the help of the FRRL, to provide a central location where schools, youth groups, colleges, and members of the public can visit and obtain hands on experience and information about outdoor recreation opportunities, community events, water safety, community involvement, Corps history, volunteering, and project mission.

### 3. What has been accomplished? Photographs; before, during, and after:

These structures set side by side and were constructed in the late 50's as construction houses used during Rough River Dam construction. From the 70's to the 80's these houses were used as resident houses. In the late 80's to November 1, 2011 these houses were used as storage buildings.

1960's Photo shows both houses, which have now been converted to a Visitor Center/Outdoor Learning Center.



BEFORE Remodeling (August 2011)



AFTER (May 2012) Remodeling now home of the  
Rough River Lake Visitor/Outdoor Learning Center



BEFORE Remodeling (Dec 2011)



AFTER (July 2012) Remodeling  
soon to be home of the  
Rough River Lake Outdoor Learning Center

### 3. What has been accomplished? Photographs; before, during, and after:

For now the Visitor/Outdoor Learning Center consists of one building but in 2013 the renovations will be completed on the second building and it will become the Rough River Lake Outdoor Learning Center.



Installation of hand railing and signs on each of the buildings



Visitor/Outdoor Learning Center Gazebo installed

**3. What has been accomplished? Photographs; before, during, and after:**



Chairs, bookshelves and tables provided by FRRL and water safety exhibit provided by Corps



Former garage in before photo turned into a meeting room/theater

3. What has been accomplished? Photographs; before, during, and after:



Gift/Craft Shop. All items are hand made by crafters within the Rough River Lake area



Entry station constructed and provided by FRRL



### 3. What has been accomplished? Photographs; before, during, and after:

Landscaping by Master Gardener members of the FRRL



Landscaping to Gazebo provided by FRRL and along trail installed by FRRL



Display provided by FRRL



Rough River Dam model designed and constructed by ERDC using handshake funds

### 3. What has been accomplished? Photographs; before, during, and after:



Corps Mission exhibit on display in the Visitor/Outdoor Learning Center. This photo shows both building in 1960.



Kids interactive room is a hands on room that you can go in and learn about wildlife, cultural resource, fisheries, and tree identification. Hands on exhibits provided by both the FRRL and Corps include: Fur identification, games (what was this used for, tree identification, and fisheries identification), live animal exhibits (snakes, turtles, and frogs) and flora/fauna identification.

**3. What has been accomplished? Photographs; before, during, and after:**

May 19, 2012 Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening



Members of the public waiting for the first glimpse of the new Visitor/Outdoor Learning Center



Formal Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



Crowd enjoys their first look inside the facility



Interactive room was a huge hit. This smile says it all

**3. What has been accomplished? Photographs; before, during, and after:**



Fur Exhibits



Trail between Visitor/Outdoor Learning Center and Gazebo



Members of the public enjoying the Gazebo (provided by FRRL) located on the connection trail that overlooks the lake.