

Handshake Partnership Program Report - FY 2013 Recipients

1. Name of Corps Project/Lake: J. Strom Thurmond Dam and Lake

2. Handshake Project Name: Bussey Point Recreation Area

3. What has been accomplished? Please provide photographs; before, during, and after!:

The Bussey Point Recreation Area campground and trail project included improvements to the Bussey Point Recreation Trail, trailhead improvements, installation of a well for potable water, improvement of ingress/egress at the ten campsites, and the addition of equestrian amenities at these campsites. Funds from this handshake agreement also enabled our partners to erect an interpretive kiosk to educate the public about conservation efforts and provide safety precautions. The wildlife check station was relocated prior to creating additional parking. The existing parking lot was enlarged to increase the number of vehicles while allowing for the required turning radius of larger trucks and trailers.

	Total
Handshake Program Funding Amount	\$25,000
Local Corps Office Funds (total expended on labor, materials, contracts, etc.)?	\$16,383.50
Partner's Contributions (total value of funds, goods, services, volunteer hours, etc.)	
Partners Name	Total Value of Contributions
1 CSRA Equestrian Club	\$14,573
2 Back Country Horsemment	\$7,965
3 Boy Scouts	\$4,140
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: The agreement enabled our project to increase use of partnerships as a means of sustaining levels of public service. The improvements made have increased user satisfaction, and will reduce reoccurring maintenance costs.

B. Comments About Challenge Partnership Agreement: The J. Strom Thurmond Dam and Lake 2013 Bussey Point Recreation Area Handshake Agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) Equestrian Club , Back Country Horsemen of Middle and South Georgia, and Boy Scouts of America enabled our project to improve the existing trails, parking, signage and ten campsites in the Bussey Point Recreaiton Area. With our deminishing budget these improvement would not have been possible without the Handshake Agreement. Participants of this agreement enjoyed sharing a common goal while working together throughout the project making numerous improvements in Bussey Point Recreation Area ultimately providing quality outdoor recreation opportunities for the public.

C. Recommendations: _____

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.



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Corps, CSRA partners complete \$25K project at Bussey Point Recreation Area

SAVANNAH, Ga. – The [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District](#) announces the completion of a \$25,000 project to improve horseback riding at the [Bussey Point](#) trail and campground at [J. Strom Thurmond Lake](#) in Lincoln County, Ga.

The Corps' headquarters in Washington, D.C., awarded the funds this summer as part of its Handshake Partnership Program, which provides a source of seed money to enhance recreation projects through community partnerships.

The Corps partnered with the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) Equestrian Club, Back Country Horsemen of Middle and South Georgia, and Boy Scouts of America to add equestrian-friendly upgrades to the park. Construction began in August and was performed by the Corps and 61 volunteers, who contributed 267 service hours throughout the project. The recently-finished upgrades include:

- A new access trail at the Bussey Point trailhead
- A newly-installed potable water well for equestrian use
- Expanded campsite driveways on sites 1 through 10 to accommodate horse trailers
- New horse tethering high lines at campsites 1 through 10
- A new exit road to improve traffic flow in the park
- An expanded day use area parking lot
- An interpretive kiosk at the trail head for trail user information
- A solar light at the restroom facility near campsites 1 through 10

"All of our partners on this project shared a common goal and vision for this park," said Scott Hyatt, Thurmond Lake operations project manager. "With shrinking federal recreation budgets, improvements like these would not have been possible without help from our community partners and the Handshake Partnership Program. Partnerships help us sustain levels of public service. We believe these improvements will attract more visitors to the park and result in high user satisfaction."

Bussey Point is a Corps-managed recreation area on a 2,545-acre forested peninsula bordering Thurmond Lake. It includes more than 20 miles of trails for horseback riding, hiking and biking, along with primitive camping and picnic sites. For more information about Bussey Point or Thurmond Lake, contact the visitor center at 1-800-533-3478.



Above: A "before" view of the day-use parking lot from the Bussey Point campground. Below: The same view after volunteers expanded the Bussey Point day use parking lot to accommodate more cars and horse trailers.

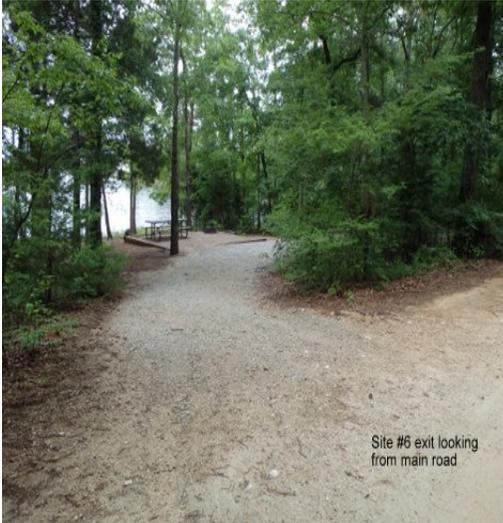


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Before and After Pictures



Main road needs
culvert or low water
crossing



Site #6 exit looking
from main road



