

Handshake Partnership Program Report - FY 2014 Recipients

1. Name of Corps Project/Lake: Falls Lake

2. District / Division of Corps Project/Lake: Wilmington District-SAD

3. Handshake Project Name: Falls Lake ADA Fishing Pier

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

	Total
Handshake Program Funding Amount	\$30,000
Local Corps Office Funds (total expended on labor, materials, contracts, etc.)?	\$15,650
Partner's Contributions (total value of funds, goods, services, volunteer hours, etc.)	
Partners Name	Total Value of Contributions
1 North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission	\$35,943
2 North Carolina Youth Conservation Corps	\$6,000
3 Nuese Riverkeeper Foundation	\$1,000
4	\$
5	\$
6	\$

5. 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 is one of the more beneficial programs that the Corps does. The application process is easy and the entire process start to finish isn't terribly heavy on paperwork, which is appreciated. It was very helpful for us that we had more latitude on timing to spend the handshake funds than originally thought. We all know that the best intentions for executing funds sometimes get bogged down in contracting or by other roadblocks. Thank you for your patience as we finally spent the FY14 funds in FY16.

B. Comments About Challenge Partnership Agreement: None

C. Recommendations: Just keep the program going - it's a really beneficial way to get projects done when OM funds wouldn't normally allow it.

6. 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](#).

Falls Lake ADA Fishing Pier



Handshake Partnership Program

Report- FY 2014 Recipients

Falls Lake

Wilmington District

South Atlantic Division

Falls Lake is a heavily visited Corps of Engineers lake that is located in the outskirts of the Raleigh/Durham metro area in the piedmont of North Carolina. The lake receives around 1.5 million visitors a year on average. Bank fishing around the lake is a popular recreational activity, but can lead to problems with litter and shoreline erosion.

In 2014, Falls Lake received a Handshake Partnership award to build an ADA accessible fishing pier and parking area at the Falls Lake Dam. The project site has historically been a popular spot for bank fishing, and has seen recent increases in visitation due to a City of Raleigh Greenway connection.

The Corps of Engineers partnered with three other agencies to build and maintain the new fishing pier and parking area; the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), the North Carolina Youth Conservation Corps (NCYCC), and the Neuse Riverkeeper Foundation. The NCWRC provided surveys of the site, engineering and design plans, and labor, materials, and supplies for construction. The NCYCC provided labor to improve trail access to the fishing pier, and will continue to work on landscaping projects and maintenance of the site. The Neuse Riverkeeper Foundation provided volunteer hours for constructing, installing, and maintaining fishing line recycling containers on the pier. The Corps of Engineers used Handshake and project funds to provide materials and supplies for construction, labor and equipment for planning and coordination, and landscaping.

The fishing pier was completed and opened to the public in August of 2014 and the parking and ADA compliant sidewalk was completed and opened in July of 2016. The pier is 80 ft long with an 80 ft gangway, and the parking area provides room for 9 vehicles including a paved handicapped spot. The project has been a big hit with our visitors and is used heavily during the recreation season, and gets moderate use throughout the rest of the year. We have received many positive comments from users about the improvements in access and the improved fishing experience. In addition to fishing, visitors are using the pier to view wildlife and enjoy the view of the lake, and have been using the new parking area to access existing picnicking and canoe launching facilities.

The Falls Lake ADA Fishing Pier project has been a huge success, and would have only been possible through the Handshake Partnership program. The Corps of Engineers staff at Falls Lake is incredibly grateful for the program and our partner agencies that made this project happen.

Pictures of the site prior to construction:



Pictures during construction:



Pictures of the completed project:



Pictures of the completed project:

