

## Handshake Partnership Program Report - FY 2014 Recipients

**1. Name of Corps Project/Lake:** Lake Red Rock

**2. District / Division of Corps Project/Lake:** Rock Island District/Mississippi Valley Division

**3. Handshake Project Name:** Natural Playscape

**4. What has been accomplished? Please provide photographs; before, during, and after!:**  
The Handshake Partnership Program allowed Lake Red Rock to develop a unique amenity, the Natural Playscape. Accomplishments include installation of play elements using natural materials, interpretive programming supplies, vault toilet, trails, picnic tables, and more. The playscape has become an interpretive programming hub for visitors to the lake.

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Handshake Program Funding Amount</b>	\$30,000
<b>Local Corps Office Funds</b> (total expended on labor, materials, contracts, etc.)?	\$6,000
<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 Vermeer Manufacturing	\$44,176
2 Central College	\$10,980
3 Red Rock Lake Association	\$31,000
4 Marion County Community Foundation	\$1,600
5 3M Manufacturing	\$10,668
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 program has given Lake Red Rock the opportunity to engage local corporations, non-profit groups, a private college and the community to create a natural place to play for visitors to the lake.

**B. Comments About Challenge Partnership Agreement:** \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Recommendations:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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](#).

## Natural Playscape Handshake Award

The Corps partnered with the Red Rock Lake Association (RRLA), Vermeer Manufacturing, Central College, 3M Corporation, and the Marion County Community Foundation to create the first natural playscape at Lake Red Rock. The handshake grant provided funds to purchase a vault toilet, picnic tables, shed, artistic elements, interpretive programming supplies and natural play elements. Our partners provided manual labor and equipment to install play elements, created trails, organized volunteer work days and provide a year long programming internship.

### **Before**

The area that became the Natural Playscape was an open field that had been a wildlife food plot in previous years. The openness of the site provided a blank canvas to create a unique outdoor play area.



### **During**

Two local corporations provided volunteer labor and equipment during service day events for the Natural Playscape. Vermeer Manufacturing along with Central College and the Corps planned the design of the playscape and the logistics of the volunteer service day. Vermeer employees and their families provided 83 volunteers for the event. 3M also worked with Central College to develop plans and coordinate another service day. 3M employees and their families provided 53 volunteers for their event. Additionally, Central College and the RRLA applied for and were awarded a \$30,000 3M EcoGrant from 3M Corporation to purchase supplies and materials for the playscape, pay a stipend for an interpretive programming intern, programming supplies, water hydrant supplies and more.



## After

The Natural Playscape is a unique amenity at Lake Red Rock and a hub for interpretive programs!

