

## Handshake Partnership Program Report - FY 2014 Recipients

**1. Name of Corps Project/Lake:** Stockton Lake

**2. District / Division of Corps Project/Lake:** Kansas City/Northwest Division/Stockton (NWK-OF-ST)

**3. Handshake Project Name:** Old Mill Kids Fishing Pond and Nature Trail

**4. What has been accomplished?** Please provide photographs; before, during, and after!:  
A 4.5 acre kids fishing pond and 1.0 mile multi-use trail open to hikers, bikers, walkers, runners and nature lovers within the 214 acre Old Mill recreation area. The kids fishing pond and nature trail was designed, mapped and constructed through an effort between Corps personnel, Missouri Department of Conservation personnel and volunteers from the Stockton Community Foundation, Stockton R-1 Schools and other local groups and volunteers. Corps personnel hosted multiple volunteer work days where volunteers from multiple groups assisted in corridor clearing, hazard limb and tree removal, trail clearing and surfacing and trash cleanup. Actual trail construction was completed by Corps personnel, volunteers from the Stockton Community Foundation and the Stockton American Legion. In addition to the trail construction, the installation of five pedestrian gates, two benches, two fishing docks and two Kiosks were installed as well. The Corps also worked closely with the Missouri Department of Conservation to stock 1,200 channel catfish, 600 hybrid bluegill and 400 largemouth bass in the kids fishing pond for anglers to enjoy. The Kids Fishing Pond and Nature Trail was officially opened to the public on July 21, 2015. All trail material, signage, dock materials and Kiosks were funded through handshake funds. In 2016 the Missouri Department of Conservation, CAST and the Corps will begin hosting kids fishing educational events at the pond to promote getting youth outdoors to enjoy our natural resources to the fullest extent possible.

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Handshake Program Funding Amount</b>	\$30,000
<b>Local Corps Office Funds</b> (total expended on labor, materials, contracts, etc.)?	\$10,000
<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 Missouri Department of Conservation	\$4,000
2 Stockton Community Foundation	\$3,225
3 Citizens Memorial Healthcare	\$1,250
4 Stockton R-1 Schools	\$2,500
5 Stockton American Legion Post #230	\$10,775
6 Stockton Trails Initiative Coalition	\$7,750

## 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:** The Handshake Program is an excellent path to help foster partnerships and to help grow partnerships with other organizations and groups both inside and outside of the community. The Old Mill Kids Fishing Pond and Nature Trail would not have been possible without the Handshake Program seed money from Headquarters. Since the addition of the Old Mill Kids Fishing Pond and Nature Trail we have noticed a significant increase in activity in the area and more importantly an interest in youth anglers using the area. This project is a true testament of what can be accomplished when groups work together to accomplish a specific goal for our current youth and for the generations to follow.

**B. Comments About Challenge Partnership Agreement:** The Old Mill Kids Fishing Pond and Nature Trail Partnership Agreement enabled our project to not only revitalize an area but also bring partners together to accomplish a goal. The participants of this agreement thoroughly enjoyed sharing a common goal while working together throughout the project to foster youth involvement in the outdoors. This partnership will provide a quality outdoor recreation opportunity for our youth and their families for many years.

**C. Recommendations:** At this time we have no recommendations for the Handshake Partnership Program.

## 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.

## **Kids Fishing Pond and Nature Trail – Stockton Lake**

Thanks to a Handshake Partnership agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District – Stockton Lake, and multiple local organizations and groups, Stockton Lake is now home to a 4.5 acre Kids Fishing Pond and 1.0 Mile Nature Trail.

Located below the Stockton Dam, in the Old Mill Area, The Kids Fishing Pond and Nature Trail was officially opened to the public on July 21, 2015. Since its opening it has been popular with youth fishermen, families, bikers, hikers, walkers and nature lovers. The Kids Fishing Pond and Nature Trail is nestled within the Old Mills 214 acre recreation area, which is owned and operated by the Corps.



### **It's a Team Effort**

Brian Wright, Natural Resource Manager at Stockton Lake, led the effort on this project in which the Stockton Lake office partnered with multiple groups and agencies including the Missouri Department of Conservation, Catch a Special Thrill, Stockton Community Foundation, Stockton R-1 School District, Stockton American Legion Post # 230, Agape' Boarding School, Citizens Memorial Healthcare, and the Stockton Trails Initiative Coalition. These agencies and groups helped with the design and construction of the area, the stocking of the pond with channel catfish, hybrid bluegill

and largemouth bass and the application for the Handshake Partnership Funding. In addition to the partners and groups, local lake projects Harry S. Truman and Pomme de Terre played an important role with their staff assisting in key components of the project.

USACE- Headquarters rated the applications based on several key factors including: Recreational Benefit, Partnership Value, Communication and Educational Value, Sustainability, Innovativeness and Environmental Stewardship Value. The proposed Kids Fishing Pond and Multi-Use Trail exceeded all of the criteria. In May 2014, the Corps Headquarters awarded Stockton Lake \$30,000 in federal funds as a source of seed money to complete the fishing pond and trail. The partnering groups and agencies matched the grant by donating an additional \$23,425 in volunteer efforts and an additional \$9,275 in supplies and materials towards the project.



Volunteers like Marilyn Ellis, President of the Stockton Community Foundation and Stockton area resident, helped with the design of the trail. Ellis said “The Corps has been outstanding to work with and did a great job in coordinating the project. It was wonderful to be part of such an exciting partnership that will benefit the entire community and lake.”

Other Partners like Adam Boman, Missouri Department of Conservation Fisheries Biologist, helped in getting the initiative off the ground. Boman said “The area will play a vital role in the community and the lake area to ensure the outdoor recreational vitality of our community for generations to follow”.

**Before:**



After:



