

## Handshake Partnership Program Report - FY 2015 Recipients

1. Name of Corps Project/Lake: Kaskaskia River Project
2. District / Division of Corps Project/Lake: MVS
3. Handshake Project Name: ADA Facilities at Kaskaskia River Project
4. Amount of Handshake Funds remaining: \$0
5. What has been accomplished? Please provide photographs; before, during, and after!:

	Total
<b>Handshake Program Funding Amount</b>	\$25,000
<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.)	
Partners Name	Total Value of Contributions
1 Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders Inc	\$2,400
2 Kaskaskia Mariners Association	\$1,500
3 Delta Waterfowl (Kaskaskia River Chapter)	\$400
4 Illinois Department of Natural Resources	\$5,000
5	\$
6	\$
7	\$
8	\$
9	\$
10	\$

### 6. 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.

This mechanism strengthened our partnerships with local organizations and even added a new partner. It is one of the few ways we can leverage resources to complete work needed and enjoyed at the Project.

### 7. Handshake Summary:

Please also include a separate 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.

The Kaskaskia River Project in cooperation with the Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders, the Kaskaskia Mariner's Association, the Kaskaskia River Chapter of Delta Waterfowl, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources have worked together to complete three small projects wrapped into one large project. The area is seeing increased visitation with the addition of new and upgraded recreational facilities that have been added in the last five years. These facilities include a day use area with amenities, pavilion, paved parking lots, 2 public boat ramps, campground, stone amphitheater, and the Kaskaskia River Confluence Trail. The purpose of this project was to improve recreational opportunities for the public to more reasonably access and utilize at the Kaskaskia River Project. The first item of the project was to improve access to the existing Kaskaskia boat launch by upgrading the loading dock to be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant. There are currently no ADA compliant boat loading facilities offered on the Kaskaskia River. Secondly, construction of an ADA compliant fishing pier adjacent to the ramp has also been completed. This fishing pier helps to alleviate congestion on the boat loading dock by providing bank anglers with access. There is currently only limited access to bank fishing along the 36-mile Kaskaskia river channel. The last part of the plan is to improve the access road to Heritage Marsh with gravel for better access for pumping. The improvements to the road will be dual purpose as it will not only aid in access but also double as a trail for recreational users. These facilities should last permanently with proper care and minimum maintenance from the IDNR and USACE staff. Due to the Kaskaskia River location and its close proximity to the Mississippi River the facilities were made to be flood resistant. Both the ADA compliant boat dock upgrade and fishing pier were constructed of concrete with steel hand rails and are therefore flood resistant.

The proposed project will benefit multiple types of recreational users. There are no ADA compliant access points currently on the Kaskaskia River. These newly constructed facilities will help meet this need. In addition to being ADA compliant, the fishing pier will also provide more fishing opportunities to meet the needs of those bank anglers with limited access to the River. The multi-use gravel access road to Heritage Marsh will also double as a trail for hikers, wildlife viewing, hunters, photographers and provide a safe route to perform maintenance and install pumps to drain Heritage Marsh's moist soil unit. Approximately 40% of the Nation's migratory birds use the Mississippi flyway. The Kaskaskia River Project is located .08 miles from the Mississippi river and is commonly utilized by these migratory birds. The most common migratory birds seen in the area are dabbling and diving ducks, white pelicans, swans and a variety of shorebirds. The proposed Heritage Marsh project will provide an important food source and loafing area for these migratory birds along the flyway year after year. Again, all three projects are either flood proof or flood resistant. This will save on future repair costs and still provide a service to the user. Floating docks or wooden structures would have a shortened life span due to the fluctuating conditions of the Kaskaskia River during times of high water. There are no other projects known that are presently being built that will hold up to these conditions. The handshake partnership gave the Kaskaskia River Project an opportunity to bring organizations and associations of different facets together. These partners are trying to make the river a better place for both industry and private users. With the increase in visitation, the Kaskaskia River Project needed to provide more well-rounded facilities that cater to all users. The proposed project helped to meet a need that was not presently provided on the project. The proposal has touched a wide variety of users including but not limited to anglers, hunters, bird watchers, hikers, photographers, recreational boaters plus it makes these facilities ADA compliant. The partners involved also believe that these endeavors are beneficial by waging their support and funding. This opportunity to bring groups together and the additional funding

that was provided by this Challenge Partnership Agreement will help to build lasting relationships with our partners and hopefully facilitate new partnerships.













