

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fiscal Year 2018
Handshake Program Application**

Please review instructions before completing application!

Corps Lake/River Project Name: **Tuttle Creek Lake**
District / Division: **NWK**
Handshake Proposal Title: **Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Area Enhancement Project**
Corps POC Name: **Melissa Bean**
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A. Checklist:

1. Will the Handshake funds be spent on Corps facilities and resources that are being fully maintained by the Corps? (not in outgranted parks) ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**
 2. Will the Challenge Partnership agreement be with a non-federal public or private entity(ies)? ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**
 3. Is the proposed activity within current authorities and contained in the annual or 5-year work plan in the approved lake project OMP? ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**
 4. Have all of the NEPA requirements been considered for this project? ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**
 5. I am aware the Challenge Partnership Agreement must be reviewed and Approved by District Office of Counsel before sending to HQUSACE. ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**
 6. If the full funding amount requested is not available, could a portion of this Handshake Project be completed with partial funding? ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**
 7. I am aware that all government funds must be spent in accordance with FAR, DFAR and AFAR contracting laws and regulations, and that Handshake funds cannot be provided to the partner(s). ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**
 8. Did you participate in a Handshake Webinar in 2017 or review a 2017 Handshake Webinar on the Gateway? ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**
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B. Handshake Funding Request (maximum \$20,000): \$20,000

C. Incentive Points Category: Check the appropriate box if your application qualifies to receive bonus points on the evaluation score.

- ☒ This Lake/River Project has never received Handshake funding (200 points).
- ☐ This Lake/River Project has received Handshake funding, but more than 10 years ago (FY 04 to FY 08 program funds) (150 points).
- ☐ This Lake/River Project has received Handshake funding, between 5 - 10 years ago (FY 09 to FY 13 program funds) (100 points).

D. Describe your partnership and the proposed Handshake Partnership Project:

Project applications will be evaluated on the categories below. Please complete each section as appropriate.

Summary Statement:

The Tuttle Creek Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Area Enhancement Project seeks to improve recreational facilities, promote responsible use, and expand partnership efforts with existing user groups and stakeholders. The ORV Area is the only off-road, public access available to all sizes of off-road vehicles in a 200 mile area and attracts users from a 3-state region. However, the basic, ad hoc facilities are overwhelmingly inadequate to meet the public demand. This project aims to reflect the Area's status as a destination park; specifically with the construction of an entrance kiosk, improved picnic sites, and group shelter. Most importantly this project will engage highly effective stakeholders in the continued management of the ORV Area, consistent with national partnership goals. This will ultimately result in more efficient use of taxpayer resources and a markedly better facility for users beyond the initial handshake project.

Longevity / O&M description:

Three recreational facilities are part of this project. (1) An information kiosk featuring three panels measuring 42" x 28" each, will be constructed using coated steel frames. Each panel will provide space for professionally designed and fabricated interpretive messages focused on Area information, responsible use, and partner support. The kiosk will be prominently located at the Area entrance. The addition of rugged hardscapes, native grasses, and seating will further define the space and encourage visitor use. (2) A 20' x 30' steel constructed group picnic shelter on a 25' x 35' concrete pad, featuring 6 steel picnic tables, double pedestal grill, trash bins, and related signage will offer space for club meetings and large groups frequenting the Area. The shelter will be located in a mature cedar stand and offer much needed refuge from heat, dust, and noise while maintaining easy access to the existing restroom. (3) And finally, two 20' x 30' delineated picnic site pads complete with tables and pedestal grills. These sites will again offer shelter in mature cedars, away from prevailing winds and dust. All facilities will meet USACE facility design standards, and universal accessibility to include sustainably designed, hardened, and delineated pathways.

This project understands long-term O&M is an integral part of the planning process. These facilities will be exposed to intense use, vandalism, and potential wildfire. Durability and ease of repair were essential in the selection of materials to insure a minimum 30-yr lifespan. Galvanized metals, heat resistant coatings, concrete and rock will be used in lieu of wood and plastics. Design elements such as plate mountings, security hardware, specialized coatings, and sight lines will deter theft and vandalism while considering inevitable repair or replacement costs. Integration of naturalized rock barriers and existing vegetation will further protect facilities from reckless drivers while maintaining the rugged park aesthetic.

This project also recognizes most long-term costs are associated with recurring maintenance, including cleaning. For the past 20 years, routine cleaning and minor maintenance has been completed by volunteer labor. Facilities added by this project will easily be accommodated into existing agreements. Furthermore, opportunity to utilize an additional, highly desirable volunteer campsite in an adjacent park will further address any unidentified service needs. In summary, service costs associated with the addition of these facilities will be nominal.

Partnership Value:

A coalition of six off-road vehicle enthusiast clubs, headed by the Flint Hills Jeep Club (FHJC), are critical in the successful completion of this project. These clubs have a proven history of working together to support access for off-road vehicles, safety, and ethical use of the ORV Area. FHJC, Just Jeeps of Omaha, Wichita 4x4, and Kansas Trail Krawler clubs have been proactive in their support of the Area from GIS trail mapping and promotions, to purchase and installation of trail signage, emergency response assistance, and organization of biannual volunteer work day events.

The coalition's role is vital to this project and will involve site design, provision of financial, equipment, and material resources, and some 80% of total project labor. Additionally, the coalition has pledged to meet ongoing maintenance needs for new facilities, while continuing to sustain their long history of trail maintenance for the Area.

As significant members in the regional off-road industry; Briggs Auto Group and Marshall Motors of Salina have a vested interest in supporting the ORV Area. Briggs will continue their support by providing financial, material, and professional resources to enhance the scope and quality of this project. Specifically, all materials, equipment and labor needed for the group shelter concrete pad. Marshall Motors will contribute additional financial resources as well.

The small town of Randolph, KS (located less than 3 miles away) is functionally a gateway for the ORV Area users. Randolph Pride is a volunteer, grassroots effort to improve the quality of life in this small, rural community; and will work with local businesses to support this project by providing refreshments during volunteer work days while continuing to promote the Area through marketing campaigns and social media.

Additional partners have been identified and expressed interest, but not yet committed to this project. This includes off-road vehicle dealers and service shops, area schools, scouting organizations, and the Engineer Battalion stationed at Ft. Riley. We are confident Handshake seed money will galvanize these resources withing the local civic and regional off-road communities.

Recreational Benefit:

Look at the mission statements of any off-road organization and 'access' will be prominently featured. Public access dictates the nature and future of off-road sports. In the Midwest that space is rare and at a premium. Over 98% of land in Kansas and Nebraska is privately owned, with each state ranking 2nd and 3rd, respectively, for the most private landholdings compared to all other states. The Tuttle Creek ORV Area is a singular public access in the region and is consistently in high demand by a passionate user base.

Furthermore, according to the most recent National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (formally the National Recreation Survey), motorized off-road use has grown by 34% in the past 10 years and is projected to grow another 20% in the next 20 years. This is further evidenced by steady, continuous growth in off-road vehicle sales. Much of this growth is due to the prolific sale of utility side-by-sides (Motorcycle Industry Council). However, these vehicles typically exceed size restrictions for ATV only parks. The ORV Area stands apart from most off-road access within the Corps in that it has no size restriction. This means a diverse user base can enjoy the Area including dirt bike, ATV, side-by-side, truck and Jeep owners.

Finally, as a decommissioned tank training ground – the ORV Area continues to serve members of the U.S. military stationed at Ft. Riley. Likewise, the Area offers a legal, safer alternative for servicemen and women who might otherwise be tempted to off-road on the installation's active tank roads.

In summary, this project will represent the Corps' commitment to quality off-road access for a diverse user base, by improving recreational experiences through the addition of day-use facilities.

Environmental Stewardship Value:

An important part of this project is to promote responsible use and foster respect for public access consistent with the Corps' environmental stewardship mission. Riding in sensitive areas (lakeshore, creek beds, etc.), reducing the spread of invasive species (*Sericea Lespedeza*), and POL spill control have all been identified as stewardship concerns in the ORV Area.

Practical experience shows education and self-policing within the riding community is far more effective than Ranger enforcement. This project aims to capitalize on that approach by increasing visibility and access to targeted stewardship messaging and materials. Specifically the entrance kiosk will prominently features the researched and highly effective Tread Lightly!™ 'Respected Access is Open Access' marketing campaign.

This project will improve the Corps' environmental stewardship mission through the Respected Access campaign which aims to protect and enhance access and opportunities by fostering a stronger sense of individual stewardship throughout the outdoor recreation community.

Communication & Education Value:

A wise man once said, "Actions speak louder than words." We can think of no better way to express the Corps' mission in providing safe, quality outdoor recreation opportunities than thru this project's investment into a long overlooked, but high-performing public use area. This project will embody the Recreation Strategic Plan by engaging stakeholders and users in resolving budgetary constraints thru pooling existing resources in adapting to current user needs and the modernization of facilities.

We acknowledge accidents and injuries go hand-in-hand with any adrenaline seeking adventurer looking to challenge their skills and equipment. Off-road sports are no different and a vigorous safety program is essential

to this project. To that end, the entrance kiosk will also feature professional quality, interpretive displays to communicate risk and provoke consideration for the safety of oneself and others.

It should also be mentioned the ORV Area serves a critical role as an alternative, legal access in which to redirect unauthorized off-roading users thus meeting the environmental stewardship mission by reducing the scope and severity of damage to public lands. This project improves marketing to these individuals in two ways: 1) the kiosk will provide basic area information regarding trails and rules making the Area more attractive to new users, and 2) increase visibility of the Area thru local marketing campaigns, via Randolph Pride.

Finally, this project engages the Fort Riley Jeep Club and will increase visibility of the club and the Area to servicemen and women; thus contributing to the wellness and readiness of military members and their families stationed at Ft. Riley.

Innovativeness:

Simply put: this type of recreation facility does not exist in this part of the country. License plate surveys indicate users are regularly traveling 400+ miles to use the Area. The recent construction of an event space, lodging, and Jeep rental complex on adjacent private property, further demonstrates the economic value of the Area. However; apart from a single vault toilet, significant investment into the Area has never been made. This access is a destination location and it's far time it looks and functions like one.

The ORV Area is truly unique and valuable to the user base and local community. The off-road clubs want a world class access in their backyard to call their own. The rural community wants tourism dollars injected into the local economy. The Corps wants to demonstrate our commitment to quality recreation. We are eager to realize the significant potential for the ORV Area.

Conclusion:

The ORV Area is a hidden gem of an opportunity for the Corps to establish a benchmark for off-road access in the region. We have a singular facility. We have a thriving user base. We have an ambitious management plan. And, most importantly, we have a dedicated and capable group of grassroots partners. Now we need the seed money to engage them in a collaborative effort to initiate transformation of the ORV Area into the destination access it is. Thank you for your consideration!

Double click on spreadsheet to access data entry fields and to enter Partner names. **You MUST enter partner names into the spreadsheet:**

	Local Corps Office	Handshake Funds	Flint Hills Jeep Club	Kansas Krawlers	Wichita 4x4 Club	KC Jeep Club
Salaries	\$3,000	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$3,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	N/A	N/A	\$250	\$150	\$150	\$150
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	N/A	N/A	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$1,000
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$6,750	\$2,150	\$2,150	\$1,150
Share of Total Cost	19.0%	38.1%	12.8%	4.1%	4.1%	2.2%
	57.1%					
	Just Jeeps Omaha	Fort Riley Jeep Club	Briggs Auto Group	Marshall Motors	Randolph Pride	Partner 10
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	\$0	\$200	\$0
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	\$500	\$150	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$4,000	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$4,500	\$1,150	\$4,000	\$500	\$200	\$0
Share of Total Cost	8.6%	2.2%	7.6%	1.0%	0.4%	0.0%
	Partner 11	Partner 12	Partner 13	Partner 14	Partner 15	Total
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,700
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,850
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$16,000
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,500
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,500
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$52,550
Share of Total Cost	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations:

Local Corps Office - \$2500 – Other expenses – will pay contracting office labor in acquisition of the shelter.

FHJC - \$500 – In-Kind Services – includes licensed tradesmen services for heavy equipment operation, based on prevailing rates.

Briggs Auto Group - \$1,000 – In-Kind Services – includes licensed tradesmen services for concrete finishing, based on prevailing rates.

Flint Hills Jeep Club: This is a family oriented off-road jeep club based in Randolph Kansas. The club has over 100 due paying members. In the past the club has organized volunteer trail work days, donated and installed trail markers as well as created a GIS map of the park trails. During the last semi-annual trail work day they organized 72 volunteers that worked over 250 combined hours on the trails. The club has been the principle advocate for this project, coordinating partners and contributions.

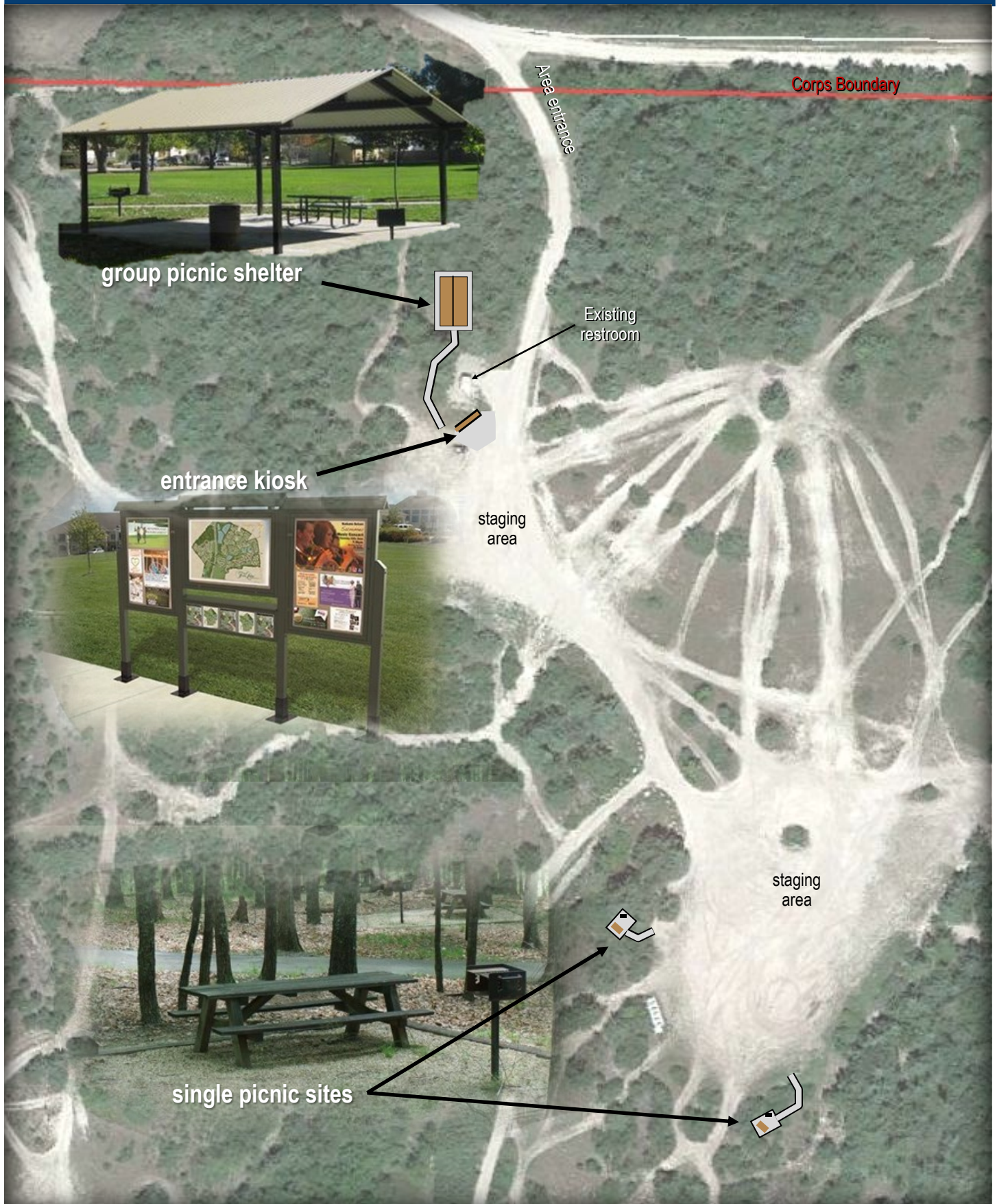
Kansas Krawlers / Wichita 4x4 Club/ KC Jeep Club/ Just Jeeps/ Fort Riley Jeep Club These area 4x4 clubs have come together in the past to support trail maintenance days at the park, and trail marker signage projects. The clubs have agreed to work together to support the project with the needed volunteers to for the assembly and installation of the shelter, kiosk, picnic tables, grills and other labor needed to finish the project.

Briggs Auto is a local Jeep dealership. On September 24th of 2017 the dealership hosted their 26th annual Jeep Jamboree at the park. In the past the dealership provided up-front reimbursable funds for a grant project to install a restroom at the Area. They will be contributing a materials, equipment, and tradesmen labor for the finished shelter pad.

Randolph Pride is the City of Randolph community pride organization that works to enhance the city and opportunities in and around the community. The group volunteers on projects that include the Cities Annual July 4th Celebration, work days at city park and the instillation of a disc golf course. They are currently considering the role they would like to play in this partnership. Working with local businesses to provide refreshments for the volunteer days is one of the roles they are considering.

TUTTLE CREEK LAKE: ORV AREA ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

SITE DESIGN PLAN



TUTTLE CREEK LAKE: ORV AREA ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

PUBLIC USE



Examples of typical weekend traffic in staging area and trails.

The ORV Area also hosts 'Jeep Jamborees', poker-run style fund raisers, and similar special events.

It is not unusual to see tractor trailer sized loads with multiple Jeeps or dozens of ATVs.



The riding area serves a diverse group of enthusiasts.

Users can enjoy forested trails, wide-open tracks, rock climbs, and mud bogs.



Visitors of all ages and abilities use the Area. Off-road sports are definitely a family affair!

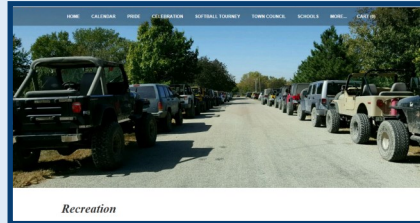
TUTTLE CREEK LAKE: ORV AREA ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

PARTNERS IN ACTION



▲ Volunteer work days

Clubs come together twice annually for work days aimed at trimming trails, picking up litter, and making improvements; such as installing 30+ carsonite trail markers to improve navigation and user safety (donated by Flint Hills Jeep Club).



Recreation

◀ Randolph Pride website

Prominently features the ORV Area. Photo is typical of weekend Area traffic utilizing Randolph businesses.

Home
About Us
Events
Trail Pics
Members
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Bylaws

Contact the Club

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About Us

The Flint Hills Jeep Club (formerly the Flatlanders Jeep Club) was founded in the early 90's by a group of 4x4 enthusiasts with similar interests. The club voted to change the club name in the summer of 2008. We are a family oriented club based primarily in Northeastern Kansas and the surrounding area.

Many meetings take place at the City Park in Randolph, KS (unless otherwise noted on the [club events calendar](#)). We have a club meeting followed by an afternoon of Jeepin' at the Tuttle Creek ORV Park. We also make trips to Kansas Rocks ORV Park, and encourage members to attend out-of-state events.

▲ Flint Hills Jeep Club website

The Flint Hills Jeep Club is a highly organized 501(c)(7) club with incorporated bylaws and elected officers with a 25+ year history.



◀ Trail Map

Flint Hills Jeep Club mapped trails and created GIS layers to create a publicly available, free trail map for the park. A significant improvement over existing Corps maps.