

Handshake Partnership Program Final Project Close-Out Report

1. Fiscal Year Selected as Winning Project: 20
2. Name of Corps Project/Lake: Pine Bluff Project Office
3. District / Division of Corps Project/Lake: Little Rock District/SWD
4. Handshake Project Name: Damsite 6 West improvements
5. Amount of Handshake Funds remaining: \$1364.69
6. What has been accomplished? Please provide photographs; before, during, and after!:
Pollinator habitat improvements and new restroom installed

	Total
Handshake Program Funding Amount	\$25,000
Local Corps Office Funds (total expended on labor, materials, contracts, etc.)?	\$15,000
Partner's Contributions (total value of funds, goods, services, volunteer hours, etc.)	
Partners Name	Total Value of Contributions
1 Pulaski County Public Works	\$25,937.30
2 University of Arkansas Extension	\$100
3 Quail Forever	\$100
4	\$
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.

I think this is a great program to encourage partnerships. It was difficult to get started because no one in my district had ever done one before, so they weren't sure how to handle the funding/what to do with it, but we did finally figure it out. I think this was better than one of the other Challenge Partnerships we had. The other challenge agreement we had was set up wrong from the beginning, it should have only been an MOU. I think overall there aren't enough people educated on the different types of partnerships and it's hard to get the admin staff to appreciate

it because they only see the extra work created for them and not the larger picture of the work being accomplished.

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](#).

We started talking about this project with Pulaski County Public Works, we already had a partnership agreement in place with them and they saw Dam Site 6 West as a park with major potential. They have a bike trail that leads to the park and wanted to make it a place to stop. We started talking to them about improvements they would like to see made and about different routes we could go to make the improvements happen. The parks overall aesthetic value was low, they wanted to turn 5 acres of overgrown weeds and invasive plant species into a plot for pollinators because not only would it be beneficial to the wildlife and pollinators it would greatly improve the aesthetics. We partnered with Quail Forever and the University of Arkansas Extension to get recommendations on what species would do best and the methods we needed to use to turn the overgrown weedy area into an area ideal for pollinators. Pulaski County partnered with us to provide funds to have a restroom installed on site. We had no restroom there previously and it would help with the sanitation of the park. They provided funding for half of the bathroom and the concrete sidewalk around the restroom. They have plans to install a water fountain and a bike rack near the restroom in the future. Handshake funding was used to purchase the other half of the bathroom.

It took two years for us to get the bathroom purchased and installed due to problems with our contracting office, but we finally managed to get it accomplished, it was installed in February of 2022. In the meantime, we were focusing on the pollinator habitat. We hosted a bioblitz in June of 2020, we will do another one in 2023 to record the change in species from before we started to after our efforts in management. We did a prescribed burn on the 5 acres and used herbicide to manage some of the unwanted species. We've been locally collecting seed from the plants and flowers that we do want out there and redistributing them among the 5 acres of land. The pollinator area is going to require long term management to keep it from becoming overgrown again, but it's come a long way from what it was.







HANDSHAKE PARTNERSHIP SUCCESS STORY (PART 1 OF 3)

LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT, SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION

WHO: USACE, Little Rock District, Operations Division; Pulaski County Public Works (PCPW); Quail Forever; and the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service

WHAT: Handshake Partnership Agreement

WHEN: March 2020 - Present

WHERE: David D Terry- Damsite 6 West Park

WHY:

- Installation of new restroom
- Restoration of pollinator habitat
- Improvement of wildlife habitat

WHAT'S NEXT: Later in the spring and summer, another survey will be done to see which plants regenerate and the team can determine the level of restoration that will be required to complete the pollinator portion of this partnership agreement.

NEW RESTROOM AT DAMSITE 6 PARK



INSTALLATION OF THE NEW RESTROOM AT DAMSITE 6 PARK



Summary:

On 15 February 2022, the installation of a \$5,000 restroom began at David D Terry Damsite 6 West Park. The cost of the new restroom was a split between SWL and Pulaski County Public Works (PCPW) with PCPW funding \$27K. This is the result of a Handshake Partnership agreement between SWL, Pulaski County Public Works, Quail Forever and the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service. This mission was undertaken by Natural Resource Specialist Abby Seidel, who initiated the conversation with the partners and completed the partnership application during the application period in September 2019. She received notification that her application was funded \$5,000 in March 2020 and work got off the ground. This partnership also includes restoration of pollinator habitat and improvement of wildlife habitat (continued on next slide).



HANDSHAKE PARTNERSHIP SUCCESS STORY (PART 2 OF 3)

LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT, SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION

WHO: USACE, Little Rock District, Operations Division; Pulaski County Public Works (PCPW); Quail Forever; and the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service

WHAT: Handshake Partnership Agreement

WHEN: March 2020 - Present

WHERE: David D Terry- Damsite 6 West Park

WHY:

- Installation of new restroom
- Restoration of pollinator habitat
- Improvement of wildlife habitat

WHAT'S NEXT: Later in the spring and summer, another survey will be done to see which plants regenerate and the team can determine the level of restoration that will be required to complete the pollinator portion of this partnership agreement.

SAFETY BRIEF BEING CONDUCTED



BURN IN PROGRESS



BACKFIRE BEING LIT



Summary:

On 31 January 2022, the prescribed burn was conducted by the local ranger staff from the Pine Bluff Site Office and the Arkansas Post Field Office. A total of six Park Rangers conducted the burn and exemplified leadership and technical proficiency at all levels. Safety was a priority during this burn. A safety brief was done, the assembly point identified, everyone's role was reiterated. It was made clear that no one gets ahead of the ignition team, and everyone should pay attention and not fall behind. In three hours, the small 6-acre burn was complete (continued on next slide)



HANDSHAKE PARTNERSHIP SUCCESS STORY (PART 3 OF 3)

LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT, SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION



WHO: USACE, Little Rock District, Operations Division; Pulaski County Public Works (PCPW); Quail Forever; and the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service

WHAT: Handshake Partnership Agreement

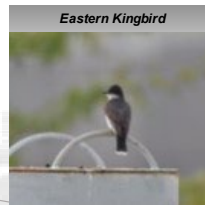
WHEN: March 2020 - Present

WHERE: David D Terry- Dam site 6 West Park

WHY:

- Installation of new restroom
- Restoration of pollinator habitat
- Improvement of wildlife habitat

WHAT'S NEXT: Later in the spring and summer, another survey will be done to see which plants regenerate and the team can determine the level of restoration that will be required to complete the pollinator portion of this partnership agreement.



Summary:

In May of 2020 a virtual BioBlitz was conducted to use citizen scientists on iNaturalist to assess vegetation types and fauna present in the park, including 6 acres along the right descending bank of the Arkansas River across from David D. Terry Lock. Besides Johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense*) and wild garlic (*Allium vineale*), the vegetation is mostly native and resembling that of a prairie with San Antonio false foxglove (*Agalinis heterophylla*), four-point evening primrose (*Oenothera rhombipetala*), and switchgrass (*Ranicum virgatum*). Since May of 2020 sixty-three plant and eighteen insect species have been identified in the area. The predominant native nuisance species is the vine (*Nekermias arborea*). Plant species identification verification was done with the assistance of the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. The intent is to use this information to collect native seeds from similar areas to seed the area after prescribed burning, which will also help prepare the area to reduce invasive and nuisance species. Later in the spring and summer, another survey will be done to see which plants regenerate and the team can determine the level of restoration that will be required to complete the pollinator portion of this partnership agreement. Until then, this partnership effort is well on the way to being a success.