

Handshake Partnership Program Final Project Close-Out Report

1. **Fiscal Year Selected as Winning Project:** 2021
2. **Name of Corps Project/Lake:** Allatoona Lake
3. **District / Division of Corps Project/Lake:** SAM-SAD
4. **Handshake Project Name:** Allatoona Lake Pollinator and Native Habitat Restoration Project
5. **Amount of Handshake Funds remaining:** \$0
6. **What has been accomplished?** Please provide photographs; before, during, and after!:

In 2018, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Allatoona Lake created the Pollinator and Native Habitat Restoration Program as an effort to help restore healthy pollinator ecosystems and native habits. In cooperation with longtime partners Keep Bartow Beautiful, Wildlife Action Inc. and the Bartow and Cherokee County UGA Extensions, the project began installing pollinator gardens and restoration sites surrounding the lake. Additionally, the annual planting of native aquatic plant species with the GA Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division, created fish habitats and food plots for other wildlife. In early spring 2021, USACE began working with Georgia Audubon who acquired a grant to plant native grasses and plants to attract birds and pollinator species at Cooper's Furnace Day Use Area in Cartersville. USACE also began introducing beehives at several areas around the lake in partnership with Bobbee MacBee's and Wildlife Action.

Overall, over 10 acres of pollinator fields were planted around the lake, and that number is still growing. A hoop house was installed at the Volunteer Village to help with propagating pollinator plants, aquatic plants, and native apple trees. At least 8 low areas on the lake have been planted with aquatic plants such as button bush and water willow and a native apple tree orchard will be added soon. Allatoona is currently managing 2-3 beehives with partner Wildlife Action maintaining a hive as well. Interpretive signs were added at Coopers Furnace Day Use Area and another in the Allatoona Visitor Center. Finally, USACE and partners have worked with local schools on pollinator planting days in the spring each year.

	Total
Handshake Program Funding Amount	\$25,000
Local Corps Office Funds (total expended on labor, materials, contracts, etc.)?	\$64,964
Partner's Contributions (total value of funds, goods, services, volunteer hours, etc.)	
Partners Name	Total Value of Contributions
1 Georgia DNR Fisheries Division	\$79,234
2 Georgia Audubon	\$18,020
3 Wildlife Action	\$14,980
4 Bobbee MacBees /Amy Murphy	\$13,247
5 Keep Bartow Beautiful	\$5480

6 UGA Agriculture Extension Cherokee County	\$2040
7 UGA Agriculture Extension Bartow County	\$860
8 Southeastern Grasslands Initiative	\$1400
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.

The Handshake Program has been utilized several times by the Allatoona Project. The advertisement of the program and the directions and forms were fairly straight forward. There were not many difficulties during the process except a few concerning partners signing the MOU. Examples of Challenge Partnership Agreements on the Gateway made the agreement portion of the program easier than in past years. Overall this is a great program to help develop projects at the field level that otherwise would never get the funding.

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](#).

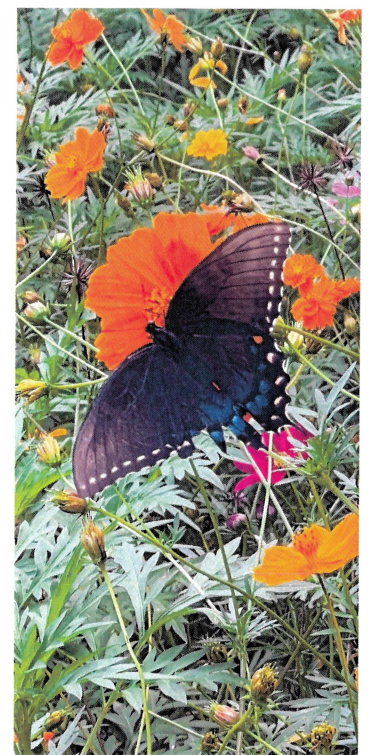
HOOP HOUSE CONSTRUCTION & PROGRESS



COOPER'S FURNACE DAY USE AREA



OLD 41 #3 CAMPGROUND



STAMP CREEK DAY USE AREA



AQUATIC PLANTING DAYS





US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Pollinator and Native Habitat Restoration Program

Allatoona Lake Project
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Pollination is an essential ecological function for survival. In terms of agriculture, the loss of pollinators would dramatically alter human food systems. Without pollinators, the availability and diversity of produce, fruiting trees, and flowers would substantially decline, and human nutrition would be negatively impacted.

The Corps and our partners recognize the importance of pollinators and are working together to reestablish a healthy environment. In 2018, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Allatoona Lake created the Pollinator and Native Habitat Restoration Program as an effort to help restore healthy pollinator ecosystems.

In early spring 2021, USACE began working with Georgia Audubon planting native grasses and plants to attract pollinator species at Cooper's Furnace Day Use Area in Cartersville. In partnership with Keep Bartow Beautiful, Wildlife Action Inc. and the Bartow and Cherokee County UGA Extensions, these organizations helped the Corps install more pollinator gardens and restoration sites at other areas surrounding the lake. Additionally, the annual planting of native aquatic plant species with the GA Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division, has created fish habitats and food plots for other wildlife. Finally, the Corps introduced beehives at several areas around the lake in partnership with Bobbee MacBee's and Wildlife Action.

