

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fiscal Year 2021
Handshake Program Application**

Please review instructions before completing application!

Corps Lake/River Project Name: **Raystown Lake Project**
District / Division:**Baltimore District (NAB) / North Atlantic Division (NAD)**
Handshake Proposal Title: **Raystown Lake Disc Golf Course**
Corps POC Name:**Allen Gwinn**
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E-Mail: **allen.gwinn@usace.army.mil**

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 2019 or review a 2019 Handshake Webinar on the Gateway? Yes No
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B. Handshake Funding Request (maximum \$25,000): \$25,000

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

- This project will be completed with a national MOU partner with which the Lake or Project hasn't previously partnered. (100 points).
- This project reduces O&M cost to the Corps over the lifecycle of the proposed project or improves existing infrastructure. (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:

In today's COVID environment, outdoor recreation is critical to both our mental and physical well-being; so when a new partner approaches with an opportunity to supplement a vibrant outdoor recreation area with disc golf, we have to pay attention. This new partner, the Standing Stone Disc Golf Club (SSDGC), looks to combine their efforts with the efforts of two well established groups, the Friends of Raystown Lake (FRL) and the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau (HCVB), to build a disc golf course that melds into the Raystown Lake reputation for successful quality experiences.

The members of this newly formed partnership hope to add a new disc golf course in the Seven Points Recreation Area at Raystown Lake. This 18-hole course will showcase the incredible scenery of the area and utilize Seven Points' varied terrain features, serving as both a friendly course for beginners learning the sport and for experts looking to challenge their skills. The course will attract a new user group, disc golfers, to Raystown Lake while also providing a new recreational activity to existing user groups. The goal is for the course to become a premiere disc golf location in the region that will provide opportunities for everyday play as well as tournament play by groups and professionals.

Handshake Funding Cost Break Down:

- * Baskets- Black Hole Portal permanent basket- \$5,765.00
- * Signs- \$1,150
- * Welcome kiosk- \$4,085
- * Tee Pads- rubberized tee pads & materials- \$13,000
- * Pollinator seed mix - \$1,000
- Total - \$25,000

Longevity / O&M description:

This proposed disc golf course will be designed and constructed with minimal maintenance in mind. For instance, the baskets will be made of durable stainless steel and are covered by a 20 year warranty, which guarantees against failure. In addition, the baskets will be secured in the ground with concrete that will include a 6ft wide skirt to eliminate trimming and allow for easier mowing.

The tee pads will be made of a recycled rubber material comprised from post-consumer automobile tires, which is porous, flexible, and low-maintenance. This sustainable, non-toxic material will improve safety for course users due to its non-slip surface and will last for more than 30 years. The permeability of this surface will allow water to percolate into the ground, and will eliminate runoff and potential erosion. Also, the porous and flexible rubber will not freeze or crack like concrete used in many other disc golf tee pads. These pads will be built flush with the ground surface to make them simple to mow over and around. The labor to construct this course, including tee pad construction, basket installation, and other components will be a combined effort between the SSDGC, the FRL, and the USACE staff working together.

The addition of this low impact disc golf course will not increase USACE operations and maintenance costs because the course will use existing infrastructure, and the partner has agreed to complete future course maintenance. To further the low maintenance idea, many of the fairways are planned for areas that are currently mowed on a regular basis, and will not require additional upkeep beyond the capabilities of Raystown's partners, and the remaining fairways will exist in wooded areas that will require little to no maintenance. The course will start and end around the Seven Points Visitors Center, which already has 3 existing parking lots that will accommodate over 150 vehicles.

Partnership Value:

Partnership involvement in all aspects of the project including the design, construction, advertisement, and ongoing stewardship of the new 18-hole disc golf course will create ownership that is essential to the project's success. Expertise provided by the SSDGC and Let's Go Throw (a disc golf consulting firm) has been crucial in the development of this proposal and the layout of the course. They have suggested tee locations and proposed a course that will be engaging for players at all skill levels. They have researched costs for baskets, signage, tee pads, and welcome kiosks, and provided guidance on products with the best value. If selected for Handshake

funds, the SSDGC will continue to expand their involvement and play an integral role in the final design, construction, and long-term maintenance of the course including basket installation, signage placement, welcome kiosk assembly, tree removal, and tee pad construction. The significant role they play in the development and construction of the project will also create the ownership mentioned above that will keep them engaged in the long term operation and maintenance of the course. In addition, Let's Go Throw has vowed to provide a \$2,000 sponsorship contribution, supplementing the over \$10,000 volunteer service value estimated for this project .

The FRL, a long-standing USACE partner, will also be involved with the design, construction, and promotion of the course. The Friends have been involved with all 8 of the Handshake Projects that Raystown Lake has received since the inception of the Handshake Program in 2001, showing the durability of the partner and also their commitment to supporting the Corps' missions. Their involvement in this project will reenergize their membership by providing another successful project that will strengthen their bond with the Raystown Lake Project.

The HCVB, another long-standing partner at Raystown Lake, will provide advertising and promotional services for the disc golf course in their regional tourism guide, which is produced annually and has a broad readership of 150,000 people across the multi-state Mid-Atlantic region. Additionally, the course will be featured on HCVB social media sites and website, (which had over 1.5 million views in 2020) at a value of over \$5,000 in continuous advertising services. The Visitors Bureau will work with our other partners to provide disc golf products at the Raystown Lake Visitor Center, giving individuals without equipment or new to the sport an opportunity to participate in the growing sport of disc golf.

Recreational Benefit:

Disc golf is currently one of the fastest growing sports in the United States, with 6,652 courses in the United States alone. According to DGCourseReview.com, more than 400 new permanent courses were added each year between 2007 and 2017. Building a disc golf course at Raystown Lake would provide a novel recreational activity to our visitors and promote the growing sport of disc golf. Additionally, in accordance with CDC recommendations regarding COVID-19, the course would offer the public another enjoyable way to get outside and exercise. Disc golf is easy to learn and can be played individually or in large groups, making it a great activity for campers, families, school groups, youth groups, etc., visiting Raystown Lake.

Seven Points Recreation area serves as the perfect setting for a disc golf course due to the high volume of visitors and user groups that come to Raystown. Seven Points is home to 265 campsites, three hiking trails, the world-renowned Allegrippis mountain biking trail system, a visitors center, a public beach, a public boat launch, the Seven Points Marina (largest Marina in Pennsylvania), five picnic shelters, ten playgrounds, and more. The course will take advantage of this busy area by connecting 7 recreation facilities and features within the Seven Points area. These facilities attract over 1.5 million people to Raystown Lake annually, and the installation of this disc golf course in the Seven Points area would provide opportunity for use by groups such as campers, hikers, mountain bikers, picnickers, photographers, swimmers, boaters, and more. Not only would the course open up a new recreational opportunity to these existing users, it would also attract a new user group to Raystown Lake, notably the disc-golf community.

It is expected that the course would be used primarily by visitors for single-day play, but it could also be used for large, multi-day tournament play by professional groups. The course will take advantage of the varied terrain and topographical features in the Seven Points area, which will make the course engaging for individuals or families learning how to play, novices seeking to build their skills, and experts looking for a challenge.

Environmental Stewardship Value:

This disc golf course will provide a variety of environmental benefits in the Seven Points area. Adjacent to tee 6 will be an acre of pollinator habitat, which will include native plant species like milkweed, yarrow, goldenrod, black-eyed susan, and coneflowers. These plants are aesthetically pleasing, environmentally beneficial, and also serve an educational benefit to disc golf users who can learn from interpretive exhibits at the nearby rain garden and nature trail. Additionally, we will be placing bird nesting boxes along the course and removing invasive species, such as bush honeysuckle, multi-flora rose, and Japanese barberry, from approximately 4 acres of land used for the course.

Another way this project provides environmental benefit is through the use of recycled rubber tires to create the tee pads. This material is a sustainable, environmentally-conscious material made of 100% post-consumer

recycled rubber tires, effectively repurposing the tires and diverting them away from landfills. The rubber is also permeable, which allows rain and other water sources to penetrate through the material and percolate into the ground. Using this material to construct the tee pads instead of concrete will reduce runoff volume, increase water filtration, and reduce the effects of erosion, which are all positive environmental stewardship goals.

Communication & Education Value:

Due to the growing popularity of disc golf, it is anticipated that the course will attract many new users. At the entrance, or start, of the course will be a welcome kiosk to display the rules of the game, a course map, and tee scorecards. This kiosk will also explain the history of Raystown Lake, the role of the USACE in the development of the lake, and its continued involvement in creating land and water-based recreational opportunities nationwide. This course will take advantage of its proximity to the adjacent Visitors Center by encouraging users to visit the displays that explain the missions of the US Army Corps of Engineers in regard to flood risk management, environmental stewardship management, and recreation.

To promote the USACE's water safety mission, all of the disc golf products offered by the HCVB will include a water safety message encouraging disc golfers to be water wise. In addition, all of the course signs will include a USACE related mission fact to educate users on the various missions of the USACE.

Innovativeness:

Raystown Lake is in a prime position to grow interest in the sport of disc golf. The demographic of disc golf users is similar to that of mountain bikers and boaters due to a love for outdoor recreation, so this project would supplement those activities and provide exposure to a growing sport. The Raystown Lake Disc Golf course would be the first to be built within the Baltimore District, thus serving as a model for other projects in the district interested in building their own courses. Recreational opportunities for disc golf are slim in the local area surrounding the lake. Within a 25 mile radius, there are just 6 courses, all of which are 9 holes or less.

Each disc golf course is inherently unique, but Raystown's course would be exceptional in its variety of distinctive features. Many of the tees would offer scenic views of the lake, tees 12-16 would span a ravine through an open wooded area, and tee 3 would take advantage of a 350' utility clearing providing alternate baskets for beginners and advanced players.

Conclusion:

Raystown has a reputation of leveraging Handshake funds to create exceptional, successful projects. Our partners promote the program's benefits and serve as part of our team to create a partnership program of which we are proud. This project would be no different. Interest in disc golf continues to grow and the PAC has not awarded funds for disc golf since 2015; now is the time to once again invest in new partners, new visitor experiences, and new opportunities for success.

Double click on spreadsheet to access data entry fields and to enter Partner names.

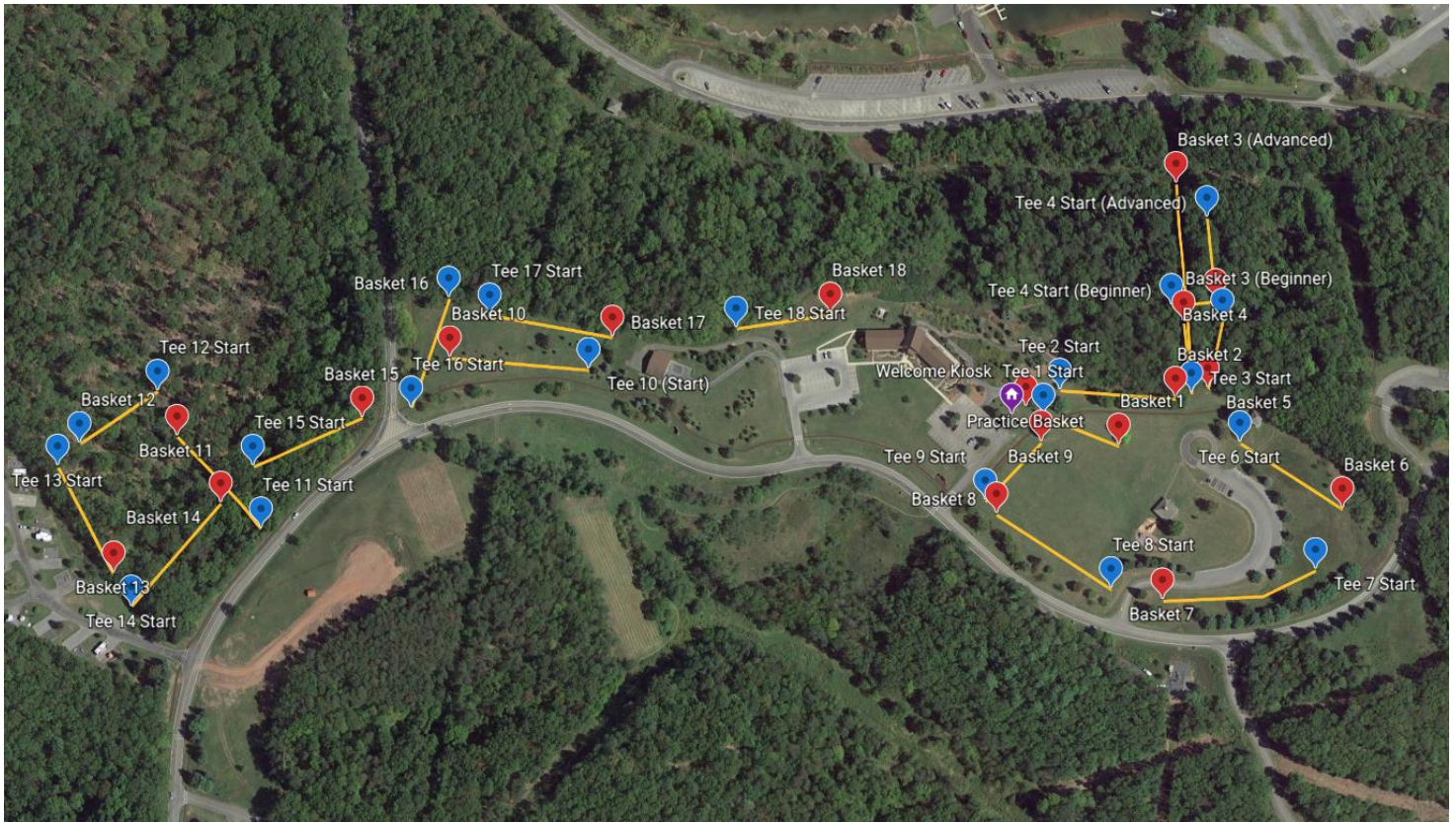
You MUST enter partner names into the spreadsheet:

	Raystown Lake Office	Handshake Funds	SSDGC	FRL	HCVB	Let's Go Throw
Salaries	\$5,000	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$5,000	\$25,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$1,500	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	N/A	N/A	\$8,000	\$1,500	\$500	\$500
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,000
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$0
Total	\$11,500	\$25,000	\$18,000	\$3,000	\$8,500	\$3,500
Share of Total Cost	16.5%	36.0%	25.9%	4.3%	12.2%	5.0%
	52.5%					

	Partner 5	Partner 6	Partner 7	Partner 8	Partner 9	Partner 10
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Share of Total Cost	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0

	Partner 11	Partner 12	Partner 13	Partner 14	Partner 15	Total
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,000
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$35,000
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,500
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,000
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$69,500
Share of Total Cost	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations: Promotional services by HCVB in media guide and other tourist promotion media.



Proposed disc golf course layout – Raystown Lake

GET OUT - GET GREEN

GREENSIDE PATHWAY AT RAYSTOWN LAKE

Hit the Trail

Want to get from point A to B, exercise, or connect with the outdoors? Take a journey on the "Greenside" through Seven Points! Pathside exploration stations will show you new ways to improve your world and our future.

Up Close and Personal

You can't experience nature through a car window! Head out on the trail at your own pace and discover our world first-hand.



Raise Heart Rates and Spirits

Boost your health with a walk, run, or bike ride through the park. You'll build strength, gain energy, improve your mood, fight disease... and have fun! Plus, it's free!



Ditch the Drive

You came to Raystown to get outdoors, so do it instead of burning gas and money, take the trail and start a new planet-friendly habit.



Share the Trail

Bikers, walkers, and runners all use this trail. Watch for others going at a different pace or direction.



Interpretive display regarding rubberized walkway – Raystown Lake



Black Hole Portal disc golf basket – Raystown Lake