

Handshake Partnership Program Final Project Close-Out Report

1. Fiscal Year Selected as Winning Project: 2023
2. Name of Corps Project/Lake: Beach City Dam
3. District / Division of Corps Project/Lake: Huntington-LRD
4. Handshake Project Name: Beach City Lake Disc Golf Course
5. Amount of Handshake Funds remaining: \$0.00
6. What has been accomplished? Please provide photographs; before, during, and after!:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Muskingum Region (MUR) Upper Tuscarawas (UT) Area was awarded a Handshake Agreement in FY2023. The Handshake included completion of an 18-basket disc golf course that takes visitors around the majority of the USACE property. The disc golf course crosses the emergency spillway, around in-progress pollinator/grassland habitat, and into the forest at several locations. An 8-foot by 4-foot course sign is displayed under a kiosk roof at the main parking lot. The course sign also includes a QR code vinyl sticker, so players have access to the course map as they play each basket. Each concrete tee also has a tee-sign with information relevant to that tee and basket, such as length and par. Over the next few years approximately 8-acres of mowed lawn will be converted into pollinator habitat to outline the fairways between most tees and greens (baskets). Several wildlife shelters (chimney swift house, wood duck, and bluebird boxes) have been installed throughout the property.

Our partners assisted with various portions of this project. The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District will advertise the course on its website. Design Experience, LLC designed the course layout to meet the Professional Disc Golf Association standards and donated nine discs for future tournament prizes. Rural Action acted as a donor prospect for the project and used all donated funds to purchase supplies and services for the disc golf course, as outlined by the USACE representative. Stark County Disc Golf Course Association (SCDGCA) will volunteer hours needed to host a weekly tournament once the course is complete. Tuscarawas County Disc Golf Course Association (TCDGCA) Donated disc golf practice baskets and will assist in advertising for future tournaments. Race Brimstone volunteered to work on the construction of the project. Hammer Sports Relics will use its expertise and workforce to run a tournament, assist with a disc golf course league, and weekly scramble events for the first year. Canton Audubon Society donated wood duck boxes and will begin bird surveys next spring. The Ohio Bluebird Society donated bluebird boxes. Individuals from the Canton Audubon Society will spend several days birdwatching and reporting their observations on eBird to promote the site as a birdwatching destination.

	Total
Handshake Program Funding Amount	\$25,000
Local Corps Office Funds (total expended on labor, materials, contracts, etc.)?	\$8,000
Partner's Contributions (total value of funds, goods, services, volunteer hours, etc.)	
Partners Name	Total Value of Contributions
1 Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District	\$500
2 Design Experience LLC	\$5,600

3 Rural Action	\$10,000
4 SCDGCA	\$200
5 TCDGCA	\$200
6 Race Brimstone Adventures	\$1800
7 Hammer Sports Relics	\$500
8 Canton Audubon Society	\$1200
9 Ohio Bluebird Society	\$200
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.

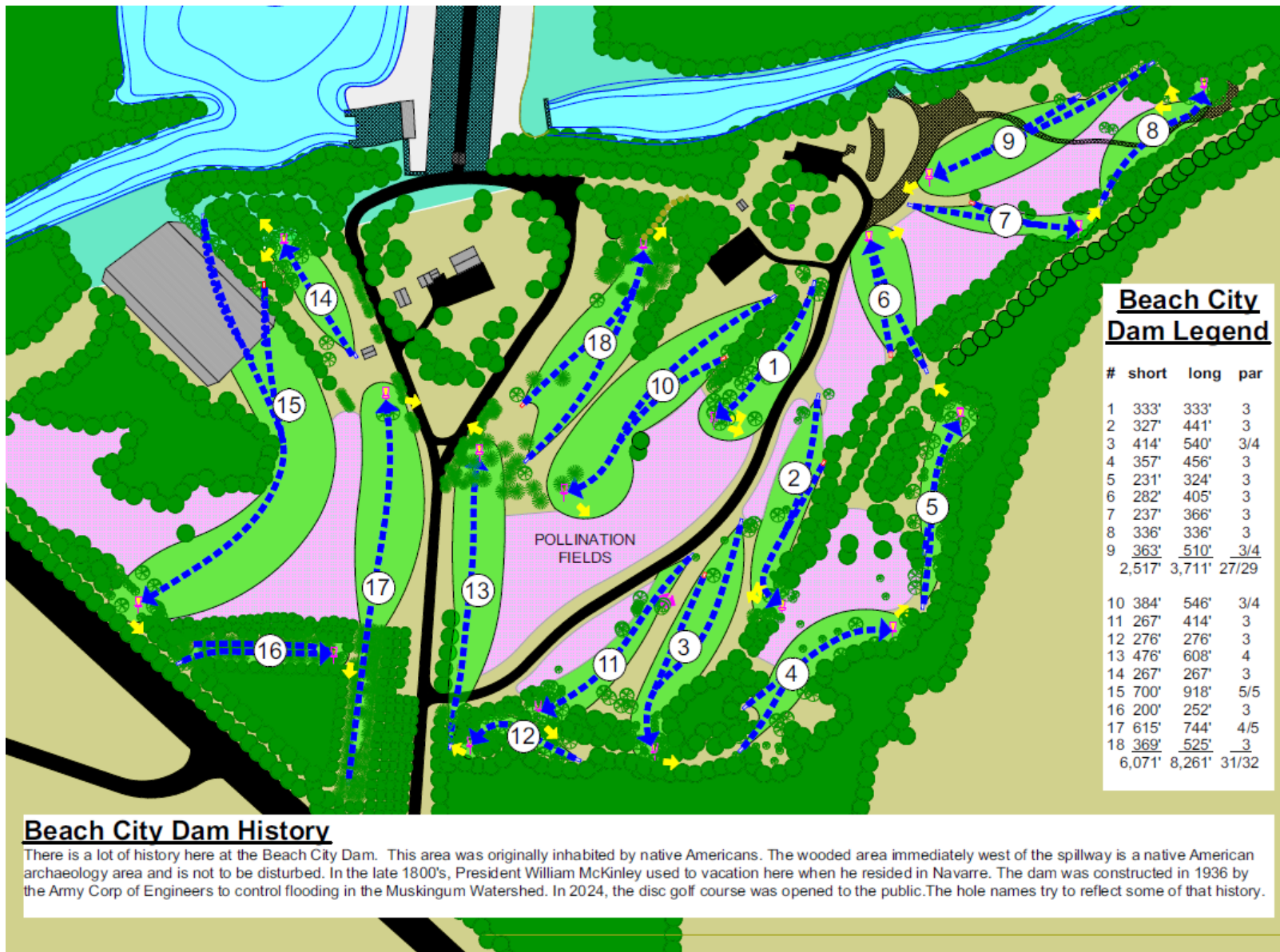
This Handshake agreement was the second awarded to the Muskingum region of the Huntington District, and the Upper Tuscarawas Natural Resources staff changed halfway through the projects progress. Luckily Hunter Simmons and Steve Ecrement were able to continue communicating throughout the process, although some things have not been completed due to this shift in staff (mainly interpretive signs). We found the Handshake application directions straight forward and easy to follow. Any questions we had were quickly answered by Mike McCoy or Philip Manhart. One area to consider adjusting is the one year to spend all funds requirement. If you receive the funds midyear you should at least have until the end of the following Fiscal Year to spend funds. For example, Hunter received these funds in June 2023. We should have until September 2024 to spend the funds. This gives us a few extra months. Overall, this is a great program and I plan on applying for it again soon.

7. Handshake Summary:

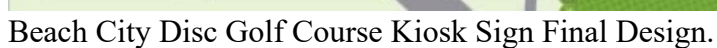
Please also include a separate newspaper type article describing the project and the benefit to the Corps of Engineers and to the public as a result of this partnership project. Examples can be found on the gateway under [Handshake Success Stories](#).







Beach City disc golf course kiosk sign original design.





Kiosk before and after disc golf course sign installation.



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Beach City Lake Disc Golf Course (Strasburg, Ohio) Handshake Agreement (2023 – 2024)

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Natural Resource Specialists (NRS) and maintenance staff worked together with nine partners to complete this project.

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