

Handshake Partnership Program Final Project Close-Out Report

1. Fiscal Year Selected as Winning Project: 2023
2. Name of Corps Project/Lake: Lake Shelbyville
3. District / Division of Corps Project/Lake: MVD/MVS
4. Handshake Project Name: Opossum Creek Archery Park
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) Lake Shelbyville was awarded a Handshake Agreement in FY2023. The Handshake included completion of an archery park near the Opossum Creek Recreation Area and Campground. The archery park will serve as a valued recreational, education, and stewardship resource, and support an outdoor heritage in this region. Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA), Illinois S3DA Conservation Program and the Lake Shelbyville Youth Ambassadors were all involved in the development and construction of the archery park. The Archery Park includes a 15 station 3-D archery $\frac{3}{4}$ mile trail with 1 station accessible. The targets distances ranging from 10 yards to 50 yards and an accessible four station archery practice range. The Youth Ambassadors assisted with construction of the archery trail, installing signs, constructing target shelters, and placing the 3-D targets. BHA and S3DA were involved from the beginning in the design, leading workdays, and the purchase of targets. Access to outdoor archery shooting facilities are rare in this area therefore the facility will serve both experienced and amateur hunters as well as provide opportunities for education clinics or competitions. Local hunters, clubs, and school activities show great interest in this park becoming a destination.

The Archery Park has supported a collaborative initiative with all partners involved with the potential for future partnership opportunities. Customer feedback and demand has all been positive all while promoting a quality outdoor experience that meets the mission of Lake Shelbyville. Lake Shelbyville hopes to develop this area in the future to include an elevated shooting platform.

	Total
Handshake Program Funding Amount	\$25,000
Local Corps Office Funds (total expended on labor, materials, contracts, etc.)?	\$22,500
Partner's Contributions (total value of funds, goods, services, volunteer hours, etc.)	
Partners Name	Total Value of Contributions
1. S3DA	\$9,335
2. BHA	\$18,955
3. Lake Shelbyville Youth Ambassadors	\$10,314

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.

Lake Shelbyville has received multiple Handshake agreements over the past 15 years. Challenges involved with contract changes lead to a long delay in obligating the funds. However, communication with the partners throughout the process allowed for continuous support. Some things have not been completed, mainly the installation of the target shelters) however a grand opening is planned for MAY 2025. We found the Handshake application directions straight forward and easy to follow. Any questions we had were quickly answered by Philip Manhart. One area to consider adjusting is the one year to spend all funds requirement. This should have been an easy obligation of funds through an IDIQ contract, however, the STL Contracting division changed KO's twice and each time a different interpretation detoured the work we were trying to accomplish causing great delay. 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](#).

Handshake Partnership Program Fosters New Partnership at Lake Shelbyville for Archery Park

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Lake Shelbyville Archery Park will be the first Backcountry Hunters and Anglers-affiliated archery park in the nation. Situated in Opossum Creek Recreation Area, amongst the rolling hills of Lake Shelbyville, with a natural trail that leads through Illinois' hardwoods presenting an array of challenging shots. There will be twenty large and small 3-D targets representing wild game animals stationed at various distances, natural angles, and sight pictures and a two-lane practice range with targets setup from 10 yards to 40 yards. Five stations meet accessibility requirements. Each station will also provide information about wildlife and conservation efforts. Once open, the park will be open every day to all archers during shooting light hours.

Figure 1 Accessible Shooting Lanes at Practice Range



Figure 2 Accessible Sidewalk to Station 1



Figure 1 Lake Shelbyville Archery Park Station 1



Figure 2

*Lake Shelbyville
Archery Park Trail
Signage*

