

## Handshake Partnership Program Final Project Close-Out Report

1. **Fiscal Year Selected as Winning Project:** FY21
2. **Name of Corps Project/Lake:** Raystown Lake Project
3. **District / Division of Corps Project/Lake:** Baltimore District / North Atlantic Division
4. **Handshake Project Name:** Disc Golf Course
5. **Amount of Handshake Funds remaining:** \$0
6. **What has been accomplished?** Please provide photographs; before, during, and after:

Thanks to Handshake Partnership Program funding, the staff at Raystown lake staff was able to leverage partner volunteers and discounted materials to create 2 new disc golf courses inside the Seven Points Recreation Area at Raystown Lake. The first course, called the Pine 9 Nature Trail Disc Golf Course, is a 9-hole course designed to introduce users to the sport of disc golf. Local disc golf club experts helped plan the course to be accessible for beginners yet still pose a challenge to more experienced players. Kids in Parks designed tee signs with hole information, pro tips to educate beginners, and an interpretive message to share the Corps mission with visitors. The second course, called the Ravine 18, is a more technical woods course with 18 baskets and 2 tee pads for each hole. The Ravine 18 was designed to offer a challenging experience to recreational players up to advanced players and adds a woods style course that did not yet exist in the region.

The Grand opening weekend celebration for both courses took place on the weekend of April 14-16, 2023. The Pine 9 had a soft opening in the fall of 2021 to allow play, but without permanent signage. Once the signs were all in place and the finishing touches completed, the partners came out to celebrate. As part of the opening weekend the USACE partnered with the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau (HCVB) to hold a formal ribbon cutting ceremony. That ceremony was followed by a weekend tournament was planned and executed by Raystown Area Discgolf in partnership with the HCVB. Just in its first summer since the Grand Opening more than 2,400 rounds have been logged into the UDisc.

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Handshake Program Funding Amount</b>	\$25,000
<b>Local Corps Office Funds</b> (total expended on labor, materials, contracts, etc.)?	\$63,219
<b>Partner's Contributions</b> (total value of funds, goods, services, volunteer hours, etc.)	
<b>Partners Name</b>	<b>Total Value of Contributions</b>
1 Friends of Raystown Lake	\$4000
2 Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau	\$6,500
3 Lets Go Throw - Huntingdon	\$2,000
4 Standing Stone Disc Golf Club	\$2,975
5 Raystown Area Discgolf	\$11,900

6 TOTAL	\$27,375
---------	----------

## 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.

**Handshake Program:** The Handshake Program has demonstrated its value through repeated successes and the creation of valuable partnerships. Field projects benefit monetarily while being encouraged to expand its partnership roster, enhance its visitors experience and give public land managers a chance to supplement public opportunities. The Handshake funds from this project cleared the way for collaboration between multiple partner groups who would typically not cross paths. Thanks to the many resources available on the NRM Gateway, projects have great opportunity to be successful in producing quality applications for the Handshake funds. This project would not have been possible without these resources or opportunities.

**Challenge Partnership Agreements:** Just as the NRM Gateway provided quality guidance on Handshake applications, it is also a great resource for Challenge Partnership Agreements. The Gateway shares valuable experiences and examples for not only how to write these Agreements but also how to execute them so that all Partners are satisfied with the final outcome.

**Recommendations:** None. This program provides opportunity to expand partnering programs and for NRM staff to learn about the partnering possibilities available within the USACE. This program should remain as is.

## 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](#).

## Before





## During







After







STATISTICS			
Seven Points Pine 9			
<div> <div> <div></div> <div>Play Counts</div> </div> <div> <div>July Total</div> <div>191</div> </div> <div> <div>2023 Total</div> <div>771</div> </div> <div> <div>All Time</div> <div>1,695</div> </div> </div> <div> <div>Export to CSV</div> </div>			
<div> <div> <div></div> <div>Unique Players</div> </div> <div> <div>July Total</div> <div>93</div> </div> <div> <div>2023 Total</div> <div>220</div> </div> <div> <div>All Time</div> <div>346</div> </div> </div> <div> <div>Export to CSV</div> </div>			



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District  
News Release

# Army Corps debuts disc golf courses at Raystown Lake

STATISTICS

Seven Points Ravine 18

## Play Counts

[Export to CSV](#)

July Total

114

2023 Total

691

All Time

703

## Unique Players

[Export to CSV](#)

July Total

69

2023 Total

252

All Time

253

Published April 14, 2023

## HESSTON, Pa. --

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District, and [Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau](#) hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the debut of two disc golf courses located at the Seven Points Campground at Raystown Lake, April 14, 2023.

The brand-new disc golf courses, which feature a total of 43 tee pads and 27 baskets, were a result of 600 volunteer service hours and \$25,000 in Handshake Partnership funding - providing “seed money” for USACE facilities that engages local partners for improvements on federal lands. The projects improve recreational opportunities for the public and benefit environmental stewardship, while simultaneously enabling USACE missions.





Baltimore District Commander Col. Estee Pinchasin, joined by Raystown staff and regional partners, debut two disc golf courses during a ribbon cutting ceremony at Raystown Lake in Hesston, Pa., April 14, 2023.

"From the start, this course was, and will continue to be, a team effort," said Col. Estee Pinchasin, Baltimore District commander. "None of this would be possible without the strong support from our local and regional partners who contributed and share our passion for upkeep and improvement within the Raystown Lake Region."

Partners include [Raystown Area Disc Golf](#), [Kids in Parks](#), [Standing Stone Disc Golf Club](#), [Let's Go Throw](#), and [Friends of Raystown Lake](#).

In recent years, disc golf has grown rapidly throughout the U.S. and abroad. According to [UDisc](#), disc golfers spent 32.6 million



hours on courses in 2022, with an average of 4.3 courses installed nationwide per day.

“If you plan to camp or visit Raystown, bring your discs, or you can get loaner discs at Raystown Reflections inside the visitors center,” said Raystown Operations Project Manager Jude Harrington. “If you love outdoor adventures, then Raystown Lake is your oasis.”

## **ABOUT RAYSTOWN LAKE**

Raystown Lake is the largest lake located entirely in Pennsylvania and offers 8,300 surface acres of clear water surrounded by 21,000 acres of forested mountain slopes. Raystown is a multi-purpose lake constructed and managed by USACE for flood damage reduction, recreation and natural resource opportunities, and hydropower.

Visitors come to Raystown to enjoy panoramic views of undeveloped land and waters, access to excellent public recreation facilities, and fishing and hunting opportunities. From camping and boating, to hiking and mountain biking, to striped bass fishing and whitetail deer hunting, and everything in between - Raystown offers something for everyone.

Visit our website for more: <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Missions/Dams-Recreation/Raystown-Lake/>