

## Handshake Partnership Program Report - FY 2017 Recipients

1. Name of Corps Project/Lake: Surry Mountain Lake
2. District / Division of Corps Project/Lake: New England District/NAD
3. Handshake Project Name: Educational Pollinator Flower Garden
4. Amount of Handshake Funds remaining: \$0
5. What has been accomplished? Please provide photographs; before, during, and after!:  
See attached photos.

	Total
<b>Handshake Program Funding Amount</b>	\$19000
<b>Local Corps Office Funds</b> (total expended on labor, materials, contracts, etc.)?	\$11695
<b>Partner's Contributions</b> (total value of funds, goods, services, volunteer hours, etc.)	
Partners Name	Total Value of Contributions
1 Surry Village Charter School	\$90199
2 Brooks Construction Co	\$14000
3 Moosewood Ecological LLC	\$1920
4 Cheshire County Conservation District	\$500
5	\$
6	\$
7	\$
8	\$
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.

I think this is a great opportunity to get funding for projects that benefit the entire community. It creates great community connections. The handshake funds were critical in development of the pollinator garden. With these funds we were able to purchase the plants and wildflower seed, which is the most critical parts of the garden.

**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.

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Media Contact:**

Lola Bobrowski  
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603-756-2988 ext. 115  
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## **Pollinator Garden Opening Day Celebration**

**Walpole, NH** (June 1, 2018) – Join the Army Corps of Engineers, the Cheshire County Conservation District, and local partners at the Pollinator Garden Opening Day Celebration on Saturday, June 16th from 10am-12pm. The new 4-acre Pollinator Garden is located just north of the Surry Mountain Beach entrance on Route 12A in Surry, NH. “BEE” one of the firsts to explore the newly installed garden space, learn about all of the partners that helped bring this project to life, and discover first-hand how the garden will grow over time. The Army Corps will also be honoring project partners during the event and will have free giveaway items for visitors.

The Surry Pollinator Garden project is a joint effort between the Army Corps of Engineers and local partners such as the Surry Village Charter School, Moosewood Ecological LLC, Brooks Construction Company, and the Cheshire County Conservation District.

The garden will include walking paths, benches, informational signage about the project, and of course plenty of pollinator (and people!) friendly plants, trees, and shrubs. In addition to supporting the ecological diversity of the region, the garden is intended to serve as both an outdoor learning space for local students and a public space for residents and visitors.

Please join us as we celebrate the success of this project. Registration is not required. Please direct questions regarding this event to [lola@cheshireconservation.org](mailto:lola@cheshireconservation.org) or call 603-352-4130.

The Cheshire County Conservation District promotes the conservation and responsible use of our natural and agricultural resources for the people of Cheshire County by providing technical, financial, and educational assistance. Our goal is to encourage the stewardship of healthy soils, productive ecologically sound farms, diverse wildlife, productive sustainable forests, healthy watersheds, and clean water to ensure those resources are available for future generations. Established in 1945, the Conservation District operates out of Walpole, NH where we work alongside the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and other conservation partners. For more information, contact Lola Bobrowski at 603-756-2988 ext.115 or email at [lola@cheshireconservation.org](mailto:lola@cheshireconservation.org)

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## **Army Corps of Engineers and Local Community Partners Work Together to Protect Pollinators**

**Walpole, NH** (May 11, 2018) – Residents in Surry, NH have a new public pollinator garden to enjoy this summer, thanks to the Army Corps of Engineers and local community partners. The 4-acre field, located just north of the Surry Mountain Beach entrance on Route 12A, abuts the Army Corps recreation area at Surry Mountain Lake.

Surry Mountain Lake, a flood control project within the New England District, applied for Army Corps “Handshake funds” and approached local partners for help with this project. These funds, combined with funding from local Corps projects and their partners' contributions, benefit the community by improving the environment and providing additional recreation opportunities. Additional funds are awarded for projects focused on pollinators and increasing pollinator habitat. Of the nine projects funded across the U.S. this year, the Surry Pollinator Project was the only New England District project approved and was awarded \$19,000 to get started.

Though these funds were essential to purchase supplies, plants, mulch, and gravel, it is the in-kind support of local community partners that really helped bring this project to life. David Brooks of Brooks Construction Company provided time, equipment, and labor to construct the parking area and path. Local K-12 students at the Surry Village Charter School were also engaged throughout the entire life of this project so as to create a sense of ownership and connection to the space. Students took walking trips to the garden site to conduct pollinator research, develop plant recommendations, and designed a walking path with the guidance of Principal Ecologist, Jeff Littleton, of Moosewood Ecological LLC. Later this month, Jeff and the students will begin planting their selections in preparation for the grand opening of the garden on Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>.

When all is said and done this project, with all of its monetary expenses and in-kind donations, has been valued at \$139,000! Of course there is also the priceless ecological value the 4-acre garden will provide, as well as the endless opportunities for outdoor learning that students will benefit from for years to come.

Join us for the Surry Pollinator Garden Opening Event on Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12pm. You'll have opportunities to explore the garden space, engage with partners, and learn about how this project will grow overtime. For questions, send an email to [lola@cheshireconservation.org](mailto:lola@cheshireconservation.org) or call 603-352-4130.

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**Before Pics:**





**During Pics:**















**After Pics**









