

Handshake Partnership Program Report - FY 2020 Recipients

1. Name of Corps Project/Lake: Rend Lake

2. District / Division of Corps Project/Lake: MVS/MVD

3. Handshake Project Name: Archery Complex & Mountain Bike Trails

4. Amount of Handshake Funds remaining: \$0.00

5. What has been accomplished? Please provide photographs; before, during, and after!:

North Marcum, over 400 underutilized acres, was improved by constructing an archery complex, mountain bike trail, and improving the electric and water needs to host large events. The North Marcum now offers an archery complex including an accessible archery trail of 20 shooting lanes with 3-D targets, caution fencing, gravel trail, bow hangers, picnic tables, and signage; an accessible archery range including a 240 foot concrete sidewalk, 10' x 80' shooting shelter with concrete floor, concrete target lanes, permanent targets with covers, elevated shooting platform with targets, and signage for target lengths and rules. The mountain bike trails are half complete with 6 of the 12+ miles of trail constructed, and directional signage installed. An old parking area has also been expanded and given an upgrade to accommodate large crowds. The North Marcum Boat Ramp parking lot was upgraded with 720 amps of electricity and 4 water hook-ups to supply for food and non-food vendors.

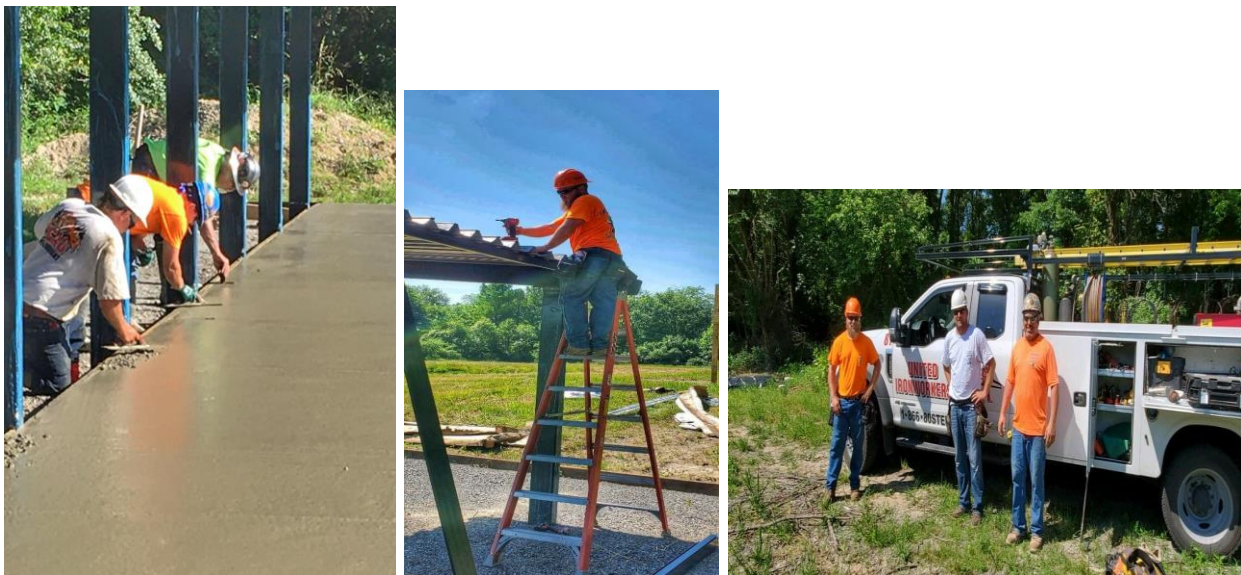
Dirt work being performed by Union Operators on equipment donated and hauled to and from the work site for free! This is now the location of the trail head parking lot for both the Archery Complex and Mountain Bike Trails. Another photo shows the entrance of the gravel walkway for the Archery Trail that was also constructed by the Union Operators.



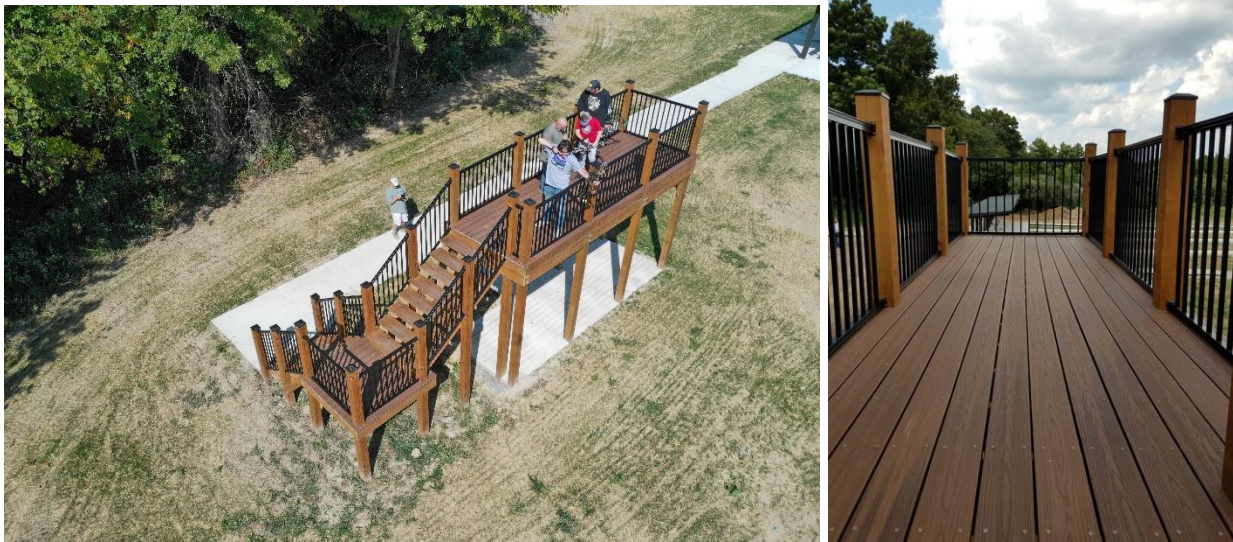
Dirt work being performed by Rend Lake Conservancy District employees with their donated equipment to prepare for the shooting lanes and targets at the fully accessible archery range. The district continues to maintain the entire archery complex through mowing and edging.



Union workers including laborers and iron workers, constructing the archery range shelter and finishing the concrete.



The elevated shooting platform. The materials were donated by the Union Sportsmen's Alliance and it was constructed by the Rend Lake College and USACE staff.



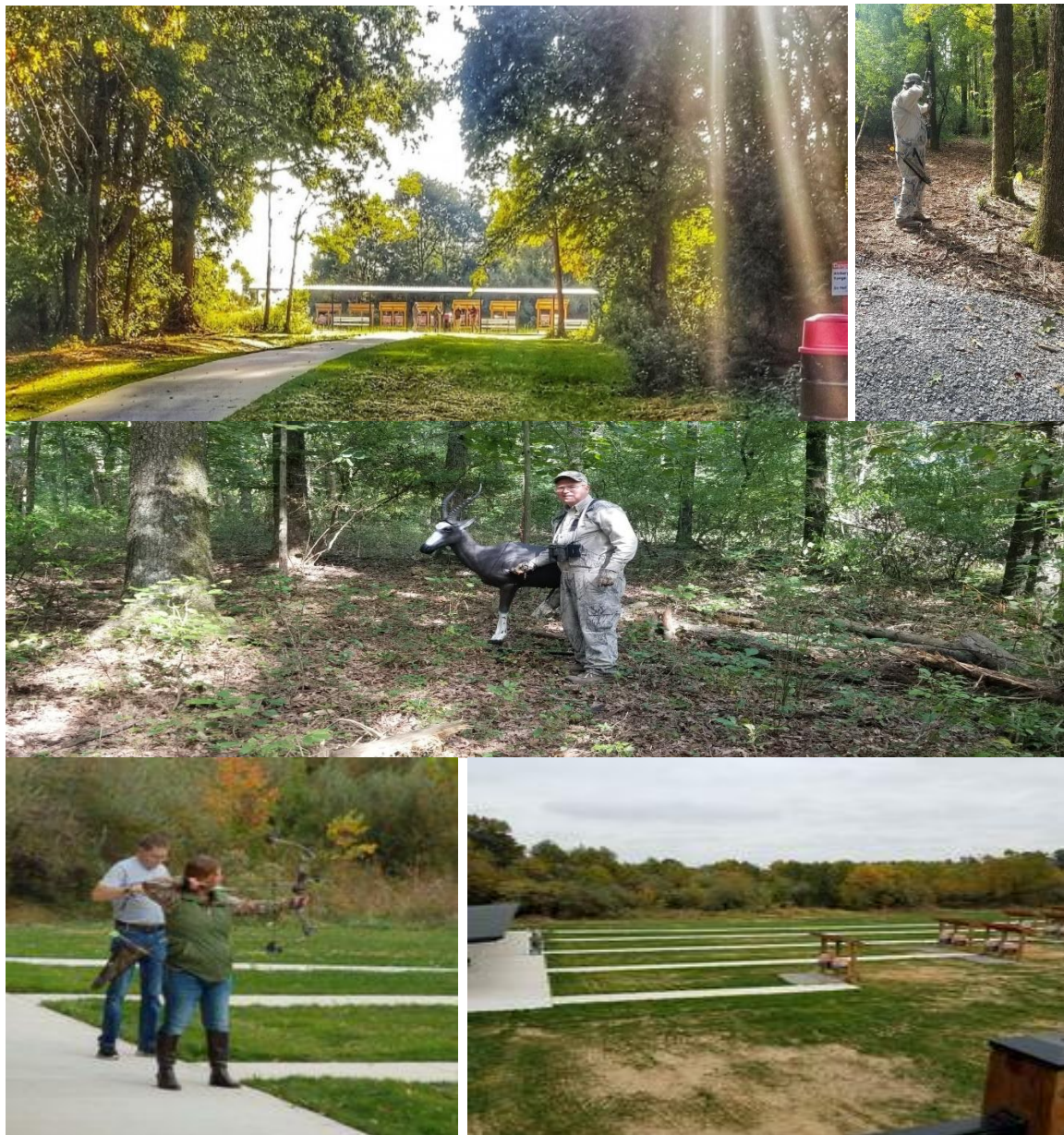
Rend Lake College purchased all of the bag and 3-D targets for both the archery range and trail. They also constructed shelters for the bag targets along with bow hangers for the trail and installed them all. They continue to provide maintenance to the targets.



The Rend Lake Bike Club, along with some work days by the River to River Runners and Xylem Inc., has constructed and maintained over 6 miles of trail and directional signage.



Photos of the completed project.



The North Marcum Improvement Project Partner Recognition and Ribbon Cutting on May 14, 2021. As you can see that we were very excited about all of our hard work paying off!



Photos from the National S3DA tournament held June 16-19, 2022. Also, great youtube links of videos made by the Rend Lake Area Tourism Council that show the magnitude of the event.



[S3DAVIDEOHD - YouTube](#)

[S3DAHOYTTESTIMONIALHD - YouTube](#)

	Total
Handshake Program Funding Amount	\$25,000.00
Local Corps Office Funds (total expended on labor, materials, contracts, etc.)?	\$114,000.00
Partner's Contributions (total value of funds, goods, services, volunteer hours, etc.)	
Partners Name	Total Value of Contributions
1 Rend Lake College	\$24,320.00
2 Rend Lake Conservancy District	\$50,660.00
3 IL Scholastic 3-D Archery	\$32,960.00
4 Union Sportsmen's Alliance	\$8,000.00
5 Rend Lake Bike Club	\$8,674.52
6 IL Department of Natural Resources	\$1,000.00
7 International Union of Operating Engineers Local 318	\$14,212.88
8 Laborers' Int Union of North America Local 773	\$6,735.00
9 Iron Workers Local 392	\$4,250.00
10 Erb Equipment	\$2,200.00
11 Ryterski Brothers	\$1,000.00
12 Rend Lake Area Tourism Council	\$17,950.00
13 Sierra Bravo	\$1,500.00
14 River2River Runners	\$800.00
15 Lake Contracting Inc.	\$800.00
16 Xylem Inc.	\$2,937.60

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.

Our district RM folks continue to set these up as cost shares which have hurt us in the past (in terms of completion and partner relationships) if the funds are tied up due to CRA. They won't allow us to spend any of the funds until all the funds are in place. Besides that, this program is great! I'm just slow on the final write up lol!

7. Handshake Summary:

Partnership Success Story of the North Marcum Improvement Project at Rend Lake

During the 2018 Rend Lake Master Plan update, the majority of the public comments consisted of improving the wildlife management and outdoor recreation opportunities. Specific requests for an area to promote competitive archery, mountain bike riding, and cross-country running were made by groups from the local community. The team at Rend Lake had been looking for the best way to add value to the North Marcum low density recreation area, making this area perfect to fulfill these requests.

Meetings were held between the USACE team at Rend Lake and local organizations and a formal partnership was quickly formed through the signing of a Challenge Partnership Agreement. This was the beginning of bringing the vision of improving outdoor recreation at Rend Lake to life.

After the start of construction, the 7 formal partners quickly grew to 16 groups working alongside USACE to complete the first phase of the project - the construction of an archery complex and mountain bike trails along with the expansion and upgrade of existing parking areas. The archery complex is now complete and includes an accessible archery trail of 20 shooting lanes with targets, caution fencing, and signage; an accessible archery range including a 240 foot concrete sidewalk, 10' x 80' shooting shelter with concrete floor, concrete target lanes, permanent targets with covers, elevated shooting platform with targets, and signage for target lengths and rules. The mountain bike trail is half complete with 6 of the 12+ miles of trail constructed, and directional signage installed. An old parking area has also been expanded and given an upgrade to accommodate large crowds.

This improvement project has been enjoyed by the public, brought new visitors to Rend Lake, and prompted several regional and national organizations to request the use of this area for large events. These organization found the site perfect, offering ample parking for both participants and vendors but lacking the electricity supply to support food vendors, tournament award ceremonies, and announcement broadcasting. Handshake funds were received, and the necessary upgrades were made to fulfill the requirements of the event contracts, improving tourism opportunities and economic benefits to the Rend Lake area. We built it and they showed up!

The largest event held at the new and improved North Marcum area thus far was the Scholastic 3-D Archery (S3DA) National Outdoor 3-D tournament on June 16-19, 2022. This event brought nearly 700 shooters and over 2,500 spectators from multiple states to the Rend Lake area, most for their first time. The S3DA and the Rend Lake Area Tourism Council has estimated that this 4 day tournament provided over a \$3M economic benefit to the Rend Lake area. The Rend Lake team is also working with local groups to host future events including Xterra Triathlons, Cross Country Events, Archery Shooters Association Tournaments, and several local scholastic archery tournaments.

The opportunity to host these large, impactful events would have never happened without the investment and loyalty that our partners have in the Rend Lake area. The total initial project cost totaled \$317,000 with more than half contributed by the partners (56%) through donations of equipment, materials, and labor. To understand the amount of time and dedication it took to complete this monumental project, the following can help put it into perspective:

- 41 craftsmen donated approximately 1200 hours, valued at \$32K, to complete this project
- The partners donated approximately 1100 hours of professional service, materials, and equipment valued at \$145K

The partners are listed below:

- Rend Lake College
- Rend Lake Conservancy District
- IL Scholastic 3-D Archery
- Union Sportsmen's Alliance
- Rend Lake Bike Club
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- International Union of Operating Engineers Local 318
- Laborers' International Union of North America Local 773
- Iron Workers Local 392
- Erb Equipment
- Ryterski Brothers
- Rend Lake Area Tourism Council
- Sierra Bravo
- River2River Runners
- Lake Contracting Inc.
- Xylem Inc.

The Rend Lake College, Rend Lake Conservancy District, Rend Lake Bike Club, The IL Scholastic 3-D Archery group, and the Rend Lake Area Tourism Council are continuing their support through the maintenance, advertising, and future planning for this area. A dedication of the North Marcum area was held on May 14, 2021 to celebrate these fantastic organizations.