

Handshake Partnership Program Report - FY 2020 Recipients

1. **Name of Corps Project/Lake:** Raystown Lake
2. **District / Division of Corps Project/Lake:** Baltimore District-North Atlantic Division
3. **Handshake Project Name:** Terrace Mountain Trail Repair
4. **Amount of Handshake Funds remaining:** \$0
5. **What has been accomplished?** Please provide photographs; before, during, and after!:

The Terrace Mountain Trail Repair Project, now completed; included rerouting, excavating, clearing and improving sustainability of 3 sections of the existing Terrace Mountain Trail at Raystown Lake. The Terrace Mountain Trail is a 25-mile hiking trail along the east side of Raystown Lake. The Terrace Mountain Trail was built almost 50 years ago and sections of it were showing their age. Trail washouts and steep rocky grades made its use, access for necessary repairs, maintenance, and emergency response quite difficult.

The Terrace Mountain Trail Repair Project focused on the trail sections in most need of repair. Using Handshake funds, Raystown contracted out the excavation of the trail, which included widening and regrading existing tracks as well as rerouting the trail to avoid steep grades. Once contracted work was complete, 4 trail workdays were held among partners to complete the trail grooming. This work included cutting roots from the trail tread, repainting trail blazes, and raking out uneven soil.

Through these efforts, the trails sustainability was also improved by outsloping the trail tread, minimizing the potential for erosion of the trail tread, and improving access for regular preventative maintenance.

	Total
Handshake Program Funding Amount	\$24,056.00
Local Corps Office Funds (total expended on labor, materials, contracts, etc.)?	\$10,646.00
Partner's Contributions (total value of funds, goods, services, volunteer hours, etc.)	
Partners Name	Total Value of Contributions
1 Friends of Trough Creek & Warriors Path State Park	\$8,621.28
2 Friends of Raystown Lake	\$5,278.21
3 Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau	\$3,682.59
4	\$
5	\$
6	\$
7	\$
8	\$

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 was well advertised and promoted to Corps projects to encourage capitalizing on a truly great opportunity with to grow as a project. Not only can the program benefit projects monetarily, it also encourages the project to grow and expand its partnership roster, enhance its visitors experience and give public land owners a chance to make a difference. 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 gives all projects the opportunity to grow and improve and I would not change anything about it.



Before rerouting and excavating the trail was steep and poorly delineated.



After rerouting and excavation, the trail is easily accessed and identified.



The trail is now readily accessible by trail maintenance and emergency response vehicles.

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.



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

For Immediate Release:

Date:

(Assigned by PAO)

Contact:

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Corps and Partners Complete Trail Improvement Project at Raystown Lake

RAYSTOWN LAKE, Pa. — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Raystown Lake announces the completion of a trail rehabilitation project which enhanced portions of the existing Terrace Mountain Trail at Raystown Lake. The project, which included the regrading, widening and rerouting of 5 miles within the 25-mile trail, was made possible by the support of the Corps' Handshake Program.

In 2020, the Corps' headquarters in Washington, D.C. awarded \$24,056.00 in funds as part of its Handshake Partnership Program, which provides a source of seed money to enhance recreation projects through community partnerships, to Raystown Lake to improve sections of the Terrace Mountain Trail.

The staff at Raystown partnered with the Friends of Trough Creek/Warriors Path State Parks (FTCWP), the Friends of Raystown Lake (FRL) and the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau (HCVB) to execute this trail enhancement project. With portions of the Terrace Mountain Trail in great need of repair and upgrades, this grant money was used to excavate and regrade the trail's surface along some of the steepest and narrowest sections. Excavation was followed up by three volunteer trail workdays, led by the energetic and ambitious FTCWP and FRL partners, whose efforts focused on raking trail tread and remarking trail blazes. Upon completion, Raystown staff teamed up with the HCVB for trail brochure improvements and promotion on several platforms to the public.

“This project was a huge success that will benefit trail users and Raystown staff for years to come,” says Park Ranger Jacob Hohman. “Some might just see a wider, smoother trail, but this project has benefits reaching far beyond trail surface level. With the widening and leveling of the Terrace Mountain Trail, we have improved access for trail maintenance as well as emergency response. In the past, if staff needed to move a fallen tree or rescue an injured hiker, these sections were walk in only. Now with the improved access, staff and emergency responders are able to navigate the majority of the 25-mile trail using utility terrain vehicles.” Other benefits of this project include improved trail sustainability and mountain biking opportunities on the trail. The new trail sections were constructed with an out-sloped design, meaning the trail tread slopes downward, matching the direction of the mountainside. This design is beneficial in preventing washout and excessive erosion as rainwater and snowmelt run off the mountain side. The improved trail surface and flowing elevation changes also provide additional riding opportunities for mountain bikers. Riders can now enjoy a challenging but rewarding ride from the Tatman Run Recreation Area all the way north to Trough Creek State Park, which was previously a section of trail too steep and narrow for mountain bikes. With the continued efforts and support from our volunteer partners, we hope to have more opportunities to enhance further portions of the Terrace Mountain Trail in the future.

For more information on this project, contact the Raystown Lake Ranger Office at 814-658-3405.

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Photo: