



# Handshake Partnership Program



Raystown Lake – Bike Skills Park

## Partnerships

### **An Investment In Our Future!**

Over the past twenty two years, HQUSACE has made \$3.8 million in “seed money” available through the Handshake Program.



Gull Lake – Invasive Species Wash Station



Carters Lake – Pollinator Project



## A Tool For You!

Handshake funds are an incentive to use Corps partnership authorities to engage your local community in mutually beneficial activities.



Mark Twain Lake – Equestrian Campground



Mississippi River – Eagle Perch



Barren River Lake - Pavilion



Red Rock Lake – Natural Playscape



Carr Creek Lake – Chestnut Orchard

## Handshake Partnership Program

Handshake funds combined with funding from local Corps projects and their partners' contributions benefit the community by improving our environment and providing additional recreation opportunities.

### **For More Information:**

NRM Gateway Partnership Pages

<https://corpslakes.erd.dren.mil/partners/partners.cfm>  
Partnership Advisory Committee Members

LRD – Mike McCoy  
MVD – Phil Manhart  
NWD – Keith Hyde  
NAD – Jared Gagnon

SPD – Taylor Baughn  
SAD – Cassie Cross  
SWD – Vacant



Smithville Lake – Habitat Enhancement



## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Partnership Opportunities

As stewards of almost 12 million acres of public lands and waters, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers welcomes opportunities to work together with neighbors and local communities who share common goals and interests in conserving public resources. Funding and labor resource shortages are increasingly affecting all levels of government and society. Partnering will help us continue to accomplish our mission objectives in everything from wildlife protection and habitat improvement to recreational facility enhancements and customer service. Working together can help ensure these lands and waters continue to meet the needs of the public and the nation.

The Corps' Handshake Partnership Program is an example of one opportunity. The program provides a financial incentive to Corps facilities to engage with their local communities to complete worthwhile projects that benefit public lands. From 2004 to 2025 the Corps' Headquarters has provided over \$3.8 million in "seed money" to Corps facilities for 224 partnership projects to improve recreational opportunities and benefit environmental stewardship activities on Corps managed lands and waters. Partners have responded by generously donating more than \$10.5 million in volunteer hours, professional services, materials and supplies, equipment, and funds to these efforts. Including funds expended by the local Corps facilities, the total value of these projects is \$17.6 million. Projects include trails, wildlife habitat restoration, wetland creation, interpretive panels, playgrounds, boating access improvements for motor boaters and paddlers, campground improvements, native vegetation restoration, and environmental education facilities. Contact your local Corps facility about potential projects.

Corps facilities offer many volunteer opportunities. Volunteers can serve as park and campground hosts, staff visitor centers, conduct programs, clean shorelines, restore fish and wildlife habitat, maintain park trails and facilities, and more. For more information on volunteering please contact your local Corps facility or visit [www.volunteer.gov](http://www.volunteer.gov)



Rivers Project - Outdoor Amphitheater



Summersville Lake - Climbing Trail



Kaw Lake – Archaeological Research

The Corps has formal partnership agreements with more than 40 national organizations, including American Chestnut Foundation, Boat US, CAST for Kids, Kids to Parks, Leave No Trace, International Mountain Biking Association, National Audubon Society, Ruffed Grouse Society, Union Sportsmen's Alliance, the YMCA and more! These partners have been vital in helping the Corps of Engineers meet our natural resources and recreation management goals. For a full list, visit <https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/cecwon/mou.cfm>

The Corps has also signed agreements with over 60 Cooperating Associations throughout the country. From local "Friends" groups to regional and national foundations, these non-profit, tax-exempt organizations work with the Corps to do things that would otherwise not be accomplished. Check out the Corps Foundation at <https://www.corpsfoundation.org>

For more information on partnership opportunities, please visit the Corps Natural Resource Management Gateway Partnership page: <https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/partners/partners.cfm>