

Handshake Partnership Program Report - FY 2016 Recipients

1. **Name of Corps Project/Lake:** Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center
2. **District / Division of Corps Project/Lake:** Detroit/Great Lakes and Ohio River
3. **Handshake Project Name:** Rip Current Awareness Project
4. **Amount of Handshake Funds remaining:** \$1100
5. **What has been accomplished?** Please provide photographs; before, during, and after!:
A rip current flagpole was installed on the project property informing visitors of potential rip current activity. Partners provided design for interpretive panels, flags and flag changing. There was also an informational kiosk constructed and installed in the lobby of the Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center that displays information about rip currents.

| | Total |
|---|------------------------------|
| Handshake Program Funding Amount | \$6000 |
| Local Corps Office Funds (total expended on labor, materials, contracts, etc.)? | \$6000 |
| Partner's Contributions (total value of funds, goods, services, volunteer hours, etc.) | |
| Partners Name | Total Value of Contributions |
| 1 Minnesota Sea Grant | \$2500 |
| 2 City of Duluth | \$1050 |
| 3 | \$ |
| 4 | \$ |
| 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.

This is being filled out on behalf of my separated predecessor, so I cannot speak to certain aspects of the project. I do recall that getting everyone's consent to the agreement wording took a long time. However, the benefits of the project, namely, providing real-time rip-current

information to the public at a heavily visited location have been great. Working closely with these two agencies have increased our knowledge of local water-safety efforts and has identified ways that we can work together in the future.

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.

In FY 2016, the Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center in Duluth, MN, part of the Duluth Area Office was selected to receive Challenge Partnership Funding. This award enabled the Visitor Center to partner with Minnesota Sea Grant and the City of Duluth to bring rip current awareness to the public. Through this partnership, a rip current flagpole was installed on the southeast portion of Canal Park informing visitors of potential rip current activity. The flagpole is consistent with the other poles currently being used within Duluth's Rip Current Notification System and was purchased and installed by the Corps.

The Minnesota Sea Grant provide the Corps with a design for the interpretive panels that were attached to the flagpole. The Corps manufactured and installed the panels onto the flagpole.

The City of Duluth Fire Department provided flags for the flagpole and changes the flags daily according to the National Weather Service's rip current forecast during the recreation season.

An informational kiosk was constructed and installed within the lobby of the Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center that displays the website parkpointbeach.org and educates visitors about rip currents. The kiosk design was agreed upon by MN Sea Grant and the Corps. The MN Sea Grant provided a plan for the kiosk design and the surrounding interpretive panel which provides further information about water safety. The Corps manufactured the kiosk and the interpretive panels and oversaw the installation in the lobby of the Visitor Center.

The Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center receives around 500,000 visitors per year, and it is one of the first stops tourists make when they visit Duluth. Having the kiosk in this location provides beachgoers with current weather conditions and alerts. Both the kiosk and flagpole can be used as interpretive tools for the Park Rangers at the Visitor Center; they often point out flag colors and provide meanings while conducting outdoor tours.



Rip Current Flag



Signs and lifering on Rip Current Flag pole



Rip Current Kiosk in entryway



Kiosk closeup



Kiosk website detail