Handshake Partnership Program Report - FY 2018 Recipients

- 1. Name of Corps Project/Lake: Mississippi River Project
- 2. District / Division of Corps Project/Lake: Rock Island District / Mississippi Valley Division
- 3. Handshake Project Name: Lock 14 Eagle Perches
- 4. Amount of Handshake Funds remaining: \$
- **5. What has been accomplished?** Please provide photographs; before, during, and after!: Smith's Island, located adjacent to Lock and Dam 14, once held several of the best winter eagle perch trees in the country. The proximity to open water and clear field of view attracts hundreds of migratory bald eagles each year as well as approximately 10,000 visits from recreationalists from all over the globe. The site has the backdrop of numerous photos used in brochures, art exhibits and several different social media sites. This site draws thousands of out of town visitors that has significant off-season impact to the local economy of several local towns and cities.

A winter storm in 2017 damaged the trees creating a hazard for the public resulting in the removal of trees from the site. The Army Corps of Engineers was contacted by the Quad Cities Photography Club regarding a way to mitigate for the loss of this resource. After several meetings, it was decided that suitable tree species would be planted at the site, as well as the installation of 3 artificial eagle perch structures to serve as temporary roost sites until tree establishment. Interpretive signage is being sought through the Handshake Partnership Funds to provide information to visitors on bald eagles on the Mississippi River and explain the Corp's role in managing natural resources along the river.

In the Fall of 2018, Mid-American Energy donated and installed three power poles with multiple perches extending from each pole on Smith's Island in place of the damaged trees. Shortly after the perches were installed, Living Lands and Water donated ten trees which were planted by the Quad Cities Photography Club. In the meanwhile, Project staff began working with a local Eagle Scout on the design of the interpretative sign and began the preparations to plant a prairie around the base of the poles to provide a buffer between the recreation area and roasting structures.

With the support from the Handshake Partnership funds, the interpretative sign was purchased and installed at the entrance to Lock 14/Smith's Island Recreation Area and the prairie was planted. Due to the reduced cost of the interpretative signage, additional funds were used to purchase a fence cap that was install on the chain-link fence along the boardwalk where visitors gather to photo feeding eagles along with additional seed to enhance the prairie. The fence cap provides a smooth surface so visitor's camera straps to not get caught on the chain-link fence.



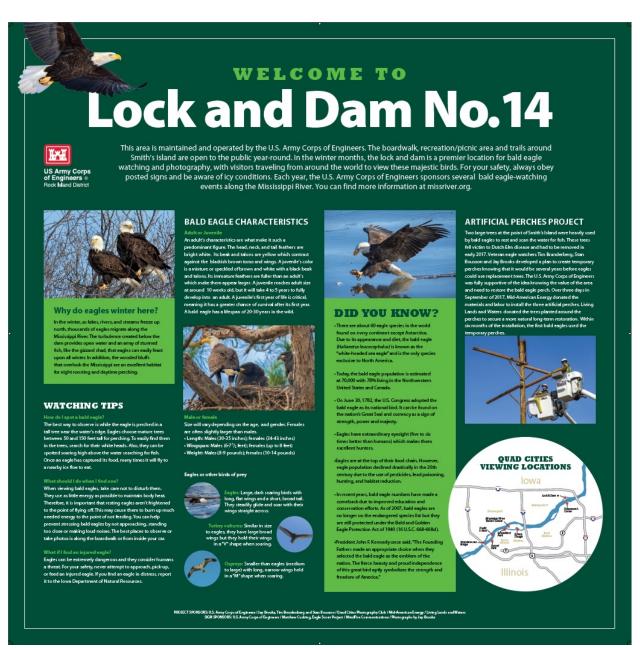
Roosting trees prior to 2017 storm



Eagle roosting on new structure



Mid American Energy erecting the perches



Sign purchased with Handshake funds

	Total
Handshake Program Funding Amount	\$11,000
Local Corps Office Funds	\$4,200
(total expended on labor, materials, contracts, etc.)?	\$4,200

Partner's Contributions (total value of funds, goods, services, volunteer hours, etc.)

Partners Name	Total Value of Contributions
1 Mid American Energy	\$14,600
2 Living Lands and Water	\$1,380
3 Quad Cities Photography Club	\$7,725
4 Eagle Scout	\$483
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.

After being approached by a possible new partner (QC Photo Club), the Handshake Program/funds was the opportunity needed to establish the project and new partnerships. The possibility of getting funds and starting the project energized the partner to reach out to other organizations to support the project. Setting up the formal partnerships and applying for the Handshake funds was relatively easy. Due to the multiple donations and reduced cost on supplies on the original idea for the Handshake, we had enough funds to accomplish additional items related to the project that were set to be completed in the future. The flexibility to add to the scope after receiving the funds was helpful.

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 <u>Handshake Success Stories</u>.

A video created by the Quad Cities Photography Club about the significance of Lock 14 and the Handshake Project can be found at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mylYvkj9ZQo