

## Handshake Partnership Program Report - FY 2017 Recipients

1. **Name of Corps Project/Lake:** Lake Shelbyville  
 2. **District / Division of Corps Project/Lake:** St. Louis District, MVD  
 3. **Handshake Project Name:** Invasive Species Site Conversion to Pollinators  
 4. **Amount of Handshake Funds remaining:** \$0.00  
 5. **What has been accomplished?** Please provide photographs; before, during, and after!:  
We converted approximately 100 acres of highly degraded old field habitat full of exotic  
invasive species such as Amur honeysuckle, autumn olive and multi-flora rose to pollinator  
habitat.

	Total
<b>Handshake Program Funding Amount</b>	\$25,000
<b>Local Corps Office Funds</b> (Total expended on labor, materials, contracts, etc.)?	\$22,500
<b>Partner's Contributions</b> (total value of funds, goods, services, volunteer hours, etc.)	
Partners Name	Total Value of Contributions
1 Lake Volunteer Association	\$1,500
2 Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever	\$12,930
3 Okaw Valley Jr. High	\$3,015
4 Okaw Valley High School	\$3,015
5 Illinois Department of Natural Resources	\$1,600
6 Sloan's Equipment	\$5,000
7 National Wild Turkey Federation	\$1,000
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.

Receiving these funds from the Handshake Program allowed an existing partnership with numerous partners to strengthen. It showed the Corps commitment to the resource by rehabilitating approximately 100 acres of degraded, exotic species infested old field and turned it into a productive, wildlife friendly pollinator habitat.

## **Invasive Species Site Conversion to Pollinator Habitat**

At Lake Shelbyville, Illinois



Pollinators doing well in Dam West Recreation Area

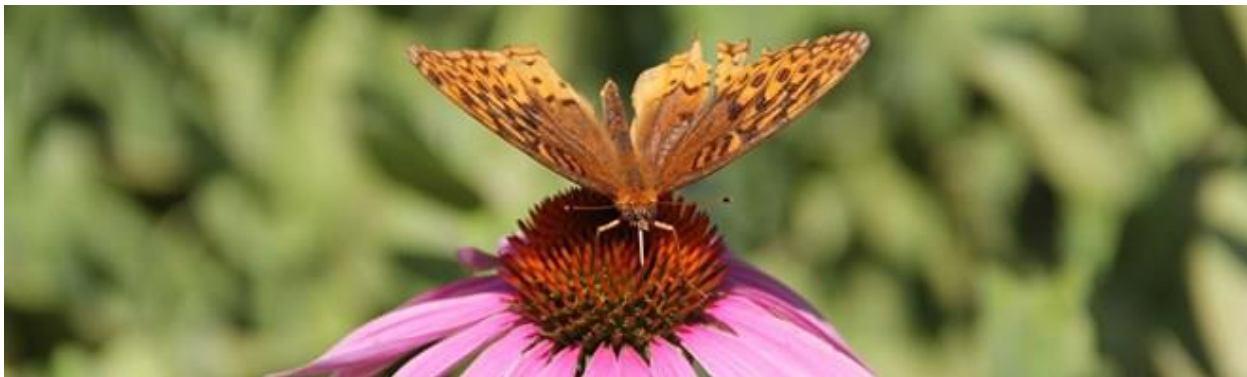
**Partner's:** USACE, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation, Okaw Valley Jr. and Sr. High Schools and Sloan's Equipment.

**Partnership Type:** Challenge Partnership – Handshake Partnership.

**USACE POC:** Lee Mitchell, Natural Resource Specialist – (217) 774-3951 ext. 7012.

**Story:** Exotic invasive species are a very real problem on Lake Shelbyville. Amur honeysuckle, autumn olive and multi-flora rose just to name a few have degraded a large portion of the native habitat around Lake Shelbyville. Old agricultural fields and pastures allowed to grow up in brush and timber are made up of early successional species such as white ash, sugar maple, black walnut, shingle oak, etc. These thin canopied species allow plenty of sunlight to reach the forest floor which these exotic species love. Corps Environmental Stewardship staff have been working diligently to remove these exotic species and saw the opportunity to convert 100 acres of exotics to a productive pollinator/prairie grass mix.

The Handshake funds allowed for the purchase of prairie seed with the bulk of the funds going towards bulldozer/root rake work to clear the sites of the exotics and prepare for planting of the pollinator/prairie seed. Students helped to pick the sites, calibrate the Great Plains seed drill for planting and plant the seed utilizing the tractor supplied by Sloan's Equipment. They have also participated in prescribed burning of the sites as needed during the springtime to keep any woody plants from encroaching into the restoration sites. All burns have been under the strict supervision of Environmental Stewardship personnel and provided for a fun, teachable experience on habitat management to go along with the actual planting!



Purple Cone Flower blooming in restoration site with moth feeding.





Black-eyed Susan blooming in pollinator restoration site.



Prescribed burning of pollinator site.