



# SUMMERVILLE LAKE & NEW RIVER ALLIANCE OF CLIMBERS

(2019 HANDSHAKE PARTNERSHIP RECIPIENTS)

Great Lakes &  
Ohio River Division



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## Partnership Summary:

Please see 4 minute video: [A Corps, an Alliance & a Partnership](https://vimeo.com/474696297)  
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## Objectives:

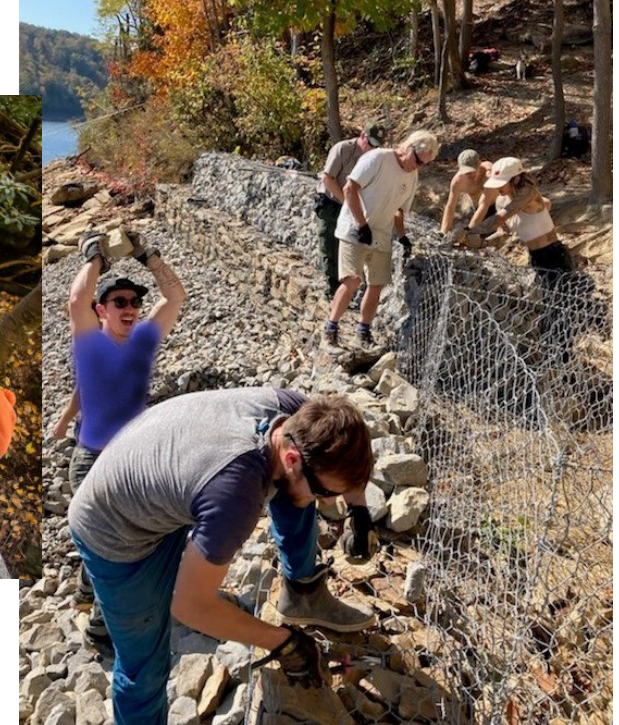
- Repair eroded shoreline located in remote road-less area.
- Improve trail access for emergency response.
- Protect hiking trail and climbing access from further degradation.
- Formalize long-standing partnership with NRAC.
- Leverage resources & allocate funding.

## Background:

Summersville Lake hosts over 150 rock climbing routes located at nine different locations around the Lake. One of the most popular climbing areas is Orange Oswald, which has one of the finest lineups of sport routes in the nation.

Unfortunately, access to this climb was diminishing as the shoreline portion of the trail to Orange Oswald had eroded away from the wave action of the lake and efforts to stabilize this shoreline only provided temporary relief. The lack of access for heavy equipment prompted the search for a more inventive, permanent solution.

Additionally, route limitations to Orange Oswald forced thousands of users to brave a 20' sheer cliff by way of an antiquated wooden ladder. Improved access, not only for visitors, but also EMS was recognized and a plan to design and install a safer alternative was put into action.







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## Actions Timeline:

- **2013** - Corps & NRAC employed a huge volunteer effort during 2013 Boy Scout Jamboree. 80 tons of stone floated-in by barge and was hand placed by volunteers. The stone migrated from the steeper areas, but formed a valuable foundation for future work.
- **2016** - NRAC conducted a world class climbing event at the Lake which raised \$10,000 for lake climbing improvements. It also set the stage for future volunteer work and philanthropic donations.
- **2019** - \$20,000 in funding was secured through Handshake Challenge Partnership program.
- **2020** Spring – West Virginia DNR supplied a 'dump barge' for hauling 60 tons of stone to the worksite at summer pool.
- **2020** Summer – NRAC completed fabrication, galvanization and install of a sturdy, steel staircase.
- **2020** Fall – Corps used a crane to assemble a floating barge system and moved a rented excavator to the job site. With these assets and efforts combined, dozens of gabion baskets were assembled and filled.

## Successes:

- Partnered with non-federal groups to acquire supplies, specialized equipment and to construct a gabion shoreline wall consisting of 140 tons of stone.
- Purchased raw materials, designed and installed professional grade stair case to improve trail access & safety.
- Brought in over 540 hours of focused labor by over 90 different volunteers.
- Strengthened the heavily utilized, dispersed recreation features that lie outside our developed areas.

