

Volunteer / Partnership Toolkit
Kansas City District
2017

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LDP Year II Project

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1. Volunteer Regulation & Implementation Guidance

Natural Resources Management Gateway

- Volunteer Program – Policy & Procedures: The most up-to-date Engineer Pamphlets, Engineer Regulations, Policy Letters and Implementation Guidance, Public Laws and Memos can be found at the below webpage location:
<https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/policy.cfm?Id=volunteer&Code=All&View=Yes>
- Volunteer Program guidance can be located at the NRM Gateway, Volunteer Program webpage at the following address:
<https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/volunteer/volunteer.cfm>
- Partnership Program – Policy & Procedures: The most up-to-date Engineer Pamphlets, Engineer Regulations, Policy Letters and Implementation Guidance, Public Laws and Memos can be found at the below webpage location:
<https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/policy.cfm?Id=partner&Code=All&View=Yes>
- Partnership Program guidance can be located at the NRM Gateway, Partnership Program webpage at the following address:
<https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/partners/partners.cfm>

References

Volunteer Program

[Volunteer Services Implementation Guidance, dated 12 August 2016](#)

Partnership Program

[ER 1130-2-500](#) (Chapter 9 Cooperating Associations Program, Chapter 11 Contributions Program, Chapter 12 Challenge Cost-sharing Program)

2. Kansas City District Volunteer Program/Partnerships

(Listed in alphabetical order by Lake Name.)

Clinton

- a. Boy Scouts of America Heart of America Council – MOU
- b. Monarch Watch – Contributions Program
- c. Friends of Rockhaven Park – Contributions Program
- d. Kansas Trails Council – Contributions Program
- e. Dusk to Dusk Disc Club – Contributions Program
- f. Volunteer Program

Harlan County

- a. Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
- b. Twin Valleys Weed Management Group
- c. Ducks Unlimited - MOU
- d. Pheasants/Quail Forever
- e. City of Alma
- f. Volunteer Program

Harry S. Truman

- a. Missouri Department of Conservation – Contributions Program
- b. Mason’s Lodge (Deer Hunt)– Contribution Program
- c. Disc Golf Club
- d. Volunteer Program

Hillsdale

- a. Volunteer Program

Kanopolis

- a. Boy Scouts of America - MOU
- b. Volunteer Program

Long Branch

- a. Volunteer Program

Melvern

- a. Boy Scouts – MOU
- b. Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks
- c. Kansas Walleye Association
- d. Volunteer Program

Milford

- a. Boy Scout Troop 460 – MOU
- b. SCORVA – Contributions Program
- c. Volunteer Program

Perry

- a. Special Wounded Warrior Hunts (Waterfowl, Whitetail & Turkey hunts)
- b. Perry Lake Trail Watchers Group
- c. Volunteer Program

Pomme de Terre

- a. Missouri Department of Conservation – MOU
- b. Hickory County Health Department – Handshake Partnership
- c. Volunteer Program

Pomona

- a. Volunteer Program

Rathbun

- a. Appanoose County Trails Inc. – Challenge Partnership & Contributions Program
- b. Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Challenge Partnership
- c. Volunteer Program

Smithville/Blue Springs/Long View

- a. Clay County Parks – Challenge Partnership & Handshake Partnership
- b. KC Hunting & Retriever Club – Contributions Program
- c. Boy Scouts – MOU
- d. Missouri Department of Conservation – Contributions Program
- e. Volunteer Program

Stockton

- a. Stockton Lions Club – Contributions Program
- b. Missouri Department of Conservation – Handshake Partnership
- c. Stockton Trials Initiative Coalition – Handshake Partnership
- d. Lake Clean-Up Day Event (Missouri Stream Team, National Public Lands Day, Stockton Chamber of Commerce, Stockton Lake Association, KC Frogman dive team)
- e. Kids Fishing Pond
- f. Volunteer Program

Tuttle Creek

- a. Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society – MOU
- b. Tuttle Creek Lake Association – Contribution Program
- c. Kansas Wildlife Officers Association/Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks – Contribution Program
- d. Midway USA – Contribution Program
- e. Orscheln Farm & Home Store #39 – Contribution Program
- f. Riley County Fish & Game Association – Contribution Program
- g. Alta Vista Meat Locker – Contribution Program
- h. Clay Center Meat Locker – Contribution Program
- i. Dick’s Sporting Goods (Manhattan, Kansas) – Contribution Program
- j. Friends of Fancy Creek Range/Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks – Contribution Program
- k. Kansas State Rifle Association – Contribution Program
- l. Kansas City Chapter of the Safari Club – Contribution Program
- m. Flint Hills Jeep Club –Contribution Program
- n. Student Conservation Association – Cooperative Agreement
- o. Kansas Trails Council –
- p. Volunteer Program

Wilson

- a. Pheasants Forever
- b. Wilson Grocery
- c. Wilson Lake Association
- d. Volunteer Program

3. Lessons Learned

This section of the toolkit includes specific lessons learned from NWK lake projects. Information provided in this section may be helpful for gaining knowledge in what efforts have worked in the past and ways to gain meaningful partnerships and hold beneficial volunteer events/activities from year to year.

Each Lake Project was asked the following four questions regarding their partnerships/volunteer activities, lessons learned and how they stay in contact with these individuals/groups:

1. Did the Corps of Engineers approach the partners/volunteers?
 - a. If yes, how did you locate them and make initial contact?
 - b. If no, how did the partners/volunteers express interest to the Corps of Engineers?
2. How many years has this partnerships/volunteer activities been in existence?
3. How do you stay in communication with the partners/volunteers and how often do you contact them?
4. Lessons learned from partnership/volunteer activities: If you were to start this partnership from the beginning what would you do differently?
5. POC for these partnerships/volunteer activities at your lake.

(Lakes that provided information are listed alphabetically)

Harlan County

1. Did the Corps of Engineers approach the partners/volunteers?

Yes, on all of our partnerships the Corps approached the stakeholder. However, they had all shown interest in supporting USACE. We are lucky enough to have several groups approach us about partnering - we are even more fortunate that we can pick the ones that make the logical partner. I think that is one of the most important part of partnerships. Don't just take the first one that comes along - make sure they are a good fit.

 - a. If yes, how did you locate them and make initial contact?

We typically do background research to make sure that they are a legit option as a partner. Some organizations offer to partner and we find out that they wouldn't be a good fit. A good example would be a local group that offered assistance to repair a project area. We found out after doing some research that they had grand plans to open an additional concessionaire operation. When we make the first contact it is usually done in an informal setting to determine their interest and goals. After this initial contact we set up a more formal meeting where we outline exactly what our goals of the partnership are.

b. If no, how did the partners/volunteers express interest to the Corps of Engineers?
Our partners are ones that make logical sense for example NGPC, Twin Valleys Weed Management Group, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants/Quail Forever, City of Alma. Check with OD first on the national organizations with MOUs and MOAs.

2. How many years has this partnerships/volunteers activities been in existence?

All of our partnerships have lasted at least ten years. Some have been ongoing for over 40 years. When we look at partnerships we look for ones that will last around five years minimum.

3. How do you stay in communication with the partners/volunteers and how often do you contact them?

It depends. Some partners are contacted on a monthly or weekly basis. We also try and attend any or all meetings that we are invited to. Even if the primary partner POC is not available we will send a representative from the project. I cannot understate the importance of face to face meetings. It helps build a relationship where both parties understand what the ultimate goals of the partnership are. I like to go grab lunch after the meetings and just have open conversations. The main point is that you should probably try to have some type of contact with your partners on a monthly basis. Even if it is an email asking how things are going.

4. Lessons Learned from partnership/volunteer activities?

If you were to start this partnership from the beginning what would you do differently? The one thing I would say hands down that we have learned from partnerships is to identify exactly what the parameters of the partnership are from the beginning. Sometimes the lines of the partnership can get blurred and they may feel that they can have input into other areas of the project operations. At that point a good tip would be to allow them to speak and provide input - but view the input the same way you would a member of the general public who has provided input. Most times they just want to be heard and you can provide them that. If it doesn't fit the project operational plan you can explain that and they may not like the answer but they always understand.

Reasons I think we have a strong volunteer program-

Provide them with a vehicle, tools, shed, and utilities

Only pick the volunteers that are the best fit for our program (I usually only pick one or two out of 15 inquiries)

Provide them with clear goals and expectations

Be responsive to their requests from little to big items

And the most important one - make sure you recognize their work and make them feel appreciated.

Harry S. Truman

Truman's management deer hunt-Mason's Lodge

1. Did the Corps of Engineers approach the partners/volunteers?

This hunt has been going on for 27 years. Our hunt takes place at the golf course/Shawnee Bend and at Berry Bend Park. The city of Warsaw has a lease on the golf course and will close the course on the Saturday and Sunday of the hunt. The lodge will provide volunteers to help out and provide breakfast/lunch Saturday and Sunday.

2. How many years has this partnerships/volunteers activities been in existence?

2016 was the 27th year.

3. How do you stay in communication with the partners/volunteers and how often do you contact them?

Last year was my first year over the hunt. I made my first contact with the group in April to induce myself. We had a meeting in July, September and several times in October.

4. Lessons Learned from partnership/volunteer activities? If you were to start this partnership from the beginning what would you do differently?

Areas of responsibilities transferred recently and I acquired the oversight of this event. I wanted to implement changes but knew I wouldn't be able to do everything at one time. There was too many hunters in areas that we had, so we cut the number down. The lodge like any group you partner with only a few do the work but a lot of people show up. In the past we have required the lodge to provide guides to go out with the hunters. No hunter can go out by themselves. The problem I have always seen when I worked the hunt is no one wants to guide and it is like pulling teeth to get someone to do it. Summer rangers have had to go out in the past when no one will do it. I required the lodge to provide me a list of names with alternate list that would be guides. We also changed the application form to say if the hunters are going to bring their own guide they would be given preference over ones that did not. The lodge wasn't fans of this at first. They explained to me that it has always worked out in the past and that didn't know who would be there for sure. My fear was I would have hunters with no guides. Most of the hunters ended up bring their own guide last year so that worked out great. Another change that was made that upset the group was no deer drives. In the past the lodge would do deer drives/pushes trying to get deer in front of the hunters. I am not a fan of this, one it is a safety issue, they also kick a lot of deer out of the hunting areas, and some of the hunters don't like it. This upset a lot of the old timers but it was something that I wasn't going to allow. There are more changes that need to be made in the coming up years but figuring out a course of action has been vital to making these changes. This is Truman's event but couldn't be pulled off without the lodge and I still wanted them to feel appreciated and have some ownership over the hunt.

Shawnee Bend Disc golf course - 1 1/2 years

1. Did the Corps of Engineers approach the partners/volunteers?

Truman has a 9 hole disc golf course in the Shawnee Bend day use area. Initial contact was made with a disc golf club. The city of Warsaw has a 9 hole course and the group was raising money to build another course somewhere else. The group was very interested so we applied for a handshake and was not selected. The group still wanted to move forward and OPM agreed that we would buy 9 baskets and the group would be responsible for everything else.

2. How many years has this partnerships/volunteers activities been in existence?

This partnership started in the winter of 2015 and we had baskets in the ground by April 1, 2016.

3. How do you stay in communication with the partners/volunteers and how often do you contact them?

The group wanted to start pouring concrete pads but I felt like the signs were more important at the time. Once the course became playable the group slowed down on moving forward with work items. I had a feeling this would happen and wanted to hold off on putting the baskets in, but knew the group had worked hard on opening up the course and was ready to play. The group finally installed the signs, but it took about 9 months. During that time, life happened different members had different things happen and got pulled away from the club. I was given a new POC which we had to start all over on the sign project. This was frustrating at the time but it is like any partnerships there are ups and downs. We have two employees that are members of the club now and keep the club moving forward on doing different things. This is nice that we have employees interested and have a passion for playing. The club would like to install another 9 baskets but this will not be allowed until the first 9 are finished and we feel like there is enough use to merit another 9 holes. On a nice day you will see different people using the area.

4. Lessons Learned from partnership/volunteer activities? If you were to start this partnership from the beginning what would you do differently?

Lessons learned maybe have a better understand with group on what the goals are and how to keep moving forward. I was disappointed with the amount of time it took to get signs up. I wish we would have set up a time line on when we want stuff done and how to achieve that goal.

Kanopolis

1. Did the Corps of Engineers approach the partners/volunteers?
No. Boy Scouts of America (BSA) expressed interest in utilizing our recreation facilities with the intent of providing services or in-lieu payment instead of paying the standard use fee.
2. How many years has this partnerships/volunteers activities been in existence?
30 Years. According to OMBIL data it originated on 1 MAR 1987.
3. How do you stay in communication with the partners/volunteers and how often do you contact them?
Separate BSA leaders contact us throughout the year, via phone or e-mail, to coordinate events of various sizes. Events range from several hours to several days and have less than 10 participants all the way up to 900+.
4. Lessons Learned from partnership/volunteer activities? If you were to start this partnership from the beginning what would you do differently?
Designate one individual from BSA that all requests from BSA goes through, regardless of where requesting pack is located. It would help standardize the request process and assist with getting necessary paperwork filled out in a timely manner.

Milford

1. Did the Corps of Engineers approach the partners/volunteers?
 - b. If no, how did the partners/volunteers express interest to the Corps of Engineers?
No, they all came to contact us. Either by phone or stopping by the office to visit about a position or opportunity.
2. How many years has this partnerships/volunteers activities been in existence?
SCORVA partnership has been active 17 years
Boy scout troop 460 - recycling agreement 14 years
3. How do you stay in communication with the partners/volunteers and how often do you contact them?
We usually communicate with partners/volunteers over the phone. This is the fastest and most efficient way to exchange information. We are also able to get a better understanding of our partner/volunteer since we can hear their tone of voice. During the recreation season we are talking to our volunteers on a weekly basis, by phone and face as we make our rounds in the parks. Communication may vary with our partners depending on the activities that are occurring, but we hope to stay in touch on a monthly basis.
4. Lessons Learned from partnership/volunteer activities? If you were to start this partnership from the beginning what would you do differently?
It's always good staying in touch on a routine basis with volunteers and people within a partnership. This allows us to stay on top of the group or individuals

perspective and plans while partnering with us. Coming into a partnership/volunteer relationship in the beginning I would have better clarified our terms and agreement that is made. Then hold strong to these criteria and stay at a professional level when working together. It is a joint effort depending on our flexibility.

Perry

Perry Lake Trail Watchers group

1. Did the Corps of Engineers approach the partners/volunteers?

Yes, initially at the formation of the Perry Lake Trail, staff approached the Kansas Trails Council about forming a Perry Lake group to help oversee with maintenance of the 27.5 mile Perry Lake Trail. The group now oversees the State Park Bike trails as well.

2. How many years has this partnerships/volunteers activities been in existence?

15 years

3. How do you stay in communication with the partners/volunteers and how often do you contact them?

Monthly email updates on work being done, areas checked and cleared. Bi-annual meetings, to plan for future maintenance issues, and update POC's for trail sections. At least three work days are scheduled per year, more if necessary, where we tackle larger projects such as switchback construction, bank stabilization, bridge repair, and re-route blazing.

4. Lessons Learned from partnership/volunteer activities? If you were to start this partnership from the beginning what would you do differently?

Communication: The more the better. I have found the more communication I have, the better results I get out of them. They are a great group to work with, just need constant direction as to what you want to see out of them.

Having a planning document and MOU drafted up would be great. Right now it is just a loose affiliation, but when you/they have that document in place, to them it feels more solidified and real. They seem to have more buy-in.

Perry Lake Warrior Hunts

1. Did the Corps of Engineers approach the partners/volunteers?

Yes – Initially the idea was brought to us by an Enlisted Duty Member in the District Office. We approached Ft. Riley's Warrior Transition Battalion (WTB) about the hunt, knowing that activities like this were put on regularly, just not on Corps property. We then approached the local American Legion about being our main sponsor, and with the help of Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), worked with Cabelas to donate blinds, chairs, etc. From there a turkey hunt and waterfowl hunt organically happened, many of the same guides expressing a deep interest in helping out more. In 2017 we discontinued all other special hunts and started focusing on these three.

2. How many years has this partnerships/volunteers activities been in existence?

3 years

3. How do you stay in communication with the partners/volunteers and how often do you contact them?

Contact is made throughout the year, since we put on a Waterfowl, Whitetail, and Turkey hunt. It being local groups we deal with, we commonly run into someone in town while getting gas or lunch. We also volunteer at Cabelas for interpretive events, to show our appreciation for their help, and also to get people interested in coming to Perry Lake.

4. Lessons Learned from partnership/volunteer activities? If you were to start this partnership from the beginning what would you do differently?

If we were to do it over again, we would have casted a wider net when originally seeking partners. The local American Legion is great, but they are getting up in age and are not the most motivated group. Our local QDMA chapter fell apart on us, which is to no fault of our own, but possibly working with highly interested parties to form an association to lessen the burden on local group's financial wise.

Start planning way in advance. We start for the November waterfowl hunt in March, and that is mainly due to WTB regulations, wanting to get stuff lined out six months in advance.

Plan and select guides very carefully. Especially with a delicate position we can be in, we only select highly skilled hunters, and preferably having a military background, since part of this hunt is to help the soldier's transition back to civilian life, and to give them a chance to escape the doldrums of rehab life.

Pomme de Terre

1. Did the Corps of Engineers approach the partners/volunteers? Some of both.
 - a. If yes, how did you locate them and make initial contact?
 - b. If no, how did the partners/volunteers express interest to the Corps of Engineers?

We advertise in Work Camper and on line.

2. How many years has this partnerships/volunteers activities been in existence?
Anywhere from over 10 years to 1 year depending on the volunteer.
3. How do you stay in communication with the partners/volunteers and how often do you contact them?
Again depends on the volunteers. Contact in person weekly as needed, keep Phone Numbers for them and usually e-mail.
4. Lessons Learned from partnership/volunteer activities? If you were to start this partnership from the beginning what would you do differently?
Good to have set duties and renew them each year adjusting for health and ability of volunteer and or availability of other volunteers.

Pomona

1. Did the Corps of Engineers approach the partners/volunteers?
 - a. If yes, how did you locate them and make initial contact?

Yes, mostly word of mouth, referrals, posting of signs, Facebook posts.
2. How many years has this partnerships/volunteers activities been in existence?

I am guessing for about 30 years maybe more.
3. How do you stay in communication with the partners/volunteers and how often do you contact them?

Bi-Weekly during their working season and also by phone as needed or as issues may arise.
4. Lessons Learned from partnership/volunteer activities? If you were to start this partnership from the beginning what would you do differently?

I think it could be promoted more from the national level so we get more interested people coming to us. We have the new - America the Beautiful Volunteer Passes but have heard almost nothing on TV or radio. Don't rely on the National Park Service to promote the Corps of Engineers!

Stockton

1. Did the Corps of Engineers approach the partners/volunteers?
 - a. If yes, how did you locate them and make initial contact?
 - b. If no, how did the partners/volunteers express interest to the Corps of Engineers?

We made the initial approach to our partners for various reasons.
Primary goal was to get in on the handshake funding, to compete for funding for trail establishment and future maintenance.
2. How many years has this partnerships/volunteers activities been in existence?

The STIC- Stockton Trails Coalition was formed in 2008. Lions Club is primary partner for the disabled hunt. Ongoing for 21 years. MDC is a partner for the fishing pond for aquatic management- on going since 2013. How do you stay in communication with the partners/volunteers and how often do you contact them?

STIC - The project stays active in communication with the group. Attend quarterly meetings, and plan trail clean up days as needed.

Lions Club - We stay in contact with them throughout the year for coordination of the hunt.

MDC - We communicate with them on a regular basis for management objectives and events.
3. Lessons Learned from partnership/volunteer activities? If you were to start this partnership from the beginning what would you do differently?

Not any significant issues with any of the partnerships. Sometimes funding and time becomes issues with certain projects. The project has had to step back and let the groups become more self- sufficient in organizing and providing man power to accomplish goals. This is more prominent with STIC which is a volunteer based group,

which is subject to change a lot. MDC and Lions Club have deeper roots and more organization to accomplish tasks.

If anything it's much easier to partner with established agencies and groups than to start from scratch. That would be the one thing that needs to be out there. We realized we needed a community effort to get involved with partnering to build and maintain trails, etc. But in reality it still falls back to the Project to make sure it works. It takes a lot of time and patience to start up a volunteer group to maintain our trails. Can be challenging at times. Suggest go small and take baby steps in establishing these kind of partnerships.

Lake Clean-Up Day- There is a lot more moving parts to this one day event and in reality we the project do most of the organizing but utilizing volunteers to help pull it off.

1. Did the Corps of Engineers approach the partners/volunteers?
 - a. If yes, how did you locate them and make initial contact?
 - b. If no, how did the partners/volunteers express interest to the Corps of Engineers?

The lake cleanup was started several years ago by Donna Butler and employee at Stockton Lake.
2. How many years has this partnerships/volunteers activities been in existence?

This year's clean-up in 2017 will be the 21st year.
3. How do you stay in communication with the partners/volunteers and how often do you contact them?

Most of the volunteers are recruited with newspaper ads and phone calls to groups who have volunteered in the past. At first it was a pretty small event with maybe 20-30 people and now it has grown to 150-200+ each year.

We also have several local businesses that we call to get donations from for a prize drawing at the end of the event. We also get food and drink donations from Woods and Walmart and we feed all of the volunteers with these donations.

In recent years we have had some larger groups come forward who now help plan, prepare and run the event. Donna still does a lot even though she is retired, the KC Frogman dive team have taken over as a major supporter and help run the event along with us as well. We also receive a lot of assistance from the Missouri Stream Team and National Public Lands Day who supply us with stream team cleanup bags, first aid kits, gloves, and many different types of handouts for the volunteers to take home. The Stockton Chamber of Commerce and Stockton Lake Association assist with preparing the lunch for all the volunteers as well.

As for the planning for the event we will start to contact some of the larger sponsors in early to mid-summer to start the planning process for that year's event. The most time is spent calling and collecting donations from area vendors.
4. Lessons Learned from partnership/volunteer activities? If you were to start this partnership from the beginning what would you do differently?

The biggest lesson learned from this event is probably having too much time devoted to just a one day event. When Donna ran it she was able to find the time to do most of the planning, but now it is much harder to find the time to do all of the planning on a ranger's busy schedule. Thankfully Donna still helps a lot as well as the other

community groups who have gotten more involved over the years. Without all that help it is honestly an event we could no longer handle putting on by ourselves due to the time commitment needed.

Tuttle Creek

1. Did the Corps of Engineers approach the partners/volunteers?
 - a. If yes, how did you locate them and make initial contact?
 - b. If no, how did the partners/volunteers express interest to the Corps of Engineers?

Most of the organizations reported in OMBIL have long-standing relationships with the Corps and support of specific events/projects. Most notably our special hunt for youth and disabled hunters, eagle day, the Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Area, and equestrian trails. Our staff have been involved as members and mentors since the founding of some of these groups (i.e. lake/game association) and share the same values and initiatives. As a result, there is a personal connection and motivation to work together to meet mutual needs (i.e. increasing hunting/fishing, water safety awareness, etc.). In other cases, these groups came to us seeking assistance in addressing a need (i.e. the off road vehicle clubs). We would discuss the problem, identify the shortcomings, and agree towards a plan to mutually resolve (i.e. trail/park maintenance consistent with our management plan). Maintaining and strengthening these partnerships (both formal and informal) provides additional benefits and inroads to community resources byway of our partners' solicitation efforts (i.e. game association requests donations from local businesses to benefit the special hunt). In summary, we identify stakeholders, and engage them in solving mutual problems, and grow initiatives and support.

2. How many years has this partnerships/volunteers activities been in existence?

The hunt and related partners have been around for 14 years
Eagle Day for 20 years ORV clubs have been active since the 80's when we threatened to close the park. The Student Conservation Association was a new endeavor for Tuttle Creek this year, but the national agreement has been off-on for over a decade as far as I know.

3. How do you stay in communication with the partners/volunteers and how often do you contact them?

We attend their club meetings (monthly), participate in work days/events (seasonally), and regularly engage in correspondence (weekly-monthly). Showing up in the evening to their meetings and being involved on a personal level beyond the scope of our job/project helps a lot to understand their point of view and demonstrates our vested interest.

4. Lessons Learned from partnership/volunteer activities? If you were to start this partnership from the beginning what would you do differently?

Partnerships do not happen overnight. It has been my experience that it takes at least a dozen years to really get a group operating independently, contributing

substantial benefits, and growing their membership. Short-sighted efforts are poorly executed, short-lived, and often end up with hurt feelings.

Also, set up relationships and partnerships correctly from the start. Employees cannot be voting members or officers, but can be advisors. Establish short and long-term goals. Always aim for something to grow the partnership: a new facility, a new grant, a new agreement, growing membership, community involvement, etc.

Saying that, all staff (maintenance included) should be encouraged to get involved in these organizations and be familiar with agreements to promote growth and relationships.

Wilson

1. Did the Corps of Engineers approach the partners/volunteers?

a. If yes, how did you locate them and make initial contact?

We send a Corps rep to the quarterly or semi-annual lake association meetings each year. We try to bring a 1-2 item wish list to present to them for volunteer opportunities. Annual project funding ranges from \$1K - \$2500.

Corps rep initially attended a PF meeting to request food plot seed funding.

Wilson Grocery was approached by Corps rep asking if they would piggy back on top of the lake association donation.

2. How many years has this partnerships/volunteers activities been in existence?

Lake association has been a stakeholder for 30 plus years. Contributions have been provided for approx. last 12 years.

Pheasants Forever is approx. 7 years.

Wilson Grocery was just a recent one or two time event where they piggy backed with food funding during a deer hunt we hosted.

3. How do you stay in communication with the partners/volunteers and how often do you contact them?

Email/phone calls each year prior to an event or food plot planting season. The lake association is forthright in asking us to prepare our wish list to present to them.

4. Lessons Learned from partnership/volunteer activities? If you were to start this partnership from the beginning what would you do differently?

Our volunteer/donor requests are not excessive as we listen to the treasurer reports at each meeting. We have also made accommodations to the lake association in helping coordinate and Special Event Permit annual fireworks show or boat poker run because it is a major fund raiser for them. We still have to maintain poise and professionalism with the lake association. Several years ago a KDWPT manager was eventually terminated for a variety of unprofessional bribes and/or attending meetings and banquets and over-socializing and imbibing with the association while representing KDWPT. Actions resulted in legal consequences.

4. Lake Project Points of Contacts

Kyle Ruona is the Operations Division POC for Volunteers & Partnership Activities

Clinton – Kipp Walters – Park Ranger/ Kyle Broockerd – Park Ranger

Harlan County – Bryson Hellmuth – Park Ranger

Harry S. Truman – Bradley Pearson – Park Ranger

Hillsdale – Jim Bell – Park Ranger

Kanopolis – Brock DeLong – Park Ranger

Long Branch – Mike Kuntz – Park Ranger

Melvern – Buck Walker – Park Ranger

Milford – Blake McPherrren – Park Ranger / Caleb Snider – Park Ranger

Perry – Jason Hurley – Park Manager

Pomme de Terre – Devin Holt – Park Ranger

Pomona – Will Bolt – Park Ranger

Rathbun – Tyler Stewart – Park Ranger / Josh Gormley – Park Ranger

Smithville/Blue Springs/Long View – Jamie Picken – Park Ranger SM /
Jim Dickerson Park Ranger LV/BS

Stockton – Derrick Phillips - Park Ranger
Rich Chiles – Park Manager

Tuttle Creek – Primary Coordination KDWPT – Melissa Bean – Park Manager

Angelia Lentz – Park Ranger:

Water safety (TC Lake Association, KDWPT, SCA)

ORV management/maintenance (various Jeep Clubs)

Equine Trails (KS Trails Council)

Misc. Outreach (Manhattan CVB)

Primary coordination duties for the following partners: Jeep Clubs, Trails Council, Manhattan CVB, and the Audubon Society

Wyatt Cooper - Park Ranger:

Eagle Day (Audubon Society, TCLA)

Assisted Hunt (KDWPT, Riley Co. Fish & Game Assoc, TCLA)

Primary coordination duties for the following partners: Tuttle Creek Lake Association, Riley County Fish and Game Association

Wilson - Lake Association – Nolan Fisher – Park Manager /Matt Beckman – Park Ranger
PF - Zach Hlad – Park Ranger
Wilson Grocery - Matt Beckman – Park Ranger