

HANDSHAKE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM



Partnerships in NRM
PROSPECT Course



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



Program History/Purpose



- Program originated in 2004
- Incentive for field sites to develop partnerships and use partnership authorities
- Encourage community engagement
- Promote mutually beneficial activities
- Requires a formal agreement to achieve a mutually beneficial project (not just two people informally shaking hands)
- This is NOT a grant or granting program, although it looks very similar. It is an internal partnership stimulator.



Falls Lake



Eligibility



- Handshake funds are administered through a challenge partnership agreement.
- The authority for the challenge partnership program provides opportunities for public and non-Federal groups and individuals to contribute to and participate in the operation and/or management of RECREATION FACILITIES and NATURAL RESOURCES at Corps water resource development projects.
- EP 1130-2-500, Chapter 12



Barren River Lake



Basics



- Corps facilities and resources maintained at 100% Corps expense
- Agreement with a non-federal public or private entity
- Within current spending authorities and in approved OMP
- FY 23 funding amount TBD (Most likely between \$100-\$150k)*
- \$25,000 maximum individual request
- Incentive Points:
 - This lake/river project has not ever received Handshake funding in the past. (100 pts)
 - This project will support diversity, equity, and inclusion goals to increase access to the quality recreation experience which includes a safe and healthful environment for a diverse population. At least one of the partner organizations in this project has diversity, equity, and inclusion goals as part of their mission. Please describe how you project meets this objective in the Support Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Bonus Section. (100 pts)
 - This project will address a backlog maintenance issue identified in the budget process or FEM. Please describe specifically which backlog maintenance items(s) will be solved. (100 pts)





Corps Foundation Bonus



- The Corps Foundation is a non-profit, 501(c) (3) dedicated to supporting USACE Recreation and Natural Resources Management programs. As an added incentive, the Corps Foundation will provide a \$5,000 bonus to one selected Handshake Project.
- This bonus funding is in addition to and separate from Handshake funds provided by USACE Headquarters
- The Corps Foundation bonus will be provided to the selected Handshake Project through one of the following ways.
 - The Corps Foundation purchases items specified in the handshake project proposal that the \$5,000 bonus funds will be used for. The project will provide the vendor information, website, ordering form, etc. filled out and ready for the Foundation to pay with a credit card.
 - The Corps Foundation gives money to one of the partners identified in the Handshake project to purchase the items specified for the \$5,000 bonus.
 - The Corps Foundation provides a check/cash directly to the winning project. Donations will need to be processed through the Treasury and RM to set up an account to use the funds at the project. Coordination on the Corps Foundation Bonus funds will occur after the Handshake Projects are selected.





Investment (FY 04 – FY22)

Handshake Funds: (205 project recipients)	\$ 3,485,640
Corps Offices:	\$ 3,262,090
<u>Partners:</u>	<u>\$ 9,847,618</u>

Total : **\$ 16,595,348**

***59% was contributed by 697 total partners**



Blue Marsh Lake



Allatoona Lake



Most Handshake Awards



Raystown Lake

- Raystown – 9last won 2021
- Allatoona - 6last won 2021
- Mark Twain – 6last won 2021
- Shelbyville - 5last won 2017
- Carlyle – 5last won 2020
- Rend – 5.....last won 2020
- Philpott – 5last won 2021
- Mendocino – 4last won 2015
- W Kerr Scott - 4last won 2016
- Blue Marsh – 4last won 2020
- Waco – 4.....last won 2019



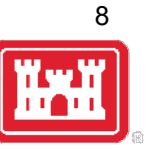
Mark Twain Lake



Allatoona Lake



Highest Total Value, Highest Partnership Value



SWL - Norfolk Lake 2009
Expansion of the Trans - Ozark Trail
Total Value - \$777,500
Handshake Funds – \$ 10,000
Corps Funds \$143,000
Partner Total \$634,500





Project Examples: Trails

- Chestatee Canoe Trail and Launch (SAM- Lanier 2004)
- West Alabama Birding Trail (SAM- Black Warrior 2011)
- Interpretive Trail (MVK- DeGray 2011, 2016)
- Fitness Trail (NAB- Tioga-Hammond 2017)
- Orange Oswald Climber Access Trail (LRH- Summersville 2019)
- Trail Improvements (NAB – Raystown 2020)
- Highlander Mtn Bike/Hike Trail (LRL – Barren River 2021)
- Env Adventure Trail (MVS- Mark Twain 2021)
- Wetland Loop Trail & Viewing (LRH- Clendening 2022)



Tioga-Hammond Lake



Thurmond Lake





Summersville Lake Climbing Partnership: <https://vimeo.com/474696297>



A Corps, an Alliance & a Partnership (4:01)

More from NRAC

Autoplay next video



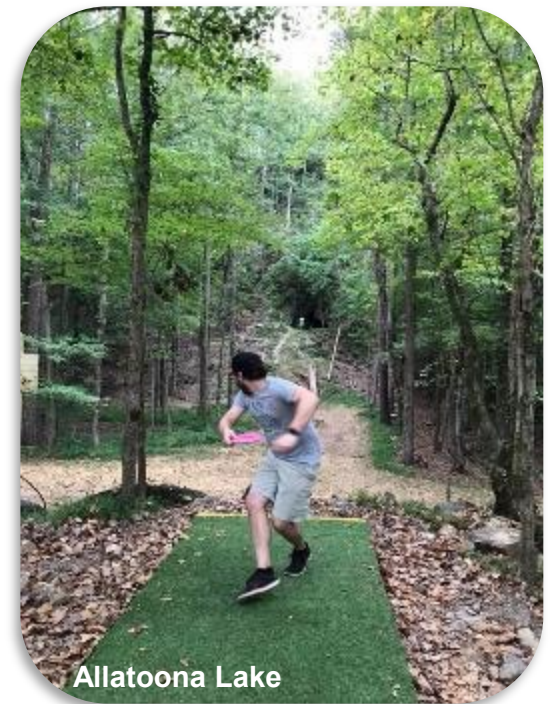
A Corps, an Allian...



Project Examples: Recreation



- Buffalo Valley Stream/Fishing Access (LRN- Center Hill 2010)
- Fishing Tournament Center (SAW- Philpott 2011)
- Campground Environmental Ed Pavilion (LRP- Tionesta 2013)
- Natural Playscape (MVR- Red Rock 2014)
- ORV Park Improvements (NWK- Milford 2016)
- Community Picnic Shelter, ADA improvements (LRE- Soo Locks, 2018)
- Archery Range (MVR- Saylorville, 2019)
- Mtn Bike Skills Park (NAP- Blue Marsh 2020)
- Tailwater Access (LRP – Berlin 2021)
- Disc Golf Course (SWF – Wright Patman 2022)





US Army Corps of Engineers

Brady Park, St. Marys Falls Canal

A gathering place

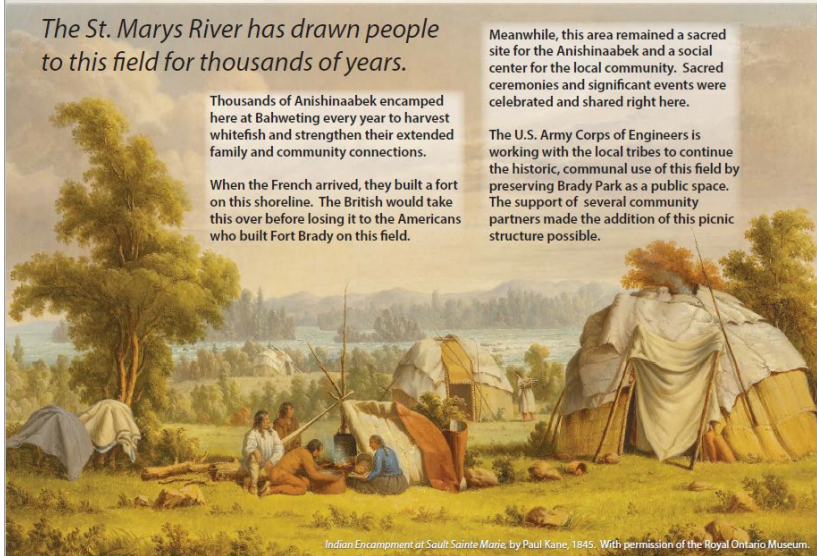
The St. Marys River has drawn people to this field for thousands of years.

Thousands of Anishinaabek encamped here at Bahweting every year to harvest whitefish and strengthen their extended family and community connections.

When the French arrived, they built a fort on this shoreline. The British would take this over before losing it to the Americans who built Fort Brady on this field.

Meanwhile, this area remained a sacred site for the Anishinaabek and a social center for the local community. Sacred ceremonies and significant events were celebrated and shared right here.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working with the local tribes to continue the historic, communal use of this field by preserving Brady Park as a public space. The support of several community partners made the addition of this picnic structure possible.



Indian Encampment at Sault Sainte Marie, by Paul Kane, 1845. With permission of the Royal Ontario Museum.

Military parade in Brady Park, ca. 1925. Courtesy of the Chippewa County Historical Society.



Picnic Structure Project Partners:





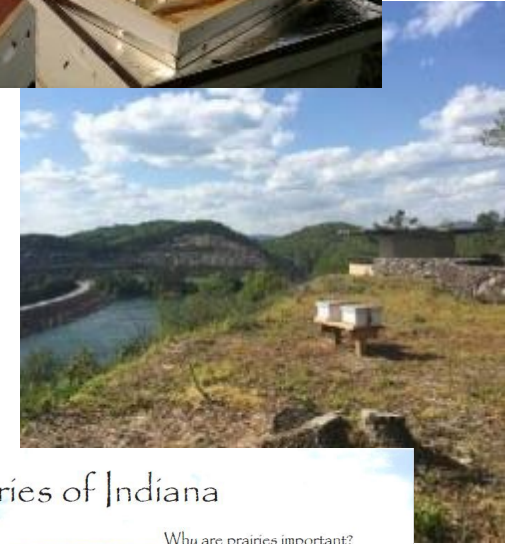
Rend Lake Archery Complex: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tMkofQjvdiA>





Project Examples: Environmental Stewardship

- Feral Cat Population Management (NAE- Cape Cod 2006)
- Shoreline Erosion/Trail Stabilization (NAP- Blue Marsh 2010)
- American Chestnut Reintroduction (LRP- Shenango 2011)
- Wildlife Management Area Model (SPN- Mendocino 2015)
- Turtle Habitat Restoration (NAE- Edward MacDowell 2015)
- Fisheries Habitat Enhancement (MVS- Carlyle 2016)
- Honey Bee Hives and Pollinator Garden (SAM- Carters 2018)
- Prairie Restoration (LRC – Salamonie 2015)
- Habitat Restoration (SPA – John Martin 2022)
- Invasive Species Portable Wash Station (NAP-Beltzville 2022)



Prairies of Indiana

What is a prairie?

- Prairies are composed of plants that are seldom found in other habitats. They are defined by unique soil characteristics, grasses, and wildflowers.
- Examples of prairie grasses include big bluestem, indiangrass, and switchgrass.
- Prairies have unique wildflowers such as coneflower, dense blazingstar, sawtooth sunflower, prairie dock, and spiderwort.

Why are prairies important?

- They provide rare native habitat for birds, butterflies, insects, reptiles, and other small wildlife.
- They require little maintenance, are long lasting, and do not need fertilizers or pesticides.
- They are perfectly adapted to our climate. Prairie root systems are drought resistant, hold soils in place, and absorb water.

Prairie Restoration at Salamonie Lake

- This project was completed by a Handshake Agreement between the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers National Wild Turkey Federation, Indiana Dept. Natural Resources, Lower Salamonie River Watershed Group and the Huntington County Soil and Water Conservation District.
- Prairie areas are also excellent sources of habitat for Northern Harrier, Short-Eared Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, Rabbits, Turkeys and Deer.
- Imperiled Butterflies, Honeybees and other pollinators also depend heavily on prairie habitats.

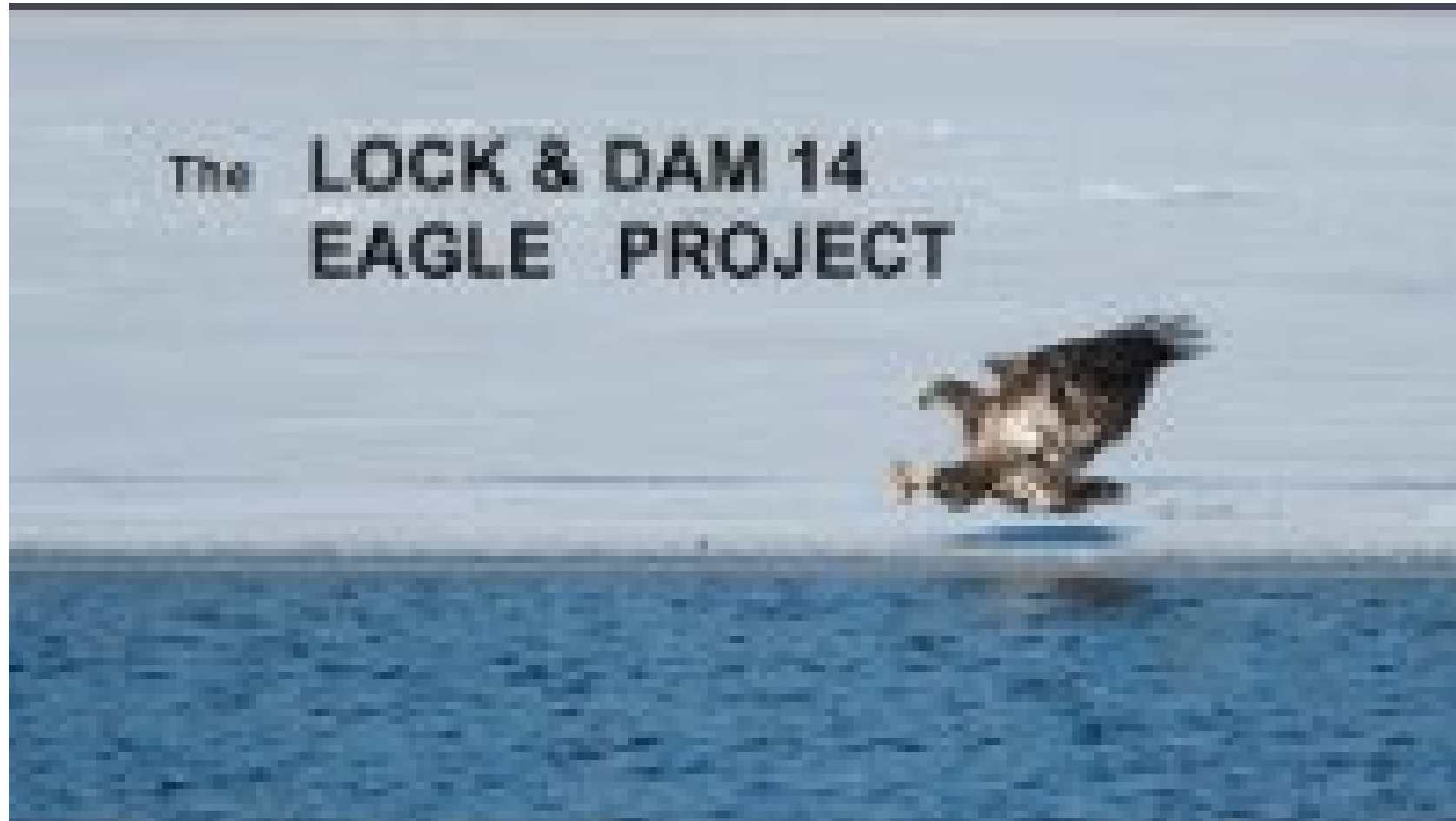
US Army Corps of Engineers

About 15 percent of Indiana, or almost 3.5 million acres, was prairie prior to settlement. Today, only a small amount of remnant prairies remain.





Mississippi River Project Office:
Bald eagle signs and artificial perch structures
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mylYvkj9ZQo>





Project Examples: Accessibility



- Universally Accessible Picnic Sites (MVR- Coralville 2007)
- Accessible Watchable Wildlife Trail (LRP- Kinzua 2008)
- Sunset Trail Pond Accessibility (NAB- Jennings Randolph 2009)
- Wheelchair Access to Waterfall (NAE- Tully 2010)
- Island Creek Disabled Veterans Boat Dock (SAW- JH Kerr 2010)
- ADA Pond and Pier (MVK- Ouachita 2013)
- ADA Fishing Pier, Boat Dock, Duck Blind (MVS- Kaskaskia 2015)
- Accessible Hunting Blinds (MVS- Wappapello 2015)
- ADA Accessible Fishing Pier Relocation (SAS – Thurmond 2021)
- ADA Fishing Dock and Fish Habitat (NWK – Perry 2022)



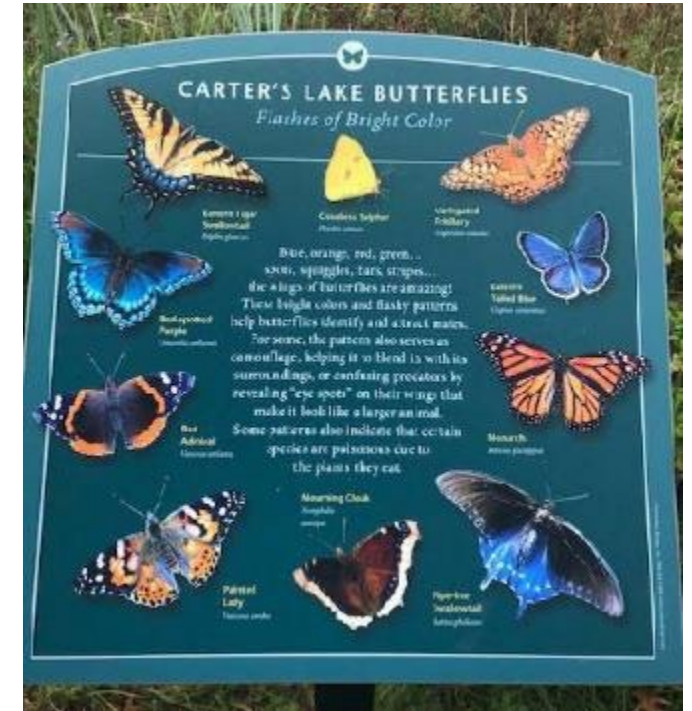




Project Examples: Interpretation



- NW Discovery Water Trail Guide (NWP/NWW 2004)
- Environmental Education Center (W Kerr Scott 2010)
- Russian River Coho Salmon Documentary (SPN- Sonoma 2011)
- Eagle Nest Project (SWF- Waco 2013)
- Interpretive Gardens (MVP- Cross Lake 2015)
- Outdoor Education Area (NWK- Stockton 2016)
- Outdoor Classroom (MVS – Carlyle Lake 2020)
- Amphitheater (MVS – Rivers Project 2020)
- Modernizing Interpretation through Technology (SAM – Carters 2021)
- Lock Model Preserve the Past, Present the future (LRE – Soo Locks 2021)





WELCOME TO Lock and Dam No. 14



US Army Corps of Engineers
Rock Island District

This area is maintained and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The boardwalk, recreation/picnic area and trails around Smith's Island are open to the public year-round. In the winter months, the lock and dam is a premier location for bald eagle watching and photography, with visitors traveling from around the world to view these majestic birds. For your safety, always obey posted signs and be aware of icy conditions. Each year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sponsors several bald eagle-watching events along the Mississippi River. You can find more information at missriver.org.



BALD EAGLE CHARACTERISTICS

Adult or Juvenile

An adult's characteristics are what make it such a predominant figure. The head, neck, and tail feathers are bright white. Its beak and talons are yellow which contrast against the blackish brown torso and wings. A juvenile's color is a mixture or speckled of brown and white with a black beak and talons. Its immature feathers are fuller than an adult's which make them appear larger. A juvenile reaches adult size at around 10 weeks old, but it will take 4 to 5 years to fully develop into an adult. A juvenile's first year of life is critical, meaning it has a greater chance of survival after its first year. A bald eagle has a lifespan of 20-30 years in the wild.

Why do eagles winter here?

In the winter, as lakes, rivers, and streams freeze up north, thousands of eagles migrate along the Mississippi River. The turbulence created below the dam provides open water and an array of stunned fish, like the gizzard shad, that eagles can easily feast upon all winter. In addition, the wooded bluffs that overlook the Mississippi are an excellent habitat for night roosting and daytime perching.

WATCHING TIPS

How do I spot a bald eagle?

The best way to observe is while the eagle is perched in a tall tree near the water's edge. Eagles choose mature trees between 50 and 150 feet tall for perching. To easily find them in the trees, search for their white heads. Also, they can be spotted soaring high above the water searching for fish. Once an eagle has captured its food, many times it will fly to a nearby ice floe to eat.

What should I do when I find one?

When viewing bald eagles, take care not to disturb them. They use as little energy as possible to maintain body heat. Therefore, it is important that resting eagles aren't frightened to the point of flying off. This may cause them to burn up much needed energy to the point of not feeding. You can help prevent stressing bald eagles by not approaching, standing too close or making loud noises. The best places to observe or take photos is along the boardwalk or from inside your car.

What if I find an injured eagle?

Eagles can be extremely dangerous and they consider humans a threat. For your safety, never attempt to approach, pick-up, or feed an injured eagle. If you find an eagle in distress, report it to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.



Male or female

Size will vary depending on the age, and gender. Females are often slightly larger than males.

- Length: Males (30-35 inches); females (34-43 inches)
- Wingspan: Males (6-7 1/2 feet); females (up to 8 feet)
- Weight: Males (8-9 pounds); females (10-14 pounds)

Eagles or other birds of prey



Eagles: Large, dark, soaring birds with long, flat wings and a short, broad tail. They steadily glide and soar with their wings straight across.



Turkey vultures: Similar in size to eagles, they have large broad wings but they hold their wings in a "V" shape when soaring.



Ospreys: Smaller than eagles (medium to large) with long, narrow wings held in a "M" shape when soaring.



DID YOU KNOW?

• There are about 60 eagle species in the world found on every continent except Antarctica. Due to its appearance and diet, the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is known as the "white-headed sea eagle" and is the only species exclusive to North America.

• Today, the bald eagle population is estimated at 70,000 with 78% living in the Northwestern United States and Canada.

• On June 20, 1782, the U.S. Congress adopted the bald eagle as its national bird. It can be found on the nation's Great Seal and currency as a sign of strength, power and majesty.

• Eagles have extraordinary eyesight (five to six times better than humans) which makes them excellent hunters.

• Eagles are at the top of their food chain. However, eagle population declined drastically in the 20th century due to the use of pesticides, lead poisoning, hunting, and habitat reduction.

• In recent years, bald eagle numbers have made a comeback due to improved education and conservation efforts. As of 2007, bald eagles are no longer on the endangered species list but they are still protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940 (16 U.S.C. 668-668d).

• President John F. Kennedy once said, "The Founding Fathers made an appropriate choice when they selected the bald eagle as the emblem of the nation. The fierce beauty and proud independence of this great bird aptly symbolizes the strength and freedom of America."

ARTIFICIAL PERCHES PROJECT

Two large trees at the point of Smith's Island were heavily used by bald eagles to rest and scan the water for fish. These trees fell victim to Dutch Elm disease and had to be removed in early 2017. Veteran eagle watchers Tim Brandenberg, Stan Bousson and Jay Brooks developed a plan to create temporary perches knowing that it would be several years before eagles could use replacement trees. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was fully supportive of the idea knowing the value of the area and need to restore the bald eagle perch. Over three days in September of 2017, Mid-American Energy donated the materials and labor to install the three artificial perches. Living Lands and Waters donated the trees planted around the perches to secure a more natural long-term restoration. Within six months of the installation, the first bald eagles used the temporary perches.



QUAD CITIES VIEWING LOCATIONS





Project Examples: Safety



- Severe Weather Warning System (MVS – Rend 2006)
- Regional Life Jacket Loaner Initiative (SAD- 2009)
- Lucky Peak Mutual Aid Radio Repeater (NWW- Lucky Peak 2010)
- Water Trail Mile Marker Signs (LRP - Loyalhanna 2016)
- Hiking Trail Emergency Stations (LRN – Cordell Hull 2021)





Applications

- Application - NRM Gateway Partnership Page
<https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/handshake/handshake.cfm>
 - MS Word form
 - Example Applications
- May submit multiple applications but each lake project may receive funding for only one Handshake project
- Recipients not required to sit out a year before applying again. However, must submit mandatory reports from previous year's funding and enter data in NRM Assessment before eligible for current funds.



Time Line

Application Period Begins

July

Application Deadline

Sep

Recipients Announced

Nov/Dec

Agreement Deadline

Aug

Expend Funds (REVISED in 2022)

1 yr from receipt of HQ funds

– funds transmitted to District/Project via FAD



Start Early

- September may seem like a long way off, but it will come quickly.
- Determine your project
- Work with prospective partners
- Identify needs and each partner's contribution
- Is the Handshake Program the right fit?



Smithville Lake

Lake Okeechobee





It is very important when completing a
Handshake Application to
READ and FOLLOW
the Application Instructions.

There are point deductions if not.

A good application includes a thorough description about:

- The partners
- The project
- The overall benefit of the partnership

AND



Clearly addresses each evaluation criteria (6) in concise paragraph.

It must tell us why the proposed project is valuable. Don't assume we already know.

Must include maps, plans, photos, conceptual drawings of the proposed project.



Handshake Project Summary Statement



- Describe the partnership and the work to accomplish
- The summary is limited to 1,500 characters, the total description should be no longer than three pages.
- Include the basic who, what, when, where, how.
- Outline concisely:
 - Who will accomplish each task
 - Are there...
 - New facilities
 - Renovations to existing facilities
 - Research
 - Visitor Services
 - Educational or interpretive products created





Handshake Funding Cost Breakdown

- Clearly spell out what the Handshake funding will be used for
- Detail materials, supplies, contracts, etc that will be purchased.





Application Evaluation Criteria



Specifically address how the project will meet the six evaluation criteria

- **O&M Impacts**
- **Partnership Value**
- **Recreational Benefit**
- **Environmental Stewardship Value**
- **Communication and Education Value**
- **Innovativeness/Uniqueness**

Projects that can show benefits in multiple categories compete better.



Red Rock Lake





Scoring

- Each application is evaluated and scored 1 -10 for each criteria, then weighted.
 - O&M Impacts (12.5%)
 - Partnership Value (20%)
 - Recreational Benefit (20%)
 - Environmental Stewardship Value (20%)
 - Communication and Education Value (15%)
 - Innovativeness (12.5%)
- Maximum score for each application is 200 points per evaluator (usually 8 evaluators).





Scoring

- Each PAC member evaluates all applications and submits scores to coordinator.
- Scores are combined to get total score (1,600 max).
- Bonus points are added
- Applications that do not meet the guidelines outlined in the instructions will have points deducted from their final score.
- Projects are ranked in the order of total score.
- Funds are disbursed according to ranking and amount requested.
- It is possible that the lowest ranked funded project will not receive all of requested funds.



Criteria #1: O&M Impacts

What is the life span of the product and the benefit to the Corps? How will it improve efficiencies or be more sustainable?

- What is long term benefit of the project?
- How long do you estimate it will be around?
- What is long term cost?
- Will there be on-going maintenance required?
- By whom?
- Will the project be removed or closed if maintenance is required but not funded?
- **Longer term benefit and less O&M compete better**





Criteria #2: Partnership Value

What is the significance of the partner's contribution to the project (e.g. critical partner, matching dollars, materials, in-kind services, etc.)?

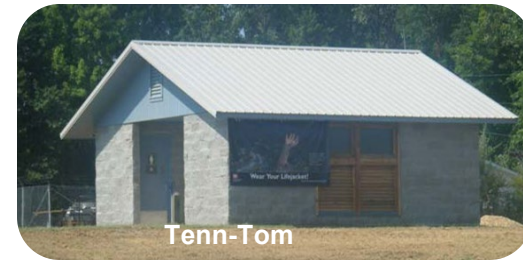
- This category evaluates both the value of the partner and the value of their contributions.
- More partners compete better because there is a stronger partnering benefit and more potential contribution.
- The higher proportionately the value of the partner is to USACE, the more attractive the application.
- Higher % of partner contribution competes better
- Significance of partner to the project competes better



Criteria #3: Recreational Benefit

Does the project improve the overall recreation experience for the project's users? Does it provide opportunities for various user types?

- What experiences are created?
- Who benefits?
- Are there multiple user groups?



- The more diverse and multi-functioning the recreation experience can be, the better the application will score.



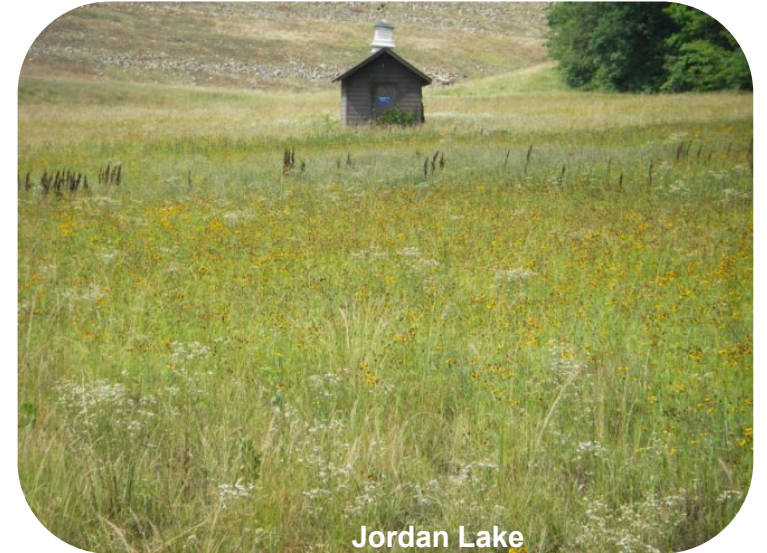


Criteria #4: Environmental Stewardship Value

How does the project contribute to the natural world, and the improvement of the Corp's natural and/or cultural resources?

Topics that usually score well in this category:

- Pollinator projects
- Invasive species control
- Aquatic & fisheries habitat improvements
- Wildlife habitat improvements
- Trails
- Research
- **Improvements to the natural environment usually score better**



Criteria #5: Communication and Education Value



Does the project increase public understanding of the Corps and its missions through interpretation, outreach, education and public information?

- It is important to show the effort in education
- It is important to show the impact of the efforts
- Is it interactive or is everything static?
- Explain how the benefits of the project are conveyed to the public and how the project improves the USACE image.



Much of the land surrounding Lake Allatoona remains forested. Located between Georgia's coastal plain and mountains to the north, this Piedmont area consists of low rolling hills covered in a mix of hardwoods and pines. Oak, hickory, sweetgum, beech, and maple share space with longleaf, shortleaf, Virginia, and Loblolly pines.

Common wildlife includes turkey, white-tail deer, grey squirrels, eastern chipmunks, and countless species of songbirds. Less numerous species like fox, coyote, and beaver also live around Lake Allatoona, but are seldom seen by our visitors. Perhaps you'll catch a glimpse of some of our wildlife on your walk today?

Can you find an example of these five types of tree?

A fox kit is more likely to see you than you to see him. The quieter you are the more likely you'll be to spot our shrew wildlife.

**WALKING IN PIEDMONT MIXED FOREST
COOPER IRON FURNACE TRAIL**

US Army Corps of Engineers
1624-1-10-11

Criteria #6: Innovativeness

Describe the innovative nature of the partnership or the project. Are other organizations doing this kind of project? How is this project important and unique?

- What makes this idea so different?
- Why is it special?
- Is the partnership innovative or is it the project?
Explain the difference if there is one.
- **Convince the reader, “Wow, that is different.”**



Red Rock Lake



Application Guidelines

Application Suggestions:

- Project diversity is good, but not required.
- Follow the instructions on length:
 - Max of 1,500 characters on summary statement
 - Max of 3 pages of narrative and
 - Max of 4 pages of drawings/photos/maps/plans
- Provide the information in an easy to read, easy to find format.





Program Basics

- No required % matching contribution by partners
- Partner's contributions = cash, volunteer services/labor, materials, supplies
 - Reference ER & EP 1130-2-500 Ch 11
- Make sure to include all contributions made by partners on the application
- Proposals with higher % of partner contribution and participation usually compete better



Program Basics

- Handshake funds must be spent via the same processes as any other appropriated funds; in accordance with contracting laws, FAR, DFAR, and AFAR, and all other regulations.
- Projects must consider NEPA requirements that may be necessary prior to beginning work on the Handshake project
- Cannot “Give” Handshake Funds to partners
 - The Corps does not have granting authority
- Handshake funds cannot be spent to fund permanent Corps positions (labor) or travel



Managing Expectations

Realistic view of the opportunity

FY 22: 17 applications (6 selected)

FY 21: 22 applications (13 selected)

FY 20: 16 applications (9 selected)

FY 19: 11 applications (6 selected)

FY 18: 18 applications (7 selected)

FY 17: 15 applications (9 selected)

FY 16: 23 applications (16 selected)

FY 15: 33 applications (13 selected)



- Prior to applying, discuss with partners what you will do if project is not selected
 - Go ahead with project using more local office and/or partner funds
 - Agree on a scaled down version
 - Identify funding from other sources, ie Corps Foundation grants
 - Try a different project
 - Cancel project



Submitting Application



Application Deadline:

Close of Business **30 September 2022**

Application packages must be coordinated with District and Division offices prior to being submitted and must be sent from the Division coordinator via e-mail to Phil Manhart, Phil.J.Manhart@usace.army.mil. (217) 774-3951 x7010



Reporting Requirements



If you are selected as a Handshake funding recipient, please note that there are quarterly updates and final reporting requirements.

	A	B	C
1	Facility Name:	Mark Twain Lake	
2	Project Title:	Environmental Adventure Trail	
3	Funding Year:	FY2021	
4	Date Funding Received:	17-Jun-21	
5	Amount of Funding Received:	\$19,000.00	
6	Handshake Funds Spent:	\$0.00	
7			
8	Due date	Funds Remaining	Status description:
9	4/15/2021	\$19,000.00	Currently coordinating the development of the Challenged Partnership Agreement with partners. Anticipated completion and submission will be June 1, 2021
10	6/15/2021	\$19,000.00	Received program funds from HQ. Site survey on-going
11	9/15/2021		
12	1/15/2022		
13	4/15/2022		
14	6/15/2022		Environmental Compliance requirements completed November 2021.
15			Trees designated within corridor felled by March 1, 2022.
16			Stumps and tree debris removed (75% of total) by July 1, 2022.
17			Task Order for site grading and tread placement currently being prepared. Awaiting RFP from contractor. Will execute \$19,000 funding.
18			Coordinated with partners for site amenities and interpretive features. Reviewing plans.
19			Stockpiling materials for tread surface in August 2022.
20			Anticipate beginning of task order execution by September 1, 2022.
21			
22	9/15/2022		Site survey performed for placement of drainage structures completed.
23			Stockpiling of materials for tread surface on-going
24			Task Order issued for the site grading and tread placement.
25			Anticipate execution in the Fall of 2022. \$19,000 obligated.

Handshake Partnership Program Final Project Close-Out Report

- 1. Fiscal Year Selected as Winning Project:
- 2. Name of Corps Project/Lake:
- 3. District / Division of Corps Project/Lake:
- 4. Handshake Project Name:
- 5. Amount of Handshake Funds remaining: \$
- 6. What has been accomplished? Please provide photographs; before, during, and after!:

		Total
Handshake Program Funding Amount		\$ <input type="text"/>
Local Corps Office Funds (total expended on labor, materials, contracts, etc.)?		\$ <input type="text"/>
Partner's Contributions (total value of funds, goods, services, volunteer hours, etc.)		
Partners Name	Total Value of Contributions	
1 <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	
2 <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	
3 <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	
4 <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	
5 <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	
6 <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	
7 <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	
8 <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	
9 <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	
10 <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	

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.

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](#).



Example Closeout SITREP



HANDSHAKE PARTNERSHIP SUCCESS STORY (PART 1 OF 3)

LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT, SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION



WHO: USACE, Little Rock District, Operations Division; Pulaski County Public Works (PCPW); Quail Forever; and the University of Arkansas Corporate Extension Service

WHAT: Handshake Partnership Agreement

WHEN: March 2020 - Present

WHERE: David D Terry - Damsite 6 West Park

WHY:

- Installation of new restroom
- Restoration of pollinator habitat
- Improvement of wildlife habitat

WHAT'S NEXT: Later in the spring and summer, another survey will be done to see which plants regenerate and the team can determine the level of restoration that will be required to complete the pollinator portion of this partnership agreement.



Summary:

On 15 February 2022, the installation of a \$53,000 restroom began at David D Terry - Damsite 6 West Park. The cost of the new restroom was a split between SWL and Pulaski County Public Works (PCPW) with PCPW funding \$27K. This is the result of a Handshake Partnership agreement between SWL, Pulaski County Public Works, Quail Forever and the University of Arkansas Corporate Extension Service. This mission was undertaken by Natural Resource Specialist, Brittany Seidel, who initiated the conversation with the partners and completed the partnership application during the application period in September 2019. She received notification that her application was funded for \$25,000 in March 2020 and work got off the ground. This partnership also includes restoration of pollinator habitat and improvement of wildlife habitat (continued on next slide).



Q/A From Previous Classes



- *What happens if your project is selected, but your partner can't come up with their funding?*

The handshake funds are returned and likely offered to the next highest scoring applicant

- *What if cost of project is less than expected?*
The unused funds are returned. Handshake funding can only be used for the stated project.

- *How long do you have to expend your funding?* **1 year**

- *Can the Corps contribution consist of just labor?* **Yes**

- *Can you use a different partner if your original partner falls through?*

Yes

- *Where can the funds be spent?*

Only on Corps lands and waters operated and maintained by the Corps



Review



- *What type of agreement is used if you are selected to receive Handshake funds?*

Challenge Partnership Agreement

- *Can I give the Handshake funds to the partner to spend?*

No, only the Corps can use the Handshake funds

- *What is the deadline for submitting a Handshake Application?*

September or the end of the FY.

- *What are the six evaluation categories?*

O&M Impacts, Partnership Value, Recreation Benefit, Environmental Stewardship Value, Communication & Education Value, Innovativeness



Handshake Program Gateway Page

Handshake Program

[Headquarters Partnership POC](#)

The Handshake Program offers a source of seed money to Corps installations for worthwhile partnership projects. The intent of this program is to initiate new, or enhance existing recreation and natural resources management opportunities. The objective is to provide an incentive to Corps projects to utilize partnering initiatives to their fullest potential. In addition, this funding is intended to encourage local organizations to partner with the Corps to construct, operate, and/or maintain local partnering projects. The Handshake Program is a way for the Corps to demonstrate our recognition that partnerships flow in both directions (i.e. partnerships are a "handshake," not a handout). Corps leadership has demonstrated their commitment to a partnership culture by establishing this program.

PLEASE NOTE: At this time, USACE has no authority or mechanism to give a non-federal partner funds. Contact your district partnering POC or division Partnership PDT member if you have questions concerning this issue.

Questions about this program should be directed to [Philip Manhart](#), Handshake Program POC at 217-774-3951 x7010

2023 Application

● [Final Report Form Template](#)

- [Announcement Memo](#)
- [FY23 Handshake Application Webinar](#) - 15 June 1100 EDT, 12 July 1300 EDT, 25 August 1500 EDT
- [Instructions](#)
- [Application Form](#) *To save, select SAVE after clicking link*
- [Handshake Program Fact Sheet](#)
- [Challenge Partnership Agreement Template](#)
- [Handshake Fund Execution](#)

● [Applications and Agreements](#)

● [News/Current Issues](#)

● [Success Stories](#)

Handshake Program Recipients

● [Spreadsheet of Handshake Recipients 2004 - Current](#)

● [Recipient Memos 2004 - Current](#)

Handshake Program Applications and Agreements

Trails

- 2011:**
 - BWT [Application/Agreement](#) - Alabama birding trail development, brochure, website
 - Carlyle [Application/Agreement](#) - River walk 1.5 mile multi-use trail with accessible fishing pier
 - DeGray [Application/Agreement](#) - One-mile Interpretive geology trek and multi-use trail
 - Ouachita [Application/Agreement](#) - 16 mile extension of Vista Trail
- 2012:**
 - Hartwell Lake [Application/Agreement](#) - Mountain bike trail facility improvements
 - Lost Creek Lake [Application/Agreement](#) - Nature trail signs
 - Rathbun Lake [Application/Agreement](#) - Trail rehabilitation
 - Stockton Lake [Application/Agreement](#) - Multi-use trail (1.6 mile)/ parking lot construction
- 2013:**
 - Caesar Creek Lake [Application/Agreement](#) - Fitness trail
 - Mark Twain Lake [Application/Agreement](#) - Campground/VC connector trail construction

Environmental Stewardship

- 2011:**
 - Allatoona [Application/Agreement](#) - American chestnut restoration
 - Shenango River [Application/Agreement](#) - American chestnut re-introduction
 - Francis E Walter [Application/Agreement](#) - Borrow area habitat restoration
- 2012**
 - Gull Lake [Application/Agreement](#) - Invasive species wash station
- 2013:**
 - Fort Peck Lake [Application/Agreement](#) - Aquatic invasive species prevention
 - Lake Red Rock [Application/Agreement](#) - Fish habitat improvement rearing pond construction
 - Raystown Lake [Application/Agreement](#) - Wildlife and Bird Watering/Pond rehabilitation
 - Smithville Lake [Application/Agreement](#) - Aquatic habitat enhancement/fish structures
- 2014**
 - New Hogan [Application/Agreement](#) - Recycling program development
 - Allatoona Lake [Application/Agreement](#) - Osprey platform construction
 - Kaw Reservoir [Application/Agreement](#) - Archaeological research project
 - Carr Creek Lake [Application/Agreement](#)