



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)



Falls Lake

 This is NOT a grant or granting program, although it looks very similar. It is an internal partnership stimulator.



Eligibility



- Handshake funds are administered through a challenge partnership agreement.
- The authority for the challenge partnership program provides opportunities for <u>public and non-Federal groups</u> and <u>individuals</u> 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 <u>non-federal</u> public or private entity
- Within current spending authorities and in approved OMP
- \$150,000 total program available in FY 22
- \$25,000 maximum individual request
- Incentive Points:
 - This project will support youth participation in natural resources and outdoor recreation. (100 points).
 - This project will support diversity, equity, and inclusion goals to increase access to a quality recreation
 experience which includes a safe and healthful environment for a diverse population. This project will help the
 Corps conserve natural resources and provide recreation opportunities that contribute to the quality of
 American life. (100 points).





New: Corps Foundation Bonus



AMERICA'S LAKES AND WATERWAYS

- 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 – FY21)



Handshake Funds: \$ 3,335,640

(199 project recipients)

Corps Offices: \$ 2,889,409

Partners: \$ 9,414,441

Total: \$ 15,649,490

*60% was contributed by 663 total partners





Most Handshake Awards





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





Highest Total Value, Highest Partnership Value

SWL - Norfork 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



- West Penn Trail Bridge Rehab (LRP-Conemaugh 2015)
- Fitness Trail (NAB- Tioga-Hammond 2017)
- Orange Oswald Climber Access Trail (LRH- Summersville 2019)
- Chestatee Canoe Trail and Launch (SAM- Lanier 2004)
- West Alabama Birding Trail (SAM- Black Warrior 2011)
- Interpretive Trail (MVK- DeGray 2011, 2016)
- Tall Grass Heritage Trail (NWK- Melvern 2006)
- Blueways Trail (SAW- Philpott 2014)
- Mountain Bike Trail (SAM- Thurmond 2015)





Thurmond Lake











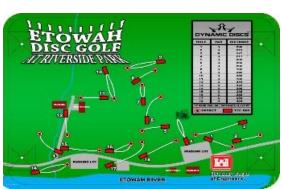




Project Examples: Recreation



- Archery Range (MVR- Saylorville, 2019)
- Fishing Tournament Center (SAW- Philpott 2011)
- Campground Environmental Ed Pavilion (LRP- Tionesta 2013)
- Gum Grove Launch Ramp (LRN- Dale Hollow 2009)
- Disc Golf Course (SAM- Allatoona 2015)
- Roanoke River Basin Blueway Access (SAW- JH Kerr 2012)
- Community Picnic Shelter, ADA improvements (LRE- Soo Locks, 2018)
- ORV Park Improvements (NWK- Milford 2016)
- Buffalo Valley Stream/Fishing Access (LRN- Center Hill 2010)
- Natural Playscape (MVR- Red Rock 2014)









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.



Appalin "

Picnic Structure
Project Partners:



















(4:01)











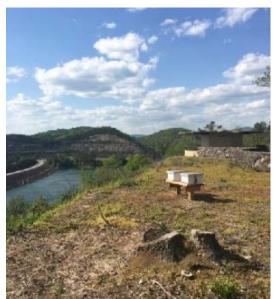


Project Examples: Environmental Stewardship



- Shoreline Erosion/Trail Stabilization (NAP- Blue Marsh 2010)
- Wildlife Management Area Model (SPN- Mendocino 2015)
- Warm Season Grass Restoration (LRL- Barren River 2009)
- Invasive Species Wash Station (MVP- Gull 2012)
- Honey Bee Hives and Pollinator Garden (SAM- Carters 2018)
- Turtle Habitat Restoration (NAE- Edward MacDowell 2015)
- Fisheries Habitat Enhancement (MVS- Carlyle 2016)
- American Chestnut Reintroduction (LRP- Shenango 2011)
- Feral Cat Population Management (NAE- Cape Cod 2006)













U.S.ARMY







Mississippi River Project Office: Bald eagle signs and artificial perch structures









Highest Partner Value by Category: Environmental

Stewardship

SPN - Lake Sonoma 2009

Fish Hatchery Stream Access and Restoration

Total Project Value: \$212,500

Handshake Funds: \$7,500

Corps Total: \$17,500

Partner Total Value: \$195,000

Number of Partners: 3







Project Examples: Accessibility



- ADA Pond and Pier (MVK- Ouachita 2013)
- Wheelchair Access to Waterfall (NAE- Tully 2010)
- Island Creek Disabled Veterans Boat Dock (SAW- JH Kerr 2010)
- Sunset Trail Pond Accessibility (NAB- Jennings Randolph 2009)
- Accessible Watchable Wildlife Trail (LRP- Kinzua 2008)
- Universally Accessible Picnic Sites (MVR- Coralville 2007)
- Visitor Center Accessibility Improvements (LRB- Mt Morris 2007)
- ADA Fishing Pier, Boat Dock, Duck Blind (MVS- Kaskaskia 2015)
- Denby Bay ADA Trail (MVK- Ouachita 2005)
- Accessible Hunting Blinds (MVS- Wappapello 2015)



















Highest Partner Value by Category: Accessibility

Improvements

SAW – John H Kerr: 2010

Island Creek Disabled Veterans Boat Dock/Access

Total Project Value: \$213,176Handshake Funds: \$25,000

Corps Total: \$28,176

Partner Total Value: \$160,000

Number of Partners: 2







Project Examples: Interpretation



- Russian River Coho Salmon Documentary (SPN- Sonoma 2011)
- Eagle Nest Project (SWF- Waco 2013)
- Outdoor Education Area (NWK- Stockton 2016)
- Visitor Center and Trail Improvements (SAM- Allatoona 2009)
- Kaskaskia/Mississippi River Interp Area (MVS- Kaskaskia 2010)
- Raystown Conservation Ed Partnership (NAB- Raystown 2008)
- Interpretive Gardens (MVP- Cross Lake 2015)
- Environmental Education Center (W Kerr Scott 2010)
- NW Discovery Water Trail Guide (NWP/NWW 2004)











WELCOME TO

Lock and Dam No.14



US Army Corps
of Engineers ®

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 baid 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 baid eagle-watching events along the Mississippi River. You can find more information at missriver.org.

Why do eagles winter here?

In the winter, as lake, rivers, and streams freeze up north, thousands of eagles migrate along the Mississiph filter. The stub-flere created below the dam provides open water and an any of stunned shit, like the gizzad shad, that eagles can easily fea upon all winter. In addition, the wooded bluffs that overlook the Mississippi are an excellent habita for night rooting and daytime preching.

WATCHING TIPS

ow do I spot a bald eagle

The best way to observe is while the eagle is precided in a till teen ear the water's edge. Regist, choose mature trees between 50 and 150 feet tal for perclaing. To easily find them in the trees, search for their with the basis. Also, they continue to spotted coving high above the water searching for fish. Once an eagle has captured its food, many times it will fly to ansetly just fine to eat.

What should I do when I find one

When viewing laid regist take care not to distub them. They use satisfies energy a possible for annistant hooly heat. Therefore, it is important that resting regist a sent flightened to the point of high off. This may cause them to barm up much needed energy to the point of not feeding. You can help prevent streaming hald engight by not approaching, standing too close or making load noises. The best places to observe or that photosis along the bonderfolds or one inside your cox.

What if I find an injured eagl

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 lows Department of Natural Resources.

BALD EAGLE CHARACTERISTICS

Adult or Juvenile

An adult's characteristics are what make it auch a productionist figure. The beds, once, and on all enthers are productionist figure. The beds, once, and on all enthers are beight relate. Its beast and stolen are yellow which contrast against the bladks hown to soon and what with a significant is anticisin or specified of the contract beat of the significant of the contract is anticisin or specified of the contract and what the significant and allows it is instantial beathers are failed that an adult's as around. I tower so the significant is allowed to the contract around it tower so the both will take 4 to 5 years to fully develope those and A.A. Jovensific for sure or fifties or titles develope them as which A. Jovensific for sure or fifties or titles developed to the surface of the contract in the wild. And of goal the all greatment of 200 Years in the wild.



Male or female

Size will vary depending on the age, and gender. Femals are often slightly larger than males. Length: Males (30-35 inches); females (24-43 inches) - Wingspant Males (67-7); lett); females (up to 8 feet) - Weight: Males (8-9 pounds); females (10-14 pounds)

Eagles or other birds of prey



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

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



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

1

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 (Halliseetus leucocaphalus) is known as the "white-headed see eagle" and is the only species exclusive to North Amarica.

Today, the bald eagle population is estimated at 70,000 with 78% living in the Northwestern

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

- Eagles have extraordinary eyesight (five to six times better than humans) which makes them

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

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.

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

ARTIFICIAL PERCHES PROJECT

Two longs trees at the point of Sirvish Island were though used by bold or give to me and oran the water for the new trees, full victim to Outh Elm Girsson and had to be encoused in each yOUT Versen and give waters in Tail waterburg. Stan Bourson and by Brook de vindeped a plan to creat temporal products knowing that it would be sever it your before register could use replacement trees. The U.S. Amy Capp of Engineers was fully apported or the island tomoring a your before registers was fully apported or the island tomoring of women fully supported or the instance of the island tomoring of women fully supported and were fully apported with definitions of the product of the season of spreadment of 2017. All definitions from give diseased the materials and bloot to install the tree enfects product, t. Using Lands and Wester Souland the trees planted a round the products to secure a rose natural bogs term restoration. Within



QUAD CITIES VIEWING LOCATIONS OWA Challenge of the control of th

PROJECT SPONS ORS: U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers / Jay Books, Tan Branderberg and Son Bosson / Quad Critis Photography Club / Mid-American Energy / Living Lands and Mate-5019 90 000 DB, U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers / Matthew Conting Engle Scott Project / Mitroffire Communications / Photograph by Jay Brooks



Highest Partner Value by Category: Interpretation

W. Kerr Scott Lake 2010
Environmental Education Center Exhibits

Total Project Value: \$245,000Handshake Funds: \$30,000

Corps Total: \$110,000Partner Total: \$135,000

Number of Partners: 2







Project Examples: Safety

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













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 OMBIL before eligible for current funds.



Time Line



Application Period Begins July

Application Deadline Sep

Recipients Announced Nov

Agreement Deadline Aug

Expend Funds 2 yrs 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?



Lake Okeechobee



Smithville Lake





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 in concise paragraphs

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



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
 - 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

- Longevity/Sustainability
- **Partnership Value**
- **Recreational Benefit**
- **Environmental Stewardship Value**
- **Communication and Education Value**
- Innovativeness/Uniqueness

Projects that can show benefits in multiple categories compete better.







Scoring

- Each application is evaluated and scored 1 -10 for each criteria, then weighted.
 - Sustainability/Longevity (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: Longevity/Sustainability



What is the life span of the product and the benefit to the Corps?

- ➤ 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 the COE, 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.





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

- Don't assume the reader knows what you know.
- 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 <u>required</u> % 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 (x 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



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?
 2 years
 - Can the Corps contribution consist of just labor?
- 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?

Longevity/Sustainability, Partnership Value, Recreation, Environmental Stewardship, Communication & Education, Innovativeness



Handshake Program Gateway Page



Handshake Program

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 Heath Kruger, Handshake Program POC at (402) 995-2716.

2018 Application

- · Handshake Program Fact Sheet
- · Challenge Partnership Template
- · Handshake Fund Execution
 - Applications and Agreements
 - Success Stories

Final Report Forms

- FY 2016
- FY 2015
- · FY 2014
- · FY 2013
 - News/Current Issues
 - How To Prepare a Winning Handshake Application Webinar

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 Onemile Interpretive geology trek and multi-
- · Ouachita Application/Agreement 16 mile extension of Vista Trail
- · 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

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
- · 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 Creak Lake Application/Agr





QUESTIONS?

