

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fiscal Year 2012
Handshake Program Application**

Please review instructions before completing application!

Corps Lake/Project Name:**Lake Red Rock Project**

Handshake Proposal Title:**Hickory Ridge Camp**

Corps POC Name:**John Holt**

Telephone:(**641**) **828** - **7522** ext.

E-Mail: **John.F.Holt@usace.army.mil**

A. Partnership Project Type:

- Challenge Partnership Project**
 - SCA Intern/Work Crew Project**
 - Combined Challenge Partnership and SCA Project**
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B. Handshake Funding Program Request (maximum \$25,000): \$25,000

C. Challenge Partnership Eligibility Checklist (skip if SCA project only):

1. Is the funding going to be spent at Corps facilities and resources that are being maintained at 100% federal expense? **Yes** (eligible) **No** (not eligible)*
2. Is the agreement with a non-federal public or private entity(ies)? **Yes** (eligible) **No** (not eligible)*
3. Is the proposed activity within current authorities and contained in the annual or 5-year work plan in the approved OMP? **Yes** (eligible) **No** (see # 4)
4. If No for #3, when will the OMP be updated and approved? (Example: Sept 11) Feb-12**

**Proposal cannot be authorized under the Corps' challenge partnership authority.*

*** If date provided in answer to question 4 would come after the commencement of your proposed challenge partnership your activity can not be authorized.*

D. Cooperating Association Agreement Bonus: (skip if SCA project only)

Challenge Partnerships that include an organization (cooperating associations, friends groups) with which your project/district has recently (after January 1, 2009) entered into a Cooperative Agreement are eligible to compete for an additional \$5000. You must include a copy of the signed agreement with your proposal. (Reference Chapter 9 of ER and EP 1130-2-500 for information on cooperating associations).

Date of Cooperating Association Agreement: (must be after January 1, 2009 to be eligible).

E. Incentive Points Categories: Check the box for each category that applies to your partnership project and include an explanation in the project description (Section F.). Qualifying applications will receive bonus points on their evaluation score.

Includes a veteran's and/or military family organization. Groups must be an intended signatory to the agreement in order to qualify for the bonus points.

Americas Great Outdoors – <http://americasgreatoutdoors.gov/> - Contributes to USACE efforts to accomplish USACE action items identified in AGO report: List action item #: **2.2; 3.1b; 9.2a and others.**

National Recreation Strategic Plan- <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/visitors/strategy.cfm> – Contributes to USACE efforts to accomplish goals and objectives: List objective #: **2.1; 3.2 and others.**

F. Describe your partnership and the proposed project:

Your project will be evaluated on the following categories: **Sustainability, Partnership Value, Recreation Benefit, Environmental Stewardship Benefit, Communication and Education Value, and Innovativeness.** Please address each in your description. Also address incentive point categories you have identified in Section E. If the project involves a SCA intern/crew please include the number of SCA volunteers that will be involved and describe what they will be doing.

Description:

The proposal is to support development at the Hickory Ridge Camp area at Lake Red Rock. This project will turn an eyesore into an attraction. A bankrupt timeshare campground was abandoned here decades ago, leaving behind deteriorating ruins of mobile homes and former facilities. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) purchased the 47 acre oak and hickory parcel in 2010. Their goal was to "rewild" the land for public enjoyment. This area is a great resource that fits all three local Corps missions (flood control, recreation and environmental stewardship) and was accepted as a donation from INHF in June 2011 to be used as a paddle-in/hike-in camp.

Although the land is now owned in fee title and managed by the Corps of Engineers, work to develop Hickory Ridge has only just begun. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has constructed eight mulched sites with fire rings for tent campers. IDNR crews have also completed some shoreline work to create a kayak/canoe access. This area will be part of the Lake Red Rock water trail system which is expected to be complete by October 31, 2011. There is much excitement in the lake area about paddlesport opportunities.. Hickory Ridge is the first paddle/hike-in camp of its type in Iowa.

The Handshake Partnership funds will help develop Hickory Ridge and expand partnerships to protect this great natural resource. Funds will be used for to purchase materials for a vault toilet, purchase materials to create a volunteer camp pad with utilities. There will be limited amenities at this primitive and remote area, and a volunteer will help assist visitors.

We have had many partners up to this point including the INHF and IDNR. Our primary partner throughout the project has been the Red Rock Lake Association (RRLA), and they will continue to be the primary partner for this proposal and future work. The RRLA will provide volunteers to assist with invasive species management. They will facilitate the youth camp development plan and fundraising for amenities such as fire rings, log benches and trail development. Many other organizations, businesses and community leaders are also part of this project;

however, their services would be included under the umbrella of the RRLA. Here are a few of the other partners working with the RRLA to give you an understanding of the reach of this partnership:

- Vermeer Manufacturing - Wood chipping and other invasive species removal equipment and staff to operate the machinery (in-kind services)
- Cadets - area youth group looking to create a youth camp and provide volunteer hours
- Pella Scouts - youth group working with Cadets on the development plan for youth camp and volunteer hours
- Central College - students looking for research projects and invasive species work days
- Leave No Trace - organization was involved with the grand opening and also providing ongoing education information
- Central Iowa Paddlers - organization providing water trail planning, fundraising and volunteer service hours

Sustainability - The life span of this project is 25+ years. The benefit to the Corps is a new unique amenity in a paddle and youth camp, protection of a great natural resource, and strengthened partnerships.

Partnership Value - Up to this point, partners have contributed over \$300,000 in volunteer service, in-kind gifts and property. Future costs and needs are estimated at \$37,000 for materials to construct a youth camp area, in-kind equipment use and 1,500 hours in volunteer services. There will be additional future value as well. It is hard to put a value on the partnerships we are building for the future.

Environmental Stewardship Benefit - Currently this area doesn't have any sanitary facilities. The vault toilet will keep the primitive feel of the area yet sustain the environment. The camp, with paddle-in access, will allow users a chance to view, interact, study and get connected with land and water. We will also offer some paddling programs at Hickory Ridge which will add to our youth and general public connection to the environment. With the area being developed in the past and then abandoned, there are many opportunities involving invasive species control. The efforts of the project will begin to turn the natural cycle in the right direction for this oak and hickory forest.

Recreational Benefit - This is an unique recreation area that provides ample recreational opportunities such as orienteering, geocaching, paddling, hiking, bird watching, photography, camping and snowshoeing. The primary users will be paddlers, nature enthusiasts and youth groups. This project also accomplishes multiple objectives in both the America's Great Outdoors and National Recreation Strategic Plan initiatives by offering new recreation access to the area and developing partnerships to sustain recreation.

Communication and Education Value - This project increases public understanding of the Corps missions. It will be a site for interpretive programming involving paddling, water safety, exploring, birding and others. With the multiple partners involved in this project, it also reaches many area community members. Paddlers come from across Iowa paddle Lake Red Rock, so partnering with the Corps of Engineers for this new amenity will help the public understand our appreciation for the environment, environmental education and recreation.

Innovativeness - To our knowledge, this is the first paddle-in camp on a lake in Iowa. It is the Corps of Engineers' first project with the INHF and the first Corps project with Leave No Trace since a national Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed. This project fits well with our "natural place to play" feel at Lake Red Rock.

The Corps will:

1. Purchase materials to construct a vault toilet and install the pit at the site
2. Create a pad for a volunteer and arrange for utilities in the area
3. Provide guidance and oversight in the development of the youth camp

The Partner(s) will:

1. Create a youth camp design plan
2. Purchase materials for the youth camp such as fire ring(s) and seating (logs, benches)
3. Recruit volunteers to remove invasive species especially in areas that manual labor is needed due to terrain.
4. Recruit volunteers to assemble the structure around the vault toilet
4. Assist in development and maintenance of low use trails at the site
5. Provide equipment for invasive species removal (hand saws, gloves, face shields, chippers, rakes...)
6. Other light duty clean-up, assembly, painting and volunteer service opportunities that arise during development

Handshake Application Financial Work Sheet

Partner Organization 1: Red Rock Lake Association

POC Name: Matt Kissinger

Address: P.O. Box 292

City: Pella

State: IA

Zip Code: 50219

Telephone: 641-416-0247

Partner Organization 2: Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

POC Name: Anita Ogara

Address: 505 Fifth Avenue, Suite 444

City: Des Moines

State: IA

Zip Code: 50309

Telephone: 515-288-1846

Partner Organization 3:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone:

Double click on spreadsheet to access data entry fields:

	Local Corps Office	Handshake Funds	SCA	Partner 1	Partner 2	Partner 3	Total
In-Kind Services	\$5,000	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$3,000	\$25,000	N/A	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$30,000
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	N/A	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$3,000
Funds Contributed	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$32,894	\$0	\$0	\$32,894
SCA Intern/Crew	\$0	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000
Total	\$8,000	\$25,000	\$0	\$37,894	\$300,000	\$0	\$370,894
Share of Total Cost	2%	7%	0%	10%	81%	0%	100.0%

Explanations:

- Local Corps funds include staff labor (in-kind services) and materials for utilities (materials and supplies)
- Handshake funds will be used as follows:
 - o \$18,000 vault toilet (vault pit liner and shell materials)
 - o \$7,000 materials for volunteer pad/utilities (concrete, rock, septic, electric, water)
- Partner 1 includes materials to develop youth camp (\$2,000), equipment for invasive removal (\$3,000) and 1,500 volunteer hours in area design, construction of vault toilet shell, trail clearing, and invasive species removal (\$32,894).
- The "Other" under Partner 2 is for the funds given up to this point to obtain the land, restoration and development.

