

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fiscal Year 2013
Handshake Program Application**

Please review instructions before completing application!

Corps Lake/Project Name:**Rathbun Lake/ North Shore Trail**

Handshake Proposal Title:**Rock'n the Trail**

Corps POC Name:**Marcia Thomas**

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A. Eligibility checklist:

1. Is the seed money going to be spent at Corps facilities and resources that are being maintained by the Corps at 100% expense? * **Yes** **No**

2. Is the agreement with a non-federal public or private entity(ies)? * **Yes** **No**

3. Is the proposed activity within current authorities and contained in the annual or 5-year work plan in the approved OMP? ** **Yes** **No**

4. If no, when will the OMP be updated and approved? (example: Sept 10)

**If "No" to either question 1 or 2 the proposal cannot be authorized under the Corps' challenge partnership authority.*

*** If "No" to question 3 and the date provided in answer to question 4 would come after the commencement of your proposed challenge partnership your activity can not be authorized.*

B. Handshake Funding Program Request (maximum \$30,000): \$30,000

C. Cooperating Association Bonus: Challenge Partnerships that include a Cooperating Association with which your project/district has 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).

D. Incentive Points Category: Check the box if your Lake/Project qualifies to receive bonus points on the evaluation score for submitting partnership success stories/GETS. Also include an explanation of the GETS submittal and the date of submission below the check box.

Partnership Success Stories/Good Enough to Share Submittals: Facilities that provided at least one partnership success story from previous activities may qualify for bonus points. Please check box if you have submitted a GETS or Partnership Success Story in Fiscal Year 2012

E. 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.

Description:

The mainspring of the 8 mile Rathbun Lake North Shore Trail is the Challenge Partnership Agreement, signed in November 2011 between the Corps and the following partners, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Appanoose County Trails, Inc, and Rathbun Snow Riders, Inc. The 25 year Challenge Partnership Agreement forged both the long term partnership commitment of maintaining the trail for walking, hiking, biking, snowmobiling, birders, wildlife viewing, nature enthusiasts and geocaching and the annual O & M work activities of trail rock purchases, placement of trail rock, mowing trail heads and snowmobile trail, maintenance of trail, signage, trail litter pick up/monitoring, and installation of trail amenities including trail benches, kiosks, and trail side interpretive panels. Partners would cooperatively work with development of trail map for kiosks and associated materials for distribution to communities, interested persons and groups, and at sport shows as well as special events on the trail. With award of \$30,000 from the 2013 Handshake Application, continued partnering efforts would be achieved through purchase of aggregate rock for hard surfacing of trail and its placement towards the final four miles of hard surface trail connecting four trail heads and in-kind O & M work items. Four trail heads connect a Corps campground, boundary access points, wetland viewing area, and main trail head for an Iowa State Destination Park. Additional funding would provide the development of trail amenities such as kiosks at trail heads, benches along the trail, and outdoor interpretive panels showcasing wise stewardship of natural resources – wetlands, prairie restoration/relicts, native woodlands, and wildlife habitat on 620 acres on public lands.

Sustainability: Positive public interest in providing additional outdoor recreation opportunities on public lands stimulated the design and development of the 8 mile multi use Rathbun Lake North Shore Trail in 2010. Interest and local partnership support/volunteerism generated the 2011 Challenge Partnership Agreement between the Corps (43%), Iowa DNR (32%), Appanoose County Trails, Inc. (21%) and the Rathbun Snow Riders, Inc. (3%). The Challenge Partnership Agreement provides annual O & M commitments from the four partners over a 25 year agreement period. The North Shore Trail connects two established high visitation park areas, Honey Creek State Resort Park and Corps of Engineer's Prairie Ridge Park. Trail heads are easily reached by major connecting state road systems assuring long term stability and value. The Dedication of the trail in April 2012 was supported by walkers, runners, local sponsors, state and local officials and media coverage.

Partnership Value: The partners' commitment/contributions of in kind services of various O & M work items and amenities during the first year(2012) of the Challenge Partnership Agreement has strengthened and supported the value of the trail to the public in addition to each of the partners. As the Partner's contributions are determined on an annual basis which specifies trail monitoring, trail maintenance, and in kind services are documented on the Financial Work Sheet of the CPA. Each partner's contributions provide both immediate and long term benefits, from trail monitoring, to vegetation plantings, grass seeding, and trail amenities such as trail signage installation, trail mowing, trail information/maps development, to routine O & M work items. These efforts have resulted in shared community, state, and federal goals addressing public interest in trails. It is anticipated that similar in kind contributions from all three partners in the amount of \$30,000 would occur on an annual basis. The Corps would provide annually nearly \$25,000 for continuation of trail rock/trail maintenance materials and equipment. In addition, the Corps would coordinate land stewardship projects with local community college, area schools, and interested groups on the adjacent natural resource compartments, as designated in current Operational Management Plan. Overall, in the first year (2012) alone, the multi-use trail partners have committed over \$30,717.00 in materials, volunteer labor, and equipment use and in kind-services.

Environmental Stewardship Value: The established trail heads have provided access to two natural resource compartments composed of 620 acres of native prairies, reestablished native grasses, native oak woodlands, and reestablished hardwood plantings. The access points and the trail itself will avail itself for wildlife viewing/year round birding opportunities, plus serve as a local/regional educational tool for resource stewardship programs by schools and organizations. The Corps is currently engaging an area community college in land stewardship and biological curriculum development and special student projects on the natural resource management compartments. A Memorandum of Understanding will provide a learning platform for students interested in resource management and/or land stewardship careers. The Resource Management Compartments will serve as examples of best management practices in timber management, wildlife habitat improvement, invasive weed control, native grassland establishment, prairie relict inventory and restoration, siltation management, water quality, and shoreline protection and meet natural resource management objectives stated in the lake's OMP. Interpretive panels will be developed to “tell the story” of the Corps environmental stewardship.

Recreational Benefits: The Rathbun North Shore Trail provides additional opportunities on public lands for land based and year round diverse activities. Diverse outdoor opportunities include health/awareness activities of walking, running, biking, geocaching, to specific natural resource activities of birding/wildlife viewing/habitat diversity, photography and seasonal activities of snowmobile riding; all of which will connect additional visitors to the public lands and growing awareness of the recreational benefits provided by the Corps of Engineers and its partners. The trail is an all season trail with a high diversity of uses. 1300 geocaching enthusiasts participated in the 12th Midwest Open Geocaching Adventure (M.O.G.A.) which included geocaches on trail in April 2012 held at Rathbun Lake. The Corps's Prairie Ridge Campground /Day Use Park on the trail's south access connects to the Honey Creek Resort Park on the trail's north access. Annual visitation between the two parks is 30% of the total visitor hours at Rathbun Lake.

Communication and Education Value: The Rathbun North Shore Trail will effectively promote understanding and awareness to lake visitors the role of the Corps mission for providing quality, sustainable, and diverse recreation opportunities on public lands as well as providing sound wise land stewardship practices and environmental concepts to the recreation and natural resource public while balancing the flood events inherent in a flood control lake/river system. Public information will continued to be developed for use at trail heads, brochures, and interpretive panels along the trail, and partnering with shared values of responsible groups and agencies as well as partnering with area schools for outdoor learning experiences, community colleges, and continuing the story with both state and federal land managers. The Corps is currently engaging with an area community college in curriculum development and special study projects of the land stewardship and biological curriculum on the natural resource management compartments. This partnering will provide a learning platform for students interested in resource management and/or land stewardship careers. The trail will highlight best management practices meeting objectives defined in Rathbun Lake’s OMP.

Innovativeness: The Rathbun Lake North Shore Trail showcases two natural resource management compartments composed of native mixture of southern Iowa vegetation/habitat with an 8 mile winding trail for diverse outdoor opportunities. The genesis of the trail was expressed in state wide interest for multi use trails garnered by public meetings in the 1990's. With the combined resources of the Corps of Engineers, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and two local trail groups, Appanoose County Trails, Inc. and Rathbun Snow Riders under a 25 year Challenge Partnership Agreement, the North Shore Trail will provide bikers, walkers, and wildlife/nature enthusiastic, and snowmobile users a connecting link between a Corps of Engineers Park and an Iowa Department of Natural Resources State Resort Park. Trail heads located adjacent to public roads provide additional trail access for visitors to the Corps of Engineers managed public lands. Snowmobilers will be able to continue on an additional twenty miles of established trail on Corps managed land that travels around the entire lake. The North Shore Trail is a trail for all reasons and all seasons.

The Corps will:

The requested funding of \$30,000 supplied by the Handshake Partnership Application would be the Corps's match in the long term Challenge Partnership Agreement. The funding would be used for the purchase of additional trail rock and its placement toward hard surfacing the remaining southern half of the trail. Purchases of grass seed and tree seedlings would replace losses experienced during the 2012 drought. Additional trail side amenities such as kiosks, benches, and interpretive panels would be purchased. The Corps will maintain overall responsibility/direction/coordination/oversight of management, monitoring, and promotion/communication of the trail within the scope of the Challenge Partnership Agreement.

The Partner(s) will:

The Challenge Partnership Agreement has clearly defined the commitment and responsibilities of each of the Partners. Iowa Department of Natural Resources will provide mowing and maintenance of trail heads on a monthly basis from Spring through late Fall. Additional mowing on the 8 mile trail for maintenance access will be done on a six week basis during the growing season. Appanoose County Trails, Inc. and Rathbun Snow Riders, Inc. will provide in kind service with trail monitoring, litter pickup, minor trail maintenance, trail rock assistance, signage placement, turf establishment, seedling plantings, installation of trail amenities, trail brochure development, and trail promotion with special events.

Challenge Partnership Financial Work Sheet

Corps Project Name: KCD Rathbun Lake

Work Project Title: Rathbun North Shore Trail

POC Name: Marcia Thomas

Address: 20112 Hwy J5T

City: Centerville

State: IA

Zip Code: 52544

Telephone: 8163893123

Location on Project: Lake Office

Partner Organization 1: Iowa Department of Natural Resources

POC Name: Chuck Gipp, Director

Address: Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th Street
52544

City: Des Moines

State: IA

Zip Code:

Telephone: 5152815918

Partner Organization 2: Appanoose County Trails, Inc.

POC Name: Alan Johnson, President

Address: 15053 Hatchery Place

City: Moravia

State: IA

Zip Code: 52571

Telephone: 6418953475

Partner Organization 3: Rathbun Snow Riders, Inc.

POC Name: Gene Paris

Address: 21845 458th St.

City: Centerville

State: IA

Zip Code: 52544

Telephone: 6418950259

Proposed start date of work: Jan-13

Simple description of work to be accomplished through the partnership: Purchase of trail aggregate and placement on trail, annual O & M work activities, trail maintenance, amenities

Double click on spreadsheet to access data entry fields:

	Local Corps Office	Handshake Funds	Partner 1	Partner 2	Partner 3	Total
Salaries	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$15,500
Equipment Use	\$17,000	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$45,500
Funds Contributed	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$5,000	\$13,700	\$3,500	\$22,200
Other (explain below)	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,000
Total	\$27,000	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$15,700	\$5,500	\$98,200
Share of Total Cost	27.5%	30.5%	20.4%	16.0%	5.6%	100%

Explanations: Other for labor/oversight. With award of \$30,000 from 2013 Handshake Application, the breakout for Corps/partnership contributions would be 58%/42% for annual O & M work activities plus placement of additional trail rock and purchase of trail amenities by Corps with Partners installing the amenities. Without award of \$30,000 from 2013 Handshake Application, the breakout of the Corps/Partnership contributions would be drastically reduced due to inability to make purchase of trail amenities, placement of large quantities of trail rock which would decrease the in-kind services for both O & M work activities, extending the trail, and

development of trail amenities. Corps participation/ contribution would be reduced to \$27,000 and corresponding decreases would be expected by all three partners.