

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fiscal Year 2014
Handshake Program Application**

Please review instructions before completing application!

Corps Lake/Project Name:**Falls Lake, Wilmington District**

Handshake Proposal Title:**Construction of a universally accessible fishing pier and access path**

Corps POC Name:**Jon Paull**

Telephone:(**919**) **846 - 9332** ext. **232**

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A. Eligibility checklist:

1. Will the Handshake funds be spent on Corps facilities and resources that are being fully maintained by the Corps? * **Yes** **No**

2. Will the Challenge Partnership agreement be 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 lake project OMP? ** **Yes** **No**

**If "No" to any of the above questions the proposal cannot be authorized under the Corps' challenge partnership authority.*

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

C. Cooperative Agreement 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 application qualifies to receive bonus points on the evaluation score for partnering with three or more partners. A summary of the partners' contribution to the Handshake Project should be included in the financial worksheet below.

- Application includes 3 partners (25 bonus points)
- Application includes 4 partners (40 bonus points)
- Application includes 5 partners (50 bonus points)
- Application includes _____ partners (50 bonus points for the first 5 partners plus 10 points for each additional partner)

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:

Falls Lake sits in the heart of the very urban Raleigh/Durham Triangle area of North Carolina. The lake hosts 1.5 million visitors each year. Over the past couple of years, Falls Lake has seen an increase in the number of bank fishermen who enjoy the resources the lake has to offer. Many of these fisherman fish in undesignated fishing areas, and although these areas are good for the sport, the use is becoming noticeable in shoreline erosion and litter problems. This is especially true at the dam at Falls Lake where bank fishing is one of our more popular activities. The dam is surrounded by suburban neighborhoods and is connected to the City of Raleigh's greenway network, all of which bring in over 100,000 visitors yearly, many of whom like to fish from the bank.

Currently, there is no universal access to the lake near the dam for fishermen or anyone else who cannot traverse steps. There is a small fishing platform below the dam in the river, but it is often crowded and is unusable when river discharges are high. Our Rangers receive several comments each year from the visiting public regarding the lack of accessibility to the water from the dam. The universally accessible fishing pier and access path proposed in this application will provide access for all visitors to have a safe place to fish, and enjoy the great outdoors at Falls Lake. Additionally, the pier will provide a designated place to fish that will help visitors experience the benefits of the lake while protecting our natural resources.

Sustainability: This project will be sustainable in many ways. The pier will serve as a designated fishing area, and will deter visitors from fishing in undesignated areas where the shoreline is eroding, and litter is a constant problem. In terms of lifespan, it is expected that with light maintenance from volunteers, and Corps of Engineer staff and contractors; along with the proper materials used during construction, the pier will have a lifespan of approximately 20 years.

Partnership Value: The construction and maintenance of the fishing pier and access path will require various successful partnerships. Lasting working partnerships have been formed with other agencies and organizations such as the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, and the Vermont/North Carolina Youth Conservation Corps, and the Neuse Riverkeeper Foundation via Memorandums of Agreement or Challenge Partnerships. In addition to contributions from these partners, we will also have hours from future volunteer service groups to maintain the pier, the grounds around the pier, as well as collect trash and build and empty fishing line recycling stations. Finally, the pier will bring value to future partnerships by serving as a location to host future "Get Outdoors ", "Take a Kid Fishing", and Disabled Veteran fishing activities.

Recreation Benefit: The fishing pier and access path will enhance public fishing opportunities at Falls Lake. It will provide easy access, and be a safe place to fish and connect with the outdoors for visitors of all abilities. Visitation to the area is already high considering the few amenities offered at the dam at Falls Lake. This pier will no doubt increase our visitation, but will also provide those who already come to the dam an enhanced recreational experience.

Environmental Stewardship Benefit: The fishing pier will provide the community with an opportunity to enjoy nature, and experience fishing in a safe, and accessible environment. In addition to providing a safe place to fish, the pier will also serve as an observation deck for visitors who want to catch sight of local watchable wildlife or just enjoy a great view of Falls Lake. Lastly, this pier will give our bank fishermen a place to fish that will provide fishing line recycling and trash receptacles, encouraging them to throw away or recycle their trash instead of leaving it on the shoreline.

Communication and Education Value: The pier will be an excellent option for outreach/interpretive programs on fisheries and water safety. In addition, it will be a great location for children to learn how to fish. Landscaping efforts near the pier and around the access path by the Vermont/North Carolina YCC will be an educational experience for the crew (and the public) in using native plants instead of ornamentals. Finally, interpretive wayside signage will be placed at the pier and along the access path to inform visitors about the typical native aquatic species they may see in Falls Lake, the exotic invasive species that are in the area, and to convey a “Leave No Trace” message.

Innovativeness:

While this project may sound like just a fishing pier and access path, it is quite innovative in that it will be the only universally accessible pier on the southern portion of the lake, where the majority of the urban population lives. The next closest universally accessible fishing pier on the lake is ~15 miles away at an NC Division of Parks and Recreation Day Use area. As the dam at Falls Lake does not charge a user fee, that means that this will be the only universally accessible pier on Falls Lake that is free of charge year-round. When asked why they come to the dam at Falls Lake instead of other Day Use areas with more amenities, our visitors consistently reply that the dam is “closest to their home” and “it’s free to get in”. Our visitors are willing to forgo some amenities in trade for proximity and price. This pier and access path give our Corps staff and partners the ability to provide an additional amenity to enhance visitors’ recreational experience at Falls Lake.

The Corps will:

- 1.) Provide use of a tractor with various attachment and hand tools necessary for landscape plantings
- 2.) Provide labor of staff to assist partners in the planning and construction stages of the projet
- 3.) Provide supplies and materials for landscaping work (plants, mulch, etc.)
- 4.) Provide two (2) new interpretive wayside-type signs for the pier and access area
- 5.) Procure contract labor, supplies and materials for the design and construction of a universally accessible path from an existing parking lot to the new fishing pier

The Partner(s) will:

NCWRC:

- 1.) Provide survey work, engineering and design plans for the fishing pier
- 2.) Provide labor, materials and supplies for pier construction
- 3.) Assist with future major maintenance of the pier

Vermont/North Carolina YCC:

- 1.) Provide labor for landscaping (planting, mulching, weeding, etc.)

Neuse Riverkeeper Foundation:

- 1.) Provide volunteer hours for constructing, installing, and maintaining fishing line recycling containers
- 2.) Provide supplies and materials for fishing line recycling containers

Challenge Partnership Financial Work Sheet

Corps Project Name: Falls Lake, Wilmington District

Work Project Title: ADA Fishing Pier And Access Path

POC Name: Jon Paull

Address: 11405 Falls of Neuse Rd

City: Wake Forest

State: NC Zip Code: 27587

Telephone: 919 - 846 - 9332 x232

Location on Project: Dam At Falls Lake

Partner Organization 1: North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

POC Name: Brian Mcrae

Address: 2312 Summit Drive

City: Hillsborough

State: NC Zip Code: 27278

Telephone: 919 - 732 - 9429 x

Partner Organization 2: Vermont/North Carolina Youth Conservation Corps

POC Name: Jan Pender

Address: 1028 Washington St

City: Raleigh

State: NC Zip Code: 27605

Telephone: 919 - 828 - 4199 x

Partner Organization 3: Upper Neuse RiverKEEPER Foundation

POC Name: Matthew Starr

Address: 612 W. Lane St

City: Raleigh

State: NC Zip Code: 27603

Telephone: 919 - 856 - 1180 x

Partner Organization 4:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

Partner Organization 5:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

Partner Organization 6:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

Partner Organization 7:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

Partner Organization 8:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

Partner Organization 9:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

Proposed start date of work: Mar-14

Simple description of work to be accomplished through the partnership: This project will pair the Corps of Engineers staff at Falls Lake with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and other partners to design and construct a universally accessible fishing pier and access path at the dam. This pier will provide a designated place accessible by all visitors to fish, bird watch, or just enjoy the lake views while protecting our natural resources.

Double click on spreadsheet to access data entry fields:

	Local Corps Office	Handshake Funds	Partner 1 NCWRC	Partner 2 NCYCC	Partner 3 NRF	Partner 4
Salaries	\$7,000	N/A	\$8,400	\$2,200	\$500	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$5,000	\$24,000	\$35,000	\$0	\$500	\$0
Equipment Use	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
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	\$1,400	\$0
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0		
Other	\$6,550	\$6,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$19,550	\$30,000	\$43,900	\$2,200	\$2,400	\$0
Share of Total Cost	19.9%	30.6%	44.8%	2.2%	2.4%	0.0%

	Partner 5	Partner 6	Partner 7	Partner 8	Partner 9	Total
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$18,100
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$64,500
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,400
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,550
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$98,050
Share of Total Cost	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations:

Local Corps Office: Corps funds will cover the cost of labor for Falls Lake staff as well as District support. Our portion will also cover cost of supplies and materials such as two (2) interpretive wayside signs, native vegetation and mulch for landscaping, and contingency expenses that may arise. Lastly, the “Other” portion of funds is the Falls Lake office’s share of cost for our annual YCC crew work week

Handshake Funds will be used to procure contract labor and supplies and materials for the design and construction of a universally accessible path from an existing parking lot to the new fishing pier.

Falls Lake Fishing Pier Application Attachments:

- 1.) Picture of recent universally accessible fishing pier installed on the Cape Fear River by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. The pier at Falls Lake would be similar in size, materials, and construction.



- 2.) Preferred location for pier (yellow marker) and access path (red) at the dam at Falls Lake.

