

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

Please review instructions before completing application!

Corps Lake/Project Name:**Lake Red Rock**
Handshake Proposal Title:**Natural Playscape**
Corps POC Name:**Junifer Kruse**
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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:

A group of Lake Red Rock area partners have come together for the construction of an innovative natural playscape on Corps of Engineers lands near North Overlook Campground at Lake Red Rock. The partners in this project include the Red Rock Lake Association, Central College, Vermeer Manufacturing, Red Rock Art Alliance, and the Marion County Community Foundation. Each partner brings a different gift as we research, design, and build an interactive playground. The natural playscape provides an educational and sustainable alternative to traditional manufactured playgrounds. Along with the playscape, Central College students will be working with the Army Corps of Engineers to develop more opportunities for educational programming at Lake Red Rock throughout the year, using the playscape as a base for exploration.

Natural playscapes use natural features such as topography, native plants, and other features shaped from or mimicking a natural environment to create interactive facilities for children to play with, while exploring and learning about their surroundings. Components of a natural playscape may include boulders and other rock structures, logs, native vegetation to create mazes or pathways, and other artistic elements (see attached layout).

Here are a few reasons our team feels a nature playscape is important

- Children who play regularly in natural environments exhibit better coordination, motor fitness, balance, and are sick less often than children who don't (Fjort and Sageie, 2001).
- Natural playscapes can help foster healthier, more active lifestyles from a young age. Playscapes can serve as a combatant of "nature deficit disorder" (Coren, 2013), drawing children out to play.
- Children who are exposed to nature from an early age develop better imaginations and senses of wonder (Cobb, 1977). This development is not only reflected in a child's health and well-being but also in his or her classroom performance. Norwegian studies of natural playscapes have suggested that children who play on natural playgrounds performed better on standardized tests and were more creative overall (Severin, 2013).
- Evidence suggests that children prefer natural playscapes to their traditional counterparts. Dawn Coe, a University of Tennessee professor, observed that a year after natural elements were added to an existing playground, children were spending twice as much time on the natural elements as they were on the traditional ones.

Sustainability:

Playscapes make sense economically in that they require little maintenance costs. Playscapes are sustainable by their very nature because they are made of mostly natural materials as opposed to manufactured steels, plastic, and rubber. The life of these materials is a lifetime (40+ years). Through playscapes, children develop better environmental ethic and a higher affinity for nature when exposed to it at an early age (Chawla, 1988). This is exactly what a natural playscape offers and by building one near Lake Red Rock we will be assisting in creating a sustainable environmental culture for the future.

Partnership Value:

This concept arrives through public and partner feedback during our master planning process in 2012. Central College Environmental Studies class decided to take this on as a class project from start to completion. They will volunteer 500 hours in assisting with design, planning and construction of the playscape. They will also assist in educational programming on-going after completion. Central College is also raising funds to help purchase materials. Their goal is \$1,900 of which they have a commitment of \$1,600 from the Marion County Community Foundation. The Red Rock Lake Association is a long time partner and will contribute \$1,000 towards in-kind

promotions and marketing. Vermeer Manufacturing is kicking off a volunteer program for their 2,300 employees in the area. They have selected this project as one of two projects that they will promote and get volunteers participating in. The plan is to have a work day with 200 volunteers to assist the Central College team in creating the playscape. Vermeer will also provide equipment such as a trencher to run a water line, a stump grinder, and a couple skid loaders to move mulch and dirt. Red Rock Art Alliance volunteers will give advice and implement art into the amphitheatre and sun dial areas. It is great to see these partners come together and push this project!

Recreation Benefit:

The playscape is located on the 14-mile Volksweg trail and a quarter mile from the beach and campground, so it will be a destination for bikers, walkers, campers and families in general. As stated in the section above, natural playscapes offer a recreational opportunity that kids are lacking today. Currently at the lake we have playgrounds, but this will be a new type of playground for us. It will add variety to our recreation program and fit well with the Kid's Outdoors program the Red Rock Lake Association helped us launch four years ago. The program fits the America's Great Outdoors and Let's Move! initiatives and includes hands on ways to get our youth active in the outdoors. There is nothing like climbing a rock, rolling down a hill or walking across a log to get a kid excited and keep him or her coming back.

Environmental Stewardship Benefit:

Part of the 5-acre natural playscape area is a 1-acre prairie. This project will help maintain the prairie and allow it to better be used for interpretative messaging and programming. The Central students assisting are environmental studies majors and have multiple ideas on how to use the prairie as a teaching tool (mazes, geocaches, chalk on stones...). Overall the team feels that allowing youth to get dirty and interact with the environment is the best way to improve knowledge and love of our environment. Our goal is to build an environmentally conscious culture.

Communication and Education Value:

Both the Corps and Central plan to offer interpretive programs in this area to engage youth and educate on the environment and their role in it. The proximity to the trail offers opportunities to reach many people with signage. The amphitheatre will be a hub for Corps programming. The variety of recreation and environmental stewardship lessons in the area will provide the perfect backdrop for learning. The playscape will also be part of the summer program guide (view the current guide at www.lakeredrock.org) which has been circulated every summer for the past four years to many schools, youth groups, business and media in the area.

Innovativeness:

Since this is the first playscape of the kind at Lake Red Rock it is very innovative. The location of the playscape will make it a destination for bicycles and pedestrians. When in the playscape area residents and visitors will gain a sense of environmental awareness and educational possibility. Because natural playscapes are still scattered sparsely throughout the U.S., the lake area will be seen as a leader in innovative natural design in Iowa. This is also the first time this group of partners has worked on a project together at the lake. Many of the partners also have an interest in S.T.E.M. and we hope this project leads to many more tied to that program.

The Corps will:

The Corps will provide project oversight, cut logs to length and provide some equipment to help move supplies to the proper staging location. The handshake funds will be used to purchase supplies and materials such as mulch for an ADA trail connecting amenities, native prairie seeds, features within each area, equipment to assist in creating the rolling hills and materials for support structures to add durability to areas.

The Partner(s) will:

Vermeer Manufacturing: Host a volunteer day for their team, provide project management support for area development within the playscape area and provide equipment to assist in development: 1,600 hours of volunteer service and \$10,000 in-kind equipment usage

Central College: Class project that includes 500 hours of volunteer service and \$300 in-kind materials

Marion County Community Foundation: Central has received a grant from this foundation for this project worth \$1,600 grant for in-kind materials

Red Rock Lake Association: \$1,000 in-kinds promotional services through the Kids' Outdoors program, the volunteer program and overall playscape project communication

Red Rock Arts Alliance: 80 hours of volunteer service towards art in the area

Challenge Partnership Financial Work Sheet

Corps Project Name: Lake Red Rock

Work Project Title: Natural Playscape

POC Name: Junifer Kruse

Address: 1105 Highway T15 North City: Knoxville State: IA Zip Code: 50138

Telephone: 641 - 828 - 7522 x6441

Location on Project:North Overlook Recreation Area

Partner Organization 1: Vermeer Manufacturing

POC Name: Teri Vos

Address: 1210 East Vemeer Rd. City: Pella State: IA Zip Code: 50219

Telephone: 641 - 628 - 3141 x

Partner Organization 2: Central College

POC Name: Anya Butt

Address: 812 University St. City: Pella State: IA Zip Code: 50219

Telephone: 641 - 628 - 9000 x

Partner Organization 3: Marion County Community Foundation

POC Name: David Johnson

Address: P.O. Box 92 City: Knoxville State: IA Zip Code: 50138

Telephone: 641 - 842 - 5821 x

Partner Organization 4: Red Rock Lake Association

POC Name: Matt Kissinger

Address: P.O. Box 292 City: Pella State: IA Zip Code: 50219

Telephone: 641 - 842 - 3993 x

Partner Organization 5: Red Rock Art Alliance

POC Name: Jill Edwards

Address: 302 W. Robinson St. City: Knoville State: IA Zip Code: 50138

Telephone: 641 - 628 - 1960 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: FY 2014

Simple description of work to be accomplished through the partnership: The partners will utilize their resources to develop a natural playscape area on 5 acres of Corps managed public lands. The playscape will be the first of its kind at Lake Red Rock and located adjacent to the Volksweg trail.

Double click on spreadsheet to access data entry fields:

	Local Corps Office	Handshake Funds	Partner 1	Partner 2	Partner 3	Partner 4
Salaries	\$4,000	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$1,000	\$24,000	\$0	\$300	\$1,600	\$0
Equipment Use	\$1,000	\$6,000	\$10,000	\$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	\$34,176	\$10,680	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$6,000	\$30,000	\$44,176	\$10,980	\$1,600	\$1,000
Share of Total Cost	6.3%	31.4%	46.3%	11.5%	1.7%	1.0%

	Partner 5	Partner 6	Partner 7	Partner 8	Partner 9	Total
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,000
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$26,900
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$17,000
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$1,709	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$46,565
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$1,709	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$95,465
Share of Total Cost	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations:

Local Corps: project oversight labor, dirt moving and chain saw equipment, and area preparation material costs

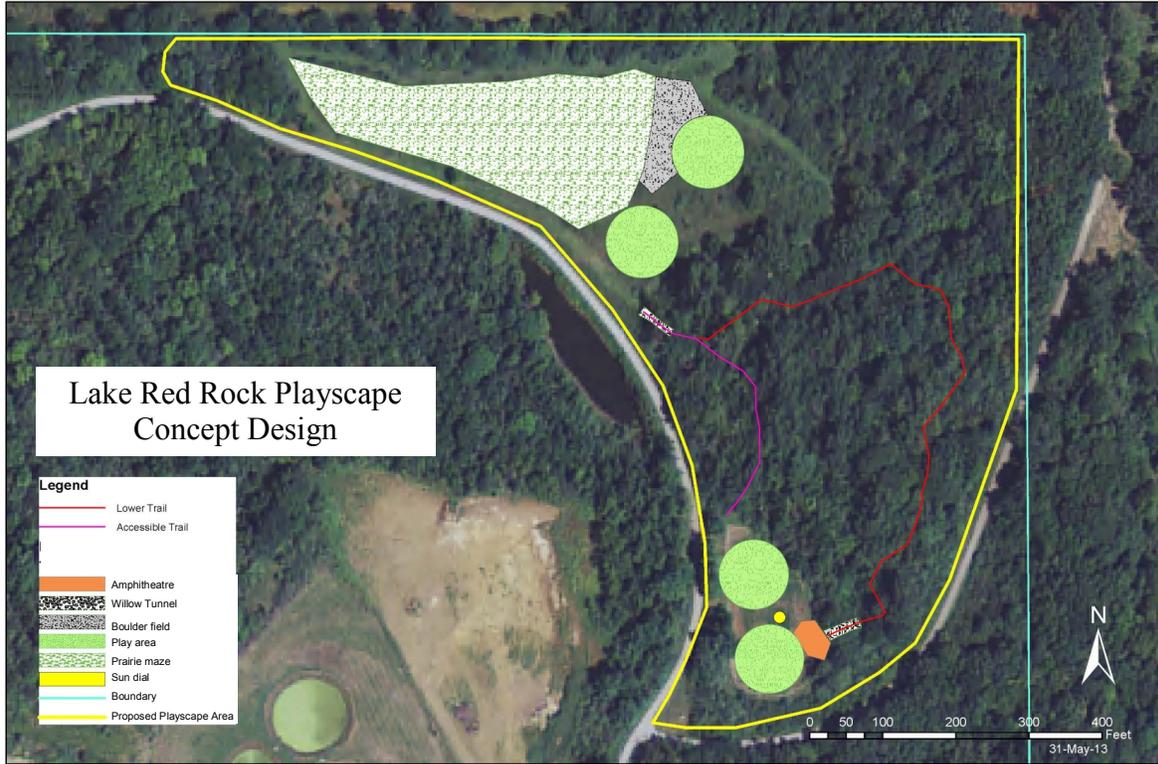
Vermeer Manufacturing: 1,600 hours of volunteer service and \$10,000 in-kind equipment usage

Central College: 500 hours of volunteer service and \$300 in-kind materials

Marion County Community Foundation: \$1,600 grant for in-kind materials

Red Rock Lake Association: \$1,000 in-kinds promotional services

Red Rock Arts Alliance: 80 hours of volunteer service



Example of Play Area Concept Design

