

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fiscal Year 2015
Handshake Program Application**

Please review instructions before completing application!

Corps Lake/Project Name: **Crosslake Recreation Area**

Handshake Proposal Title: **Environmental Interpretive Gardens**

Corps POC Name: **Corrine Hodapp**

Telephone: **(651) 290 - 5790** ext.

E-Mail: **corrine.k.hodapp@usace.army.mil**

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 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. A copy of that agreement is not needed with this application, but may be requested if not already provided to the Partnership Team. (Reference Chapter 9 of ER and EP 1130-2-500 for information on cooperating associations).

This application wishes to compete for the Cooperative Agreement Bonus funding.

This application does NOT qualify for the bonus funding.

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). Total bonus points _____.

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.

Summary Statement of Handshake Project:

The planned Environmental Educational Gardens at the Crosslake Recreation Area in Crosslake, MN will provide visitors with unique ways to learn about our natural environment and sustainability of our resources. A winding pathway will take guests through a butterfly garden, a house garden for local critters, and a community shared agricultural garden. The garden area will also provide opportunities to learn about the Corps of Engineers' and water safety. The gardens will be an interactive playground leading to a new doorway providing entry into an existing learning center with displays of Paul Bunyan lore and memorabilia, wildlife and the history of the Crosslake Dam and Recreation Area.

Sustainability description:

The goal of this project is for the gardens to be as self-sustaining as possible. The anticipated life span of the infrastructure, signs and walkways is a minimum of 20 years. Along with perennial plantings, the use of renewable resources such as rain water and solar lighting will require minimal maintenance. Many groups and individuals have provided their names as contacts for future volunteers that will weed and upkeep the gardens. Area church groups, Join Hands Days with schools and garden clubs have historically volunteered their time at the Recreation Area and will be able to assist with gardening. Local Master Gardeners of MN are required to complete 25 hours of volunteerism annually to maintain certification, this time can be used completing the work or educating others on how to properly maintain the plants. We have also been approached with the recommendation to create an Adopt-a-Garden program. The long term benefits of these gardens will be to educate our visitors on how to respect and take care of our public lands and take those principles home to their own backyards.

Partnership Value:

The Cooperative Agreement with the Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway Association was established in 2004. The Byway and Corps have worked together while participating in community activities and celebrations that would not have been possible without the partnership. The Byway has become a valuable resource for providing water safety messaging and education to area communities. Finding new and exciting ways that we can work together has resulted in the idea of the interpretive gardens. These ideas have grown as discussions focused on how we can improve our facility and provide a better experience for our visitors. One key area we agreed needed change was the entry into our learning center where the Byway shares space to provide information on the Scenic Byway and the lore of Paul Bunyan. Visitors currently must walk through an "employees only" parking lot where tractors, trucks and other equipment are in use. The new entry will provide a safe, enjoyable, and accessible entry. This project has sparked interest from many new groups and individuals in the community. The six partners for this project will be providing 63% of the supplies, materials, and volunteers. These numbers are expected to increase as folks come forward asking how they can help.

Recreational Benefit:

For many users, "learning is recreation". The garden project will provide opportunities for plant identification, bird watching, photography and picnicking. By design, the gardens will incorporate areas for solitude and enjoying nature. Located on the 54 mile Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway, the gardens will become a destination point for school groups during the school year, tourists in summer and fall, and snowmobile/snow shoe enthusiasts and tourists visiting the Light Up The Dam activities in the winter.

Environmental Stewardship Benefit:

The emphasis on Environmental Stewardship will highlight renewable resources by using solar lighting, rain barrels and energy efficient LED lighting throughout the project. The intent is to create an enthusiasm for learning about the environment and these resources, and to take that excitement and knowledge to improve their own living space. The project will encourage an understanding and attitude that small improvements can be made locally while thinking globally, and to learn to work with nature and not against it.

Communication & Education Value:

All of the garden elements are designed to be interactive; inviting users to climb on, visually read, and listen to information, as a means of interpretation. Through the creation of "hands on" elements, users will learn about sustainability and environmental stewardship of the natural world and will be encouraged to take this learning home with them to put into action and share with others. Local school teachers will benefit by having an interactive learning area that can augment their learning curriculum. The Corps will be seen as a partner in the learning process. A blog where visitors can enhance their understanding and share stories of other successful environmental projects will be developed by partner JM Plein Consulting. QR codes will also be provided at displays so the user can download specific information that can be used to further their education and help them carry through with environmental practices at home.

Innovativeness:

Many trails exist in the local area that focus on wildlife or plants, but these gardens are unique because of the interactive aspects. Learning will be fun as they climb on a caterpillar or step in the footprints of Paul Bunyan while watching a butterfly land on a plant that they never realized they loved. The partnership will provide an excellent opportunity to work with the local community and interest groups, many who have never considered volunteering or working with a government agency before. One partner is already looking ahead when he expressed interest in having the gardens certified as a "wildlife habitat" by the National Wildlife Federation.

Concluding statement:

All partners are committed to this project and look forward to working with the Crosslake Recreation Area team. Receiving Handshake funds will allow the Environmental Interpretive Gardens to meet its full potential.

Challenge Partnership Financial Work Sheet

Corps Project Name: Crosslake Recreation Area

Work Project Title: Environmental Interpretive Gardens

POC Name: Corrine Hodapp

Address: 35507 County Rd 66 POBox 36 City: Crosslake State: MN Zip Code: 56442

Telephone: 651 - 290 - 5790 x

Location of Project: Crosslake Recreation Area Office East Lawn

Partner Organization 1: Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway Association

POC Name: Rod Nelson

Address: PO Box 401 City: Pequot Lakes State: MN Zip Code: 56472

Telephone: 612 - 803 - 7916 x

Partner Organization 2: JM Plein Consulting

POC Name: Mary Plein

Address: 33883 County Road 39 City: Pequot Lakes State: MN Zip Code: 56472

Telephone: 218 - 543 - 6479 x

Partner Organization 3: Whitefish Area Lodging Association

POC Name: Kathy Moore

Address: PO Box 103 City: Pequot Lakes State: MN Zip Code: 56472

Telephone: 218 - 330 - 3993 x

Partner Organization 4: Taren Saccoman

POC Name: Taren Saccoman

Address: 9824 County Road 16 City: Pequot Lakes State: MN Zip Code: 56472

Telephone: 218 - 820 - 6926 x

Partner Organization 5: MN Backyard Birds

POC Name: Judd Brink

Address: PO Box 765 City: Brainerd State: MN Zip Code: 56401

Telephone: 218 - 838 - 4784 x

Partner Organization 6: Crow Wing County Extension

POC Name: Jackie Froemming

Address: 322 Laurel Street - Suite 22 City: Brainerd State: MN Zip Code: 56401

Telephone: 218 - 824 - 1068 x

Partner Organization 7:

POC Name:

Address: City: State: Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

Partner Organization 8:

POC Name:

Address:

Telephone: - - x

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Partner Organization 9:

POC Name:

Address:

Telephone: - - x

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Partner Organization 10:

POC Name:

Address:

Telephone: - - x

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Partner Organization 11:

POC Name:

Address:

Telephone: - - x

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Partner Organization 12:

POC Name:

Address:

Telephone: - - x

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Partner Organization 13:

POC Name:

Address:

Telephone: - - x

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Partner Organization 14:

POC Name:

Address:

Telephone: - - x

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Partner Organization 15:

POC Name:

Address:

Telephone: - - x

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Double click on spreadsheet to access data entry fields and to enter Partner names:

	Local Corps Office	Handshake Funds	Partner 1	Partner 2	Partner 3	Partner 4
Salaries	\$7,000	N/A	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$5,000	\$30,000	\$16,971	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$0
Volunteer	N/A	N/A	\$9,020	\$0	\$0	\$31,570
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$600	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$12,000	\$30,000	\$30,991	\$600	\$10,000	\$31,570
Share of Total Cost	10.3%	25.8%	26.6%	0.5%	8.6%	27.1%

	Partner 5	Partner 6	Partner 7	Partner 8	Partner 9	Partner 10
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$175	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$135	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$310	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Share of Total Cost	0.3%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0

	Partner 11	Partner 12	Partner 13	Partner 14	Partner 15	Total
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,000
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$52,146
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$40,725
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,600
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$116,471
Share of Total Cost	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations:

The Corps will:

The Corps will provide project oversight and the contract that will install the new entrance door into the Learning Center in the Project office building. The handshake funds will be used to purchase supplies and materials for the waterline and solar lighting installation as well as materials for the garden installations and interpretive displays.

The Partner(s) will:

Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway Association: 400 hours of volunteer service towards coordinating with the University of Minnesota, planning, and planting and \$16,971 in supplies and materials.

The Byway has received a \$10,000 grant from the University of Minnesota, Central Regional Sustainable Development Partnership program. These funds will be used to fund college of Design student interns for planning of power and water lines as well as pathways and signage. Remaining funds will be used to purchase supplies and materials.

JM Plein Consulting: \$600 in-kind service developing and maintaining an online blog promoting the gardens and interaction of community with photography, image prep/graphics, copy-writing and online production.

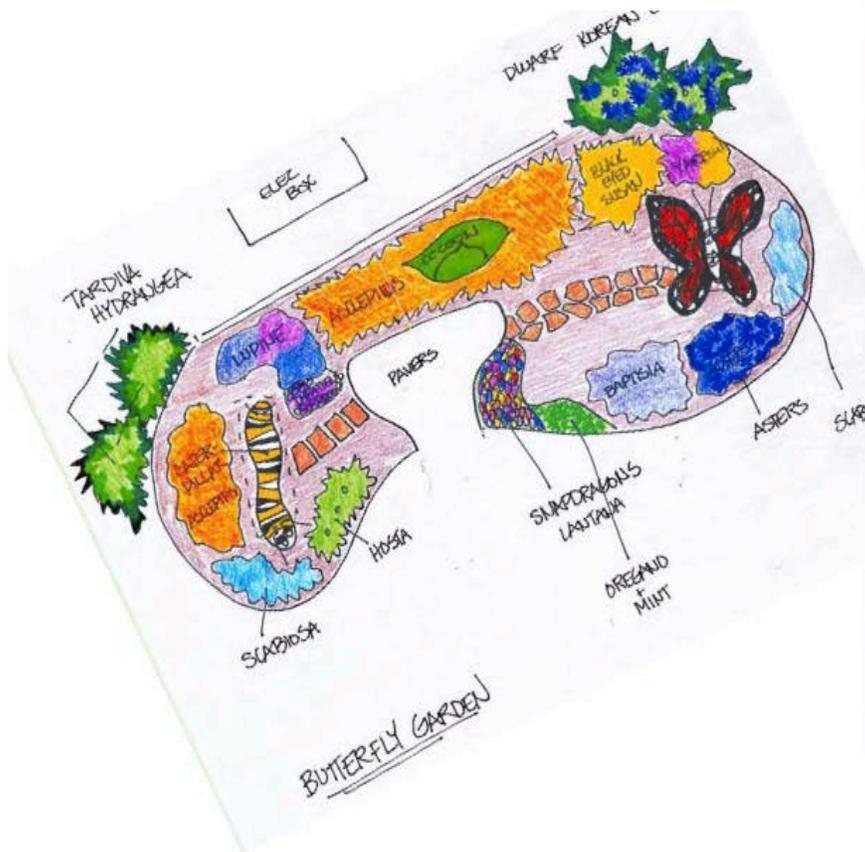
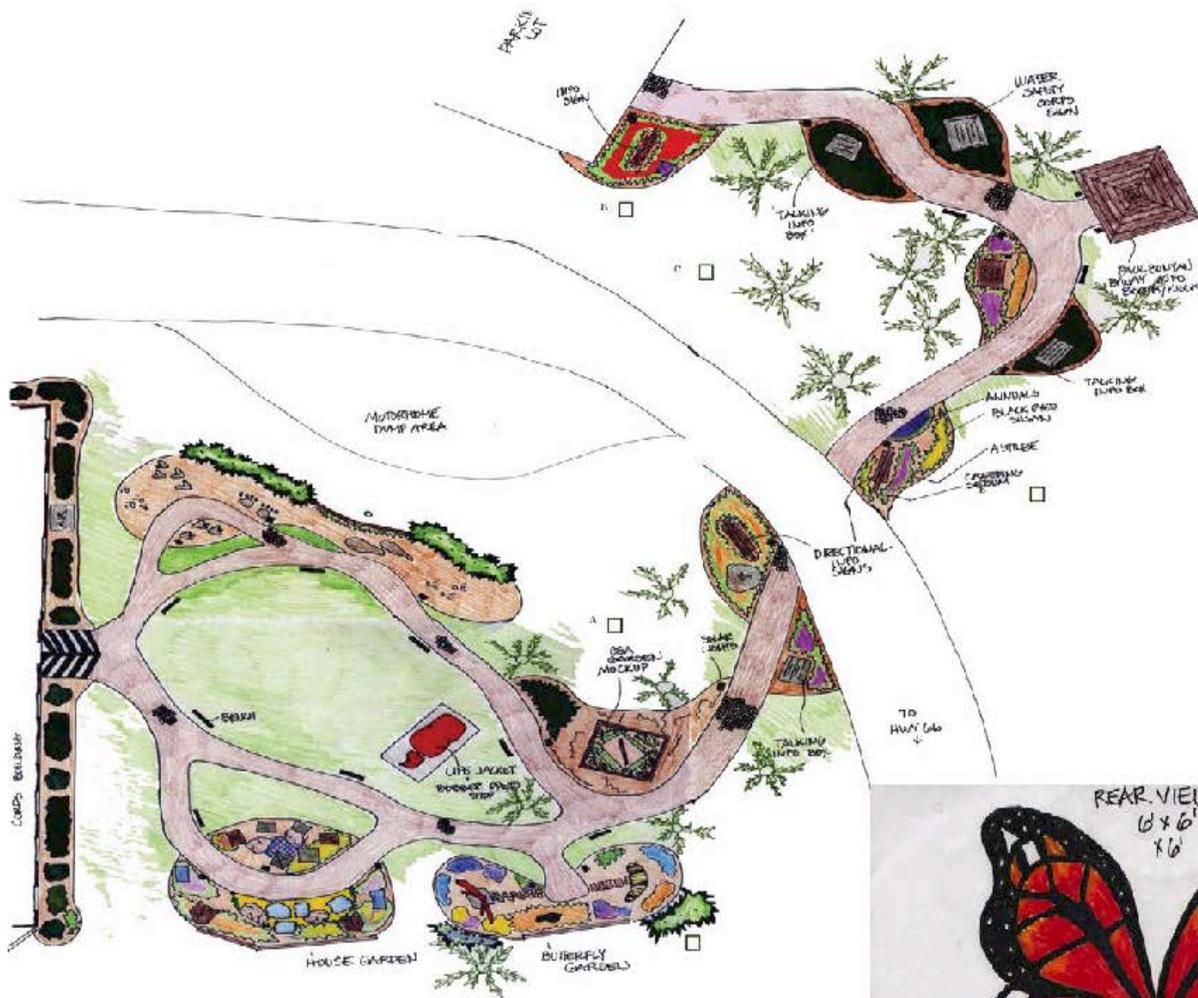
Whitefish Area Lodging Association: \$10,000 for the design, creation and placement of decorative benches that will be installed throughout the project.

Taren Saccoman: Provide design of mosaic for entrance door along with recruitment and oversight of volunteers creating the mosaic, an estimated 1,400 hours of volunteer services to complete.

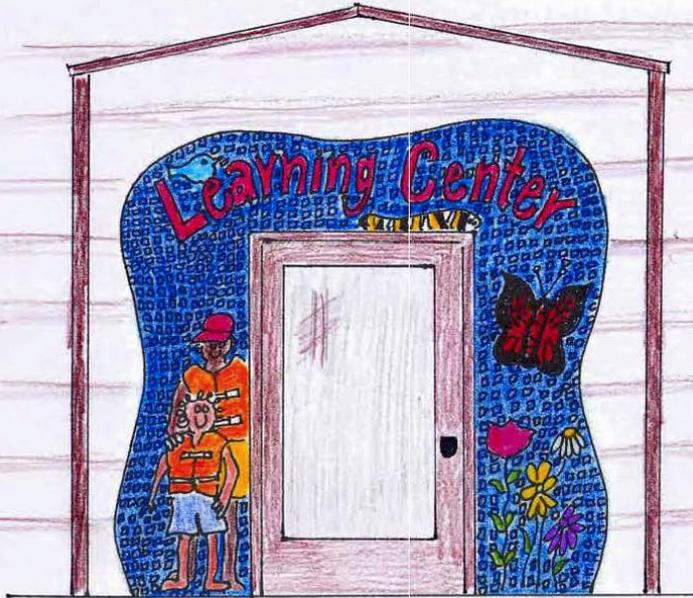
MN Backyard Birds: \$175 in supplies and materials for the building of a cardinal bird feeder along with 6 hours of volunteer service to build and install the feeder

Crow Wing County Extension: \$1,000 in-kind consulting services on landscape design and plant selection as well as oversight during planting sessions

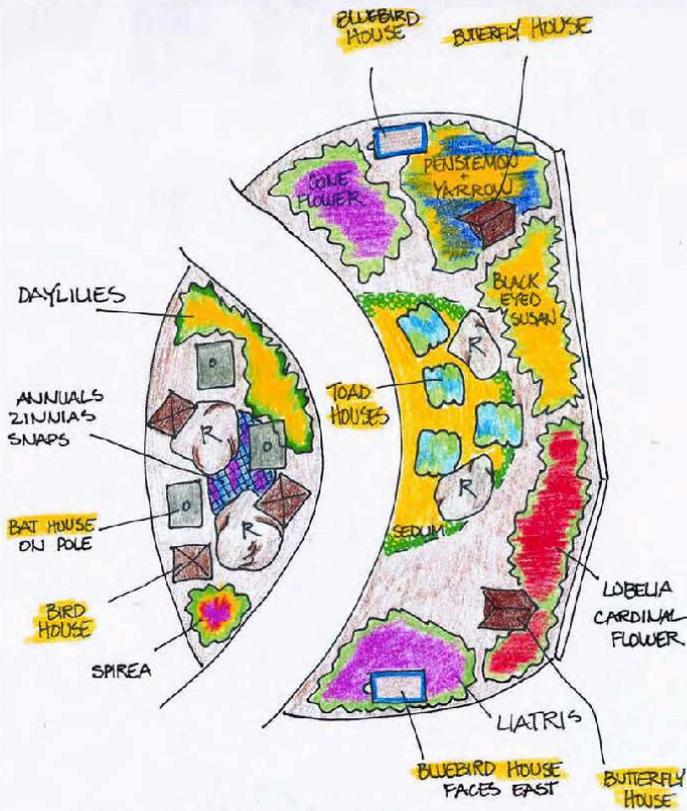
Office Garden



MOSAIC @
ENTRANCE



"CSA GARDEN MOCKUP"



HOUSE GARDEN



WATER SAFETY
PHOTO OPPORTUNITY FOR
CHILDREN & PETS
(LIFE JACKET 8' x 5')