

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

**Please review instructions before completing application!**

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Corps Lake/Project Name:**Raystown Lake Project**

Handshake Proposal Title:**Allegrippis Skills Park**

Corps POC Name:**Jude Harrington**

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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.*

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**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 11 partners (50 bonus points for the first 5 partners plus 10 points for each additional partner). Total bonus points 110.

**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:**

Since the grand opening to the public in 2009, the Allegrippis Trails System at Raystown Lake has rocketed to the forefront of the mountain biking world being touted as one of the 4 best bike trails in North America by Men's Journal, and receiving accolades from Mountain Bike Action Magazine, Dirt Rag Magazine, and many others. The Allegrippis Trail System, known simply as the "Allegrippis", provides more than 30 miles of purpose built, butter smooth single track trails through some of Pennsylvania's most pristine rolling forests overlooking picturesque lake views. There is camping, boating, swimming, fishing, tubing, picnicking, and a myriad of other recreational experiences awaiting the mountain biker who comes to Raystown Lake to ride the Allegrippis. There are additional riding opportunities nearby, making a visit to Raystown contain almost everything that is needed for a complete riding opportunity.

The missing element from the trail experience, is an opportunity for riders to improve their skills in a controlled, practice setting before going out on a riding adventure on the more technical trails located in remote portions of the park. The "Allegrippis Skills Park" will create riding experiences that mirror many of the features found on the trails and will allow beginners and others to learn how to better handle their bikes along some of the more challenging trail sections. In a sense, the skills park is a practice playground providing a fun experience while increasing the rider's skills.

The skills park will contain dirt sections of flowing trails and wooden constructed features to teach slow-riding technical and balance skills. The skills park will be located directly across from the Raystown Lake Visitors Center, approximately 100 yards from support facilities that include: restrooms, emergency access, parking, drinking water, changing facilities, and other needed amenities. Handshake funds will be used to purchase signs, equipment, materials, riding features, and contractors to complete the construction of this practice playground.

Upon completion, the Allegrippis Skills Park will be the capstone to an already overwhelmingly successful mountain bike trail system that annually attracts thousands of users from around the world.

**Sustainability description:**

The Allegrippis Skills Park will include both earth trail surface and manmade features constructed of powder coated, long lasting steel and pressure treated wood surfaces that do not come in contact with the dirt. The Allegrippis is financially sustainable not only due to its partner relationships who provide routine maintenance but also from funds generated at DirtFest, a trail advocacy special event that attracts over 2,000 mountain bikers during the 3 day event.

The environmental sustainability of this project will specifically address the issues and challenges of the earth, or dirt, portions of the trail. Those challenges will be addressed using the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) trail building standards to reduce erosion and eliminate water retainage. All environmental coordination and erosion & sedimentation permits will be coordinated by the Corps and implemented by the partners. The close proximity of this proposed area to the trailhead at the visitor center will provide a good opportunity to educate others on the best management practices of sustainable construction.

The man-made components of the park are sustainable in design because it uses powder coated metal framed steel with an expected life span of more than 50 years. The coating on the metal frames and the use of stainless steel hardware allows for the resistance of rust and will extend the life span of all the outdoor features. The pressure treated wood lumber being used is expected to last at least 20 years and efforts to prevent its contact with soil will only increase its life.

In terms of financial stability, the ongoing maintenance of the features and attention to timely and routine inspections will prolong the use and lifespan of the natural and manmade features due to identification of maintenance issues in advance of breakage. All of these materials or features will be maintained by the Raystown

Mountain Biking Association (RMBA) using funds from the Friends of Raystown Lake (FRL); there will be minimal or no cost to the Corps for ongoing maintenance of the Skills Park.

### **Partnership Value:**

The FRL is a cooperating association with the Corps and has sponsored many projects and programs that would not have been possible otherwise. The FRL plays a vital role in providing services and opportunities to the public and this project will be yet another example of their involvement in the creation of new recreation opportunities for Raystown Lake. The FRL's role will be to provide financial resources and administrative guidance to manage the grants to be used for the Skills Park.

RMBA, who currently provides all of the maintenance on the Allegrippis, will work with the Seven Mountains Conservation Corps (SMCC) and the Nittany Mountain Bike Association (NMBA) to provide oversight of construction contracts, placement of signage, conceptual design, installation, and eventually maintenance of this skills park. These are proven partners that are reliable and heavily invested in this project.

DirtSculpt, a skills park and pump track designer, will provide critical guidance and design recommendations to make sure the park flows properly and will create features that meet the expectations of its users. They will involve RMBA members to assemble many of the manmade structures that get incorporated in the park's opportunities.

The Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau (HCVB) will assist in the construction process by providing housing to DirtSculpt staff and answering questions in the nearby Visitors Center. Once the park is completed, the HCVB will promote the addition to the nationally acclaimed Allegrippis Trails in their regional guide and through all aspects of social media.

Two additional partners will coordinate additional funding for the project. The Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission (SAP&DC) will oversee application and coordination for funds to be provided from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), a federally funded commission that supports ground roots efforts to improve the recreation opportunities to groups within the Appalachian Mountains Region. The ARC will provide funds to assist in the sub-grade earth work preparation and the supplemental features of the skills park.

The development of the Allegrippis Skills Park will continue to strengthen and enhance the relationship that currently exists between the FRL, RMBA, and the Corps. As evident in the construction of the Allegrippis Trails System, involving stakeholders early in the planning and design phases creates a sense of stewardship for the system. That same approach is being taken with this skills park. It is not uncommon for the mountain bike culture to be proactive in the design, construction and eventually the operations and maintenance of a trail system. These partners will work together to share expertise and resources that will make the skills park an excellent complement to the existing Allegrippis Trails.

### **Recreational Benefit:**

The recreational value of a skills park like this will be measured in two ways. First is the intangible fun factor as bikers master various levels of skill sets. Second it will hopefully be measured in a lower incident rate of accidents and back country emergency extrications from remote access areas. The skills park will be built in a manner that will encourage use by young and old, novice and advanced, mountain and road bikers; thus appealing to a larger user group of riders. By playing on the skills park features riders will learn the fundamentals of body movement, balance, and control of a bike in ways that will be used while navigating the trail system.

The skills practice park will also give the Allegrippis an important addition often sought by recreational mountain bikers; it will allow the Allegrippis Trails System to be designated by IMBA as a "Ride Center". This designation enhances the promotion potential of the Allegrippis, making the system a destination location on its own situated within the boundaries of Raystown Lake, continuing the legacy of Raystown as a recreation destination and a premier mountain bike riding location.

The park also creates an opportunity for teenagers looking for activity. Many families camp at Raystown with teen aged children needing physical activity. While playgrounds are for younger children, this park is an outlet for those teens needing a way to get "unplugged" while being entertained on their bike.

The skills park will exist in a location that will encourage spectator participation. Those unfamiliar with what mountain biking really involves will have the opportunity to watch, photograph, investigate, and possibly even become a mountain bike participant.

This new feature of the Allegrippis would be unique to this region. Currently, no other similar riding parks exist nearby. Technical mountain biking, rails to trails paths, paved riding trails, touring bike paths, and now a skills park; these amenities all work together to make recreational opportunities associated with the Allegrippis Trails exemplary.

### **Environmental Stewardship Benefit:**

The environmental principles of the Corps of Engineers will be evident in the planning, construction, and continued maintenance of this skills park. As environmental leaders, the Corps will guide the partners in completion and adherence to NEPA requirements and erosion & sediment control best management practices. IMBA is the world's foremost subject matter expert on trail design and sustainability. Their 700 page Trail Building Design Manual addresses sheeting of groundwater, reduction of pooling water, proper management of water runoff and E&S control measures.

This skills park will be constructed in an area used for topsoil borrowing during construction of Raystown Lake in the 1970's. The existing soil quality is poor and is currently inhabited by invasives such as crown vetch and multi-floral rose. This skills park will provide control of these invasives by constructing riding features in the disturbed areas. On-going maintenance will continue invasives control through proper herbaceous management.

### **Communication & Education Value:**

Since its opening in 2009, the Allegrippis Trails have gained national prominence in the mountain biking community. With that popularity has come exposure to nationally syndicated magazine publications and connections to the magazines' writers and subscribers. The opening of a skills park will provide these national publications the opportunity to share with their readers the missions of the Corps through stories about the skills park, the Allegrippis Trails, and the other recreational opportunities at Raystown Lake.

The Huntingdon County Visitor's Bureau, whose primary purpose is to promote the recreational opportunities in the Raystown Region, will also promote the missions of the Corps of Engineers in its promotional magazine. With a readership of 170,000 the potential for touting the Corps and its positive impacts abound.

As mentioned earlier, this skills park will exist in close proximity to the Raystown Lake Visitors Center and will be accessible to the 300,000 visitors trekking to Seven Points every year. Wayside exhibits, signs, educational instruction, and existing bulletin boards will all be used to discuss the environmental stewardship mission, the flood control mission, efforts to improve water quality, and enlighten them on the other recreational possibilities at Raystown lake. The Skills Park will be located at the trailhead of the Allegrippis which will provide a perfect opportunity to educate users and spectators on the benefits of a healthy lifestyle as part of the "Let's Move" and "Get Outdoors" campaigns. This venue will also provide educational opportunities regarding access to lands and waters for recreation, restoring critical landscapes, and creating parks and trails in American communities, as suggested by the America's Great Outdoors initiative.

### **Innovativeness:**

There currently are no known bike riding parks in the Corps of Engineers adjacent to world class biking trails like the Allegrippis. The "Ride Center" designation will be an innovative addition to the well known trails system.

The Vail Bike Park in Colorado has recognized that youth users have become active and energized by using that facility. The Philly Pump Track brought a local community together by rehabilitating a shale pit to make a user friendly activity center. The Allegrippis Skills Park will draw from those examples by creating a supplement to an overwhelmingly successful and nationally recognized mountain biking trail system. It will bring partners together to enhance the recreational experience. In 2009 the Allegrippis Trails broke new ground by creating trail opportunities in an area where they previously did not exist. This Skills Park is an innovative way to complement the Allegrippis and create a "Ride Center" with unlimited benefits.

**Concluding statement:**

The Handshake Partnership Grant will serve as a catalyst to inspire partners to work together to leverage their fiscal and manpower resources to make a noteworthy recreational feature even better. However, it is not just about building a skills park, it is about the process that all the partners must go through to achieve the mutual goal. The on-site visits, the planning meetings, the preparation of supporting grants, the e-mail and phone calls all contribute to building a network of cooperation. If the Handshake Partnership grant request is granted then Raystown Lake visitors will be met with a quality recreational facility that promotes not only fun and safety but will also support the President's initiative to get people outdoors.

## Challenge Partnership Financial Work Sheet

Corps Project Name: Raystown Lake

Work Project Title: Allegrippis Skills Park

POC Name: Jude Harrington

Address: 6145 Seven Points Road City: Hesston State: PA Zip Code: 16647

Telephone: 814 - 658 - 6808 x

Location of Project: Baltimore District, Raystown Lake Project

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Partner Organization 1: Friends of Raystown

POC Name: Ron Rabena

Address: PO Box 87 City: Hesston State: PA Zip Code: 16647

Telephone: 814 - 658 - 3405 x

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Partner Organization 2: Raystown Mountain Biking Association

POC Name: Evan Gross

Address: 500 Penn Street City: Huntingdon State: PA Zip Code: 16652

Telephone: 814 - 643 - 7226 x

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Partner Organization 3: Huntingdon County Visitor's Bureau

POC Name: Matt Price

Address: 6200 Seven Points Road City: Hesston State: PA Zip Code: 16647

Telephone: 814 - 658 - 60 x

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Partner Organization 4: Southern Alleghennys Planning & Development Commission

POC Name: Debbi Prosser

Address: 3 Sharaton Drive City: Altoona State: PA Zip Code: 16601

Telephone: 814 - 949 - 6522 x

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Partner Organization 5: Appalachian Regional Commission

POC Name: Chris Brazell

Address: 1666 Connecticut Avenue City: Washington State: DC Zip Code: 20009

Telephone: 202 - 884 - 7753 x

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Partner Organization 6: Dirt Sculpt

POC Name: David King

Address: 242 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street City: Allentown State: PA Zip Code: 18102

Telephone: 484 - 515 - 6095 x

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Partner Organization 7: Nittany Mountain Bike Association

POC Name: Ryan Eisenhower

Address: 3163 Sassafras Rd. City: Petersburg State: PA Zip Code: 16669

Telephone: 570 - 295 - 1867 x

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Partner Organization 8: Seven Mountains Conservation Corps

POC Name: Matt Spigelmyer

Address: 2821 Earlstown Rd.

City: Centre Hall

State: PA

Zip Code: 16828

Telephone: 814 - 574 - 404 x

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Partner Organization 9: Waddle Fabrication

POC Name: Ellis Dunklebarger

Address: 118 W. Pine Grove Rd.

City: Pine Grove Mills

State: PA

Zip Code: 16868

Telephone: 814 - 308 - 4482 x

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Partner Organization 10: Dunklebarger Carpentry

POC Name: David Dunklebarger

Address: 177 Stevenson Rd.

City: Port Matilda

State: PA

Zip Code: 16870

Telephone: 814 - 238 - 8569 x

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Partner Organization 11: Rothrock Outfitters

POC Name: Tony Seguin

Address: 418 Penn Street

City: Huntingdon

State: PA

Zip Code: 16652

Telephone: 814 - 643 - 7226 x

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Partner Organization 12:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

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Partner Organization 13:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

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Partner Organization 14:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

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Partner Organization 15:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

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

	Local Corps Office	Handshake Funds	FRL	RMBA	HCVB	SAP&DC
Salaries	\$15,000	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$10,000	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	\$5,000	N/A	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	N/A	N/A	\$1,760	\$7,040	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$3,000
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$17,260</b>	<b>\$7,540</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	16.3%	16.3%	9.4%	4.1%	2.7%	1.6%

	ARC	DirtSculpt	NMBA	SMCC	Waddle	Dunkleberger
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$500
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$300	\$300
Funds Contributed	\$70,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$5,300	\$5,300	\$1,000	\$200
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>\$5,300</b>	<b>\$5,300</b>	<b>\$1,900</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	38.0%	1.4%	2.9%	2.9%	1.0%	0.5%

	Rothrock	Partner 12	Partner 13	Partner 14	Partner 15	Total
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,000
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$31,000
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$11,600
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$90,000
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$5,638	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$26,238
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,500
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,638</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$184,438</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	3.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations:









