

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2009 Handshake Program Application

Eligibility checklist to qualify per ER 1130-2-500, Chapter 12.

1. Is the seed money going to be spent at Corps facilities and resources that are being maintained by the Corps at 100% expense on the day the agreement is signed? **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: Feb 09)

If the answer to either question 1 or 2 is No, the proposal cannot be authorized under the Corps Challenge Partnership program. If the answered to question 3 is No, and the date provided in the answer to question 4 would come after the commencement of the proposed challenge partnership, the activity cannot be considered under this program. Reference application instructions for further clarification.

Highlight a box and press F1 if you need online help to complete any item.

Corps Lake/Project Name: **Allatoona Lake Project**
Handshake Proposal Title: **Allatoona Lake Visitor Center and Trail Improvement Project**
Corps POC Name: **Christopher Purvis**
Street Address: 1138 HWY Spur 20
City, state and zip code: **Cartersville, GA 30121**
Telephone: **(678) 721 - 6700** ext.
Fax: **(770) 386 - 6758** E-Mail: **christopher.t.purvis@usace.army.mil**

Partner Organization 1: City of Cartersville
Partner Authorized Official: Greg Anderson, Director Parks And Recreation
Phone: (770) 607 - 6137 ext.

Partner Organization 2: Cherokee County Schools/ Etowah High School
Partner Authorized Official: Linda Yunker, Broadcast Video Production Instructor
Phone: (770) 926 - 4411 ext. 392

Partner Organization 3:
Partner Authorized Official:
Phone: () - ext.

Categorize Use: (may check more than one)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interpretation/Environmental Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Event |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Safety | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation Facilities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trails | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visitor Center |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural Resources Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Accessibility Other/ Miscellaneous |

Handshake Funding Amount Requested (\$10,000 Limit): \$10000

Description of the Handshake partnership and the project to be accomplished:

This partnership project has four goals; the improvement of the local trail system, added interpretation to the area, cultural resource protection and updating the Visitor Center at the Allatoona Lake Operations Project Management Office (OPMO). To achieve these goals, the Corps is partnering with the City of Cartersville and Etowah High School to improve the recreation benefits and visitor experience around the Allatoona Lake Office.

The first portion of the project is the improvement and addition of trails in recreation areas around the Allatoona Lake OPMO. Plans are to add two (2) miles of trails in the Historic Cooper's Furnace Day Use Area, just below the Allatoona OPMO. The newly constructed trails would add to the three miles of trails that presently connect Cooper's Furnace Day Use, Coopers Branch #1 and #2 Day Use Areas and the Allatoona OPMO. Work began in early 2008 on the addition to Cooper's Furnace Trail with basically one (1) mile of the new trail roughly mapped out. Much of this trail follows the 19th century railroad bed that once led to the historic furnace. During 2008, over 300 hours of volunteer hours have been spent on the first part of this trail construction. Directional signs and crosswalks are to be added by spring 2009 plus a small bridge built for a BSA Eagle Scout Project. The trail system should be completed in two (2) years. Present trails have also been upgraded with new trailhead and directional signs, wood chips on many parts of trails, trail map dispensers at all trailheads, and protective split rail fencing in several areas. One gravel trail parking area, near Coopers Branch #1, will also be expanded to meet growing needs. Approximately 30% of handshake funds will go toward cost on directional and trailhead signs and post, wood chips, gravel, and other associated material cost with the trail.

In addition, the City of Cartersville has been granted funding for construction on a half mile connector trail from their Pine Mountain Trail (4.38 miles) to the Corps' Laurel Ridge Trail. The City of Cartersville plans to begin construction in the winter on the trail that will cross over 500 yards of Corps property. They have a two (2) year plan to finish this addition which includes placement of all appropriate signage. All construction will be done by an outside contractor with all costs being paid entirely by the City of Cartersville. Cartersville funding covers the entire 1/2 mile connector trail, including the 500 yards on Corps property, but not on the Cooper's Furnace Trail addition.

The Corps' new trail addition will cross closely behind the historic furnace. Cooper's Furnace is a 19th century iron furnace that is eligible for the National Historic Register. It is the only surviving structure of a thriving milling and iron manufacturing operation on the Etowah River between the 1850's-1860's. It had significant roles in the state of Georgia's iron manufacturing and railroad expansions as well as the American Civil War, including the famous Great Locomotive Chase. The furnace is rapidly deteriorating due to age, weather, and visitor interest. To protect the furnace and to increase public safety, the Allatoona Lake OPMO in August 2008 erected a split rail fence around 3/4 of the furnace to keep the public at a distance; the fourth side is already blocked to the public. Also, restricted area signs will be placed in the area, keeping the public close but far enough away where there will be no question of safety. The overall concern is safety but to allow the public to enjoy the furnace at a distance.

Approximately 60% of the handshake partnership funds requested by the Allatoona Project will cover cost on eight (8) 16' x 20' interpretive panels to be placed in the Cooper's Furnace area. The interpretive panels will cover the history of the furnace, iron manufacturing, early railroads, the Great Locomotive Case as well as several panels that will explain the environmental aspects such flora and fauna of the area. While the nearby interpretive Laurel Ridge Trail details local

trees, the area is lacking on sufficient interpretation on its wide history and abundant wildlife. The panels will be dispersed throughout the day use area on trails, in grass areas, and on the roadside. If granted funding, plans are to have the panels up by late spring 2009.

Finally, plans are also in place to update the aging mid-1980's video and photo displays at the Allatoona Lake Visitor Center. The Allatoona Lake OPMO is partnering with Etowah High School, Canton, Georgia to create a new visitor information DVD to be played by visitors to the center. Students in the Etowah High School's broadcast and video production classes are currently producing a new video that will basically cover the same subject matter as the older version but with updated information and more current footage and photographs. Also, a new segment covering water safety will be added to the video that was lacking from its predecessor. Teachers and students involved with this project are contributing their efforts through volunteer and In-Kind services. Approximately 10% of funding requested from the handshake application will go towards renovating other displays in the VC that are out of date.

Sustainability: With proper maintenance, this project should be sustainable for many years. Yearly trail maintenance by volunteers and routine work by the Allatoona Lake OPMO's Operation & Maintenance contractor will keep the trails in proper shape for decades. Interpretive signs to be installed in this project have a life expectancy of 12 years or more. Hopefully, the new DVD video and displays will last the 20 years that the previous displays lasted in the Allatoona Office. Protective fencing around the furnace should last for years with parts being easily replaced during periodic inspections. Another positive aspect to this partnership is that it can be built upon and expanded in the future with the success of this project.

Partnership Value: One of the fastest growing recreation trends in the U.S. is hiking. One of the most requested improvements on Allatoona Lake comment cards are more trails. The partnership with the City of Cartersville utilizes assets from both parties to improve trail mileage and conditions in the area. When completed, the partnered trail system will be approximately ten (10) continuous miles. The partnership also opens avenues for both parties on future projects in the area. The partnership with Etowah High School helps the Allatoona Lake OPMO provide a better visitor experience to the public and does so despite the lack of funding. Further, the partnership is extremely beneficial to students working on the video update who will gain educational expertise and work experience that can be listed on college applications and resumes. It builds upon an already close relationship with the Corps of Engineers and Cherokee County Schools where Rangers often are presenting Water Safety and Career Day Programs.

Communication and Education Value: The trail improvement project builds upon the National Get Outdoors initiatives and also gives families and individuals a healthy activity that is convenient to where they live. Expansion of the trail system communicates to the public that the Corps is listening to their comments and suggestions. New interpretive signs will be extremely informative and educational and gives the public a glimpse into the history and environmental aspects of the region. The renovated Visitor Center displays and video enhance the visitor experience and will bring attention to Corps themes including the national water safety message.

Recreational Benefit: When completed, the trail system will offer the public ten (10) miles of trails that connects three (3) Corps day use areas, the Allatoona Lake OPMO and Visitor Center, and a city park. Updated facilities, expanded parking lots, maintained trails, well-placed trail directional signs, new interpretive signs, public safety precautions, cultural resource protection, and increased public awareness of safety and recreational opportunities are just a few of the

recreational benefits that the yearly 180,000 visitors to this particular area will see through this partnership.

Innovativeness: Growing urbanization and expanding population in the area coupled with reduced budgets calls for new innovative partnerships. The partnership will utilize already standing relationships to build stronger recreation and educational opportunities which are in the best interest to all parties. This partnership is unique because it focuses not on one but several recreation and educational improvements including; trail improvements, cultural resource protection, public safety, interpretation, and public information and awareness.

The Corps will:

- Work with the City of Cartersville on expanding trail partnerships. For Cartersville's grant proposal purposes (received grant early 2008), the Corps will issue a formal permission letter to the City allowing them to build a portion of the trail connector on Corps property (letter sent Fall 2007).
- Work in cooperation with the Etowah High School (EHS) Broadcast and Communication team to update the Allatoona Lake visitor information video located in the Visitor Center.
- Allow EHS students access to portions of the lake for filming and research purposes.
- Will recognize the students' efforts with a plaque or video mention of the creators.
- Create an additional two (2) miles to the Cooper's Furnace Trail.
- Update and maintain the present three (3) miles of trails which includes: Cooper's Furnace Trail, Laurel Ridge Trail, and Coopers Branch Trail.
- Enforce public safety and cultural resource protection by placing fence around Cooper's Furnace.

The Partner(s) will:

- The City of Cartersville will fund creation of a connector trail between Pine Mountain Trail and the Corps' Laurel Ridge Trail.
- Apply for a connector trail project funding through a grant proposal (grant awarded 2008).
- Cartersville will solely be responsible for hiring out the contractor work, information and directional displays, and maintenance and up keep of the trail connector.
- Etowah High School will be responsible for researching, filming, and creating a new Visitor Center video at the Allatoona Lake OPMO.

Challenge Partnership Financial Work Sheet

Corps Project Name: Allatoona Lake

Work Project Title: Allatoona Lake Visitor Center And Trail Improvement Project

POC Name: Christopher Purvis

Address: 1138 GA Hwy Spur 20 City: Cartersville State: GA Zip Code: 30120

Telephone: 678/721/6725

Location on Project: Allatoona Operations Project Management Office

Partner Organization 1: City of Cartersville

POC Name: Greg Anderson

Address: 100 Pine Grove Road City: Cartersville State: GA Zip Code: 30120

Telephone: 770-607-6137

Partner Organization 2: Cherokee County Schools/ Etowah High School

POC Name: Linda Yunker

Address: 6565 Putnam Ford Dr City: Woodstock State: GA Zip Code: 30189

Telephone: 770-926-4411

Partner Organization 3:

POC Name:

Address: City: State: Zip Code:

Telephone:

Proposed start date of work: Jan-08

Simple description of work to be accomplished through the partnership: Visitor Center rehabilitation, trail improvements, cultural resource protection, interpretation, public safety and awareness.

Double click on spreadsheet to access data entry fields:

	Local Corps Office	Handshake Funds	Partner 1	Partner 2	Partner 3	Total
Salaries	\$4,000	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,000
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$2,000	\$10,000	\$39,542	\$0	\$0	\$51,542
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	\$0	\$0
Volunteer Efforts	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
Other (explain below)	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000
Total	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$39,542	\$5,000	\$0	\$62,542
Share of Total Cost	12.8%	16.0%	63.2%	8.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations:

\$2000 "other" listed under Local Corps Office represents maintenance contract work.

\$39,542 materials and supplies funding listed under partner #1 also includes trail contractor work.



This is the Cooper's Furnace Trail addition. You can see that most of this trail will follow the 19th century railroad bed and will have at least two (2) of the proposed interpretive panels.



Pictures above are of the Historic Cooper's Furnace. New split rail fence surrounds furnace and keeps public at a distance. The fence was erected in August 2008 as part of this project. The fence protects the cultural resource as well as helps provides public safety. Restricted area signs are to be added at later date. New trailhead for Cooper's Furnace Trail will be located to the right of fence in first photo.



Above photos are of new directional signs and bulletin boards erected in April, 2008 on portions of existing trails as part of Trail Improvement Plan.



Pictured is the trailhead at Laurel Ridge Trail and across from Coopers Branch #2 Day Use Area. This small parking area is to be widened as part of the Trail improvement Plan. This small lot sees heavy usage throughout the year. Visitors can park in Coopers Branch #2 as overflow but this area is closed during winter and sees heavy usage itself during weekends with its popular shelter area.

