

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Fiscal Year 2010  
Handshake Program Application**

Please review instructions before completing application!

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Corps Lake/Project Name: **Kaskaskia River Project**  
Handshake Proposal Title: **Kaskaskia and Mississippi Rivers Confluence Interpretive Area**  
Corps POC Name: **James Hill**  
Street Address: 4800 Lock and Dam Road  
City, state and zip code: **Modoc, IL 62261**  
Telephone: **(618) 284 - 7160** ext.  
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**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?  **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: Sept 09)

*If answer is No to either question 1 or 2 the proposal can not be authorized under the Corps' challenge partnership authority. If answer is No to question 3 and the date provided in answer to question 4 would come after the commencement of your proposed challenge partnership your activity can not be authorized.*

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**Handshake Funding Program Request (maximum \$25,000): 25,000**

**Cooperating Association Agreement Bonus:**

Challenge Partnerships that include an organization (cooperating associations, friends groups) with which your project/district has recently entered into a Cooperating Association Agreement are eligible to compete for an additional \$5000. To be eligible to compete for this Bonus funding your project/district must have entered into a Cooperating Association Agreement with the partner organization after January 1, 2008; 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).

Date of Cooperating Association Agreement: (must be after January 1, 2008 to be eligible).

**Incentive Points Categories:**

Please check the box for each category that applies to your Challenge Partnership. Additional points will be awarded for each category. You must address checked items in your project description.

Utilizes an Existing National Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) The National Partners MOU list can be found on the NRM Gateway Partnership page at <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/partners/list.html>. Local/regional chapters of National Partners are eligible.

Benefits/Involves Active Military, Veterans and/or Military Families

### **Describe your partnership and the proposed project:**

Your project will be evaluated based on each of the following categories: Sustainability, Partnership Value, Recreation Benefit, Environmental Stewardship Value, and Innovativeness. Please address each of these that apply in your description. Also address each incentive category you have identified.

### **Description:**

The proposed project is located entirely on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Federal public lands at the Kaskaskia River Lock and Dam site located at the confluence with the Mississippi River, north of Chester, IL. This area is at the heart of the French Colonial region (1600-1700's) in southwestern Illinois, on the shores of the Mississippi River, a nationally significant, environmental, and economic great river resource. This area has many valuable natural, historical, and economic resources. Selected points of interests in the area also include Fort de Chartres (Prairie du Rocher, IL), George Rodger's Clark and Long Knives captured Kaskaskia, Fort Kaskaskia/Pierre Menard Home (Ellis Grove, IL), Kaskaskia Liberty Bell (Kaskaskia Island, IL), Lewis and Clark Expedition (county wide) and Middle Mississippi National Wildlife Refuge operated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Regionally its location is just an hour south of St. Louis, MO and an hour north of Carbondale, IL and is easily accessible to visitors from local highways. This aesthetic, multi-user trail and educational/interpretative area at the confluence of the Mississippi and Kaskaskia River is an excellent site for recreation, and to promote the rich river history (natural and cultural), and other interpretive and educational opportunities such as the river navigation shipping industry and its economic significance.

Kaskaskia River Project has completed a trail through a high quality bottomland forested area from the Kaskaskia Lock and Dam lower boat ramp/campground area to the confluence with the Kaskaskia and Mississippi Rivers passing by wildlife food plots maintained by the Corps personnel. The Handshake Program funds would help to interpret the area by telling the stories of the area's rich history. The trail is graveled and is accessible from a parking area at Kaskaskia Lock and Dam lower boat ramp. This trail can be used for walking, hiking, bicycling, jogging and once completed, educational and/or interpretative programs will be given by local partners and Corps staff. The length of the trail is approximately .4 mile one way, with a width of 12 feet (a future trail loop expansion is being planned) to allow for Corps personnel to maintain the area. A vault toilet is being installed at the lower boat ramp access area for visitors and will be maintained by the Kaskaskia River Project.

The highlight of this trail is access to the shoreline at the confluence of the Kaskaskia with the Mississippi River. It is a point that can be used for reflection or education. Utilizing materials and labor furnished by volunteers a stone amphitheater seating for approximately 50 people will be constructed with large (2'x3') locally quarried limestone blocks to serve as seating and a large stone fire ring. The stone will be delivered and placed through a donation from a partner. This area can be used for education, interpretative programs, and a point of interest or reflection for visitors. Labor will include volunteers, in-house contracts and/or Corps' workforce. Other picnic tables and grills (removable during high water) will be furnished by the Corps.

Sustainability – Estimated lifespan of the trail (forever) with proper care and maintenance and the amphitheater area will be designed using large native limestone blocks each (approximately a ton in weight) which will withstand high water events and time. Using limestone material allows for minimal maintenance. All interpretative signage, and picnic tables will be removed during high water to preserve their integrity. During flood conditions safety buoys will be placed around amphitheater and fire ring to prevent potential damage to passing marine vessels. The brochure to correspond with the confluence trail is a renewable, updatable resource that can be utilized until supplies run out and then can be reprinted. The project sustains the Corps Mission and creates leveraged resources that benefit the Kaskaskia River Project and regional communities and partnerships.

Partnership Value - The estimated project costs will include \$2,500 for brochure design and \$7,500 for the printing of 25,000 copies, \$2,000 for the signs and markers, and \$22,000 for the outdoor interpretative displays,

\$750 for bike racks, and \$5,500 in salary costs for development of the project. A local partner has pledged \$20,000 for labor, materials, and placement of stones for amphitheater and fire ring. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders, Inc., Randolph County Historic Society, Randolph Co Progress Committee, Inc., and a retired USACE retired Lock & Dam/ Ranger are donating in kind and volunteering (approximate value \$1000 each) in support of the development, design and historical content of the brochure. The Kaskaskia River Project would be responsible for the brochure design and will provide labor at \$4,500 for development and the placement of the signage/interpretive displays. The \$25,000 handshake grant would be used to purchase the outdoor interpretative displays (\$22,000) and materials and supplies for signage (\$3,000). The Corps will use their project equipment and personnel for the installation of these displays. These interpretive displays are to be located at the trailhead and also at the end of the trail located at the confluence of the Mississippi and Kaskaskia Rivers to highlight the many features of the area. Also, several smaller outdoor interpretative panels will be purchased to showcase other local historical events of the area.

**Environmental Stewardship Value-** This Kaskaskia and Mississippi Rivers Confluence Interpretative Area will provide aesthetic enhancements interpreting the environmental uniqueness of the area which will in turn enhance the customer's experience. The trail and interpretative area will have minimal impact on the surrounding land, wildlife, and vegetation and blend in to the landscape. The improved accessibility provided by this trail will support Corps Missions (recreation, environmental stewardship, navigation, flood risk management), values of the river, and key historical significance of the region.

**Communication and Educational Value –** A main communication and educational project focus will be the development of a brochure to showcase the Kaskaskia and Mississippi Rivers Confluence Interpretive Area. The brochure's primary goal will be used to create a diversity of information that will educate the public on environmental stewardship, Corps Mission, and historical events and landmarks throughout this part of the lower Kaskaskia and Mississippi Rivers that has formed this exclusive area. Communication and education for the trail, amphitheater, and supporting brochure will draw visitors to the area from areas not directly related to the trail and confluence area. The brochure will also allow each visitor to take part of the experience home with them without disturbing the area and will be a future reference.

**Recreational Benefit -** The project directly creates and supports recreation both by land and water. This lower access area provides an opportunity for multiple vessel types including those using the area as a Safe Harbor for transient boats and those recreating for the day. This area will provide an area to relax, take a walk, build a fire, etc. in close proximity to there nightly (Safe Harbor destination) of the Lock and Dam's lower guidewall or those out for a day cruise exploring the lower Kaskaskia and Mississippi River. Additional visitors to the area will have positive economic impact to this region of Southwestern Illinois. This area will directly promote physical fitness and other recreational opportunities in the area, such as water skiing, photography, bird watching, boating, hiking or sightseeing, etc. The President's Healthier US Initiative states that "increasing personal fitness and becoming healthier is critical to achieving a better and longer life" and what better way to achieve this goal than visiting the Kaskaskia and Mississippi River Confluence Interpretive Area.

**Innovation -** This project presents a unique opportunity mostly due to the historical significant events of this area that will be shared with the public on the brochure and interpretative signage throughout the project area. This area of southwestern Illinois is surrounded by many historical events on how Illinois government and settlements started with history dating back to the 1600's to local reenactments of these events.

**Areas and history that can be seen or reflected upon from the confluence-** "Where Illinois Began" – Kaskaskia Bell Shrine "Liberty Bell of the West" next to Immaculate Conception Church Parish founded by Pere Marquette (1675), Village of Kaskaskia (1703) George Rodger's Clark and Long Knives captured Kaskaskia (July 4, 1778) County Seat (1795-1847) Pierre Menard Home (1802), first Lt. Governor of IL, Lewis & Clark (1803) recruited

soldiers from Fort Kaskaskia and others to include Native Americans from Kaskaskia Territory/Village of Kaskaskia who were experts on the Mississippi River, IL admitted to the Union 1818 and Kaskaskia first capital of IL (1818-1820), Abe Lincoln was Judicial Circuit Lawyer (1839-1859). In 1881 the Mississippi River flooded and gouged a new channel claiming six miles of the Kaskaskia River and Kaskaskia then became an island.

“All Roads Lead to Kaskaskia” --First Ferry established Jean Baptist Creely across OKAW now Kaskaskia River (1770) – first water Mill, Old Peoria Trail – Old Vincennes Trail (1737), Old Massac Trail (1800) connected all to Reily Lake, “Cradle of Western Civilization” later railroad was built, Shawnee Town Trail, George Rodgers Clark Discovery Trail, Mary’s River Covered Bridge built 1854 and used until 1930, Chester – First Bridge across Mississippi and Home of Popeye, and underground Slave Railway (Civil War Era).

Other nearby sites of local historical importance: Roots, Dr. Fischer Marker founded first hospital in IL early 1800’s, Modoc, Modoc Rock Shelter (8,000 B.C.), Fort de Chartres (built 1753), Creole House (built 1808), Prairie du Rocher, Heart of French Colonial District (1700’s), in Ruma the Ruma Convent and Martyred Nuns Statue, Red Bud historic district, historic Shawneetown Trail, Charter Oak School, 8-sided (built 1873 used until 1953), Coulterville – underground Slave Railway (Civil War Era), Misselhorn Art Gallery in Bricktown Historic District (Civil War Era), and Ste. Genevieve Modoc Toll Ferry (“the French Connection”) linking them with Prairie du Rocher. Among these sites of local importance the Creole House, Charter Oak School, Pierre Menard home, and the Red Bud Historical District have all been listed on the National Registry of Historical Places.

Providing this trail, amphitheater and interpretative media along with the production of the interpretative brochure is a multi-faceted, innovative approach. There is no other project of this importance currently in the area and will help promote the uniqueness of the region. The Handshake Program is another critical avenue to achieve final success in this partnership project for all visitors to the Southwestern Illinois Region. When completed and operational this will be the only public lands site on the Mississippi River from the St. Louis area to Grand Tower, IL (Cape Girardeau, MO Region) that will accommodate public connection to the river.

**The Corps will:**

The Kaskaskia River Project will continue to develop the trail and work with partners in the development and design of the brochure/map of the area. The Corps will also be responsible for payment for the design (\$2500) and printing of the interpretive brochure. Other responsibilities will be to oversee the use of the allocated Handshake Program funds for the project and to help with the installation of interpretative displays. The Kaskaskia River Project located at Kaskaskia Lock and Dam will assist in the responsibility of the development of the outdoor interpretive displays utilizing the Handshake Program funds. The Corps will also be responsible for the purchase of all signage and markings along the trail utilizing Handshake Program funds.

**The Partner(s) will:**

Schaefer Sand and Rock has volunteered to purchase, pick up and deliver large stones to the site, which is valued at approximately \$20,000 for the amphitheater and fire ring portion of the proposed project. Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders, Inc. is currently defining their contribution to the project. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (Darrell Duensing POC), Ed Crow, Randolph County Progress Committee, Inc., (non-profit) Emily Lyons, Randolph County Historical Society, and Robert Lockhart retired Corps Lock Operator/Ranger will be assisting with the development of the interpretive plan for the Kaskaskia and Mississippi Rivers Confluence Interpretive Area.

## Challenge Partnership Financial Work Sheet

Corps Project Name: Kaskaskia River Project

Work Project Title: Kaskaskia And Mississippi Rivers Confluence Interpretive Area

POC Name: James Hill

Address: 4800 Lock and Dam Road                      City: Modoc                      State: IL      Zip Code: 62261

Telephone: 618-284-7160

Location on Project: Confluence Of Kaskaskia And Mississippi River

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Partner Organization 1: Randolph County Historical Society, Kaskaskia Church Council, Liberty Bell of the West Chapter NSDAR, and Center for French Colonial Study

POC Name: Emily Lyons

Address: 104 Hillcrest Drive                      City: Chester                      State: IL      Zip Code: 62233

Telephone: 618-826-2667

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Partner Organization 2: Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

POC Name: Darrel Duensing

Address: 1350 State Route 155                      City: Prairie du Rocher                      State: IL      Zip Code: 62277

Telephone: 618-284-7230

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Partner Organization 3: Schaefer Sand and Rock

POC Name: Charlie Schaefer

Address: 19370 Sand Ridge Road                      City: Carlyle                      State: IL      Zip Code: 62231

Telephone: 618-594-4882

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Proposed start date of work: Apr-09

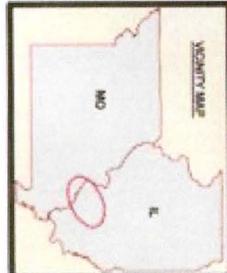
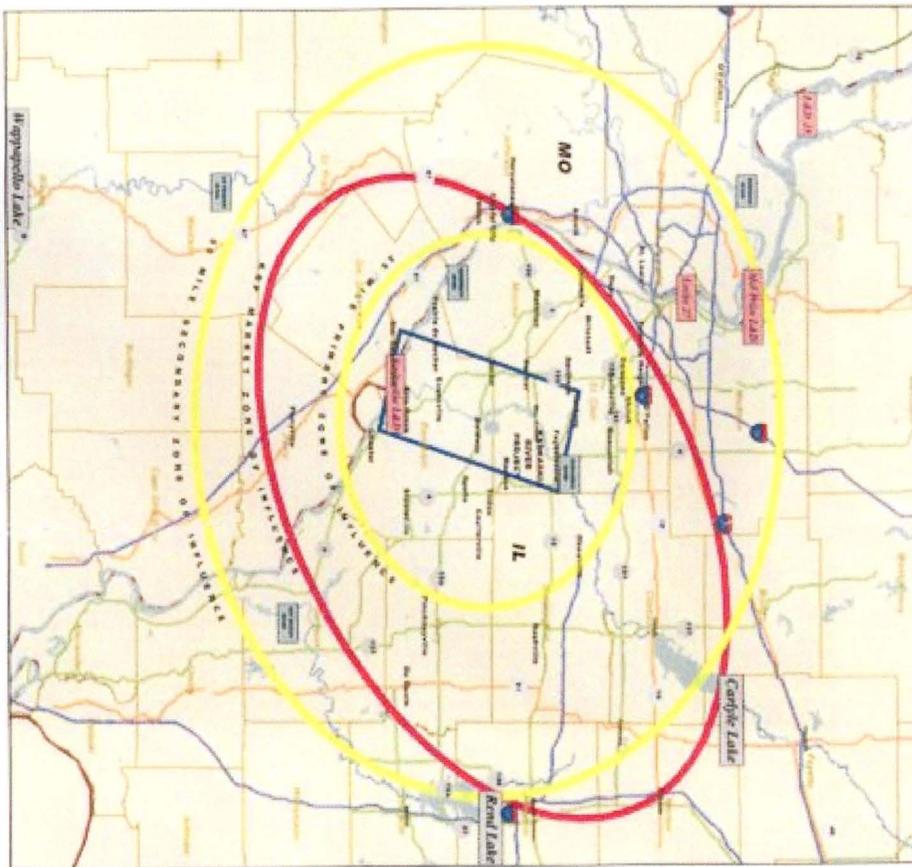
Simple description of work to be accomplished through the partnership: Trail and Interpretive Area to be completed with interpretive materials and amphitheater through the cooperation of multiple partnerships.

Double click on spreadsheet to access data entry fields:

	Local Corps Office	Handshake Funds	Partner 1	Partner 2	Partner 3	Total
Salaries	\$5,500	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,500
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$12,750	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$47,750
Equipment Use	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000
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	\$500	\$500	\$10,000	\$11,000
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$500	\$500	\$0	\$1,000
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$3,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,250</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$21,000</b>	<b>\$70,250</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	28.8%	35.6%	2.8%	2.8%	29.9%	100%

Explanations: Partners not included in above list: #4 Randolph County Progress Committee, Inc., Ed Crow; #5 Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders, Inc., and #6 Robert Lockhart, retired USACE Lock & Dam Operator/Ranger are donating in-kind documentation and volunteering (approximate value \$1000 each) towards the development of this project.

# Vicinity Map



- 15 Mile Radius Zone of Interest
- 30 Mile Radius Zone of Interest
- 45 Mile Radius Zone of Interest
- Kaskaskia River Confluence Interpretive Area Proposal
- Mississippi River
- Interstate
- State Road
- County Road
- Water

