

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fiscal Year 2016
Handshake Program Application**

Please review instructions before completing application!

Corps Lake/River Project Name: **Pearson Skubitz Big Hill Lake**

District / Division: **Tulsa District / Southwest Division**

Handshake Proposal Title: **Downstream Point Restoration**

Corps POC Name: **Michael Lapina**

Telephone: **(602) 336 - 2741** ext.

E-Mail: **micheal.b.lapina@usace.army.mil**

A. 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
 4. Have all of the NEPA requirements been considered for this project? Yes No
 5. Did you participate in a Handshake Webinar in 2015 or review a 2015 Handshake Webinar on the Gateway? Yes No
-

B. Handshake Funding Request (maximum \$30,000): \$20,000

C. Cooperating Association Agreement Bonus: Challenge Partnerships that include a Cooperating Association with which your project/district has entered into a Cooperating Association Agreement are eligible to compete for an additional \$5000. Do NOT include a copy of that agreement with this application. A copy 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 qualifies for the Cooperating Association Bonus funding.

D. Incentive Points Category: Check the appropriate box if your application qualifies to receive bonus points on the evaluation score. The first category is for the partner contribution meeting or exceeding 70% of total project costs. A summary of the partners' contribution to the Handshake Project should be included in the financial worksheet below. The second category is for Lake or River Projects that have never been chosen as Handshake recipients.

Partner contribution total is 70% or greater (100 points).

This Lake/River Project has never received Handshake funding (100 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:

Downstream Point Recreation Area at Big Hill Lake has a small campground near the top of the dam that has been un-maintained for several years due to budget restraints. Our Partners with Labette Tourism and Parson's Disc Golf have worked hard to turn the area surrounding the small abandoned campground into the premier Disc Golf Courses for Southeast Kansas. The value of these new facilities are mostly seen in the small town local restaurants, hotels, and stores that now rely on these activities in this low economic region of Kansas. The park currently includes two premier 18 hole disc golf course and cross country trails that go around and through this small campground.

Bill Hill Lake and its partners would like to transform this small campground into a multipurpose area serving as a rest-stop for the disc golf course as it is centrally located, a viewing area for Disc Golf Tournaments and Cross country meets as you can see most of the park from this area, a group camp for Boy Scout Groups, and open the area up for local Day Users to enjoy the scenery of the park. Restoration will include complete under brushing of the area, running new water lines with hydrants, a new kiosk and electric charging station, restoration of picnic tables and grills, retaining walls for up to 10 picnic sites, and internet relay stations for guest internet in the new day use area. Internet access will not only to assist with tournaments and competitions, but will serve our day use visitors as well.

Longevity / Sustainability description:

Once installed the sustainability of the campsites including the grills, picnic tables, and retaining walls for the 10 sites would be minimal. The old retaining walls and crossties would be replaced with new concrete structures that would last a minimum 30 years due to the durable nature and longevity of the components. The benefit to the Corps is having this area 75% maintained through partners, increased visitation to the park and lake, new facilities and recreational opportunities at almost no cost to the project, and fostering great relationships with the local community. Ongoing maintenance of the site would be covered by various Boy Scout Troop Partners who will be allowed to camp in the newly restored campsites while performing service projects for the area and project. Labette Tourism and Parsons Disc Golf, who are donating all the disc golf baskets, tee signs, and ground sleeves for both 18 hole courses, will also maintain the three holes that run through the restored camping area. The new water line and spigots should have a life span of at least 50 years and will provide a nice place to re-fill water bottles on the course. With an electric line already in the area, the kiosk and charging station will be built by Independence High School Shop class with little help from the project. The internet relay stations will be hidden in various locations leading to the Day Use Area and should have a lifespan of at least 10 years without maintenance. With this area being a walk-in only day use area, highly utilized by partners, with no roadways leading into or through the restoration area, vandalism should be minimal and maintenance needs should be easily noticed. With the facilities created by partnership investments for both the Disc Golf Courses and the Cross Country Courses, compared to the low income area of Southeast Kansas, it is apparent that these facilities will continue on a permanent basis.

Partnership Value:

The ten partners for this project have made significant contributions to the project in planning, advertising, volunteer hours, and materials. Parson's Disc Golf has agreed to assist with any mowing in the area that is not already covered in the current mowing contract, as well as creating and maintaining all the trails that run the length of both disc golf courses. This restoration project is yet another example of their involvement in the creation of new recreation opportunities at Big Hill Lake. Independence High School shop class, is planning to build a kiosk and recognition board that will be shared and maintained by the partners and the Corps. They will

also help with the construction of a new charging station once the electrical work has been completed. When the area is restored, it will serve as a free camp for scout troops who will continue to perform service projects at Big Hill Lake. Both the local disc golf club and scouts have already provided labor to begin clearing the invasive vegetation. Labette County Tourism department has made significant material contributions for the Disc Golf course realizing the potential that the course will have to draw visitors into the community. Additional resources will improve the area's aesthetics, provide more recreational opportunities and hopefully further expand our partner base. In all, 90% of the physical labor for the project will be performed by our partners.

Recreational Benefit:

There are three major user groups for this park; Disc Golf Course groups, Cross Country groups, and various Boy Scout Troops. However the revitalization of the area is expected to be heavily utilized by local members of the public and will provide a much safer and user friendly day use area. Camping will be re-established to scout groups or similar partners who schedule in advance and agree to help maintain the area. Day Use visitors will have the opportunity to picnic on any of the 10 restored sites and along with great views of the area, have access to electric, water, and internet capabilities while recreating. Three holes of the new partner developed Big Hill Disc Golf Course pass near and thru this area. The restoration of the ten picnic sites will provide a resting spot for disc golfers to take breaks while playing the course. Two sites in particular will provide a great vista of the dam, tailrace and walnut grove. The disc golf course has created a new trail system that will add miles to the current trails and the area will provide a rest stop for many. This area will also be used by the local Cross Country Club that utilize the trails that cross thru this area. Once the sites are restored, spectators will have a great place to watch the runners in the shade during the meets and practices.

Environmental Stewardship Benefit:

The restoration of the project area would mean the removal of buckbrush and invasive eastern red cedar that has taken over. These species have choked out other native plants and decreased flora biodiversity. The understory has also created a habitat for ticks. Restoration of the area for recreational use will improve understory biodiversity and reduce the parasitic load.

Communication & Education Value:

This project in conjunction with the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) disc golf course will bring in much needed tourism dollars to Southeast Kansas. Disc Golfers are known to travel hundreds of miles to play premiere courses and the Big Hill courses are expected to host many tournaments. An interpretive kiosk is planned to list the Corps of Engineers missions at Big Hill Lake. This kiosk will also describe the partnership project and acknowledge those partners who made this project possible. The group camping for scouts will provide an area for water safety, environmental, and recreational programs to be performed by rangers, scout leaders, and other agencies. This will also provide a great place for local school programs or for groups that are using the area for day use.

Innovativeness:

The restoration of Downstream Point Recreation Area with the addition of WIFI and electrical charging stations to this recreation area will be a much appreciated innovation for the economically challenged area. With no park like this in southern Kansas, these capabilities will not only assist the partner groups in their recreation experiences, but will also assist in drawing local day users and groups to the park. The area already contains two 18-hole premier and innovative Disc Golf Courses with each station consisting of three different holes that can be interchanged to make the course more or less challenging. The courses that run through Downstream Point Recreation Area offer a different course setup no matter how many times you play and is challenging enough to keep these tournament groups and individuals coming back for more. Two more 18-hole courses are already under construction in this area as this innovative partner continues to assist with top tier of the line recreation experience. With an innovative project and a couple of innovative partners with motivation, the public will have the best recreational experience possible.

Concluding statement:

The restoration of Downstream Point Recreation Area is critical to this low economic area. Currently there are not a lot of day users and the area is mostly utilized by the partners listed above. To have a restored recreation area like Downstream Point and make it available to the general public for recreation would give a much needed boost to both local citizens and local groups. Restoration would also secure the future of these tournaments and track meets that the local towns in this area have come to rely on for economic support.

The Corps, along with our many individual volunteers and organized partners, truly demonstrate how working together we can make improvements in the community that are sustainable during times when budgets are tight.

Challenge Partnership Financial Work Sheet

Corps Project Name: Pearson Skubitz Big Hill Lake

Work Project Title: Downtown Point Restoration

POC Name: Michael Lapina

Address: 19065 Cherryvale Parkway City: Cherryvale State: KS Zip Code: 67335

Telephone: 620 - 336 - 2741 x

Location of Project: Downstream Point Recreation Area, Big Hill Lake

Partner Organization 1: Labette Tourism

POC Name: Jim Zaleski

Address: 112 S 17th Street City: Parsons State: KS Zip Code: 67357

Telephone: 620 - 421 - 6500 x

Partner Organization 2: Parsons Disc Golf

POC Name: Rick Holsinger

Address: 709 S 34th Street City: Parsons State: KS Zip Code: 67357

Telephone: 620 - 423 - 2828 x

Partner Organization 3: Ron & Jeannie Smith (Community Volunteers)

POC Name: Ron Smith

Address: PO Box 20 City: Entiat State: WA Zip Code: 98822

Telephone: 509 - 429 - 4059 x

Partner Organization 4: Boy Scouts Troop 4

POC Name: John Garris

Address: 2174 Woodland View Dr. City: Independence State: KS Zip Code: 67301

Telephone: 832 - 216 - 7151 x

Partner Organization 5: Boy Scouts Troop 3

POC Name: Roy Shafer

Address: 1262 CR 1700 City: Caney State: KS Zip Code: 67333

Telephone: 620 - 688 - 1727 x

Partner Organization 6: Boy Scouts Troop 55 Iola

POC Name: Stacey Sigler

Address: 305 N 8th Street City: Humboldt State: KS Zip Code: 66748

Telephone: 620 - 212 - 3695 x

Partner Organization 7: Bryan & Hunter Tiecke (Disc Golfers)

POC Name: Bryan Tiecke

Address: 16087 Gove Rd City: Mound Valley State: KS Zip Code: 67354

Telephone: 620 - 313 - 0292 x

Partner Organization 8: Altamont Disc Golf Club

POC Name: Aaron Spencer
Address: 11083 Kiowa Rd. City: Altamont State: KS Zip Code: 67330
Telephone: 620 - 423 - 5959 x

Partner Organization 9: Independence Disc Golf Club
POC Name: Paul Reeves
Address: 704 N 10th St. City: Independence State: KS Zip Code: 67301
Telephone: 620 - 870 - 1776 x

Partner Organization 10: Independence High School (Shop Class)
POC Name: Alan Speicher
Address: 1301 N 10th Street City: Independence State: KS Zip Code: 67301
Telephone: 620 - 332 - 1815 x

Partner Organization 11:
POC Name:
Address: City: State: Zip Code:
Telephone: - - x

Partner Organization 12:
POC Name:
Address: City: State: Zip Code:
Telephone: - - x

Partner Organization 13:
POC Name:
Address: City: State: Zip Code:
Telephone: - - x

Partner Organization 14:
POC Name:
Address: City: State: Zip Code:
Telephone: - - x

Partner Organization 15:
POC Name:
Address: City: State: Zip Code:
Telephone: - - x

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	\$4,500	N/A	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$15,000	\$27,000	\$600	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$100	\$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	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,500
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$6,500	\$20,000	\$28,500	\$3,700	\$3,000	\$3,500
Share of Total Cost	7.3%	22.5%	32.1%	4.2%	3.4%	3.9%

	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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$5,000
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$8,000
Share of Total Cost	3.9%	3.9%	3.9%	2.8%	2.8%	9.02%

	Partner 11	Partner 12	Partner 13	Partner 14	Partner 15	Total
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$44,600
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,100
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$31,000
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$88,700
Share of Total Cost	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations:

Labette County Tourism (Partner 1) has purchased all the disc golf baskets, tee signs, and ground sleeves for both courses. (36 holes.) The Disc Golf Clubs and Scout Troops along with a few individual volunteers are providing their time and labor to help clear and install the courses and renovate the Downstream Point Area. Big Hill Lake Staff will be providing equipment and labor for installation of the tee pads and course along with providing the concrete and gravel needed. Staff will also be overseeing the volunteer workers. The bulk of the funding requested will go to the Downstream Point retaining walls that we made of crossties that have deteriorated and most burned during a prescribed burn. The current intent is to replace all of the crossties with versa block or poured concrete site delineation that will last for years with minimal maintenance. More funding will be used to purchase new fire rings and grills for the individual sites along with a large one for the meeting area. Other items that will need to be addressed are the running of new water lines with new frost free hydrants. The Parsons Disc Golf club is planning to raise funds for the purchase of keyed alike locks for all the baskets. Estimated cost for locks is \$600. The charging station along with the kiosks will be provided by the Independence High School shop class once the existing electrical line has been checked out. Handshake funds will be used for the purchase of materials for the kiosk and charging station. The shop class will be the primary workforce to get these items constructed and assembled. Internet relay stations will be purchased using handshake funds and will be professionally installed.