

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Fiscal Year 2017  
Handshake Program Application**

**Please review instructions before completing application!**

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Corps Lake/River Project Name: **Pearson Skubitz Big Hill Lake**  
District / Division: **Tulsa District / Southwestern Division**  
Handshake Proposal Title: **Cherryvale Park Equestrian Trailhead Enhancement**  
Corps POC Name: **Allen Zylstra/Chris Hammerschmidt**  
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**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 2016 or review a 2016 Handshake Webinar on the Gateway? ☒ Yes ☐ No
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**B. Handshake Funding Request (maximum \$20,000): \$15,000**

**C. Pollinator Habitat Bonus:** Challenge Partnerships that are focused on improving pollinator habitat will be eligible to compete for an additional \$5000. The application must clearly demonstrate the intent of creating pollinator habitat as the primary project scope.

☐ This application qualifies for the Pollinator Habitat 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 projects that are working to address invasive species management. The application must clearly identify how invasives are being addressed and managed. The second category is for Lake or River Projects that have never been chosen as Handshake recipients.

☒ Invasive Species Management (100 points).

☐ This Lake/River Project has never received Handshake funding (200 points).

#### **E. Describe your partnership and the proposed Handshake Partnership Project:**

Project applications will be evaluated on the categories below. Please complete each section as appropriate.

##### **Summary Statement:**

Cherryvale Equestrian Trailhead (South Camp) at Cherrvale Park, is one of two major trailheads leading onto the Equestrian Trail System at Big Hill Lake. Thanks to our trail partners we have been able to upgrade our facilities at Timber Hill Park (North Camp), with a group shelter, primitive campsites, trail signs, trail markers, hitching posts, and other facilities. Now our focus is getting the Cherryvale Trailhead, which is in a more urban and high use area, upgraded with similar facilities. If the Big Hill Project is awarded Handshake funds of \$15,000, the project along with its partners, would like to purchase the materials for a group picnic shelter for the Cherryvale/South Camp (\$10,500) with the Back Country Horsemen of American Kansas Chapter bringing in their skilled volunteers to assemble the shelter in the park for us. Handshake funds would also be used to purchase materials for 6 horse pens (\$2,500), one wooden kiosk with trail map (\$1,000), and create two new manure bunkers (\$500 a piece) for the South Camp. With any remaining handshake funds, we hope to combine with grant funding from the partners to possibly run water and electricity into the group camping area and sites.

##### **Longevity / O&M description:**

The Longevity of the facilities recommended would be anywhere from 50-100 years. The Picnic Shelter with poured concrete and metal framing should be able to withstand normal weathering and last in the 100 year range or longer. The horse pens are also made of metal framing with gravel flooring and should have a lifespan of at least 50 years. The manure bunkers made of concrete, should have a lifespan of over 100 years given normal wear and tear. The wooden kiosk with trail map will be made of wood and have at least a 25 year life span under normal conditions. All handshake built facilities will be maintained by the partners at no project O&M Cost. The only O&M cost currently in the South Camp is limited mowing.

##### **Partnership Value:**

The Big Hill Lake Partners have worked hard to create a safe and enhanced recreational experience for all visitors. They have raised money, donated materials, contributed countless hours of maintenance, applied for and won grants for the project, and reached out to other partners for help. The North Camp would not have the facilities it currently has without these partners. They have not only enhanced the recreational experience in these Corps Managed Areas, but continue to find new ways create new recreational opportunities. BCHAK has contributed over \$2,000 in equipment rentals and grants and also helped purchase a Swisher Trail Mower to help maintain the trails. NATRC contributed to bringing water to the North Camp. BHHRA is contributing labor and materials for Horse Pens in the North Camp. Boy Scout troops have helped mark the trails and put up signs, and continue to want to come back and be involved with this project. NATRA, Labette Tourism, and BCHAK, are all putting in for grants to help match the anticipated handshake funding if awarded. All our partners, new and old, have done so much already to keep these campgrounds, trails, and facilities maintained and bring new life to Big Hill Lake. The Big Hill Lake staff includes only 2 park rangers and 2 maintenance workers shared between 4 Corps Lakes (Big Hill Lake, Elk City Lake, Fall River Lake, and Toronto Lake). These improvements to Cherryvale/South Camp will serve to help strengthen these partnerships, give aid to an under-staffed project, and bring much needed resources to this area where resources are very thin.

##### **Recreational Benefit:**

The Cherryvale/South Camp is located in the poverty stricken part of southeast Kansas where resources are limited. The Recreational Benefit to City of Cheryvale would drive new tourism dollars, provide a positive economic impact on the city and the local communities, bring much needed economic value to the community, and establish resources for local visitors to use as they visit Big Hill Lake. For the Big Hill Project it would be additional recreational facilities that they don't have to build or maintain, but yet visitors will still get full the value of the facilities. The Big Hill Horsetrail is a multiuse trail, with the exception of mountain bikers and motorized vehicles, and is open to all recreating visitors. This trail and facilities can be used for hiking around the lake, scout groups, hiking groups, horseback riding groups, and local fisherman accessing those hard to get to fishing coves.

The new group camp with shelter could also be used by the recreating public when not being used or reserved by the horse trail groups for special events.

#### **Environmental Stewardship Value:**

This Project will greatly contribute to the physical improvement of the environment around Cherryvale Park. With the addition of these facilities and increased interest in the area, guarantees the continued environmental Stewardship of this trail system and use of the North and South Camps. The Big Hill Lake project has already worked extensively with the partners and have created environmentally friendly solutions to trail issues along with controlled burns and invasive species removal that clogs down the trails. With the Boy Scout Troops involvement, new opportunities have been discussed but not yet implemented for possible wildlife habitat near the trail areas. In some of the eroded trail areas, the partners work with the Corps office to come up with solutions to drastically reduce sediment loads entering the lake. Also, as horses are not native to, nor are they beneficial to, our native grasses. By installing the horse pens it will cut down on the grazing effects in the park. Also the pens will aid in keeping the horses in one area to reduce encroachments into the woods and eradicate the need for tying up horses using nearby trees.

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

Educational value begins with the Trailhead Kiosk. This kiosk not only contains the map of the trail but will be used to promote water safety, environmental education, and interpretation. The shelter itself, which can be multi-use, can be used as an interpretive center as it can contain various programs that lead out from the shelter onto the trail system. Interpretive programs for groups could include birding, exploring, tree identification, wildlife tracks, and boy scout troop programs that are all aspects that are contained in easy range of the trailhead.

#### **Innovativeness:**

This project is innovative as it involves many different resources and interests. The Handshake funds are really just the much needed "seed" money to get the Cherryvale/South Camp rolling. At least three other partners have put in for grant money (they have already invested all they can of their own money) to help match the Handshake funds in order to get the entire project completed at the Cherryvale/South Camp. These partners are always coming up with new and sometimes innovative ideas for our trail systems and our campgrounds. However without the facilities, those ideas get grounded pretty fast. BCHAK along with the Boy Scout Group has already walked portions of the trail system and are currently adding quarter mile marker posts so that if there is an incident on the trail, rescue teams can find which trail entrance they need to access and where on the trail they need to go.

#### **Conclusion:**

Without handshake funds, these facilities cannot become a reality. The project does not have the funds for new facilities and the partners have already invested so much. With the help of this Handshake Partnership which will leverage \$15,000 in partnership funds, we can mobilize our partners and stakeholders to volunteer over \$50,000 of time and materials to complete this project. This is an outstanding example of how to complete a project to benefit all involved through this partnership.

Double click on spreadsheet to access data entry fields and to enter Partner names. You MUST enter partner names into the spreadsheet:

	Local Corps Office	Handshake Funds	BCHA- Kansas	Big Hill Horse Riders Association	North American Trail Ride Conference	American Endurance Ride Conference
Salaries	\$4,500	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$15,000	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	N/A	N/A	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$500	\$0
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	N/A	N/A	\$25,377	\$11,535	\$1,730	\$2,307
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,500</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$27,377</b>	<b>\$14,535</b>	<b>\$2,230</b>	<b>\$2,307</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	9.0%	20.8%	38.0%	20.2%	3.1%	3.2%
	29.8%					

	Boy Scouts of America Pack 16	Labette County Tourism	Western Way Cowboy Church	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	\$0
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$250	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$1,615	\$0	\$2,307	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,615</b>	<b>\$250</b>	<b>\$2,307</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	2.2%	0.3%	3.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0

	Partner 11	Partner 12	Partner 13	Partner 14	Partner 15	Total
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,500
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$16,000
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,750
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$44,871
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$72,121</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

## **Explanations:**

**Back Country Horsemen of America, Kansas Chapter (BCHAK):** This is a chapter of a national organization who's mission is to keep trails open for horse use. This local chapter is the main partner with Big Hill Lake in Kansas for the horse trails that circle the lake. As an organization they have contributed over \$11,238,375 of volunteer value, with over 300,000 volunteer hours. As a local chapter they have been able to work with the local Corps of Engineers office to create and maintain 19 miles of trail along with establishing 3 camps as the trail circles the lake. They have contributed funds from their own organization and are the primary vessel for grants and other funding sources.

**Big Hill Horse Riders Association (BHHRA):** This is a local horse group that over the last five years has contributed over 500 work hours and approximately \$3,000 in cash for materials in the North Camp. The group currently has 40 members and is involved presently with building limited number of pens for the north camp as well as maintenance.

**North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC):** In the past few years the local branch has held nationally sanctioned two-day competitions, most recently November of 2015. Monies raised from these rides has helped bring water to the north camp. This group is also working on a grant of \$500 to help match the possible Handshake Funds if awarded.

**American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC):** This is a national organization with around 5,000 members. They sanction, record, and organize around 700 long-distance equine events in the US and Canada each year. They have been a partner in the past, and look to provide 100 man-hours of trail maintenance along with their April 2017 trail ride.

**Boy Scouts of America, Pack 16, Independence Kansas:** In 2016, this pack rallied cub scouts, parents, eagle scouts, and troop leaders to a work day where the scouts used measuring wheels to verify mileage and set trail markers. The Corps furnished equipment and labor as well as paint for marking the trail. During the outing in 2016, several scouts achieved the requirements for their hiking badges, and are already planning another work day for 2017.

**Labette County Tourism:** This is a new partner and is still in the works. However current director, Jim Zaleski, pledged his support in the firm of endorsing a \$250 grant to assist with the possible handshake funding. He encouraged an annual application for this grant to bring recreation users to Labette County and enjoy the opportunities that Big Hill Lake offers.

**Western Way Cowboy Church:** This group holds an annual trail ride and dinner each fall at the Big Hill Horse Trail. The also contribute to the trail maintenance putting in 100 hours of volunteer work towards the restoration of the trail system and camps. This group would also contribute to the volunteer labor in the construction of the South Camp facilities.

Project Map:





**Volunteer and matching facilities from North Camp.**





Trail Map with Cherryvale/South Camp located:

