

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

Please review instructions before completing application!

Corps Lake/River Project Name: **Coralville Lake**
District / Division: **MVR/MVD**
Handshake Proposal Title: **Pollinator Habitat Restoration**
Corps POC Name: **Mary Sue Bowers**
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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): 20,000

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:

The Army Corps of Engineers at Coralville Lake will partner with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF), Bur Oak Land Trust (BOLT), Johnson County Conservation Board (JCCB) and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to restore 93.5 acres of land to tallgrass prairie and shrubs. The species selected for the restoration will be specifically chosen to support Iowa's native pollinators. More than half of the area to be restored lies adjacent to the planned Hoover Trail, which will bring tens of thousands of visitors to this area, providing a unique opportunity to educate the public about Iowa's natural heritage, the importance of pollinators in our environment and the Corps mission to support sustainable environmental practices. INHF, BOLT and IDNR have pledged \$4,000.00 in cash towards the purchase of prairie seed. The Iowa DNR will also be providing a Truax Seed Drill or a Vicon Seed Spreader for the installation of the planting. The JCCB has committed to provide over 600 pounds of prairie seed, with an estimated value of \$24,000.00. An interpretive kiosk and benches will be installed to allow the visiting public to learn about and contemplate the beauty and serenity of the prairie. The significance of this project is clearly demonstrated by the many partners who have pledged funds, equipment and materials for this project.

Longevity / O&M description:

Once established (a process that typically takes two to three years) and with proper maintenance, this project should last into perpetuity. The areas that are planned for restoration are currently in agricultural leases (71.6 acres) and wildlife food plot permits (21.9 acres). Due to low elevation and frequent flooding, one of the wildlife food plots (5.4 acres) is completely over run with invasive species (autumn olive and multiflora rose), which will be removed in order to plant flood tolerant native shrubs (button bush and serviceberry) which will help stabilize the soil as well as support pollinators. All permits and leases are expiring at the end of the 2016 growing season. Once the crop has been removed from the fields by the farmers, and the crop residue removed (if needed), prairie seed will be planted using either a Truax Seed Drill or a Vicon Seed Spreader. During the establishment process, the areas will be mowed 3 to 5 times each growing season to keep annual weeds from going to seed. Once established, a mowed firebreak will separate the tallgrass prairie areas from the adjacent, privately owned, agricultural fields and the prairies will be burned on a three to five year cycle during the dormant season. Establishment mowing will be done utilizing a mowing contract; seed planting, firebreak mowing/maintenance and prescribed fire will be done by USACE staff.

Partnership Value:

This project brings together partners across all levels of government, as well as non-governmental organizations. Federal, state and local conservation agencies include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), as well as the Johnson County Conservation Board (JCCB).. Non-governmental organizations included are the Bur Oak Land Trust (BOLT) and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF). The IDNR will provide technical assistance with site preparation, seed mix design, seeding recommendations and assistance as well as \$2,500 worth of matching materials in the form of seed. The aim is to use the IDNR's equipment during the seeding phase of this project. The JCCB has committed to providing approximately \$24,000 worth of matching materials in the form of prairie seed. This contribution is especially important as the seed provided will be locally harvested Iowa ecotype from within Johnson County. The BOLT and INHF will contribute \$500 and \$1,000, respectively, towards the purchase of seed for this project. the contributions from BOLT and INHF, while respectively small, are important in that they represent new partnerships between organizations, create the potential for partnerships in the future, and contribute towards the goals of the partner conservation organizations (e.g. the IDNR State Wildlife Action Plan).

Recreational Benefit:

A mowed firebreak will surround each area to facilitate prescribed fire for maintenance of the tallgrass prairie. The firebreaks will be planted with a mix of turnips, radish, sweet potato and other forage plants for white-tailed deer habitat, which will provide substantially better nutritional value for the deer than the current plantings of corn and soybeans, as well as improve hunting in the area. In 2018 the final piece of the Hoover Trail, which lies immediately adjacent to over 53 acres of this restoration project, is expected to be completed. Once built, this trail will connect with the Cedar Valley Nature Trail which is over 50 miles long (beginning in Waterloo Iowa),

to the completed portion of the Hoover Trail which ends in West Branch, Iowa. This trail system is a part of the "American Discovery Project", which seeks to connect the United States coast-to-coast via trails and has the potential to draw tens of thousands of people to this area each year.

Environmental Stewardship Value:

Historically tallgrass prairie was the dominate ecosystem in this region, but as a result of urbanization and agricultural practices it is estimated that less than one-tenth of one percent of Iowa's tallgrass prairie remains, and it is considered one of the most endangered ecosystem on our planet. The tallgrass prairie and shrub species for this restoration will be selected specifically to support native pollinators, whose populations have been in decline due to habitat loss and agricultural pesticide use. Restoration to tallgrass prairie will provide critical habitat for the pollinators and wildlife which evolved here; decrease soil erosion; work as a carbon sink thereby reducing the carbon footprint of Coralville Lake Project; act as silt sink for the surrounding agricultural areas which will improve water quality and extend the longevity of the Coralville Lake impoundment; and will provide thousands of people recreating on the Hoover Trail the opportunity to learn about and simply walk into a piece of Iowa's natural history. Once completed, these areas will serve to unite several separate and isolated areas, creating a tallgrass prairie matrix encompassing over two hundred acres in size, providing a unique opportunity to support species who require large scale prairie landscapes.

Communication & Education Value:

A kiosk with interpretive materials about Iowa's natural history, native pollinators and the partnership that restored the area, along with two benches will be installed between one of the restored areas and the Hoover Trail. Once established, the area will provide a location for local prairie enthusiasts to participate in fall prairie seed collection events. Collected seed is then used to supplement plantings in other locations. Past prairie seed collection events have attracted scout troops, classes from the local community college, retired professionals, and recently a geriatric doctor who is interested in bringing patients suffering from Alzheimer's Disease, to see if the activity has therapeutic value.

Innovativeness:

This project is innovative in bringing together multiple entities for a common cause; to create habitat for pollinators. This will be the first time that these public and private agencies will be working together for a common goal. Regardless of receipt of this Handshake Partnership Agreement, all of the partners for this project are committed to taking this restoration project from goal to reality. Coralville Lake recognizes the value and importance of this commitment and the inherent respect that it brings with it, and expects to continue to find new and innovative ways that we can support our partners, as they are supporting us, in the many common goals that support our missions.

Conclusion:

The USACE at Coralville Lake has over 200 acres of land in agricultural production as a relic of the land's acquisition in the 1950s. While maintaining the land in agriculture is not the most environmentally sound practice, converting the land out of agriculture is generally cost prohibitive. An award of this Handshake Partnership Agreement will go a long ways toward restoration of this endangered ecosystem, and will show that we are committed to supporting sustainable management practices.

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	IDNR	JCCB	INHF	BOLT
Salaries	\$3,975	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$29,975	\$25,000	\$2,500	\$24,000	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$1,050	\$0	\$626	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$500
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$45,000	\$25,000	\$3,126	\$24,000	\$1,000	\$500
Share of Total Cost	45.6%	25.3%	3.2%	24.3%	1.0%	0.5%
	71.0%					

	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	\$0
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Share of Total Cost	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0

	Partner 11	Partner 12	Partner 13	Partner 14	Partner 15	Total
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,975
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$81,475
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,676
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,500
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$98,626
Share of Total Cost	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations: \$10,000 for mowing contract during establishment of tallgrass prairie.