

**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: **Lake Shelbyville**  
District / Division: **St. Louis District/Mississippi Valley Division**  
Handshake Proposal Title: **Invasive Species Site Conversion to Pollinators**  
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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): ?**

**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:**

Grant funding would support the conversion of approximately 100 acres of old field habitat choked with invasive species such as Amur Honeysuckle, Autumn Olive and Multi-flora Rose to a diverse pollinator mix vital to a whole suite of species to include numerous insect species that pollinate our native plants. Once converted, this habitat can easily be maintained through the use of prescribed fire to keep invasive species at bay and promote the health of the prairie wildflowers and grasses so vital to pollinating insects. In East-Central Illinois Lake Shelbyville is literally an island in a sea of corn and soybeans with very little quality prairie habitat that promotes these insect species so vital to many native species of plants and wildlife. To date Lake Shelbyville has converted approximately 180 acres of old field to native warm season grasses and forbs. All staff are trained in prescribed burning and burn approximately 400 - 800 acres annually to support native species and eradicate invasive species. Funding will also allow for an outdoor classroom of sorts with Okaw Valley, a local school district that is very forward thinking. An MOU with Okaw Valley school district (middle school and high schools) signed in 2016, has the establishment of pollinator species already in the planning stages for two agricultural leases assigned to Okaw Valley as an outdoor classroom, complete with the conversion of two fescue hayfields to pollinator mixes planned for FY17.

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

The anticipated operative life span for the Pollinator mix will be in perpetuity. The most important aspect of maintaining an established prairie is to keep the woody species at bay, whether it is native species or invasive species. Through prescribed fire, this is easily accomplished by burning on a 2 - 3 year rotation. As mentioned, Lake Shelbyville staff are trained in prescribed burning so maintenance will be conducted in-house. It will also provide the opportunity to work with Okaw Valley students in teaching the importance of fire on the landscape. While the students won't be allowed to run the drip torches, they will be allowed to assist in establishing firebreaks and the actual burns.

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

The estimated project cost is \$75,560.00. The total estimated Partner Value is \$28,060. Pheasants Forever has pledged in-kind services and material support for the project by providing seed as well as a Great Plains drill for the establishment of the prairies valued at \$12,930.00. The Lake Volunteer Association and National Wild Turkey Federation have pledged a total of \$2,500 for seed. Sloan's Equipment has pledged a tractor for Okaw Valley students to utilize in establishing the pollinator mix at a value of approximately \$5,000.00. In-kind services for establishment of the prairies by the Okaw Valley Jr and Sr High School students in calibrating the Great Plains drill and the planting of the pollinator seed mix at various locations around the lake totals approximately \$6,030 dollars. The anticipated maintenance requirements for the project will be provided by the Okaw Valley School District and is valued at \$2,500.00 annually once prescribed burning begins. The maintenance will include assisting with fireline establishment and prescribed burning assistance.

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

The recreational benefits of the proposed pollinator establishment will be realized by many users of project lands. Pheasants Forever is interested in providing quality pheasant habitat to promote hunter opportunities and recruitment on public lands. While habitat work is often undertaken on private lands, local chapters of Pheasants Forever are particularly interested in this project because the habitat will be provided on public lands, which anyone can utilize.

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

The tenets of the Environmental Stewardship mission at Lake Shelbyville are the provision of quality outdoor experiences, the application of responsible stewardship activities, and the promotion of sound conservation principles. The eradication of invasive species, establishment of a native plant community with multiple benefits to pollinating insects and native wildlife species as well as providing quality outdoor experiences for hunters meet

all these tenets. Additionally, having the Okaw Valley students heavily involved with the planning, site preparation and planting will be extremely rewarding for all parties involved and will undoubtedly spread the importance of pollinators in the community when they discuss the projects around the dinner table.

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

In addition to establishing pollinator habitat in outlying lands that is hunter accessible, additional plantings are planned for the main dam area as well as all five federal campgrounds located on Lake Shelbyville. Existing fescue turf that is currently manicured through weekly mowing will be converted to pollinator habitat and managed with prescribed fire. This will not only save project funds but will provide excellent interpretive opportunities through the use of pollinator interpretive signs and self-guided tours in established firebreaks that can be utilized for walking paths by the general public visiting Lake Shelbyville. Additionally, the use of Okaw Valley students to assist in creating the pollinator habitat by actually having them calibrate the Great Plains Drill donated for use by Pheasants Forever and allowing the students to establish the plantings will be invaluable. There is nothing like pride in ownership to spread the word about a great project!

#### **Innovativeness:**

As far as Lake Shelbyville staff know, there are no other cooperative agreements with a school district for this type of environmental collaboration. By engaging our local students, the project will represent an achievement of collaboration, and a valued community resource. In addition to providing excellent habitat for pollinating insects, it will also provide recreational, interpretive and cost savings to the project. By having students establish the pollinator habitat in each recreation area, besides being visually pleasing throughout the growing season, it will provide a unique educational opportunity to bring attention to the plight of our pollinator species and the tremendous benefits of establishing native habitat in place of turf and/or exotic species.

#### **Conclusion:**

This project sustains the Corps' stewardship and recreational mission, and promotes a collaborative environment that will stimulate further partnership opportunities. It is also exciting to introduce high school and middle school students to the importance of pollinator species and native habits. By having the students assist in the planting of the pollinator habitat, it will engage them and provide ownership to the land, which the students will undoubtedly spread to friends and family.

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	Lake Volunteer Assoc.	Pheasants Forever	Okaw Valley Jr. High	Okaw Valley Sr. High
Salaries	\$2,500	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$5,000	\$1,500	\$11,550	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$900	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	\$20,000	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
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	\$480	\$3,015	\$3,015
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22,500</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>	<b>\$12,930</b>	<b>\$3,015</b>	<b>\$3,015</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	29.8%	33.1%	2.0%	17.1%	4.0%	4.0%
	62.9%					

	IDNR	Sloans, Equipment	NWTF	Partner 8	Partner 9	Partner 10
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$5,000	\$1,000	\$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	\$1,600	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,600</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	2.1%	6.6%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0

	Partner 11	Partner 12	Partner 13	Partner 14	Partner 15	Total
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,500
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$24,050
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$900
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,110
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$75,560</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations: Local Corps Office and Handshake funds shall be utilized to fund:

- IDIQ Contract to provide construction services (clearing and grubbing old fields)
- Pollinator seed
- Picking pollinator locations

Partner Contributions:

Lake Volunteers Association – Pollinator seed for recreation areas.

Pheasants Forever – Pollinator seed and the use of a Great Plains drill for prairie establishment.

Okaw Valley Jr. High and High School – Help in planning the prairie locations, calibrating the drill and setting the depth, as well as, all planting of donated seed.

Sloan's Equipment – the use of a tractor for Okaw Valley students to establish the prairie by pulling the Great Plains drill provided by Pheasants Forever.

IDNR – Assistance with prescribed burning and establishment by their Natural Heritage Biologist.

NWTF – Pollinator seed.

Note: Overall project development cost shall be \$75,560.00. Maintenance requirements for the project will be provided by the Okaw Valley School District valued at \$2,500.00 annually.