

**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: **Surry Mountain Lake**  
District / Division:**NAE/NAD**  
Handshake Proposal Title: **Educational Pollinator Flower Garden**  
Corps POC Name:**Alicia Lacrosse**  
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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): \$14,000**

**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 Surry Mountain Lake Project requests Handshake Partnership funding to establish an educational pollinator flower garden aimed to help restore honey bee populations and increase monarch habitat on a vacant four-acre, Corps-owned, field in Surry, NH. The Surry Mountain Lake Project would partner with the Surry Village Charter School, Cheshire County Conservation District, Moosewood Ecological LLC, Brooks Construction Co., and Cersosimo Industries Inc. to establish an educational pollinator flower garden project consisting of native flowering plants and shrubs, ADA (American's with Disabilities Act) compliant walking paths, benches, interpretive signs, and a small gravel parking area. The project will incorporate a unique and vital educational component by partnering with the local grade school where teachers will integrate the importance of pollinators into their curriculum as well as design and develop the pollinator project with their students. Providing critical habitat for pollinators, including honey bees and monarch butterflies, is the main objective of this project but doing so will also prevent the four-acre field from being taken over by invasive plant species that have begun encroaching on the field, allowing for Project staff to successfully meet the goals of several Corps missions.

**Longevity / O&M description:**

A successful pollinator flower garden can last indefinitely if well established and maintained properly. Initial maintenance will include regular watering, weeding, monitoring and possibly reseeded. Long-term maintenance is fairly minimal but may involve mowing, pest control, pruning, spring clean-up, and possibly watering during dry periods. Students from the local grade school will be involved in both initial and long-term maintenance of the pollinator garden. Corps staff will provide the majority of maintenance responsibilities but the garden naturally has minimal maintenance and operational costs ensuring a successful, long-term benefit to pollinators, partners, and the Corps. The long-term benefits include aesthetic value, educational value, recreational value, and most importantly the value of providing critical habitat for bees and other pollinators that are essential to plant reproduction and increased biodiversity. According to the "National Strategy to Promote Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators" developed by the White House in 2015, many pollinators are in serious decline in the United States and worldwide and are critical to flowering plants including most fruits and vegetables. Establishing a pollinator garden is an important step in providing critical habitat for pollinator species and supporting their important role in natural food production. The long-term benefit includes continually educating the public of the importance of pollinators for years to come with minimal maintenance and operational cost.

**Partnership Value:**

The success of this community project is dependent on the contributions of the partners involved not only in their volunteer hours, in-kind services, materials, and equipment but in their participation and involvement in the conceptualization and design of the garden. The Surry Village Charter School will be contributing approximately \$90,199 in volunteer hours towards designing the pollinator flower garden, incorporating pollinator education in the student curriculum, conducting base-line inventories, interpretive sign design and text, and maintaining the garden by managing weeds and watering. There are three classes of students with approximately 26 students in each class. Each class will be participating in the project development and implementation which will create a sense of ownership and pride in the project. The value gained for the Corps and for the students and school involved is beyond a quantitative value. Brooks Construction Co will be contributing approximately \$14,000 of in-kind services and \$500 in equipment by constructing the ADA compliant parking lot and path, and trucking the base material for both. These features are essential to the project and will allow access to the garden for all user types. Cersosimo Industries Inc. will be donating approximately \$1,000 worth of top material for the parking lot and pathway. This top material will consist of 9/16" CER-PAK which is the best gravel surfacing material for wheel chair access. Moosewood Ecological LLC will be contributing in-kind service valued at approximately \$1,920 for site preparation consultation, assessing soil conditions and existing plant inventory, and developing seed lists and quantities to develop a planting plan. Cheshire Country Conservation District will be providing approximately \$500 of in-kind service for providing resources and expertise as well as any help needed with communication and outreach. The Surry Mountain Lake Project Office will be contributing approximately \$11,459 in salaries to oversee the project. This was estimated using the burdened rate multiplied by approximately 2 days/month over a 12 month period of overseeing project work. Handshake Funds will provide

approximately \$3,000 for benches, \$3,000 for gravel material, \$2,500 for trucking material, \$1,500 for geotextile material, \$3,000 for pollinator seed, \$800 for printing interpretive signs, and approximately \$200 in equipment use, totaling \$14,000. Partners are contributing 81% of the total contribution value needed to successfully complete this pollinator project. The importance of establishing pollinator habitat will encourage forward movement on this project regardless of receiving handshake funds. We will still incorporate the school and educational component but the garden will likely be downsized and simplified, and there will likely not be ADA compliant parking or paths, which will limit access to certain users.

**Recreational Benefit:**

The proximity of the 4-acre field to the developed recreation day-use area is a key component to the recreational benefit of the pollinator garden (see attached map below). The proposed pollinator garden location is directly visible and accessible from NH Route 12A in Surry, NH providing convenient access for all visitors. There is already an established trail from the 4-acre field to the 90-acre developed recreation day-use area, providing visitors access to restrooms, picnic areas, a playground, and the beach. This project will likely increase visitation to the park and improve the overall recreational experience for the park visitors, by providing a peaceful, quiet, natural reprieve as well as a more active recreational experience in the same vicinity, accommodating multiple user types. The walking paths through the garden will address both passive and active recreational visitors and the benches will provide resting areas for all types of users. Both the parking area and the paths will be ADA compliant allowing visitors of all abilities to enjoy the pollinator garden. The Surry Mountain Lake Master Plan designates the 4-acre field as being within the high density recreation land classification.

**Environmental Stewardship Value:**

An educational pollinator flower garden directly supports the environmental stewardship mission of the Corps and of the Nation. In 2014, President Barack Obama issued a Presidential Memorandum, "Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators". As a federal land management agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers responded to this memorandum with the development of a Pollinator Protection Plan. A pollinator flower garden meets both the national and Corps goals to increase and improve pollinator habitat. A pollinator flower garden also directly addresses the management objectives in the approved Surry Mountain Lake Operational Management Plan (OMP) to "develop and maintain wildlife habitat", as well as the management objectives in the approved Master Plan to "identify and manage for habitat requirements critical to species survival." A pollinator flower garden provides habitat that is critical to pollinator species survival, including the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), which has also endured a decline in population of more than 90% over the past several years, according to the "National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators". The pollinator flower garden will include milkweed and other vital breeding habitat plant species for monarch butterflies. Establishing a pollinator flower garden will also help prevent the inevitable encroachment of invasive species, which degrade native pollinator habitat. Currently multiple invasive plant species border the 4-acre field including Glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*), Common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), and Autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*). Establishing a pollinator flower garden will control the spread of these invasive plant species, directly addressing the goals in the Surry Mountain Lake Invasive Species Management Plan, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Invasive Species Policy, and the 2008-2012 National Invasive Species Management Plan.

**Communication & Education Value:**

The USACE Pollinator Protection Plan stresses the need for immediate action to increase awareness and public education. The plan specifically states that "the Corps will incorporate information on pollinator health in exhibits and displays for visitor education" and "consider construction of pollinator gardens near visitor centers and other high pedestrian traffic areas to promote healthy pollinator habitat". The Surry Mountain Lake Educational Pollinator Flower Garden will successfully provide communication and educational value with interpretive signs written and designed by the Surry Village Charter School identifying the types of pollinator habitat and the importance of the garden. Each class of students will develop a separate plot of garden for bees and monarch butterflies. Each plot of habitat will have a separate interpretive sign with educational facts and information for the public. The garden will also be utilized as an educational opportunity for future students and projects for the school. Corps Project staff will conduct interpretive programs at the site to engage the visiting

public. Social media, such as Facebook and press releases will be utilized to communicate with the public about these educational opportunities.

**Innovativeness:**

If funded, the Surry Mountain Lake Educational Pollinator Flower Garden will be the first pollinator project developed on Corps land through the handshake partnership program. According to the Corps records available on the Gateway of Handshake Recipients from 2004 - Current, there has not been a similar handshake project done in the past. Although there may be many pollinator project applications submitted for FY17 funding, this project stands out in that it addresses pollinator health, invasive species management, and has a unique educational component in partnering with the Surry Village Charter School. Partnering with the school is a unique opportunity to involve young students in the planning, development, and installation process of a project that they can feel proud of and have ownership in for years to come. This will be the first handshake partnership that the Project has ever done, as well as the first time the Project has worked together with the Surry Village Charter School and other Surry community members. Completing this pollinator project together will strengthen ties between the Corps and the neighboring community for future projects and partnerships to come.

**Conclusion:**

If awarded Handshake Partnership funding, this project will successfully meet the pollinator habitat restoration goals of the local community, Surry Mountain Lake, the USACE, and the Nation. More importantly, a pollinator flower garden will provide critical habitat to both honey bees and monarch butterflies and will likely inspire the development of future pollinator projects on Corps land and in the community.

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	Surry Village Charter School	Brooks Constuction Co	Cersosimo Industries Inc	Moosewood Ecological LLC
Salaries	\$11,459	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$200	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$14,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$0
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$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	\$90,199	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$14,000	\$0	\$1,920
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,659</b>	<b>\$14,000</b>	<b>\$90,199</b>	<b>\$14,500</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$1,920</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	8.7%	10.5%	67.4%	10.8%	0.7%	1.4%
	19.2%					

	Cheshire County Conservation District	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	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	0.4%	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	\$11,459
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,000
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$90,199
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$16,420
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>\$133,778</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%





**Figure 1:** Proposed pollinator garden site location. 4-acre field with direct access from NH Rt. 12A.



**Figure 2:** Proposed parking lot location. Established trail to 90-acre day-use recreation area located in back right corner.

Explanations: