

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fiscal Year 2018
Handshake Program Application**

Please review instructions before completing application!

Corps Lake/River Project Name: **St. Marys Falls Canal**
District / Division: **Detroit District/Lakes and Rivers Division**
Handshake Proposal Title: **Brady Park Community Picnic Structure**
Corps POC Name: **Michelle Briggs**
Telephone: **(906) 635 - 6171** ext.
E-Mail: **michelle.l.briggs@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? (not in outgranted parks) ☒ **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. I am aware the Challenge Partnership Agreement must be reviewed and Approved by District Office of Counsel before sending to HQUSACE. ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**
 6. If the full funding amount requested is not available, could a portion of this Handshake Project be completed with partial funding? ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
 7. I am aware that all government funds must be spent in accordance with FAR, DFAR and AFAR contracting laws and regulations, and that Handshake funds cannot be provided to the partner(s). ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**
 8. Did you participate in a Handshake Webinar in 2017 or review a 2017 Handshake Webinar on the Gateway? ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**
-

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

C. Incentive Points Category: Check the appropriate box if your application qualifies to receive bonus points on the evaluation score.

- ☒ This Lake/River Project has never received Handshake funding (200 points).
- ☐ This Lake/River Project has received Handshake funding, but more than 10 years ago (FY 04 to FY 08 program funds) (150 points).
- ☐ This Lake/River Project has received Handshake funding, between 5 - 10 years ago (FY 09 to FY 13 program funds) (100 points).

D. 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:

Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan is a community of 13,000 people, permanently settled by Europeans in 1668 and home to the Ojibwe people long before that. The Soo Locks, with its navigation locks and public areas is an urban park and the anchor of the downtown. The park and Visitor Center are directly across the street from gift shops, restaurants, and hotels that depend on the tourism draw of the Corps facilities. The locks and park, with over 500,000 visitors each summer, are the main tourist attraction for the region and vital to the local economy. A section of the Corps' property known as Brady Park, is an open field beside the river with picnic tables. A concrete curb currently surrounds Brady Park making it inaccessible to wheelchair users. This project will improve this area with the addition of a picnic shelter, concrete pad, an access ramp and a wayside exhibit that ties into the City's interpretive walkway. Adding a picnic shelter will create a protected space for traveling groups, families and individuals enhancing their experience while using our facility. A wayside exhibit at the picnic structure will also bring the Corps property into alignment with the existing interpretive scheme of the City, filling a gap in the river front interpretive walkway. This project demonstrates that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in addition to providing critical services to the nation, is also a good neighbor in the community.

Longevity / O&M description:

A pre-fabricated 24' X 36' shelter kit has been selected for its simplicity, durability and ease of maintenance. The structure conforms to applicable building codes and federal construction standards to meet or exceed a life expectancy of 40 or more years. A USACE crew will assemble the shelter on a concrete pad set 6 inches into the ground to create a stable surface that resists heaving in annual freeze/thaw cycles. The surface will be broom finished to enhance traction when wet. The structure's frame, including support columns will be structural steel tubing, sand blasted, primed with epoxy and polyester powder coated to resist rust in our damp marine climate. Framing will be detailed to prevent ledges or openings where birds or small animals could perch or nest, reducing maintenance issues. Sault Sainte Marie is among the top snowfall zones in the U.S. and the structure has been designed based on a ground snow load of 70 pounds per foot. The steel roof will have a 4:12 pitch to help shed snow, preventing damage to the structure and will not require crews to remove snow from the roof. The wayside exhibit will follow the NPS standard using a low profile cantilevered base with a high pressure laminate panel that resists fading. The base will be galvanized to be weather resistant and directly embedded 48 inches into the ground to reach below the frost line. USACE installed several of these exhibits in other parts of the park in 2014 which have proven to be attractive, durable, and maintenance free. Trash collection and lawn care in the park is already covered by an O&M contract and this project will not significantly impact the current terms of this contract.

Partnership Value:

While this structure will be built and maintained entirely on a Corps facility, it meets a need expressed by the community and will have widespread benefits as the willingness of our partners to support the project demonstrates. The Sault Sainte Marie Convention and Visitors Bureau, the local tourism promotion agency, has pledged to contribute \$15,000. This money along with the Handshake partnership funds will cover the cost of the picnic shelter kit (estimated at \$35,000). Another \$2,000 has been pledged to offset the cost of the wayside exhibit by the Soo Locks Visitor Center Association, a cooperating association committed to supporting our recreation mission. The City of Sault Sainte Marie has agreed to contribute engineering, materials and labor at an estimated \$10,000 value to replace an existing section of curb with an ADA compliant ramp and access sidewalk and to create a van accessible handicap parking space. As a National Historic Landmark, no work can be done in this park without approval from the National Park Service and local Native American tribes. This permission has been obtained but the work still requires oversight from the Bay Mills Indian Community and Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians who will provide approximately \$5,000 worth of in-kind services reviewing the structure plans, developing the exhibit and providing archaeological oversight during excavation to confirm the site is clear of archaeological materials. (An archaeological survey found the site to be "clean" in 2003 but a project this large in scope near their traditional land requires additional oversight.) Partners will be permanently recognized in the wayside exhibit.

Recreational Benefit:

Brady Park is a popular gathering spot along the St. Marys River for picnicking and boat watching. More than 500,000 people use the park each year, including local residents, school groups, families and social clubs like "The Boatnerds," who come for the unrivaled views of the river and passing ship traffic and spectacular views of firework displays on the 4th of July and Canada Day. The area currently has some picnic tables but no shelter for bad weather. Many of our visitors are here as part of a larger travel itinerary and come 'rain or shine' and the addition of a picnic shelter accomodating up to eight tables will provide shade on hot sunny days and shelter on rainy days. Curbs surrounding the park currently make it impossible for wheelchair users to access the area and the tables scattered through the park can be difficult for individuals with mobility challenges to reach. The new structure will be placed near the parking area, with an accessible sidewalk and equipped with tables that comply with the Architectural Barriers Act ensuring an opportunity for all users to enjoy an outdoor meal or a shady resting spot with a great view of the river while exploring the waterfront walkway. While enhancing the current use of this park, the addition of the shelter will allow us to introduce new activities in this area like workshops, weddings, and a rain location for the "Music in the Park" summer concert series. This area is so popular with both visitors and locals that the community has approached the Corps several times requesting the addition of a picnic shelter.

Environmental Stewardship Value:

The location for the structure within Brady Park was carefully selected to avoid archaeologically sensitive areas and ensure a clear view of the river from the shelter while placing it withing 15 yards of the parking area to minimize damage to the surrounding park. The structure itself will have a pad with a 36" apron to minimize the risk of erosion in the immediate area due to run off during heavy rains. The structure itself will use recycled materials for its framing and roof. As a day-use structure without electricity or plumbing it will have no energy or water usage! Its low maintenance design will ensure an extremely low life-cycle cost.

Communication & Education Value:

The picnic structure will be located along a historic river front walkway and popular pedestrian thoroughfare connecting several downtown attractions to our facility, the Soo Locks. An interpretive wayside exhibit included in this project, placed between the picnic shelter and the sidewalk, will connect the current use of the area as a public park with its long tradition as an important gathering space by the Ojibwe, French, British and Americans throughout Sault Sainte Marie's long history. This wayside exhibit will fit in and enhance interpretive wayside exhibits already installed by the City of Sault Sainte Marie and Chippewa County Historical Society along Water Street. The Bay Mills Indian Community, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Historical Society will participate in the development of the exhibit content. More than 500,000 people visit this area every year and the exhibit will help them understand the significance of the space in our community and how their use of it is a continuation of that rich history.

Innovativeness:

Despite the hundreds of thousands of visitors drawn to Sault Sainte Marie there are only three public picnic areas on the waterfront and none of these have been designed for handicap accessibilty, the addition of an accessible picnic shelter in Brady Park will provide a much needed improvement for the entire community. Brady Park and the picnic area currently are completely enclosed by an elevated curb making accessibility for wheelchair users and others with limited mobility difficult if not impossible. As part of this project accessibility for park users will be improved. A van accessible handicapped parking space will be created in the existing parking area. A nearby section of the existing curb will be replaced with an accessible curb ramp, having a running slope of not more than 8.33%, and a cross slope of not more than 2%. Where the ramp meets the parking area it will be fitted with detectable warnings (dome shaped bumps that can be felt underfoot or with a cane) covering the entire width of the ramp. A sidewalk, 72 inches wide with no more than a 5% slope and 2% cross slope will connect the parking area to the picnic structure allowing easy access for visitors with mobility issues as well as those with small children in strollers. In addition to ensuring USACE compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act, the creation of this accessible shelter will provide a much needed service to the public.

Conclusion:

This project meets a specific need for our visitors and one that has been expressed to us several times by school groups, families and local residents. The Soo Area Office recognizes the value of the project to the community

and is ready to commit labor, materials and equipment to the project. Within the community we have partners willing to pitch in their time, talents and resources to see it completed but funds are needed from the Handshake Partnership program to bridge that gap.

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	Sault CVB	City of Sault Ste. Marie	Sault Tribe of Chippewa	Bay Mills Indian Community
Salaries	\$30,000	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$7,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	N/A	N/A	\$15,000	\$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	\$10,000	\$2,000	\$3,125
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$37,000	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$2,000	\$3,125
Share of Total Cost	41.5%	22.4%	16.8%	11.2%	2.2%	3.5%
	64.0%					

	SLVCA	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	\$2,000	\$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	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Share of Total Cost	2.2%	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	\$30,000
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,000
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,000
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,125
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$89,125
Share of Total Cost	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations: Handshake partnership funds will be used with CVB contributions to purchase a pre-fab picnic structure, estimated to cost \$35,000.

Artist’s rendering of proposed structure in Brady Park.



Draft of proposed 24” X 36” wayside exhibit.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

Brady Park, St. Marys Falls Canal

A gathering place

The St. Marys River has drawn people to this field for hundreds of years. The Ojibwe encamped here each summer to harvest whitefish and strengthen their extended family and community connections before scattering into smaller groups for the winter.

When Europeans arrived they built forts and trade centers on this shoreline, first the French, then the British and finally the Americans. Even while the U.S. Army's Fort Brady stood here, this site remained a center of the local community. Parades, pageants and significant events were celebrated and shared right here.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is continuing this historic, communal use of this field by preserving Brady Park as an open, public space and with the construction of this picnic shelter made possible by the support of several community partners.



Project Partners:

Location of the structure within Brady Park.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226
313-226-6444

Date: 3/8/2016

Notes: WGS 1984
Project dimensions are approximate
Produced under license from ESR

DISCLAIMER: While the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has made a reasonable effort to ensure the accuracy of the maps and associated data, it should be explicitly noted that USACE makes no warranty, representation or guarantee, either express or implied as to the content, sequence, accuracy, timeliness or completeness of any of the data provided herein. USACE, its officers, agents, or employees shall assume no liability of any nature for any of the data provided regardless of how caused. USACE, its officers, agents, or employees shall assume no liability for any decisions made or actions taken or not taken by the user of the maps and associated data in reliance upon any information or data furnished here. By using these maps and associated data the user does so entirely at their own risk and explicitly acknowledges that he/she is aware of and agrees to be bound by this disclaimer and agrees not to present any claim or demand of any nature against USACE, its officers, agents or employees in any forum whatsoever for any damages of any nature whatsoever that may result from or may be caused in any way by the use of the maps and associated data.

Neighborhood overview showing relationship between USACE public areas and downtown.



Densely populated residential areas

Downtown shopping and tourism district

USACE public park areas

Soo Locks Facility (restricted security area)

★ Picnic Structure location