

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Fiscal Year 2019  
Handshake Program Application**

**Please review instructions before completing application!**

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Corps Lake/River Project Name: **Rend Lake Project Office**  
District / Division: **MVS / MVD**  
Handshake Proposal Title: **River Road Wetland Viewing Area**  
Corps POC Name: **Cassie Magsig / Molly Rawlinson**  
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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? (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 2018 or review a 2018 Handshake Webinar on the Gateway?  **Yes**  **No**
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**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 (250 points).
- This Lake/River Project has received Handshake funding, but more than 10 years ago (FY 05 to FY 09 program funds) (150 points).
- This Lake/River Project has received Handshake funding, between 5 - 10 years ago (FY 10 to FY 14 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:**

This project consists of adding wildlife viewing and recreation use features to the River Road Access Area – a currently under-utilized recreation area at Rend Lake. We plan to construct an accessible trail and observation platform, erect an osprey nesting structure and add interpretive signage and viewing scopes. The River Road Access area provides access to the Big Muddy River, the Rend Lake Bike Trail, the Rend City Wetland Complex, and the Spillway channel and these additions will increase use and enhance the visitor experience at Rend Lake.

**Handshake Funding Cost Break Down:**

- Lumber for viewing platform - \$19,700
- Stainless Steel Hardware for construction - \$300

**Longevity / O&M description:**

All materials included for the planned project are estimated to last 20 to 25 years and require little routine maintenance. Rend Lake staff will work each year to maintain invasive species control. Rend Lake hosts volunteers within the Volunteer Village that already provide services such as litter removal, cleaning, staining, trail maintenance, etc. This project will be an additional location for the volunteers to maintain.

**Partnership Value:**

The partners' involvement in this project will be critical for a variety of functions. Partners will provide materials, supplies, seed, labor, and technical and biological knowledge. There are several different parts to this project that will need to be completed and we will need the services and expertise of the partners to complete the project. Handshake funds will be utilized to purchase materials to build an ADA accessible viewing structure. Additionally, this partnership will provide local union apprentices an opportunity to complete work toward their journeyman status. Below is a detailed plan for each project element.

**Osprey Nesting Structure:** The structure shall be constructed based on the proven design attached in this document. All materials for this structure will be donated, constructed, and installed by the Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative which provides electricity for the local area. The value of their contribution totals \$2,500 (2.8% of total project costs).

**ADA Accessible Trail:** The trail will be roughly 0.1 miles and consist of a compacted crushed aggregate. The rock and interpretive exhibits will be purchased by the Rend Lake USACE, estimated combined cost of \$4,900. The ground for the trail will be prepared by the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 318. Their equipment and labor contribution is valued at \$5,000 (5.7%), and the trail will be installed by the Laborers' International Union of North America Local 773. Their equipment and labor contribution is valued at \$5,000 (5.7%).

**Accessible Observation Platform:** The platform will be constructed of treated, durable timber, man-made decking boards, and stainless steel hardware. The handshake funds would be used to purchase the materials for the observation platform. The structure will then be installed by the St. Louis – Kansas City Carpenters Regional Council Local 634 & 636 as well as the Iron Workers Local 392. These services are estimated at a combined total of \$6,000. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Disabled Outdoor Opportunities representative will provide technical expertise with making sure all facilities are accessible prior to construction, estimated at \$600 (0.7%). The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will assist with LiDAR mapping and collect elevation data to provide the best location for the platform and a plan to improve the wetland area, estimated cost of \$13,500 (15.3%).

**Invasive Species Removal:**

Several volunteer groups will assist with the removal of the phragmites and any other invasive species found on site. These partners will also assist with the native plant selection and plantings. These groups include a local Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA), the Southern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association, and the Illinois Native Plant Society. An estimated combined total value of \$7,000.

**Recreational Benefit:**

The location for this project is well-maintained with paved roadways, ample parking, manicured lawns, and litter removal. There is also a restroom facility in good condition that is cleaned regularly through the service contract.

Although there are many convenient features available, the only recreation offered in this 70 acre area is fishing with river and spillway access and access to the Rend Lake Bike Trail. Implementation of this project, along with improved management of the wildlife fields and clearing trees from the Big Muddy River, will greatly enhance the River Road Access area and improve visitation. This project will enhance wildlife viewing, opening visitors to new areas that are hidden from them from the trees when driving through. This effort is in response to comments recently received during the update of the Rend Lake Master Plan, requesting improvement and enhancement of wildlife recreation areas and opportunities.

**Environmental Stewardship Value:**

The Osprey is listed on the endangered species list in Illinois. For several years, there were no sightings of the bird or nests. Over the past three years, there have been three nests found at Rend Lake on USACE property. One of those nests was built on a power pole within the River Road Access area which serves as the perfect location, surrounded by Rend Lake, the Rend City Wetland Complex, and the Big Muddy River. Placement of the power pole in the shallow wetland area, 500 yards south of the original nest, will provide a well-liked structure commonly used by Osprey to nest that is not in danger of being removed by the power company during line replacements. This will improve breeding grounds for migratory birds and the Osprey return to the area they were raised to breed and raise their young. Rend Lake USACE looks to partnering with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources in the future to be a location chosen to participate in the Osprey Recovery Project. The shallow wetland area is currently surrounded by phragmites, an invasive species that will eventually fill the entire area if not removed. Partners will be assisting USACE with removal of all invasive species and replacing them with native plant species good for the wildlife.

**Communication & Education Value:**

This year, during the update of the Rend Lake Master Plan, several comments were received about enhancing all aspects of our wildlife and vegetative management areas, asking for improvement of the hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing areas. Rend Lake's direction is now working toward improving and enhancing areas for the requested recreation activities. This will expand the public's knowledge of Rend Lake's missions, including fish and wildlife conservation and management. The Interpretive Services Outreach Program is also looking for an accessible area, outside of the visitor center, to take groups for programming. This area will be the perfect location to perform wetland presentations and provide local college groups an area to conduct research techniques and studies. Simple interpretive exhibits are currently planned to be placed near the platform to describe Osprey, Great Blue Heron, etc. The exhibits will show sign language for the bird name and offer text in Braille. See the attached images for examples.

**Innovativeness:**

The location is what makes this project unique. The majority of the known "wildlife viewing" areas at Rend Lake are far from any major recreation area and are walk-in only. This project will be located only a 0.5 mile drive south of the main dam, a 2 mile drive from the Rend Lake Visitor Center, and a short walk from the Rend Lake Bike Trail. This would also be the only accessible observation platform on the south end of Rend Lake. The other structure is located 15 miles from the Rend Lake Visitor Center. This project is also unique because it will assist with transforming the area into a multi-use area and increase visitation. The planned interpretive exhibits will offer Braille and sign language. This will be first exhibit of this kind to the Rend Lake Project and the surrounding area and will cater to a wider range of visitors.

**Conclusion:**

This is a unique project and opportunity for Rend Lake. We do not have any other accessible viewing platforms in the area. The planned location has an abundance of shorebirds, waterfowl, and other wildlife. As a part of the plan, we have integrated nesting structures and wetland enhancement. The project will provide additional recreational opportunities in an area of Rend Lake that typically only accommodates hunting and fishing. This project provides several different benefits and values and will provide visitors a new opportunity for wildlife viewing/bird watching.

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	NRCS	IL CWMA	IDNR	SIEC
Salaries	\$7,500	N/A	\$7,500	\$2,000	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
Equipment Use	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$600	\$1,500
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23,500</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$13,500</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>	<b>\$600</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	26.7%	22.7%	15.3%	10.2%	0.7%	2.8%
	49.4%					

	LOCAL 773	LOCAL 392	LOCAL 636	LOCAL 318	SIPBA	ILNPS
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$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	\$5,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$1,000
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	5.7%	3.4%	3.4%	5.7%	2.3%	0.011350738

	Partner 11	Partner 12	Partner 13	Partner 14	Partner 15	Total
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$17,000
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$34,000
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$18,000
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	\$19,100
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>\$88,100</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%



Rend Lake

Main Dam and Spillway

Rend Lake Dam Rd

Rend City Wetlands

Spillway Channel into the Big Muddy River

39

Licata Rd

Bluff Ln

Mine 24 Rd

1370 ft

© 2018 Google

Google earth

1993

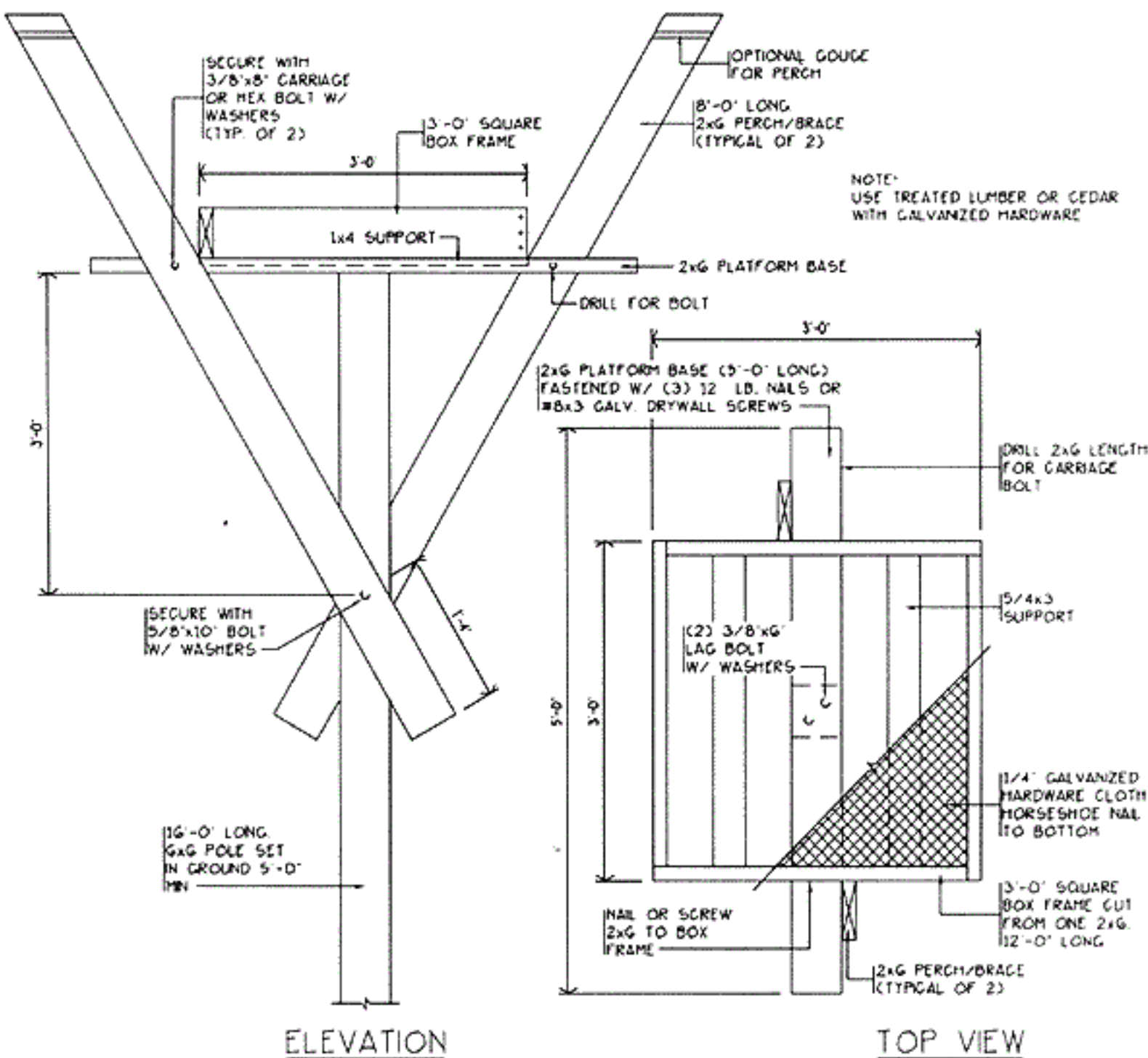
Imagery Date: 10/18/2017 38°01'52.05" N 88°57'33.12" W elev 411 ft eye alt 6323 ft



# OSPREY NEST PLATFORM

ENDANGERED & NONGAME SPECIES PROGRAM

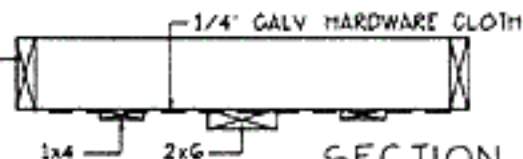
N.J. DIVISION OF FISH, GAME & WILDLIFE



ELEVATION

TOP VIEW

2x6 FASTENED W/ (3) 12 LB. NAILS OR #8x3 GALV. DRYWALL SCREWS



SECTION

DESIGNED BY: CITIZENS UNITED TO PROTECT THE MAURICE RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

## Pulse Design, Inc.

**Project:** Design signage for the accessible garden and trail located outside of the current Little Red Schoolhouse nature center facility. We developed a series of 13 tactile signs with sign language, braille, English/Spanish/Polish and tactile imagery and lettering.

**Client:** The Forest Preserves of Cook County, IL

Final tactile signs shown below with black metal frames, actual panel size is 7" x 13.5"

Placed surface tactile elements shown below in black.

