

**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: **Waco Lake Project**

District / Division:**SWF/SWD**

Handshake Proposal Title: **Small Boat Access Ramps**

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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:**

Waco Lake, along with its many partners, have collaborated to build two small craft boat ramps (Middle Bosque Ramp and Bosque Park Ramp) to improve boater access to Waco Lake and its tributaries. These ramps, planned with kayakers in mind, will be the first concrete ramps designated for small crafts on Waco Lake. Waco Lake has many opportunities for water based recreation; however, limited access points along its tributaries make access difficult and existing access launch areas are overcrowded. Both the Bosque River and the Middle Bosque River provide excellent angling opportunities. Constructing these ramps will allow for greater access and increased safety for anglers while strengthening existing partnerships as well as gaining new partners.

**Handshake Funding Cost Break Down:**

Handshake funding will be used towards the construction of the two concrete boats ramps, the installation of pipe rail fencing around the parking lots, and for the gravel needed for the access roads and parking lots. Estimated total project costs are as follows:

Pipe fence - \$13,000  
Concrete Ramps - \$15,000  
Gravel – \$12,000  
Signs - \$1500

**Longevity / O&M description:**

The proposed boat ramps will last for 30 years. Parking lots will need minor maintenance such as grading, clearing debris from high water events, and pipe rail repair as needed. Overall, this type of minor maintenance will be of minimal financial impact. The City of Waco maintains high interest in the maintenance of the ramps since the proposed Bosque Park Ramp would be the furthestmost launch for the city and adds a designated Texas Parks and Wildlife Paddling Trail entry point for the benefit of eco-tourism. The city’s parks and recreation department, Keep Waco Beautiful, and the Waco Paddle Club have expressed interest in conducting litter patrol at both locations as well as hosting volunteer days for clean-up and improvements. The Middle Bosque Ramp and Bosque Park Ramp are considered Phase 1 of 2. In planning for current and future demand, Waco Lake has already identified two additional ramps which staff members hope to have installed after the completion of Phase 1 to further enhance and lengthen paddle trails.

**Partnership Value:**

This project will involve several local and state partners who will serve in critical roles during the construction of the boat ramps and long after the construction is complete. Many of those partners have long standing relationships with the Waco Lake Office. While partnering with the City of Waco on past Handshake projects, all coordination has been positive for the public and partners alike. It is important to note that Waco Lake is unique in the fact that it is entirely contained within a single municipality, Waco, TX, which locally adds significance to the partnership in all areas. The City of Waco has participated in planning meetings for the ramps and recognizes the community benefits gained by adding the ramps. They provided the following statement in support of the project “This opportunity will help serve the needs of Waco’s growing fishing and paddling community, as demonstrated in the 2017 City of Waco – Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan, and also expand the paddling trail network throughout local waterways designated by TPWD’s (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department) Texas Paddling Trails program. At this time, the City of Waco can provide assistive coordination and staff time, with the potential of in-kind contributions in support of the project. We sincerely appreciate the

opportunity to participate.” Additionally, TPWD Fisheries Department has worked with Waco Lake numerous times to enhance aquatic habitat and population, as well as promote public safety. In addition to in-kind services provided towards the proposed project, TPWD is actively working with various non-profit organizations to apply for internal grants which will help support the project. Other partners include the Waco Paddling Club, Waco Fly Fishing Club, Friends of Lake Waco, and Keep Waco Beautiful. All partners have worked with the lake in the past to complete small projects including habitat enhancement and trash cleanup and are excited to participate in the construction of the ramps since it will directly impact their membership groups. Handshake Funding will be used to purchase materials; \$15,000 for the concrete ramps and \$5,000 will be used towards the purchase of the gravel to be used for the access road/parking lots.

### **Recreational Benefit:**

The boat ramps will provide exceptional access in areas that were previously inaccessible and incapable of handling recreational traffic. By installing the Middle Bosque Ramp and the Bosque Park Ramp, anglers will have access to their preferred fishing areas on the Middle and South Bosque rivers during the peak white bass run increasing the use of already popular fishing areas. Currently, it is not uncommon to witness 50 vehicles parked along the side of the road with additional vehicles blocking the parking lot from February through April. Paddlers and small craft will have direct access to the rivers where the water is calmer and shallower, providing a safer recreational experience. The Bosque Park Ramp will allow boater access to the Bosque River, with the potential to add another 3.3 miles from Bosque Park to the Waco Paddling Trails.

Waco Lake has many wildlife management areas (WMA) on the south end of the lake which are most easily accessed from the river. The Middle Bosque Ramp will also provide hunters with a much closer access to get to and from these WMA's.

One of the greatest benefits of the Middle Bosque Ramp is the increased safety for small craft. Currently, users must navigate across the main body of the lake for miles before they can access the southern tributaries which are popular with anglers, paddlers, and hunters. The main body of the lake can become very difficult to navigate in any winds and many paddlers get stuck past dark trying to make their way back to the current ramps. The Middle Bosque Ramp will enable users to directly access the rivers and calmer portions of the lake, increasing their ability to return to the ramp safely.

### **Environmental Stewardship Value:**

The concrete boat ramps and associated features will provide shoreline stabilization to areas that are prone to erosion during high water events. The Bosque Park Ramp will be utilized by the City of Waco storm water department for water quality testing in a location that was previously difficult to access. Both of the proposed areas are already utilized as undeveloped small boat launches; which has created severe stream bank erosion. By placing concrete ramps and pipe rail fencing, we can better control these areas from additional erosion.

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

Both ramps will be highly utilized by local anglers, hunters, and groups for tours of the rivers. The Waco Paddle Club frequently kayaks the local rivers and brings new members out to learn about paddling and the surrounding area which includes the Waco Mammoth National Monument. The local Texas Game Wardens also conduct yearly “Kayak with a Warden” days to promote paddling and angler safety, as well as the importance of youth participating in outdoors activities. The Middle Bosque Ramp will provide a new location for this event. The City of Waco and Texas Parks and Wildlife already have established Paddling Trails on the Brazos and Bosque Rivers. Adding the Bosque Park Ramp will allow for a new Paddling Trail to be established that will connect to the existing trails. These trails are organized, mapped, and posted online by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The City of Waco will provide Paddling Trail signage with all of the trails at the ramp and will print

maps to include the new access points. Each access point will also have signage that promotes the USACE Water Safety message as well as information about preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species.

### **Innovativeness:**

Outside of traditional boat ramps, there are no “small craft only” designated ramps making this project the first of its kind at Waco Lake. Enhancing small craft user access to the tributaries of Waco Lake, as well as the main body of the lake, is high priority for many user groups and will most certainly open up a whole new world of paddling possibilities. The Middle Bosque Ramp will be located so that a paddler or small craft operator can enter the river and experience a gentle paddle eventually leading them in to the main body of the lake, while the Bosque Park Ramp is located outside of the main body of the lake on the downstream side of Waco Lake dam.

Essentially, a paddler could enter the Bosque River at the Bosque Park Ramp and just a few short river miles later, enter the Brazos River where opportunities abound near downtown Waco. A paddler could take in views of Waco’s Cameron Park, the historic Waco Suspension Bridge, and even Baylor University’s McLane Stadium which sits on the Brazos River. Additionally, the Bosque Park Ramp will be the first official Texas Parks and Wildlife Paddling Trail at the Project. Texas Parks and Wildlife offers grants to increase access to local rivers and fisheries and local biologists have approached USACE numerous times in the past several years to increase access to USACE controlled rivers. This project is in high demand from our local outdoor enthusiasts and is always at the top of the list when surveys are completed.

### **Conclusion:**

Waco Lake clearly has the need for access points around the project for smaller watercraft. The proposed locations have been chosen through coordination with local stakeholders and the need is evident. Each ramp serves its own unique community; however, both ramps will serve the local paddling, angling, and hunting communities. Many special groups such as the Waco Fly Fishing Club and the Waco Paddle club will use these ramps for organized events. The current momentum of the partners is extremely strong and all are willing to bring their expertise in various forms to the table.

The TPWD Boating Access Grant that TPWD, along with their selected local non-profit organization, will be applying for is a 75% matching grant that provides funds for construction of boat ramps. Local sponsors (non-federal) must provide 25% of the costs. The deadline for the Boating Access grants is October 1 each year.

If grant funds are not received by TPWD, the project will continue in multiple phases depending on budget and non-profit support. Currently, this project is phase one of a two phase plan to increase access for kayaks and other small watercraft to the most desirable fishing areas on Waco Lake. Two additional locations have already been selected from our partnership team to develop in future years.

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	Texas Parks and Wildlife	City of Waco	Waco Paddle Club	Waco Fly Fishing Club
Salaries	\$5,000	N/A	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	N/A	N/A	\$7,500	\$2,500	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$12,500</b>	<b>\$7,500</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	24.0%	32.0%	20.0%	12.0%	3.2%	3.2%
	56.0%					

	Keep Waco Beautiful	Friends of Lake Waco	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	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	3.2%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0

	Partner 11	Partner 12	Partner 13	Partner 14	Partner 15	Total
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,000
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,000
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,500
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>\$62,500</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations:

Contributed costs from TPWD and City of Waco will be based on the TPWD boat ramp grant if funds are received. The 25% match is placed under the City of Waco column but may end up being spread among the other smaller partners as well.



Figure 1 Proposed Ramp - Middle Bosque



Figure 2. Proposed Ramp - Bosque Park