

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fiscal Year 2020
Handshake Program Application**

Please review instructions before completing application!

Corps Lake/River Project Name: **Carlyle Lake Project Office**

District / Division:**MVS/MVD**

Handshake Proposal Title: **Carlyle Lake Visitor Center Accessible Outdoor Classroom**

Corps POC Name:**Robert Wilkins**

Telephone:(**618**) **594 - 2484** ext.

E-Mail: **robert.wilkins@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 2019 or review a 2019 Handshake Webinar on the Gateway? Yes No
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B. Handshake Funding Request (maximum \$25,000): \$25,000

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

- This project will be completed with a national MOU partner with which the Lake or Project hasn't previously partnered. (100 points).
- This project reduces O&M cost to the Corps over the lifecycle of the proposed project or improves existing infrastructure. (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:

Handshake funding would support the improvement of the Carlyle Lake Visitor Center by adding an accessible outdoor classroom. The project will consist of the following components: accessible walkway and pad, accessible shelter, seating, interpretive panels and signs, and planting of native pollinator species. The area will be utilized by the Corps of Engineers for interpretive/educational programs, the City of Carlyle, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), local school groups, boy scout and girl scout troops, local sportsmen and outdoor groups, and members of the general public. This project will provide visitors an accessible and unique interpretive experience, increase awareness of Corps missions, and more recreational opportunities, all taking place in a natural setting.

Handshake Funding Cost Break Down:

Concrete path and pad - Cement and truck delivery - \$12,000

Interpretive Panels - Design and production - \$9,500

Pollinators species - \$3,500

Total - \$25,000

Longevity / O&M description:

Once completed, the Carlyle Lake Visitor Center Accessible Outdoor Classroom will be completely operated and maintained by the Corps of Engineers. The project will serve as a valued recreational, educational, and stewardship resource. Due to its outdoor location, materials and elements were chosen for their durability and easy maintenance. The 20'x30' shelter will be made completely of powdered coated steel with an estimated life expectancy of 50+ years. The accessible pathway and pad will be poured concrete has an indefinite life expectancy. The only annual O&M costs to maintain the facility will be cleaning and repairs if needed. The addition of an outdoor classroom supports the improvement of existing infrastructure by expanding the Carlyle Lake Visitor Center to the outdoors.

Partnership Value:

The high visibility and expected use of this project will highlight the positive and lasting impact of our partners. Carlyle Lake has assembled an intricate and varied network of partners that offer an immediate and substantial return on every handshake dollar invested. The Corps has successfully collaborated with many of these partners in the past, but has also brought in new partners to help complete this unique project. The total project cost is \$85K. Of the nine partners involved in this project, four are new partners including Boy Scouts of America, a national MOU partner. The Carlyle Lake Project will provide oversight, development input, design consultation and construction support via materials, equipment and labor—total value approximately \$25K. Bayer will provide benches made of recycled materials, pollinator seeds, and volunteers to help install the benches and plant pollinator seed. Their total contributions add up to \$12K. The Carlyle Lake 50th Anniversary Committee will provide materials for the shelter and concrete pad in the amount of \$5K. Ducks Unlimited will provide \$2.5K in volunteer hours. Ducks Unlimited volunteers will help in the design of interpretive panels and planting pollinator species. The City of Carlyle will provide in kind services in the form of labor hours and equipment in the approximate amount of \$2.5K. Bromley Excavating will provide \$2.5K worth of equipment hours. Schaefer Contracting will provide \$2.5K in materials for the concrete pathway and pad. The Carlyle Lake Association will provide for shelter and pad materials in the amount of \$1.5K. The University of Illinois Extension Unit 23 Master Naturalists will provide volunteer hours in the amount of \$5K. They will help remove invasive species from the current location and plant pollinator species. Boy Scout Troop 281 will provide volunteer services through invasive species removal and pollinator species planting in the amount of \$1.5K. If funded, the total project would have a value of \$85K.

Recreational Benefit:

The goal of an outdoor classroom is to increase the quantity, quality, and benefit of outdoor experiences for its users. Some of the best activities occur in the outdoors; some can only occur outdoors. An outdoor classroom allows users to become more familiar with and appreciate nature, helps them understand how the world works, and builds environmental stewardship skills. The Carlyle Lake Visitor Center Accessible Outdoor Classroom will

introduce visitors to new ways of recreating and learning. Students that utilized an outdoor classroom have been found to have better recreational and environmental skills including gardening, using a compass, navigating by the sun or moss on trees, and knowing how to build a fire. Outdoor classrooms help restore the traditional benefits of childhood, while addressing many of the challenges we face today. They encourage visitors to be outside and more active, connect visitors to nature, and provide a wide range of recreational activities that support overall development. The accessible outdoor classroom will provide visitors the opportunity to learn from interpreters and naturalists in a setting that allows them to truly connect with nature. Visitors will be exposed to a variety of recreational opportunities including fishing, hiking, biking, geocaching, and the joy of the outdoors. The project will greatly enhance the Carlyle Lake Visitor Center by extending its educational displays and opportunities to the outdoors. Visitors will have more access and understanding about the recreational opportunities available to them which will increase visitation and create a positive economic impact on the local community. The Carlyle Lake Visitor Center Accessible Classroom will also provide interpretive/guided experiences for the public even when the Visitor Center is closed or a Park Ranger is not present. The public will still be able to access this area to learn about nature and their surroundings. The classroom will be open for all groups and members of the public to use.

A unique aspect of the Carlyle Lake Visitor Center Accessible Outdoor Classroom is its accessibility. Physical mobility shouldn't prevent anyone from being able to enjoy the beauty of nature. Being universally accessible ensures all visitors have the opportunity to explore and learn about the environment in a natural surrounding; enhancing their personal experience and ultimately helping them foster a passion for the outdoors. The outdoor classroom is an innovative way to "unlock" the outdoors to all Carlyle Lake visitors.

Environmental Stewardship Value:

An accessible outdoor classroom will support educating the visiting public, local schools, and community groups about the Corps' environmental stewardship responsibilities and goals. Through education, Carlyle Lake will increase the public's awareness of the Corps' environmental stewardship mission and encourage them to share this knowledge with others. By creating a unique and memorable experience, visitors are more likely to share this experience and the skills they learn with others. Visitors will be surrounded by natural habitat enabling them to fully experience the beauty and value of nature. Outdoor classrooms help visitors build their own environmental stewardship skills and knowledge. Studies on outdoor classrooms have shown that students have better attitudes about the environment after using an outdoor classroom. This more positive attitude increases their environmental awareness and responsible behavior. The Carlyle Lake Visitor Center Accessible Outdoor Classroom project will also include the addition of native pollinator species, along the perimeter of the accessible pad and walkway. These plants will help increase pollinator species in the area while providing a real-life example of why environmental stewardship is such a vital part of our community. This facility will introduce visitors to a variety of environmental topics while giving them a first-hand experience in nature. Master Naturalists, Clinton County Beekeepers, and other environmental groups will also benefit from being able to utilize the outdoor classroom for meetings. In addition, the interpretive panels that will be installed around the classroom will feature environmental stewardship topics including pollinators, habitat management, and threatened/endangered species.

Communication & Education Value:

One of the main goals of this project is to increase the public's understanding and awareness of the Corps' missions. Through interpretation and outreach programs, we communicate accomplishments, achieve management objectives, and foster environmental stewardship efforts at Carlyle Lake with the visiting public and local schools. This area will provide an one-of-a-kind interpretive program experience. Being outdoors, visitors will be able to see, feel, and connect with the environment they are learning about. Helping them better understand the topics discussed and allowing them the opportunity to view and learn about nature while in the outdoors. In addition to Corps of Engineers' Interpreters, multiple educational groups including the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Carlyle Lake Ducks Unlimited Chapter, Boy and Girl Scouts, and local community and school groups will be able to utilize this area for daily and annual events. This area will also support a number of annual events including Carlyle Lake's Celebrate the Earth event, Every Kid Outdoors, Kids to Parks Day, and National Public Lands Day. Interpretive panels and signs will be incorporated into the classroom to increase visitor's environmental awareness and knowledge. Once this project is complete, it will

serve as an educational area that interpretive, educational programs can be offered to explain the importance of the Corps, Carlyle Lake, environmental stewardship, and more.

Innovativeness:

The addition of the accessible outdoor classroom will be a key part of the existing infrastructure of the Carlyle Lake Visitor Center. Not only will it provide additional recreational opportunities, this area will also help extend the visitor center to the outdoors. The current Carlyle Lake Visitor Center is a small facility that cannot support any additional educational displays. The outdoor classroom would be the first step in an outdoor visitor center extension. Allowing for more educational displays to increase the public's awareness of the Corps' missions. There are no outdoor classrooms like the proposed project at the Carlyle Lake Project, the City of Carlyle, or surrounding communities. Carlyle Lake is located in the heart of south central Illinois, 50 miles east of St. Louis, and has more than 50 public schools in a 25 mile radius. The location and uniqueness of this project would allow thousands of students from local schools the opportunity to learn about their environment in a one-of-a-kind setting. One of the biggest impacts on a child's life is having the opportunity and encouragement to play and learn outside. No textbook picture can compare to a child having the opportunity to touch the bark of a tree, catch a fish, or study an insect in the great outdoors. These small acts have lasting impacts on children and lead to a greater appreciation for nature and wildlife. This facility will allow all visitors, children and adults, this experience. These experiences will ultimately increase our community's passion and connectedness to the environment. Accessibility is also an integral part of this project. Carlyle Lake is committed to providing universal recreational opportunities. There are very few outdoor facilities that are universally accessible in our local community and this project would ensure that everyone is provided this recreational opportunity. The outdoor classroom will not only help visitors feel connected to nature, it will also foster a sense of community.

Conclusion:

Supporting the construction of the Carlyle Lake Visitor Center Accessible Outdoor Classroom will be a huge step in bringing more unique, accessible recreational opportunities to Carlyle Lake and its surrounding communities. This project not only provides multiple recreational, environmental, and interpretive benefits, it will also bring universal access to the area, supporting legal and ethical obligations.

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	Bayer	Carlyle Lake 50th	Master Naturalists	Bromley
Salaries	\$8,000	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$17,000	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,500
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	\$2,000		\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$12,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$2,500
Share of Total Cost	29.4%	29.4%	14.1%	5.9%	5.9%	2.9%
	58.8%					

	Schaefer Contracting	Ducks Unlimited	City of Carlyle	Scouts	CLA	Partner 10
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,500	\$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	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$1,500	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
Share of Total Cost	2.9%	2.9%	2.9%	1.8%	1.8%	0

	Partner 11	Partner 12	Partner 13	Partner 14	Partner 15	Total
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,000
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$61,000
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,500
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,500
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$85,000
Share of Total Cost	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations:



Proposed
Amphitheater Site

Carlyle Lake
Visitor Center

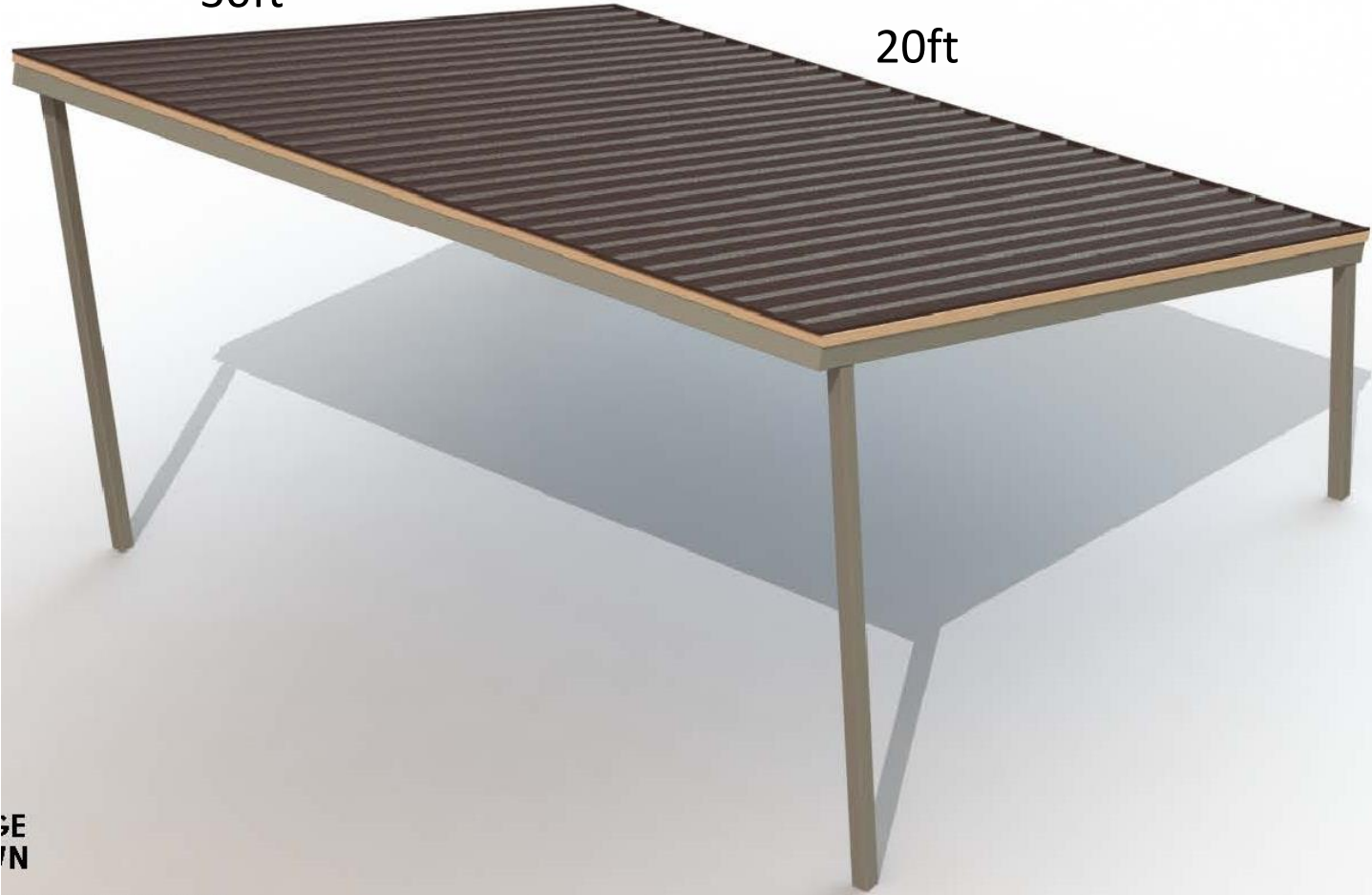
Interpretive Panels

Pollinator plants

Carlyle Lake Visitor Center Accessible Outdoor Classroom Proposed Shelter

30ft

20ft



SE
IN

ACTUAL COLOR SAMPLES.