

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fiscal Year 2021
Handshake Program Application**

Please review instructions before completing application!

Corps Lake/River Project Name: **Cordell Hull Lake**

District / Division: **Nashville District**

Handshake Proposal Title: **Emergency Stations on Bearwaller Gap Hiking Trail**

Corps POC Name: **Britt Dillard**

Telephone: **(615) 735 - 1034 ext. 163**

E-Mail: **Britton.D.Dillard@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): \$6000

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:

The Bearwaller Gap Trail is a 6-mile woodland hiking trail located in Carthage, Tennessee. It is part of the Cordell Hull Lake project and has several scenic overlooks of the lake. This trail is very popular and is used by some hikers as training for the Appalachian Trail, due to their similarities in elevation and climate. Every year there are a number of rescue missions executed on the trail. In the summer of 2020, there was an incident on the trail where a lost hiker needed medical assistance. Because the hiker was disoriented and unfamiliar with the trail, they were not able to give rescuers an accurate location. This led rescue taking much longer to find the hiker than they could have if given more specific instructions. As a new ranger at Cordell Hull, I have been given our Trails Program as part of my duties. My plans are to do a better job of marking our trail and make it easier to traverse the trail by installing more arrow trail signs and reflective bands on trees. The trail is split into 2 parts and separated by a primitive camping site that is accessible by the highway. My plan is to implement 2 stations, one 25% of the way into the trail and one 75% into the trail, creating landmarks for hikers to recognize. These 2 stations would include: solar light poles to act as a beacon for lost hikers, a bench, first aid kits, and a bulletin board containing emergency contact information as well as other graphics pertaining to taking care of the wildlife and the trail.

Handshake Funding Cost Break Down:

The breakdown of costs goes as follows: Solar Lights (2) \$825 each for \$1650 total, Bulletin Boards (2) \$599 each for \$1198 total, Quikrete (20 bags) for \$55 total, Paint (6 cans) \$4.27 each for \$26 total, Colored arrows trail markers (800 total for \$1000), reflective stripes for trees (80 bands for \$960), Waterproof boxes for first aid kits (3) \$63 total. Benches (2) \$500 each for \$1000 total.

Longevity / O&M description:

The long-term benefits include increased recreation activity due to improved safety and accessibility. Rescue stations will make the trail more inviting to visitors and also safer and easier for EMA and Rescue to access the trail when required. The additions will be present on the trail for the foreseeable future and maintenance is limited to restocking first aid kits and updating the bulletin board (if needed). Smith County Rescue has agreed to do monthly checks on the stations and restock them as needed. The long term cost of this project after the initial installation is very low. EMA and Rescue have agreed to provide the materials to restock the first-aid kits and the only other cost would be replacement batteries for the solar lights (needed every 2 years). As far as the lights themselves, the LED's can last up to ten years. The bulletin boards we have selected are made from synthetic materials and will last for at least the duration of the lights if not much longer. When maintenance is required but not funded, this project will not be removed or closed and it will continue to provide the same benefits.

Partnership Value:

This handshake partnership will provide long term value to both USACE and the community. The continued partnership with our local rescue squad creates a mutual benefit for both parties. Rescue/EMA will be able to more easily recover people in need and the corps will be able to provide the public with a safer trail to enjoy. The partnership with Leave No Trace will allow the corps to post their graphics and information at other locations on the project and promote a reduction of trash on corps property.

Recreational Benefit:

This project would make the Bearwaller Gap Trail much safer and easier to navigate. The two planned stations will provide a checkpoint for hikers to refer back to if ever lost or in need of assistance. The stations would be color coded so hikers can tell rescue the last color station they were at. One of the main reasons for medical assistance on the trail is exhaustion. A bench at the station would provide a resting place for hikers. A first-aid kit would give hikers a resource to prevent a cut from becoming infected or help with other small injuries.

Environmental Stewardship Value:

We have been in contact with Leave No Trace (our MOU partner), an organization that focuses on reducing pollution in the outdoors and taking care of wildlife areas. They have agreed to provide materials that remind people to not leave their trash at the trail and educate hikers about being mindful of wildlife in the outdoors.

The LED lights we have chosen to use take advantage of solar power and there is no part of the installation of these resources that will harm the trail in any way.

Communication & Education Value:

Included in the bulletin board will be a list of emergency contacts in the area as well as the name/color of the station you are at. Assigning a name and color to each station will give visitors a better understanding of their location on the trail and give them a general area to give Rescue to use to locate them. The arrow trail markers that will be installed on the trail will coordinate with the color of the station they are leading up to. Reflective bands will also be connected with that color.

Innovativeness:

This project is innovative because it uses a system of colors to make the Bearwaller Gap Trail easier to navigate and it makes your location on the trail easy to describe. The system of four colors will make it so that Rescue workers can find lost people as quickly as possible. This partnership is innovative because not only will it benefit Cordell Hull Lake and USACE, it will also benefit Smith County Rescue and the visitors of the Bearwaller Gap Trail.

Conclusion:

The emergency stations on the Bearwaller Gap Hiking Trail would be life saving for USACE, Smith County Rescue, and members of the public visiting the trail. Cordell Hull Lake, Smith County Rescue, and local volunteer/school groups are contributing 51.7% of materials and labor to be used and the requested amount for the handshake is \$6000. These funds would be appreciated by all parties involved and would greatly contribute to our vision of providing a safer recreation experience for everyone.

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	Rescue/EMS	Leave No Trace	Local Volunteers	Partner 4
Salaries	\$2,013	N/A	\$1,469	\$82	\$2,176	\$0
Travel	\$43	N/A	\$33	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$6,000	\$600	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$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	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$2,056	\$6,000	\$2,102	\$82	\$2,176	\$0
Share of Total Cost	16.6%	48.3%	16.9%	0.7%	17.5%	0.0%
	64.9%					
	Partner 5	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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Share of Total Cost	0.0%	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	\$5,739
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$76
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,600
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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,415
Share of Total Cost	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations: Materials and Supplies donated by Cordell Hull/ Smith Co Rescue/EMS includes first aid kits with extra stock for restock (\$600 total). Travel is figured considering \$0.25 per mile driven. Salaries are figured considering pay rate of \$27.20 per hour.