

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

Please review instructions before completing application!

Corps Lake/River Project Name: **Berlin Lake**
District / Division:**LRP/LRD**
Handshake Proposal Title: **Berlin Lake Multipurpose Tailwater Access**
Corps POC Name:**Jason Quinn**
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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 2019 or review a 2019 Handshake Webinar on the Gateway? **Yes** **No**
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B. Handshake Funding Request (maximum \$25,000): \$20,000

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:

The purpose of this project is to provide necessary improvements to the Berlin Lake Tailwater Access Area. This area will be used for multiple activities, including fishing, wildlife viewing, interpretation, emergency response, and employee access to the tailwaters. The existing access is in very poor condition, steeply sloped, and very uneven. The trail has become a safety hazard and anyone using it must exercise caution to prevent injuries. Throughout the year, and especially in the spring season, the area is used by anglers. However, spring rains saturate the area and intensify the already hazardous conditions. In addition to visitor access, USACE employees are required to collect water samples in the Tailwaters. Due to the difficulty of the trail, not all employees are able to participate in the sampling. Improvements will assist both employees and anglers with access, providing access to users who were previously unable to navigate the area, as well as providing access for other user groups such as bird and wildlife viewers. The proposed trail and platform will also provide critical access for law enforcement and first responders in the event of an emergency. Existing conditions would require a technical extraction in the event of any serious injuries, delaying treatment and response times. The proposed work plan includes addition of a fishing and observation platform, solar lighting, and a public webcam.

Handshake Funding Cost Break Down:

Composite decking and metal support poles for 20' x 15' deck	-\$4795.63* project funds
Drainage pipe, rip rap, and other aggregate for trail base	\$9877.63
Hardware (screws, nuts, tapcon bolts)	\$923.32
Solar lighting	\$700.16
Interpretive signage	\$1750.37
Non-partner labor contracts	\$10,000.00

Longevity / O&M description:

The estimated lifespan of this project would be 30-35 years. This estimate is based on the 25 year lifespan of the previous wooden steps. The plan is to install a premium composite fishing and observation platform that will be very durable and able to withstand the elements of eastern Ohio. The fishing railing will be installed prior to this project, and stair access will be installed via project funds. Both completed sections and the proposed deck will be installed to code to ensure safety of users. The composite decking will be treated with antiskid or traction surfacing. This is especially important because it will be in an inherently wet area and could present a slipping hazard. The operations and management will be shared between the Corps Project and the Ohio Division of Natural Resources. Maintenance is expected to be limited due to the durability of the material, but in the event significant damage would occur, the cost would be split between the two agencies. Large repairs would call for increased volunteer work days that will include all partners.

Partnership Value:

Our first partner for this project is the Ohio Division of Wildlife (ODOW). This agency is the premier state agency for fishing and lake access and has a depth of experience with design and implementation. ODOW's main mission is to provide public access to fishing and hunting, so their involvement is invaluable for this project. Logistically, this partner is beneficial for provision of equipment and labor because they have a maintenance yard less than one mile from the worksite. Our second partner is the Portage/Summit Field and Stream Club. The value of this partnership is of a local nature. Members that invest time working will take pride and ownership of the project which in turn will lead them to "self-police" the area that they helped to build. Our third partner, the Boy Scouts of America, have a national agreement with USACE and the local troops that we are partnering with are active and have strong numbers. Parents of these scouts also provide a multitude of skills such as carpentry, electrical, and engineering. The scouts themselves will work on this as a community service project and may use this venue for the completion of an Eagle Scout project. A new and valuable partner to this effort is Whitetails Unlimited, Hole in the Horn Chapter, whose mission includes raising funds in support of educational programs and wildlife enhancement and acquisition. With over 114,000 members and a very active local chapter, this organization will be a strong new partner for this and future projects. Lastly, the Ohio Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers are nationally known for working to provide increased access to public lands and waters.

With 40,000 members nationwide, we are looking to tap into this group's knowledge of fishing and hunting access in challenging areas. They bring promotional opportunities to the project and volunteer work hours that will see the area utilized and maintained into the future.

Recreational Benefit:

Many visitors are deterred from this location due to the insecure foot path paired with the steep terrain. Providing a platform at the Berlin Lake Tailwater Access Area will provide a variety of recreational benefits. This structure will give visitors such as anglers, bird watchers and sightseers a safe and more navigable route to access the tailwaters. Anglers are drawn to the historically good walleye fishing that the tailwaters provide. Many anglers have been fishing this particular spot for generations. Such traditions could continue as anglers age with the help of an improved access platform. Additionally, bird watchers and photographers will benefit from a place to sit and view various species of wildlife, the dam, and the surrounding nature.

Environmental Stewardship Value:

The current condition of the path from the Berlin Lake Tailwater Access Area to the proposed platform location acts as a drainage ditch, continuously eroding the path. This project will use best management practices for drainage in the form of water bars, riprap, and drainage pipes. Materials such as the water bars and drainage pipes would be used to divert the water back into the tailwaters, whereas the riprap provides stability and protects the soil from further erosion. As a result of the installation of erosion control, the environment will benefit in that the soil will be able to sustain more vegetation. The litter in the area will ideally decrease due to the on-site trash can and fishing line recycling container for visitors to use. Overall, the environment in this area will substantially benefit by protecting the soil for future vegetation, providing stability, and lessening the litter.

Communication & Education Value:

The habitat and wildlife in the project area provide excellent opportunities for interpretation. Placement of interpretive signage and educational tours will be the main strategies to achieve the full communication and education value. Interpretive signage will include two signs: one will cover the common species of wildlife spotted in the area, and the second would focus on the history of the Berlin Lake Dam. Not only will the signs be educational and practical for visitors, they will assist in communicating the significance of the Berlin Lake Tailwater Access Area, and the reservoir. Equally important are the educational tours and interpretive programs the Park Rangers of Berlin Lake could conduct safely from the platform. Through the communication strategies listed above, as well as the intrinsic educational opportunities contributed to observation of the environment, the fishing/observation platform will bring value to the visitors who utilize it.

Innovativeness:

In the past 77 years, there has never been a fishing/observation platform at Berlin Lake. The platform structure will be created utilizing existing materials cutting down on the overall project costs. Solar power lighting will be used along the steps increasing safety while not increasing utility costs. A web cam will also be installed so that USACE Staff and visitors can view the area and local nature online while providing a security service to the Lake. It is also important to note that one of the partners for this effort, Scout Troop 150, is the first of its kind in the region to have both male and female scouts in the troop. The Berlin Lake Tailwater Access Area project will be unique for the area, supported by existing materials, have modern technology, and leverage a variety of existing and new partners.

Conclusion:

The current condition of the Berlin Tailwaters Access Area, is unsafe and the Tailwaters are underutilized. The O&M costs will be reduced over time as this seed money will go directly to improving infrastructure and safety. The general project budget has not provided enough funding to improve this area in the last 25 years and it is unlikely it will be provided in the future. This project will provide increased access to many user groups over time with little maintenance costs.

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	ODOW	Whitetails Unlimited	Boy Scouts of America	Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Salaries	\$3,505	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$6,435	\$0	\$2,250	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$2,800	\$3,600	\$1,750
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$5,400	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$14,940	\$20,000	\$7,650	\$7,800	\$3,600	\$1,750
Share of Total Cost	26.2%	35.1%	13.4%	13.7%	6.3%	3.1%
	61.3%					
	Portage Summit & Field Club	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	\$1,250	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$1,250	\$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	\$3,505
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,000
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,685
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,400
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,400
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$56,990
Share of Total Cost	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations: Half of the Handshake Funds will be used for materials and supplies. Due to the challenging terrain, skilled labor will be needed to safely get some of the materials down to the proposed construction site.



Proposed observation deck location



Access Trail



Fishing/Observation platform example