

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fiscal Year 2022
Handshake Program Application**

Please review instructions before completing application!

Corps Lake/River Project Name: **Clendening Lake**

District / Division:**Huntington District**

Handshake Proposal Title: **Wetland Loop Trail and Wildlife Viewing Area**

Corps POC Name:**Steve Ecrement And/Or Scott Kraynak**

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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 2021 or review a 2020 Handshake webinar on the Gateway? Yes No
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B. Handshake Funding Request (maximum \$25,000): \$25,000

C. Corps Foundation Bonus: (maximum \$5,000): \$5,000

Separate bonus funding provided by the Corps Foundation for a selected Handshake Project.

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

This project will be support youth participation in natural resources and outdoor recreation. (100 points).

This project will support diversity, equity and inclusion goals to increase access to a quality recreation experience which includes a safe and healthful environment for a diverse population. This project will help the

Corps conserve natural resources and provide recreation opportunities that contribute to the quality of American life. (100 points).

E. 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 improving a trail around an existing Palustrine Emergent Wetland that will include two boardwalks that cross the wetland, a wildlife observation platform, a viewing scope, ecological and historical interpretive signs, and improve wildlife habitat to the Clendening wetland area – a currently under-utilized recreation area at Clendening Lake. We plan to improve an existing trail by adding two floating boardwalks, a wildlife observation platform with viewing scope, install an osprey nesting structure, two acres of pollinator fields, wildlife shelter boxes, and add interpretive signage. The Clendening wetland is adjacent to the Clendening Public Use Area, a proposed Muskingum Watershed Conservation District (MWCD) historic quarry/wildflower trail, and is being considered as part of the Buckeye Trail/ North Country Trail reroute toward Tippecanoe. These additions will increase use and enhance the visitor experience at Clendening Lake, as well as bring much needed outdoor recreational opportunities to the local communities.

Handshake Funding Cost Break Down:

Re-decking the donated floating boardwalks: \$8,000

Hand railing for donated floating boardwalks: \$8,000

Transition plates for donated floating boardwalks: \$1,500

Observation platform (15'x10'): \$2,000

Wetland Ecology Interpretive Sign: \$2,000

Viewing Scope: \$3,500

Longevity / O&M description:

All materials included for the planned project are estimated to last >20 years and require little routine maintenance. Lower Tuscarawas staff and volunteers will work each year to maintain the trail and improve habitat, including invasive species control. The Lower Tuscarawas Area, including Clendening Lake, has groups of volunteers interested in providing assistance with litter removal, invasive species removal, habitat improvements, and trail maintenance, etc. This project will be an additional location for the volunteers to complete environmental and outdoor recreation projects.

Partnership Value:

Our partners in this project are critical in providing needed materials, supplies, labor, and technical knowledge. The proposed project contains several components that will require the services and expertise of our partners to successfully complete the project. Handshake funds will be used to purchase materials needed to re-deck MWCD donated boardwalks, install handrails, to build a wildlife observation platform, interpretive signs, and a permanent viewing scope. Additionally, this partnership will provide local schools and youth groups an opportunity to complete work toward their organizational goals. Below is a detailed plan for each project element.

Recreational Benefit:

The project is located in a location with a well-maintained parking area and paved roadway (Clendening Public Use Area (PUA)), manicured lawns, playground, and litter removal. There is also a restroom that is cleaned regularly through the service contract. The only public land use recreation offered in this area is fishing at Clendening Lake, and Clendening PUA. There are no known walking trails or wildlife viewing areas located near this site. The Buckeye Trail is currently located on the opposite side of the lake and is the closest opportunity for hiking. Local residents often walk along Milarcik road and have shown interest in an opportunity to have an off road trail. Implementation of this project, along with enhanced wildlife habitat, will greatly enhance the Clendening Lake area and improve visitation. This project will enhance wildlife viewing, through multiple interpretive signs, and provide detailed information and environmental education opportunities on forest ecology, wildlife, and wetland ecology.

Environmental Stewardship Value:

The proposed project includes converting several acres of maintained lawn into pollinator and native grassland habitat, installing nest boxes, waterfowl hen houses, perches, and large woody debris in the wetland, and an Osprey tower platform near the edge of the wetland. This will improve breeding grounds for migratory birds and improve habitat for a suite of wetland, pollinator, and grassland species. This will also increase the recreational experience for our visitors. The USACE Lower Tuscarawas Area, including Clendening Lake, will partner with the Canton Audubon Society for expertise on improving avian habitat, monitoring nest boxes, and will host birdwatching tours to increase birdwatching at our projects. This objective will provide a citizen science approach to monitoring wildlife at this site. Partners will also be assisting USACE with identification and removal of invasive species and replacing them with native plant species for wildlife habitat improvement.

Communication & Education Value:

The proposed project will include multiple wildlife and ecological interpretive signs around the trail and at the observation platform. The signs will also be bilingual (English and Spanish) to remove language barriers and increase visitation by a diversity of communities. The cities of New Philadelphia and Dover are approximately 25 miles from the Clendening PUA and individuals of Hispanic heritage are the largest minority population in these cities at 7.7% and 6.2%, respectively. This year, during the update of the Lower Tuscarawas Master Plan, several comments were received about enhancing all aspects of our recreation and wildlife management. The Muskingum Area projects (Lower Tuscarawas, Upper Tuscarawas, and Walhonding) are now working toward improving and enhancing low density outdoor recreation activities and wildlife habitat enhancement. This project will expand opportunities to provide local school groups with a location for environmental education and allow the Natural Resources Specialist a platform for leading environmental education programs on-site. The local YMCA Camp Tippecanoe has also shown interest in bringing camp attendees to the wetland trail for recreation and ecological education purposes.

Innovativeness:

The location is unique because it is far from other public recreation or wildlife viewing resources. The closest public property that provides similar opportunities includes Salt Fork Lake approximately 20 miles southwest of the Clendening PUA. Most public lands in this part of the State are public hunting lands rather than trails and wildlife viewing with a focus on education. This project will be located at the dam and existing PUA as well as the proposed MWCD historic quarry and wildflower trail, which begins on USACE land. The Buckeye Trail Association is also considering rerouting the Buckeye/North Country trail through MWCD and USACE land that would include a portion of this wetland loop trail. This project will also expand on our existing recreation opportunities from a picnic and playground area into a multi-use area. This multi-use area plan includes interpretive signs that will include english and spanish to be more inclusive, an observation platform that will include a viewing scope, and boardwalks that cross the wetland at two locations. This will provide local residents with the first wildlife and recreation interpretive trail of this kind in the surrounding area and will cater to a wider range of visitors.

Corps Foundation Bonus:

This project covers many of the areas of the Corps Foundation mission. The Wetland Loop Trail and Wildlife Viewing Area improves existing recreation and creates new environmental educational opportunities for an entire region, while at the same time enhancing habitat to increase local wildlife biodiversity.

Forest Ecological, Wildlife, and Historical Interpretive Signs: \$5,000

Conclusion:

These improvements to Clendening Dam will drastically enhance the recreational and environmental education opportunities for local schools and the general public that is currently lacking in this region. The wetland and surrounding area has an abundance of wildlife and this project will help to protect and increase that biodiversity.

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	MWCD	AEP	BTA	Canton Audubon
Salaries	\$6,000	N/A	\$300	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$1,000	\$25,000	\$0	\$1,500	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	\$6,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	N/A	N/A		\$0	\$1,142	\$856
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$800	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$11,000	\$25,000	\$6,300	\$5,300	\$1,142	\$856
Share of Total Cost	19.1%	43.4%	10.9%	9.2%	2.0%	1.5%
	62.5%					

	YMCA	NCTA	Shenadoah School	OPN	OBBS	BCS
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$400	\$1,000
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	\$1,142	\$571	\$1,800	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,500
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$1,142	\$571	\$1,800	\$500	\$500	\$3,500
Share of Total Cost	2.0%	1.0%	3.1%	0.9%	0.9%	6%

	Partner 11	Partner 12	Partner 13	Partner 14	Partner 15	Total
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,300
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$29,400
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,000
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,000
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,511
In-Kind Services		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,300
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$57,611
Share of Total Cost	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations:

Partner 1: Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) has agreed to donate up to 7 20-foot sections of floating boardwalk and assist with the project. The floating boardwalks are estimated to be worth approximately \$6,000 and their assistance with the project would be during their regular MWCD work hours.

Partner 2: American Electric Power (AEP) has agreed to donate a 50-foot utility pole, attach an Osprey platform, and install the utility pole. The pole is estimated to be worth \$1,500; equipment use is estimated to cost \$3,000, and man-hours installing the pole is estimated to be \$800.

Partner 3: The Buckeye Trail Association (BTA) has volunteered to assist in trail improvement work. Their volunteer hours are estimated at \$28.54/hour.

Partner 4: The Canton Audubon has volunteered to assist with this project and provide expertise in avian habitat improvements and increasing birdwatching at Clendening Lake. Their volunteer hours are estimated at \$28.54/hour.

Partner 5: The YMCA (Camp Tippecanoe) on Clendening Lake has volunteered to assist with this project. Their volunteer hours are estimated at \$28.54/hour.

Partner 6: The North Country Trail Association (NCTA) has volunteered to assist in trail improvement work. Their volunteer hours are estimated at \$28.54/hour.

Partner 7: Shenandoah K-8 schools has volunteered to assist with this project particularly pollinator habitat preparation and installing wildlife boxes. Their volunteer hours are estimated at \$28.54/hour.

Partner 8: Ohio Prairie Nursery (OPN) has donated \$500 in native wildflower seed for our pollinator habitat.

Partner 9: Ohio Bluebird Society (OBBS) has donated several wildlife shelters boxes and predator guards (baffles) with an estimated value of \$400.

Partner 10: Brannon Contracting Services (BCS) has agreed to provide \$1000 worth of materials for the concrete aprons and observation platform. Dustin Brannon is a licensed contractor with expertise in carpentry and concrete finishing and has agreed to assist with pouring the concrete aprons for the boardwalk transition plates and building the observation platform.



Observation platform example



Viewing Scope example



View of proposed northern boardwalk crossing (left) and southern boardwalk crossing (right)



Floating boardwalk example



The Clendening Wetland from Milarcik Road with the earthen dam in the background. An abundance of duckweed (red patches) and other aquatic vegetation provide food for various waterfowl species. Great blue herons, green herons, wood ducks, painted turtles, snapping turtles, kingfishers, American beaver, grey treefrogs, and smooth softshell turtles are a few species confirmed using this wetland.

Wetland Loop Trail and Wildlife Viewing

Clendening Lake

