

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fiscal Year 2025
Handshake Program Application**

Please review instructions before completing application!

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

District / Division: **Nashville District**

Handshake Proposal Title: **Storybook Trails and Track Trails on Turkey Creek and Periwinkle Trails**

Corps POC Name: **Stone Fagan**

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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 2024 or review a 2024 Handshake webinar on the Gateway? Yes No
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B. Handshake Funding Request (maximum \$25,000): \$20,000

C. Corps Foundation Bonus Request: (maximum \$5,000): N/A

Separate bonus funding provided by the Corps Foundation for a selected Handshake Project. Please do not include bonus funds on your overall financial spreadsheet below. Provide an explanation of how the funds will be used in the Corps Foundation Bonus section.

D. 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. (100pts)

This lake/river project's Handshake application includes a NEW partner that the lake/river project has never worked with before. (50 pts) Please list the NEW Partner: Jackson County Imagination Library, Smith County Imagination Library, Friends of Cordell Hull Lake, Kids in Parks Track Trails

This lake/river project's Handshake application includes a Tribal partner. (200 pts) Please list who this Partner is:

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:

The Turkey Creek Nature Trail is a 0.5-mile, ADA-accessible paved loop trail situated next to the Cordell Hull Lake visitor center, offering convenient access to picnic and playground areas, restroom facilities, and nearby fishing opportunities at the Cordell Hull Dam. The Periwinkle Trail, Cordell Hull's newest hiking addition, stretches 2.65 miles along the lake's shores, meandering through both Smith and Jackson counties. This trail is a collaborative achievement between community volunteers, local businesses, and a partnership with the newly formed Friends of Cordell Hull Lake (FOCHL) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). In response to the fact that only 27% of children engage in regular outdoor activities, this project aims to create an enriching destination for families. We plan to construct a "Storybook Trail" on the Turkey Creek and Periwinkle Trails. These innovative paths will feature pages from children's books displayed in outdoor frames, allowing the story to unfold as families walk the trail. Each page will prompt activities and foster critical thinking, making the trails a delightful and educational experience that encourages reading and outdoor exploration, while promoting early learning and health literacy.

The second part of this project is a partnership with Kids in Parks. This organization provides the materials to implement kid friendly trails through the installation of interactive self-guided materials that get families unplugged, outdoors, and reconnected to nature. Recent studies show that, on average, kids spend 7.65 hours per day "plugged-in" to electronic devices and only 7 minutes per day participating in unstructured outdoor play. These trends have led to declining visitation rates to parks and public lands and to a myriad of health-related issues for children including childhood obesity, diabetes, and depression. These interactive brochures feature information regarding native plants and animals in an effort to get children engaged with nature. Usage can be tracked online and participants receive prizes for registering hikes on the trail. Intended location for this feature is the Turkey Creek Nature Trail.

Handshake Funding Cost Break Down:

36 posts & frames (Lumber, hardware)*-\$6,300 (36x\$175), 36 Storybook panels (Max metal)-\$3,600 (36x\$100), Printing and grand opening expenses-\$100, Kids in Parks Trackplus+ package-*(8,000) = \$20000(Grand total).

O&M Impacts:

The benefit of this project is the improvement of two trails on Cordell Hull Lake. These additions make the trail more inviting to visitors and aim to garner increased visitation to these recreational areas. The additions/improvements will be in the trails for the foreseeable future and the only maintenance is weeding around the posts and maintaining the wood integrity(if needed). We have agreed with Jackson County Imagination Library and Smith County Imagination Library to alternate children's books with the seasons and ensure they are environmentally educational. The long term cost of this project after the initial installation is nonexistent. 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:

Partnerships between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and organizations like the Friends of Cordell Hull Lake, Jackson County Imagination Library, and Smith County Imagination Library, and Kids in Parks Track Trails bring invaluable benefits to the Storybook Trail grant initiative. By collaborating, these partners contribute essential resources and expertise, including labor for installation and printed storybook pages, which significantly enhances the project's scope and impact. This synergy not only leverages the strengths of each partner—combining the Corps' operational capabilities with the non-profit groups' community engagement and educational resources—but also fosters a shared commitment to promoting literacy, outdoor recreation, and community involvement. Such collaborative efforts amplify the reach and effectiveness of the Storybook Trail, creating a more enriching and accessible experience for visitors of all ages.

Recreational Value:

This project holds the promise of significantly enhancing the recreational value of the proposed trails. Located just 10 minutes from the highly popular Defeated Creek Campground—ranked as the #5 USACE campground in the nation and drawing 750,000 visitors annually—this addition is poised to attract even more visitors to the area. The improved trails will enrich the visitor experience by incorporating engaging features such as Ranger-led storybook tours and environmental awareness programs. These guided activities will not only make the trails more appealing but also offer educational and interactive experiences that deepen visitors' connection to nature. By blending recreation with learning, the project aims to create a vibrant and attractive destination for families and outdoor enthusiasts alike.

Environmental Stewardship Value:

The primary goal of this project is to engage the public in environmental stewardship and raise awareness about the importance of protecting our natural resources. By focusing on educating children and families about native plants and animals, we aim to foster a deep appreciation for nature and a sense of responsibility for preserving it for future generations. To support this mission, we have partnered with Leave No Trace, an organization renowned for its expertise in minimizing outdoor pollution and safeguarding wildlife habitats. Leave No Trace will assist us by providing educational materials to remind visitors of the importance of keeping the trail clean and respecting wildlife. These efforts will reinforce our commitment to environmental stewardship and help ensure that our natural areas remain pristine and vibrant for years to come.

Communication & Education Value:

The proposed trail addition is designed to advance two key goals: communicating our Corps mission of environmental stewardship and educating the public, particularly children, about the value of our natural resources. By integrating educational elements along the trail, we aim to teach children about nature while also encouraging reading and critical thinking. Additionally, this project promotes the benefits of physical activity, family bonding, and outdoor experiences. These improvements not only enhance the educational impact but also foster a deeper appreciation for both nature and wellness among young visitors.

Supporting Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access Goals:

The proposed trail addition is designed with a strong commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and access. First, one of the trails is paved and ADA accessible, ensuring that individuals of all abilities can fully enjoy the new features. Second, we will implement a rotating book schedule that includes Spanish-language books, making our educational resources more inclusive and accessible to Spanish-speaking families. Finally, the trail will feature literature aimed at fostering an understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures and perspectives, helping to create an environment where all children can see themselves represented and valued. These efforts are integral to making the trail a welcoming and inclusive space for everyone.

Corps Foundation Bonus Cost Break Down:

Not requesting additional Corps Foundation funding.

Conclusion: The installation of the storybook and track trails on the Periwinkle and Turkey Creek Nature trails would be beneficial for USACE, Jackson and Smith County Imagination Libraries, the Friends of Cordell Hull Lake, and recreating members of the public visiting the trails. It would allow for the creation of new trail maps with the new features added. Additionally, Cordell Hull Lake and partners are prepared to contribute a sizable portion of the expenses via supplies, equipment, and labor.

NOTE: To show foresight, commitment, and planning, it is REQUIRED to include maps/pictures/plans/specs as part of your overall package. Failure to include supporting attachments will result in points deductions.

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	Jackson County Library	Smith County Library	Friends of Cordell Hull Lake	Kids in Parks
Salaries	\$10,200	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0
Travel	\$350	N/A	\$500	\$500	\$1000	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$2,000	\$0	\$100	\$100	\$500	\$0
Equipment Use	\$2,000	\$0	\$100	\$100	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	N/A	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	N/A	N/A	\$6,000	\$4,000	\$10,000	\$0
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,000
Total	\$14,550	\$20,000	\$6,700	\$4,700	\$11,500	\$8000
Share of Total Cost	22.2%	30.6%	10.2%	7.2%	17.6%	12.2%
	53%					

	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	\$10,200
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2350
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,700
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,200
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,000
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$65,450
Share of Total Cost	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations: Kids in Parks partnership consists of the nonprofit providing materials and expertise for the installation of the "Track Trails" and will cost the amount seen in the "other" row.



sign & frame

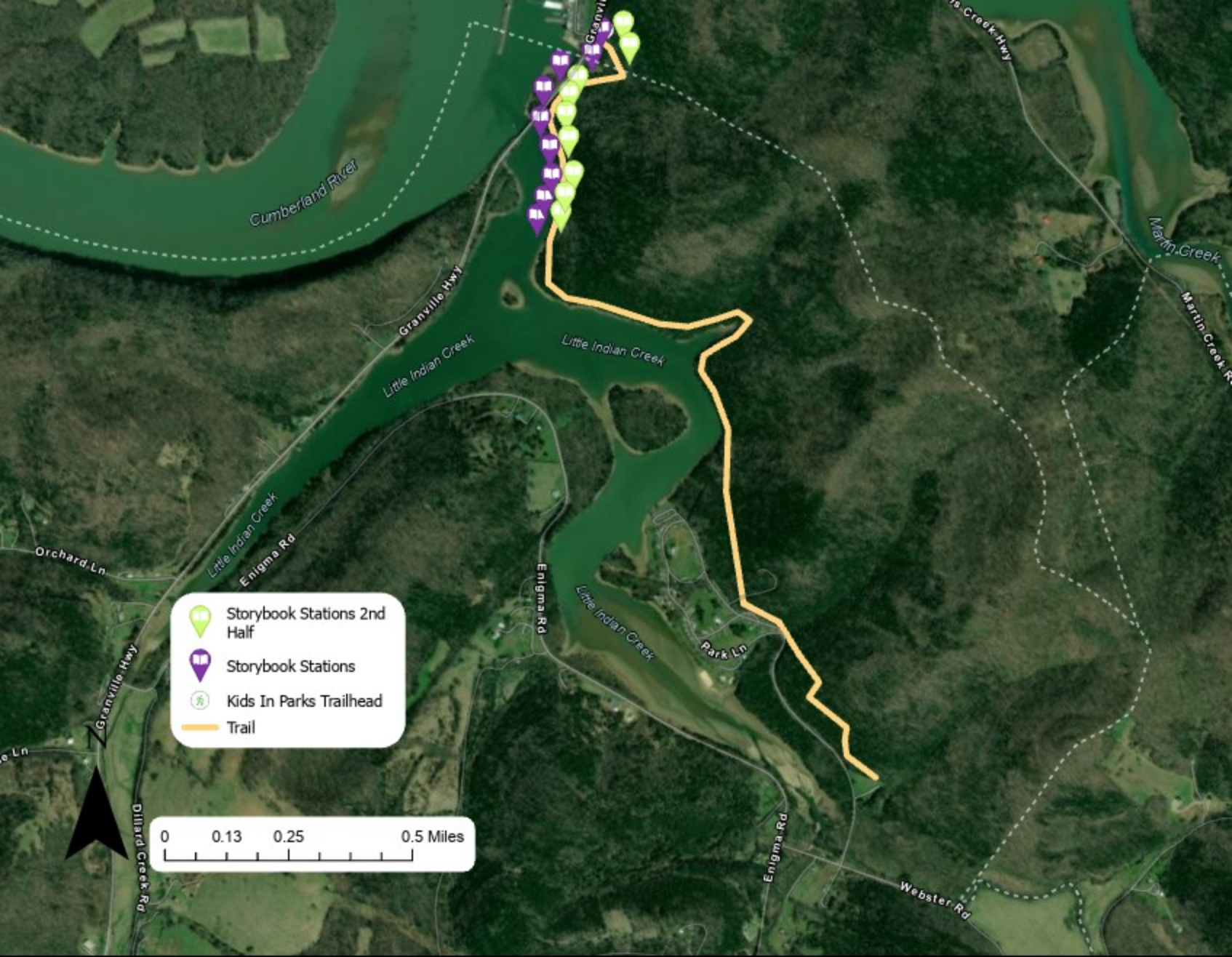
36" x 24" sign on aluminum frame. Includes 4 plastic brochure holders.



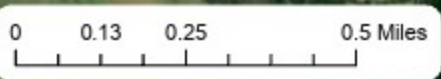
brochures

4 sets of 2,000 activity brochures from our "standard" selection.





-  Storybook Stations 2nd Half
-  Storybook Stations
-  Kids In Parks Trailhead
-  Trail



Storybook Stations
Kids In Parks Trailhead
Trail



0 0.01 0.03 0.05 Miles

