

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

**Please review instructions before completing application!**

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

District / Division: **MVR / MVD**

Handshake Proposal Title: **Sugar Bottom Campground Amphitheater**

Corps POC Name: **Colton Johnson**

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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): \$15,500**

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

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:

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:**

This Handshake Partnership Agreement will support the development of an amphitheater that will enhance our visitor's experience at Coralville Lake's largest campground. The current amphitheater has deteriorated to a condition that is unsafe for use and inaccessible to those with mobility restrictions. The new design will have a seating capacity of 75 people, meet ADA requirements, and be constructed in a more centralized location providing our visitors with improved access. This partnership will be made possible with the direct support from: The Friends of Coralville Lake (FoCL), and King's Concrete. FoCL has received a \$5,000 grant towards the amphitheater construction and Kings Concrete will be donating labor and materials towards the project. This project will ultimately give visitors a unique interpretive experience by providing hands-on environmental education while increasing their awareness of the Coralville Lake Project.

**Handshake Funding Cost Break Down:**

Site Preparation/Layout - \$4,500

Concrete ADA Path - \$7,500

Bench Seating - \$10,000

Stage Materials - \$6,000

Landscaping, Hardware, Material - \$5,000

Volunteer Labor - \$2,400

**O&M Impacts:**

Once complete, the amphitheater will be maintained by our volunteer program with the assistance of FoCL. The structure will be a valued resource for the project and provide a benefit to the recreational, environmental stewardship, and interpretive missions of Coralville Lake. Due to the project's location, all materials used for construction were chosen with high durability ratings. The benches are powdered coated steel and have a life expectancy of 50+ years, and the concrete pathway and ADA pad will have an indefinite life expectancy with minimal maintenance. The only annual O&M costs will be cleaning of components and maintaining adjacent vegetation. This project will drastically improve our visitor's outdoor educational experiences and provide a location of learning for generations.

**Partnership Value:**

Coralville Lake has successfully collaborated with FoCL in the past to make improvements to infrastructure and to increase accessibility within our recreation areas. The high usage of this amphitheater will highlight the positive impact that our partners will have collaborating on this project. Coralville Lake will see an immediate impact in creating a positive visitor experience and receiving a substantial return on every partnership dollar spent. The total cost of the project is \$35,400. The Coralville Lake Project will provide oversight, equipment, development input, and the amphitheater benches totaling approximately \$10,000. FoCL will be providing \$5,000 worth of concrete and materials, and volunteer labor totaling approximately \$2,400. King's Concrete will also be donating \$2,500 in concrete and labor towards the project.

**Recreational Value:**

The proposed project is located in the Sugar Bottom Campground, which has 228 campsites, receives over 20,000 visitors per year, and has an average peak weekend utilization rate of 91%. The amphitheater will increase the quality of outdoor educational experiences at Coralville Lake for its visitors. With the new location, visitors will have a better opportunity to learn from interpreters in a setting that allows them to connect with the surrounding environment. The improved infrastructure will also allow for other uses of the space, such as an outdoor classroom where Corps staff and outside organizations can teach outdoor skills that are fading away from today's

society. Educational programs such as fishing, hiking, hunting, biking, gardening, arborist skills, plant identification, geocaching, and many other recreational activities will be provided to visitors.

A unique change for this project compared to the current amphitheater, is its accessibility. A person's physical mobility should not prevent them from experiencing the same outdoor educational experiences as others. With this new amphitheater, we can remove the mobility limitations we currently have and provide educational opportunities for all users that want to experience Coralville Lake and learn more about their environment.

**Environmental Stewardship Value:**

An improved outdoor amphitheater will support educating campers, the visiting public, local schools, and community groups about the Corps' environmental stewardship mission and how they can best make an impact as an individual. Through these educational experiences, Coralville Lake will increase the public's awareness on the Corps' goals and responsibilities at the project. Visitors will then be able to spread this information to the local community and teach others the knowledge and skills they learn from these outdoor experiences. The new location will play an important role in increasing visitor's appreciation of nature. The original amphitheater site was located in an area that was difficult to locate and had limited views of the local landscape. The new project site will provide visitors with a beautiful view of the lake, increasing the visitor's appreciation of the environmental value of the area. This facility will introduce visitors to a variety of environmental topics and provide them a first-hand experience in nature. The University of Iowa Raptor Center, Master Naturalists, Burr Oak Land Trust, and other environmental groups will utilize this facility to present educational topics regarding their missions. We have already received many requests to utilize this space for meetings in the future.

**Communication & Education Value:**

Every weekend, park rangers and local presenters utilize the current amphitheater to deliver educational programs ranging from environmental topics, historical information, and water safety programs. There are approximately 20 programs that take place at the amphitheater during the recreation season with over 1,000 people attending the programs during the 2024 season. A new ADA accessible amphitheater will help provide lifelong memories for our visitors. Once this project is completed, the amphitheater will serve as a hub for educational programs that emphasize the importance of Coralville Lake, the Corps of Engineers and our impacts on the local community.

**Supporting Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access Goals:**

The project serves to support diversity, equity, inclusion, and access goals by removing previous mobility barriers and providing new infrastructure that allows all to enjoy. By removing mobility constraints and restrictions, we will be able to provide an improved product to the public and not pre-determine who can enjoy an outdoor experience on Corps managed lands. Developing shared experiences is a Coralville Lake goal and this project exemplifies a need to develop an area that everyone can appreciate, learn, and connect with Coralville Lake.

**Corps Foundation Bonus Cost Break Down:**

**Conclusion:**

Supporting the construction of the Coralville Lake amphitheater will be a monumental step towards bringing more accessible, unique, and fun recreational opportunities to the project. This amphitheater not only provides multiple recreational, environmental, and interpretive benefits, but will also bring universal access to the area, supporting legal and ethical obligations.

**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	FoCL	King's Concrete	Partner 3	Partner 4
Salaries		N/A			\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$10,000	\$15,500	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$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	\$2,400	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$15,500</b>	<b>\$7,400</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	28.2%	43.8%	20.9%	7.1%	0.0%	0.0%
	72.0%					

	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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	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	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$33,000
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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,400
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$35,400</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations:

Current Amphitheater



Current Amphitheater Condition



Current Amphitheater Condition 2



Proposed Project Area



Proposed Conceptual Design

