



Solicitation Number: RFP21000157
City of Pittsburgh Significant Tree Registry

Request for Proposal (RFP)

City of Pittsburgh

March 10, 2021 - March 31, 2021

General Header Information

No. RFP21000157
Title: City of Pittsburgh Significant Tree Registry
Start Date: March 10, 2021 at 3:00:00 PM EST
End Date: March 31, 2021 at 3:00:00 PM EDT
Vendor Q&A Start Date:
Vendor Q&A End Date:
Estimated Total Value:
Who can respond to this bid? : All Vendors
Description: The City of Pittsburgh along with The Shade Tree Commission is seeking a qualified firm to perform a Significant Tree Registry specific to Pittsburgh for public trees.
Delivery Terms: Free On Board Destination
Payment Terms: Vendor Specified
Contact Information: City of Pittsburgh
Dan Tobin
414 Grant Street Room 502 Office of Management and Budget
Pittsburgh PA, 15219 United States
Tel: 412-255-2458
Fax:
daniel.tobin@pittsburghpa.gov
Contact Details: If you have any questions, Please contact:
Dan Tobin
414 Grant Street Room 502 Office of Management and Budget
Pittsburgh PA, 15219 United States
Tel: 412-255-2458
Fax:
daniel.tobin@pittsburghpa.gov
Selected Categories: Farming and Fishing and Forestry and Wildlife Contracting Services
(70000000)
Environmental Services (77000000)

Solicitation Requirements: Tentative Schedule of Events

Tentative Schedule of Events

The following represents the tentative schedule for this project. Any change in the scheduled dates for the Pre-Proposal Conference (if applicable), Deadline for Submission of Written Questions, or Proposal Submission Deadline will be advertised in the form of an addendum to this RFP. The schedule for the evaluation process and other future dates may be adjusted without notice.

RFP released:	<i>March 10, 2021</i>
Cut-off questions:	<i>March 17, 2021 3:00 PM</i>
Proposal submission deadline:	<i>March 31, 2021 3:00 PM</i>
Proposal review & supplier scoring:	<i>April 2021</i>
Contract award:	<i>April 2021</i>
Council approval:	<i>May 2021</i>
Project start date:	Date of contract execution

Scope of Services

Background

The Shade Tree Commission was established in 1998 by City of Pittsburgh Code of Ordinances Article XIII - Trees, Chapter 487, and is tasked with increasing public education and support for urban forestry (487.02b).

The Shade Tree Commission directs expenditures of the Shade Tree Trust Fund (Resolution 632 of 2020), controlled by the Department of Public Works (DPW). DPW, on behalf of the Shade Tree Commission, seeks to award a contract to a local business or organization, preferably within Pittsburgh, to develop, launch, promote, and manage such a registry for a period of two (2) years, with option to renew, and recommend protections and a maintenance schedule for the trees approved for the Significant Tree Registry. The Commission has approved by majority vote the pursuit of this registry.

Similar to other cities' programs, trees to be included in Pittsburgh's Significant Tree Registry will be nominated by City staff and members of the public, and selected based on review by the Shade Tree Commission with publicly-posted qualifications, as established through the development of the registry.

The Shade Tree Commission will consult the Forestry Division within DPW for approval of the registry. The Forestry Division maintains exclusive custody and control of, and the power to plant, set out, remove, protect and care for public trees in the City (481.01).

The registry system developed, and all materials created, including print and digital, shall be considered the property of the Pittsburgh Shade Tree Commission.

Scope Details

Phase 1:

Develop a Significant Tree Registry specific to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for public trees, including but not limited to:

- A framework and mechanism to accept tree nominations from the public
- A strategy to seek out trees for nomination
- A framework and mechanism to accept tree nominations from Forestry Division and other city staff
- A checklist of qualifying factors for nomination. Factors may include parameters for:
 - Size
 - Species
 - Age
 - Historic significance
 - Ecological value
 - Visibility
 - Health
 - Space
 - Exceptionality
 - Collection
 - Grove
- A framework for review of received nominations, including a justification form and communication to person(s) making the nomination
- Designs of tree identification markers for public property, in accordance with the city's Open Space Signage Plan (2016)
- Propose maintenance schedule provisions for Significant Trees
- Proposed structure for optional dedication ceremony
- Create process for removal from registry
- Considerations for condition reports
- Seed saving program to cultivate the next generation of significant trees
- Analysis of legal process for nomination and protection of trees on private property
- Estimated City Budget Impact Assessment outlining any additional annual cost or obligation on City staff and resources beyond the contracted consultant fees for the program.

Business or organization will develop and present the Significant Tree Registry proposal to the Shade Tree Commission at a regular meeting of the commission, within two (2) months of contract award. The Commission may consult with the Forestry Division and request adjustments to the proposed Registry and affiliated marketing campaign, and business or organization will have one (1) month to incorporate adjustment requests and present the final Registry for approval.

Phase 2

Launch and Promote the Registry, contingent upon review and approval of the Shade Tree Commission. Promotion should include but is not limited to:

- The creation and oversight of a marketing campaign for public engagement, including designs and messaging in plain language for various mediums, such as:
 - Internet (e.g. webpages, social media)
 - print (e.g. posters, mailers, calendars, doorhangers)
 - video (e.g. text, live action, animated)
 - public right-of-way (e.g. tree identification markers, yard signs, bus shelter advertisements)
- Notification process for surrounding neighbors of approved trees
- Options for a dedication ceremony
- Manufacturing and placement of approved tree identification markers
- Self-paced discovery activities such as walking tours

In keeping with the declared policy of the Shade Tree Commission, all campaign materials should increase public awareness of the environmental benefit of Pittsburgh's tree canopy in general. The marketing campaign should include Shade Tree Commission assets, such as logo and seal.

Phase 3:

Manage the Registry:

- Receive nominations from the public
- Verify location and accuracy of received nominations
- Present all nominations to the Shade Tree Commission on a quarterly basis with justification forms for consideration
- Notify nominator(s) of denial or approval of nominations
- Maintain a publicly-accessible database of Significant Trees, listing tree species and locations, updated on a quarterly basis, at minimum
 - E.g. Department of City Planning - City of Pittsburgh Art

Locations: <https://pittsburghpa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=0e722020832a43afac1e28674bf4791e>

- Respond to questions from the public and from the Shade Tree Commission within five (5) business days of receipt
- Where feasible, tie Significant Tree Registry programming into the Shade Tree Commission's Equitable Street Tree Investment Strategy Plan goals

Reporting Requirements:

Monthly:

- Attend and/or share updates for regular monthly meetings of the Shade Tree Commission

Quarterly

- Present all tree nominations to the Shade Tree Commission with justification forms for consideration
- Demonstrate updates to the publicly-accessible database of Significant Trees

Annually

- At the second meeting of the Shade Tree Commission in a calendar year (February), share report of previous calendar year activities, detailing the number of trees by species and neighborhood for the Shade Tree Commission to publish

Shade Tree Commission meeting times and locations can be found on PittsburghPA.gov at the following link:
<https://PittsburghPA.gov/Shade-Tree/Shade-Tree-Schedule>

Invoicing Terms:

Business or organization will invoice the City monthly for 1/24 the total amount of awarded contract, with a narrative description of work completed. Invoice shall include a copy of the corresponding agenda and/or minutes of regular meeting of the Shade Tree Commission, demonstrating submission of monthly report and/or attendance.

Appendix Items

N/A

Proposal Format

Format Requirements

All submitted responses shall follow the formatting below, and all proposals will need to be provided electronically through Beacon. Each numbered section is to be uploaded as a separate file. If hard copies of submissions are required, each numbered section shall be a removable tab. Document pages shall be 8-1/2 inches by 11 inches in size or folded to such a size.

1. Response to Scope

1. Firm's Qualifications, Experience and References

2. Qualifications of Team

3. Project Approach and Plan

2. Cost Proposal

3. Demonstration of Good Faith Effort (if applicable)

Failure to include all of the elements specified may be cause for rejection. Additional information may be provided, but should be succinct and relevant to the goals of this RFP. Excessive information will not be considered favorably.

If additional hard copies are requested under Submittal Requirements, the proposal should be bound or contained in a loose leaf binder. Document pages shall be 8-1/2 inches by 11 inches in size or folded to such a size. Use section dividers, tabbed in accordance with this Section as specified below. All proposals will need to be provided electronically so the following format will apply for the electronic submittal through the Beacon website.

Scope of Work Approach and Plan

Propose and explain intended process to Develop, Launch and Promote, Manage, and Protect and Maintain the Significant Tree Registry

Cost to Perform Scope of Work

Submit a total cost proposal including line items showing the costs to Develop, Launch and Promote, Manage, and Protect and Maintain the Significant Tree Registry

Experience and Capability

Provide the following information on the organization:

- Mission statement
- Length of time the organization has been in service
- History of community service and engagement within the City of Pittsburgh
- A summary of the business or organization's experience with tree-related efforts, and especially those within the city of Pittsburgh
- Names and positions of staff to be assigned scope of work
- Name(s) of International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist(s) on staff

Submittal Requirements

Submittal Requirements

1. All respondents must register on Beacon to submit a bid for this opportunity. The registration link can be found here: <http://pittsburghpa.gov/beacon/registration.html>
2. Once registered, respondents must login and find the solicitation for which they intend to submit a proposal. The list of solicitations can be found here: <http://pittsburghpa.gov/beacon/bid-opportunities.html>
3. If additional assistance is needed with registration or submitting a proposal in response to the solicitation, please email supportwebprocure-support@proactis.com or call the support line at 866-889-8533.
4. Respondents must submit their proposals electronically within the eProcurement tool located on Beacon by the submission deadline.
5. Respondents are required to provide one (1) electronic copy of their proposal in either MS Word or PDF by the submission deadline.
6. Questions regarding proposals should be delivered **ONLY** to the Sourcing Specialist, whose contact information can be found in the header of this solicitation.
- 7 Additional submission considerations:
 - Late proposals will not be accepted or considered. Respondents should allow enough time to register company on Beacon, search the solicitation they wish to respond to and complete the submission process online before the deadline.
 - The City of Pittsburgh shall not be responsible for proposals delivered to a person or location other than that specified herein.
 - All submittals, whether selected or rejected, shall become the property of the City of Pittsburgh and will not be returned.
 - All costs associated with proposal preparation shall be borne by the applicant.

Proposal Evaluation & Selection

Selection Procedure

1. Your Proposal will be evaluated by a Proposal Committee comprised of the Director or other supervisor of the Using Department, one or more members of the Director's staff, at least one member of the Office of Management & Budget and any other department representatives as deemed necessary.
2. Submittals will be reviewed for responsiveness, and responsive submittals will further be screened by a selection committee in accordance with the criteria listed below. The firm(s) submitting the highest rated proposal may be invited for interviews.

Criteria

All proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Scope of Work Approach and Plan (50 points)
- Cost to Perform Scope of Work (20 points)
- Experience and Capability (30 points)

Award and Contract

Award

After the City has received all Proposals and conducted its initial Evaluation, described above, the Proposal Committee may invite one or more Respondents to a follow-up interview to further discuss their Proposal(s).

The Proposal Committee may decide to accept the Proposal of one or more Respondents. It may decide to reject all proposals. Once a Proposal is accepted, the contract negotiation process will commence. This RFP and your response to it, in the form of your entire Proposal, will become part of the Contract. If a real or apparent conflict should arise between this RFP/Proposal and other language contained in the final Contract, the language of the final Contract shall control.

Contracting Process

Successful Respondents will be required to enter into a Contract with the City of Pittsburgh, contingent upon the approval of City Council. This Contract will be directed and managed by the issuing department and the Office of Management & Budget.

Work cannot commence on the Scope of the RFP until it a contract is fully executed. The City cannot process invoices nor approve payments until this Contract has been fully executed by the Respondent and all required City signatories, including the issuing department, the Law Department, and the City Controller.

City laws and policies mandate the incorporation of various custom terms and conditions into all City contracts. For this reason the City will not sign any standard contract proffered by the respondent.

An agreement shall not be binding or valid with the City unless and until it is fully executed by authorized representatives of the City and of the Proposer. Once the Contract is fully executed the City will notify Respondent in writing and give the order to proceed.

General Terms & Conditions

Examination of Proposal Documents

1. The submission of a proposal shall be deemed a representation and certification by the Respondent that they:
 - Have carefully read and fully understand the information that was provided by the City to serve as the basis for submission of the proposal
 - Have the capability to successfully undertake and complete the responsibilities and obligations of the proposal being submitted.
 - Represent that all information contained in the proposal is true and correct.
 - Did not, in any way, collude; conspire to agree, directly or indirectly, with any person, firm, corporation or other proposer in regard to the amount, terms or conditions of this proposal.
 - Acknowledge that the City has the right to make any inquiry it deems appropriate to substantiate or supplement information supplied by a proposer, and proposer hereby grants the City permission to make these inquiries, and to provide any and all related documentation in a timely manner.
2. No request for modification of the proposal shall be considered after its submission on the grounds that the proposer was not fully informed to any fact or condition.

RFP Term

Respondent's proposal shall remain firm and effective, subject to the City's review and approval, for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days from the closing date for the receipt of proposals.

The City may enter into negotiations with one or more Respondents during the one hundred twenty (120) day period during which all proposals will stay effective. The purpose of such negotiations will be to address questions and identify issues as the parties move towards the execution of a final contract or contracts.

RFP Communications

Unauthorized contact regarding this RFP with employees or officials of the City of Pittsburgh other than the RFP Coordinator named in the header section of this solicitation may result in disqualification from this procurement process.

Neither Respondent(s) nor any person acting on Respondent(s)'s behalf shall attempt to influence the outcome of the award by the offer, presentation or promise of gratuities, favors, or anything of value to any appointed or elected official or employee of the City of Pittsburgh, their families or staff members. All inquiries regarding the solicitation are to be directed to the designated RFP Coordinator. Outside of pertinent RFP questions directed to the City of Pittsburgh as specified above, any other attempts to contact any City of Pittsburgh personnel regarding this RFP, without prior approval by the RFP Coordinator will be considered grounds for dismissal and immediate disqualification from the RFP process. This includes, but is not limited to, all verbal, voice, text, e-mail, and social media (e.g. – LinkedIn) contact.

Please note the following:

- The City shall not be responsible for nor bound by any oral instructions, interpretations or explanations issued by the City or its representatives.
- Each proposer shall assume the risk of the method of dispatching any communication or proposal.
- The RFP Coordinator must receive all written comments, including questions and requests for clarification, no later than the Deadline for Submission Questions listed in the tentative project schedule.
- The City reserves the right to determine, at its sole discretion, the appropriate and adequate responses to written comments, questions, and requests for clarification. The City's official responses and other official communications pursuant to this RFP shall constitute an addendum of this RFP.
- The City will publish all official responses and communications pursuant to this RFP to the City of Pittsburgh procurement website. It is the responsibility of each proposer to check the site and incorporate all addenda into their response.
 - All addenda for this RFP will be distributed via the City of Pittsburgh procurement website at procurement.pittsburghpa.gov/beacon/opportunities
- Only the City's official, written responses and communications shall be considered binding with regard to this RFP.

Addenda/Clarifications

Should discrepancies or omissions be found in this RFP or should there be a need to clarify this RFP, questions or comments regarding this RFP must be put in writing and received by the RFP Coordinator as outlined in the submittal requirements section of this solicitation.

Withdrawal of Proposals

A proposer may withdraw its proposal at any time before the expiration of the time for submission of proposals as provided in this RFP by delivering a written request for withdrawal signed by, or on behalf of, the proposer.

Public Record

Respondent, by submittal of a proposal, acknowledges that all proposals may be considered public information in accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Right to Know laws. Subject to award of this RFP, all or part of any submittal may be released to any person or firm who may request it. Therefore, proposers shall specify in their proposal response if any portion of their submittal should be treated as proprietary and not releasable as public information. Proposers should be aware that all such requests may be subject to legal review and challenge.

Any information considered proprietary should be indicated as such or not included in the response.

Non-Conforming Proposal

A proposal shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the provisions of these RFP instructions and specifications. Any alteration, omission, addition, variance, or limitation of, from or to a proposal may be sufficient grounds for non-acceptance of the proposal, at the sole discretion of the City.

Disqualification

Factors such as, but not limited to, any of the following may be considered just cause to disqualify a proposal without further consideration:

- Evidence of collusion, directly or indirectly, among proposers in regard to the amount, terms or conditions of this proposal;
- Any attempt to improperly influence any member of the evaluation team;
- Existence of any lawsuit, unresolved contractual claim, or dispute between the proposer and the City;
- Evidence of incorrect information submitted as part of the proposal;
- Evidence of proposer's inability to successfully complete the responsibilities and obligation of the proposal; and
- Proposer's default under any previous agreement with the City, which results in termination of the agreement.

Restrictions on Gifts & Activities

The City of Pittsburgh Ethics Code and Chapter 198 of the City Code (Code of Conduct) was established to promote public confidence in the proper operation of our local government. These resources outline the requirements for disclosure of interests and restricted activities as related to public procurement processes. Proposers are responsible to determine the applicability of these requirements to their activities and to comply with its requirements.

Rights of the City of Pittsburgh

This RFP does not commit the City to enter into a contract, nor does it obligate the City to pay for any costs incurred in preparation and submission of proposals or in anticipation of a contract. The City reserves the right to:

- Reject any and all proposals;
- Issue subsequent Requests for Proposals;
- Cancel this RFP with or without issuing another RFP;
- Remedy technical errors in the Request for Proposals process;
- Approve or disapprove the use of particular sub-consultants;
- Make an award without further discussion of the submittal with the proposer (therefore, the proposal should be submitted initially on the most favorable terms that the firm or individual might propose);
- Meet with select proposers at any time to gather additional information;
- Make adjustments to the scope of services at any time if deemed by the Office of Management and Budget to be in the best interest of the City;
- Accept other than the lowest offer.
- Waive any informality, defect, non-responsiveness, or deviation from this RFP that is not material to the Respondent's proposal;
- Reject the proposal of any Respondent who, in the City's sole judgment, has been delinquent or unfaithful in the performance of any contract with the City;
- Reject the proposal of any Respondent who, in the City's sole judgment, is financially or technically incapable of performing in accordance with this RFP;
- Negotiate with any, all, or none of the Offerors and to enter into an agreement with another Offeror in the event that the originally selected finalist defaults or fails to execute an agreement with the City.
- Award a contract to the firm(s) that presents the best qualifications and whose proposal best accomplishes the desired results; and/or
- Enter into an agreement with another proposer in the event the originally selected proposer defaults or fails to execute an agreement with the City.
- Require a performance bond and/or other "failure to deliver" agreement by the awardee at time of contracting.

Miscellaneous Requirements

Acknowledgements

- 1. Conflict of Interest**-By submission of a proposal to this solicitation, Respondent agrees that it presently has no interest and shall not have any interest, direct or indirect, which would conflict in any manner with the performance of the services required under this RFP.
- 2. Code of Ethics**-By submission of a proposal to this solicitation, Respondent agrees to abide by the Code of Ethics of The City of Pittsburgh. The full Ethics Handbook can be found here:http://pittsburghpa.gov/humanresources/files/policies/10_Ethics_Handbook.pdf
- 3. Fair Trade Certification**-By responding to this solicitation, the Respondent certifies that no attempt has been made, or will be made, by the Respondent to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit a submission for the purpose of restricting competition.
- 4. Non-Disclosure**-By responding to this solicitation, the Respondent acknowledges they may be required to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement during the contracting process if they are the successful respondent.
- 5. Debarment** -This solicitation is also subject to Section 161.22 of the City of Pittsburgh Code related to debarment from bidding on and participating in City contracts.
- 6. Financial Interest**-No proposal shall be accepted from, or contract awarded to, any individual or firm in which any City employee, director, or official has a direct or indirect financial interest in violation of applicable City and State ethics rules. Entities that are legally related to each other or to a common entity which seek to submit separate and competing proposals must disclose the nature of their relatedness.
- 7. Full Fee Disclosure**-Pursuant to Section 161.36 of the Pittsburgh City Code, a Respondent must include a disclosure of any finder's fees, fee splitting, firm affiliation or relationship with any broker-dealer, payments to consultants, lobbyists, or commissioned representatives or other contractual arrangements of the firm that could present a real or perceived conflict of interest.

Questionnaire:

Required Documents

Description: Please fill in the following required documents/information

Upload completed vendor contact sheet

Type	ATTACHMENT
Is Required	Y

Upload completed updated W9

Type	ATTACHMENT
Is Required	Y

Upload completed Vendor Registration Form

Type	ATTACHMENT
Is Required	Y

Upload completed Statement of Affiliation

Type	ATTACHMENT
Is Required	Y

Provide the name, title, & email address of the authorized signer for your company (for details on who is considered an authorized signer, please look at our terms & conditions section)

Type	TEXT
Is Required	Y

Documents:

Statement of Affiliations.pdf

Vendor Contact Sheet.pdf

Vendor Registration Form.pdf

W9.pdf

Item Specifications

Solicitation has been designated as having no line items.

