



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-3546, **Agenda Item #:** 29.

12/9/2021

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract with Ecosystem Design Group, LLC for land management planning services, for a term of one year in an amount not to exceed \$244,675.

(Note: This solicitation was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9C Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program. For the services required for this solicitation, there were no subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established).

Lead Department

Financial Services Department.

Client Department(s)

Parks and Recreation Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$120,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Capital Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department. The remaining funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Operating Budget of the Austin Fire Department.

Purchasing Language:

The Financial Services Department issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) 8600 AVB3000REBID for these services. The solicitation was issued on July 26, 2021 and it closed on August 24, 2021. Of the three offers received, the recommended contractor submitted the best evaluated responsive offer. A complete solicitation package, including a log of offers received, is available for viewing on the City's Financial Services website, Austin Finance Online. Link: [Solicitation Documents](https://www.austintexas.gov/financeonline/account_services/solicitation/solicitation_details.cfm?sid=135489)
<https://www.austintexas.gov/financeonline/account_services/solicitation/solicitation_details.cfm?sid=135489>.

For More Information:

Respondents to this solicitation, and their representatives, shall continue to direct inquiries to the solicitation's Authorized Contact Persons: Didi Broniszewski, at 512-974-9382 or Didi.Broniszewski@austintexas.gov <<mailto:Didi.Broniszewski@austintexas.gov>> or Cyrenthia Ellis, at 512-974-1709 or Cyrenthia.Ellis@austintexas.gov <<mailto:Cyrenthia.Ellis@austintexas.gov>>.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

November 30, 2021 - Recommended by the Parks and Recreation Board on a 8-0 vote with Board Members Barnard and Taylor absent and one vacancy.

Additional Backup Information:

The contract will result in the creation of a land management plan that will serve as a guiding document for the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) on the restoration and management of the Austin Nature Preserves

System and other parkland natural areas to sustainably and resiliently provide vital ecosystem services and address wildfire risk. The plan will also be used to inform restoration and management goals and priorities, implementation plans, work plans, burn plans, environmental monitoring and adaptive management, community-driven vision plans for individual preserves, use policies for individual preserves, grant applications, and departmental resource requests.

An evaluation team with expertise in this area evaluated the offers and scored Ecosystem Design Group, LLC as the best to provide these services based on experience in climate resiliency planning, woodland or forest health management, implementing large ecological restoration projects, writing land or resource management plans, planning and implementing prescribed burns, publication of relevant original research or literature analysis in peer review journals, pricing, local business presence, and service disabled veteran business enterprise.

If Council does not approve, the PARD will be unable to deliver one of the key commitments made in response to the 2019 Wildfire Preparedness Audit: to create and implement land management plans for parkland natural areas to address wildfire risk. The PARD will also be unable to effectively and efficiently restore and manage over 10,000 acres of preserves and natural areas to ensure that these properties provide optimal levels of service to Austin and are resilient to current and future challenges, such as climate change, that would degrade their ability to serve the community.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment.