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July 1, 2021

Request for Proposal:

Professional Engineering Design Services for Wilkinsburg Stormwater Resiliency Project – Parking Lot Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Submission Details

General Scope

Upstream Pittsburgh (Formerly Nine Mile Run Watershed Association) invites proposals from a qualified consultant interested in providing professional services for the engineering design of a green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) project in Wilkinsburg as part of the Wilkinsburg Stormwater Resiliency Project (WSRP), an effort to reduce stormwater runoff from public parking lots the Borough of Wilkinsburg.

Budget

The overall budget for this RFP is $62,000.

Email Addresses

Attn: Jan Raether, Watershed Programs Manager
(Use Subject Line: "WSRP GSI Design Team Proposal"):
Jan@upstreampgh.org

Submission Questions and Clarifications

All questions regarding this RFP should be submitted to Jan Raether at the email address above.

Key Dates

Request for Proposals advertised	July 1st, 2021
Site Visit (Contact Jan Raether for information)	July 8th, 2021 (12pm)
Deadline for questions and clarifications	July 13th, 2021 (5pm)
Questions and clarifications returned	July 16th, 2021 (5pm)
Proposal submission deadline	July 22nd, 2021 (5pm)
Interviews (if required) week of	July 26th-30th
Contract Award (on or before)	July 30th, 2021

Project Design and Construction Timeline	August 2021 – August 2022
First design submitted to Wilkinsburg Borough (on or before)	October 18th, 2021
Final design submitted to Wilkinsburg Borough (on or before)	Winter 2021/22
Permitting	Early 2022
Contractor Selection	Early 2022
Construction	Spring 2022

Upstream Pittsburgh seeks to contract with a qualified consultant for the engineering design of two Green Stormwater Infrastructure projects in Wilkinsburg's Public Parking Lots at Wallace Avenue and South Avenue as part of the Wilkinsburg Stormwater Resiliency Project (WSRP)

1. Background

Upstream Pittsburgh was originally founded as the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association in 2001 to involve citizens in the restoration and protection of the Nine Mile Run watershed through education, advocacy, and stewardship programs. A $7.7 Million investment by the Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Pittsburgh facilitated what was at the time the largest urban stream restoration completed in the United States. Despite physical improvements, water quality is still degraded by frequent combined sewer overflows (CSOs), and the physical integrity of the restoration is still endangered by the volume and velocity of stormwater runoff entering the stream from upper watershed communities.

Since its creation, the organization has offered residents of the watershed a variety of low-cost solutions through which they can directly impact the health of the stream. The watershed municipalities have also worked collaboratively since 2017 to address impacts to the restored stream resulting from the runoff on their streets. These programs have provided new green infrastructure to Wilkinsburg, Swissvale and Edgewood as well as the City of Pittsburgh helping foster an ongoing discussion about stormwater in the community while otherwise beautifying and benefitting the watershed community.

Efforts to significantly reduce the volume and improve the quality of stormwater entering the stream, however, require large scale interventions in the areas which contribute the most stormwater to our systems. The first of those large-scale interventions began in 2015 with the Rosedale Runoff Reduction Project (RRRP). In dry conditions the Rosedale area is disconnected from the watershed, however, precipitation of greater than a quarter inch causes Combined Sewer Overflows which pollute the Nine Mile Run Stream. The RRRP saw the construction of two large GSI facilities in the Rosedale area with the specific goal of CSO reduction in mind and efforts are underway to expand the stormwater capture potential of the area.

The Wilkinsburg Stormwater Resiliency Project (WSRP) is in a separated sewer area and will be of a similar scope to the RRRP. The focus of this project, however, will be on the quantity and quality of stormwater entering the Nine Mile Run Stream. Funded in large part by the Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener Plus Grants Program the project is

intended to protect our waterways from nonpoint source pollution. Still, Upstream Pittsburgh maintains at its core a commitment to equity, inclusion, and environmental justice in all of our work. Our Environmental Equity Study played a critical role in selecting the locations of these GSI sites, and our Climate Justice Principles will be a foundational aspect of this project as we work in neighborhoods and communities which are in large part underrepresented and underserved.

2. Project Goals

This RFP seeks to identify qualified consultants for design and engineering of Green Stormwater Infrastructure Facilities to be built at the Wallace Avenue Parking lot and South Avenue Parking Lots in Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania.

Through an iterative process site design is intended to maximize stormwater capture potential while working within the existing layout of the parking lots to the extent possible. Existing medians and several parking spaces will be removed and replaced with bioswales, rain gardens, stormwater tree pits, and subsurface storage. While the primary goal is an overall reduction in stormwater capture, project aesthetics and design integration to existing community facilities are also desired. Co-benefits such as improvements to air quality, reduction in urban heat island effect, and community safety are desired to the extent compatible with the desired primary function of the site. Additional goals are that the design be compatible with the 2010 Wilkinsburg Comprehensive Plan, Borough Ordinances, and take into consideration official and community input. Additional requirements will include assisting with the selection of a construction contractor, construction oversight, and production of as-built drawings post-construction.

Upstream Pittsburgh has received funding for a full build out of the Wallace Ave Parking Lot and a partial build out of the South Ave Parking Lot. While a grant application has been submitted for additional funding to complete a full retrofit of the South Ave Parking Lot, the consultant shall design facilities at the South Ave Parking Lot so that construction can be completed in phases with the possibility for integration if additional funding becomes available.

Upstream Pittsburgh will work with the Borough of Wilkinsburg to maintain the facilities for a 20-year period post-construction. A design approach that considers the cost and labor associated with long-term maintenance will be required.

3. Scope of Work

The consultant selected by Upstream Pittsburgh will be required to provide engineering and design services which are compatible with the 2010 Wilkinsburg Comprehensive Plan, Borough

Ordinances, and official and community input. Additional requirements will include assisting with the selection of a construction contractor, construction oversight, and production of as-built drawings post-construction.

Deliverables will include the following:

1. **Comprehensive Site Survey and Inspection** – A site survey and inspection will need to be performed to understand site conditions and develop plans.
2. **Existing Conditions and Site Preparation Plan** – An existing conditions and site preparation plan will indicate existing features, planned improvements, and characteristics of the site such as utilities, access, area of disturbance, and staging areas.
3. **Stormwater Flow Diagram and Calculations** – The consultant will prepare a stormwater flow diagram which will show how stormwater is intended to move through and around the facility and calculate estimated capture volumes.
4. **Vegetation/Planting Plan** – The consultant will oversee the vegetation/planting plan developed by Upstream Pittsburgh's Landscape Designer to maximize stormwater capture, minimize maintenance, and ensure compliance with municipal codes.
5. **Construction Drawings and Details** – The consultant will develop construction drawings and details to be reviewed and approved by the Borough of Wilkinsburg and to be included in a Request for Bid for construction of the facilities.
6. **Erosion and Sediment Control Plan** – If required by municipal law based on the final area of disturbance, the consultant will prepare an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, as well as an NPDES permit.
7. **Budget Estimate for General Contractor** – The consultant will develop a design that is both effective at stormwater management and which is feasible given the project construction budget. A rough cost estimate should accompany design iterations.
8. **Permit Coordination with Wilkinsburg Borough and other permitting authorities** – The consultant will need to work with Upstream Pittsburgh to coordinate permits, provide deliverables, and attend meetings as necessary to guide the project through this process.
9. **Materials for Community Outreach Meetings (In collaboration with Upstream Pittsburgh)** – The consultant will need to provide visuals to be used for community outreach. Upstream Pittsburgh's Landscape Designer can assist with this process, but it should be in coordination with the engineering consultant. If meetings occur in person plans will need to be printed and displayed.
10. **Construction oversight** – Upstream Pittsburgh will also provide construction oversight, but the consultant should be available for periodic site visits and weekly progress meetings throughout construction.

Other Considerations:

- Please detail your approach to the required deliverables
- Proposals should detail your familiarity with municipal drawings, details, plans and site survey standards

Meetings

Regular meetings will be required for the completion of this project. Meetings may be scheduled to discuss the following and may occur as frequently as two times per month throughout the design and construction process.

- Project expectations and goals
- Community input meetings
- Draft versions of deliverables
- Final versions of deliverables
- Municipal and permitting authority feedback
- Contractor selection
- Construction scheduling

Schedule

This project is intended to go into construction in the Spring or Summer of 2022, as such it is critical that the consultant can dedicate the appropriate amount of time toward this project and meet several deadlines which will allow contractor selection and construction to begin in the first half of 2022. The proposed schedule is as follows:

Project Design and Construction Timeline	August 2021 – August 2022
Kickoff Meeting	Mid-August
Community Input Meeting	Late August
First design submitted to Wilkinsburg Borough (on or before)	October 1st, 2021
Final design submitted to Wilkinsburg Borough	Winter 2021/22
Complete Permitting	Early 2022
Contractor Selection	Early 2022
Construction	Spring/Summer 2022

Budget

Upstream Pittsburgh has received a $581,000 grant for construction of facilities at two parking lots. A second grant application for approximately $150,000 has been submitted to the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA). While most of the project budget is reserved for material and labor associated with the construction of the project, approximately $62,000 has been allocated for subcontracted surveys, design, permit assistance and construction

consultation. An additional $10,00 would be available if Upstream Pittsburgh is awarded the outstanding CFA grant (The CFA grant would allow for additional construction capital as well).

4. Attachments

Attachment 1. Conceptual Design includes site photos, aerial imagery, and conceptual drawings of the Green Stormwater Infrastructure as submitted in the grant application.

5. Requirements for Submittal

The items listed below shall be submitted with each statement and in the order shown. Emailed submissions are requested in PDF format. Please limit the length of submissions as much as possible.

Cover Letter

1. Provide a brief, one-two page, cover letter indicating your understanding of the requirements relating to this RFP. Please include summary statements regarding your approach to the project. Demonstrate your qualifications and experience with similar projects.
2. A person who is authorized by the organization to enter into an agreement with Upstream Pittsburgh will sign the letter.

Company Background

1. Name and address of company.
2. Names, titles and contact information of key people involved in this project.
3. Years in business under present name with brief history of firm.

Qualifications

1. Previous projects designing GSI (Provide at least three (3) projects of similar scope and complexity for which your team members have provided or are currently providing services and include a project contact for each project who can provide a reference)
2. Experience submitting construction drawings and receiving permits from municipalities.
3. Experience working with community groups.

Project Budget

1. Provide a detailed budget not to exceed the project budget including approximate hours per deliverable.

2. Include detailed hours of staff and their roles in the project so we can see who will be working on this project for each firm.