Request for Proposals

Upper Tennessee River Roundtable is requesting proposals from qualified firms or individuals for the design of an outdoor classroom at the Abingdon Community Center in Abingdon, Virginia. The site will be used almost daily by the Wolf Hills Community School that meets in the center. The general public will also have access to the outdoor classroom. The elements of the outdoor classroom need to be designed to be safe for learning and playing.

The design will need to include an approximate price to construct each element of the outdoor classroom because existing funds may not be adequate to build everything. (The grant is also funding construction of a rain garden at the site as part of the town’s pickle ball court project). The school, the community center, and the Roundtable will have final say-so on which elements will be built. The list of desired elements will be prioritized by these project partners after receiving the design and cost estimates. The school offers STEM based instruction so each element should complement a component of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math studies.

Tentative ideas for the outdoor classroom shall include a “construction” area with natural materials, a “wolf den,” a natural playscape such as a tree fort or “bird’s nest,” climbing structure with ropes or natural material, a bug house or insect hotel, child-size benches and tables made from stumps, and a sandpit. Photos of similar structures from Hungry Mother State Park are attached. (The park gave permission to the Roundtable to copy any of those structures as desired.) Proposals may include additional ideas.

Improved and safer access to the creek is also needed for the students to conduct water monitoring.

Proposals shall include a price for the design of the outdoor classroom and work that needs to be done for improved access to the creek. Proposals shall include estimated costs for construction of each element. If any firm is interested in doing a design-build for this project, then the proposal may include a description of how that would work.

Proposals shall include the firm’s qualifications and two references for work on similar projects.

Proposals shall include a copy of workers’ comp certificate of insurance if applicable. Proposals also need to include a tentative timeline for completing the design.

Questions may be directed to Carol Doss, executive director, at 276-628-1600. Proposals are due no later than Friday, March 6, 2020, by 4:30 p.m. Proposals need to be mailed or hand delivered. No email proposals will be considered.