

**Call to Artists
Request for Qualifications**

Urbandale Public Art Committee
Walker Johnston Park Creek Access and Outdoor Classroom Public Art Project

Issue date: Thursday, June 22, 2023

Submission deadline: All RFQ materials must be received by **Thursday, July 13, 2023, 1:00 p.m., (CST).**

The mission of the Urbandale Public Art Committee, (UPAC), is to encourage and facilitate public art of high aesthetic quality that celebrates the uniqueness of Urbandale, enhances quality of life, economic development and community image, promotes tourism and makes art more accessible to the general public.

The UPAC is issuing this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to artists (includes artist teams) for the submission of their qualifications for the design, fabrication, and installation of artwork for permanent outdoor installation at Walker Johnston Regional Park, 9000 Douglas Avenue, and will complement the Walker Johnston Park Creek Access and Outdoor Classroom Project along North Walnut Creek...

The City of Urbandale is currently under contract for the construction of an ICON (Iowa Confluence Water Trails) Project, which includes a creek access component, as well as an outdoor classroom and reforestation area. (More information about ICON can be found at www.iconwatertrails.com.)

The desire from the UPAC is to commission outdoor public art that would be inclusive and interactive, and encourage play, exploration, and a reverence for nature.

The site map and design plans for the Walker Johnston Park Creek Access and Outdoor Classroom are presented on pages 3 and 4 of this document.

Project Theme:

Art creates new avenues for visitors to interact and connect with the natural and cultural treasures in our parks and community.

Adding public art to the North Walnut creek access area is intended to bring a sense of enchantment to a spot designed to inspire curiosity and love of nature in anyone who visits. Our vision is to work with an artist to bring elements of sensory and interactive art to this space to further build a sense of place, community and belonging to this unique area of the park and woods.

The art installation could incorporate interactive, multi-sensory aspects and draw on themes represented in the educational aspects of the project – nature, water conservation, erosion, the role of trees, water, plants, and animals in an ecosystem, etc.

Budget

The artist selected to create and install the artwork will be provided a commission in the total amount of \$ 80,000, through a contract with the City of Urbandale. The commission is for the design, fabrication, delivery, and installation of the artwork. The commission also must include signed and stamped structural engineered drawings for the artwork, and any other contractor and engineering costs associated with the artwork and its permanent installation.

Footings, concrete pad will be provided by the City.

Up to three finalists will be selected to develop design concepts for this project. A stipend of \$1,000 will be provided to the two RFP finalists who are not awarded the commission.

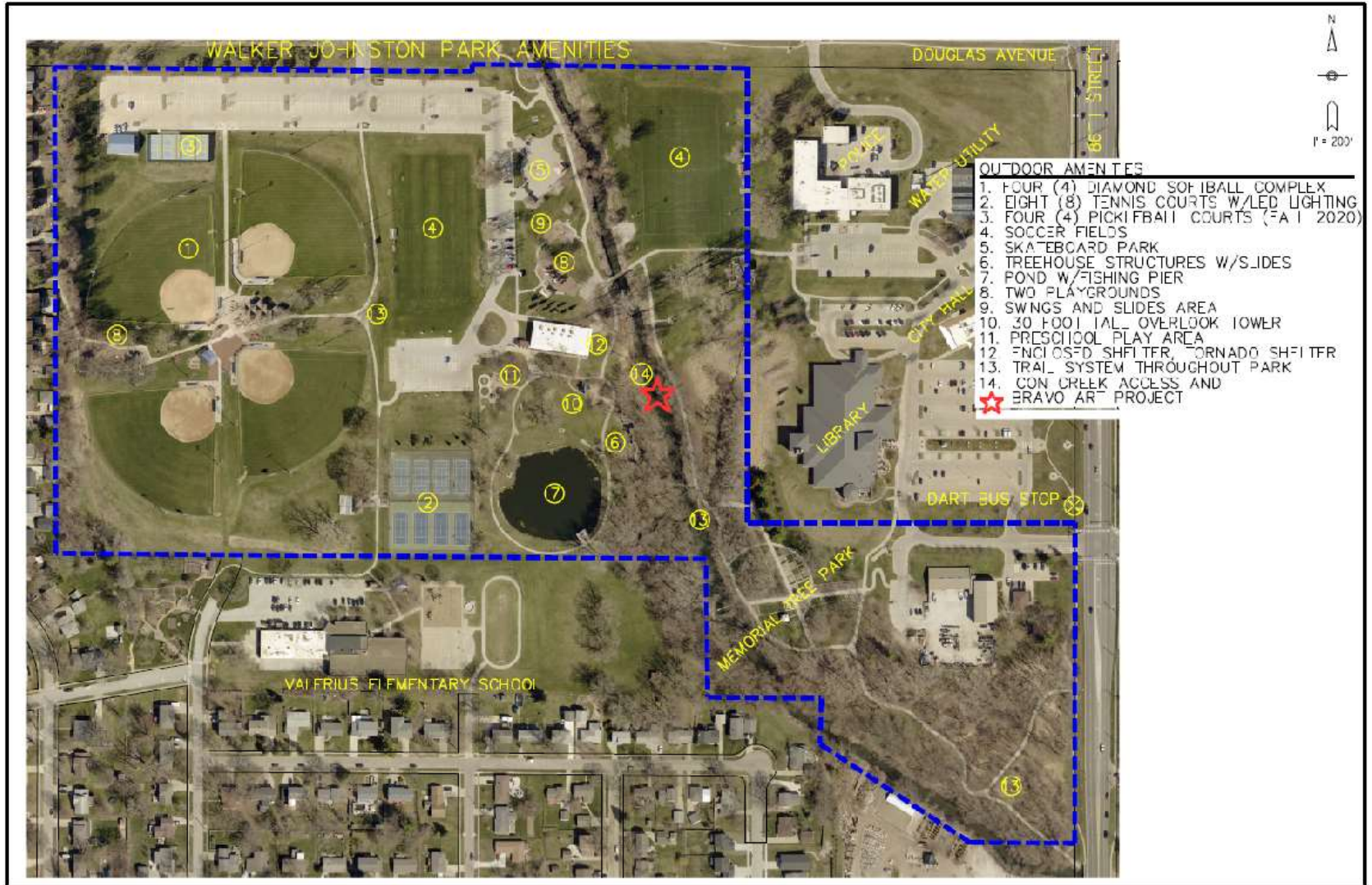
The three finalists will be required to present their designs to the Selection Committee. One artist or artist team will be selected for the commission.

Site Specifications

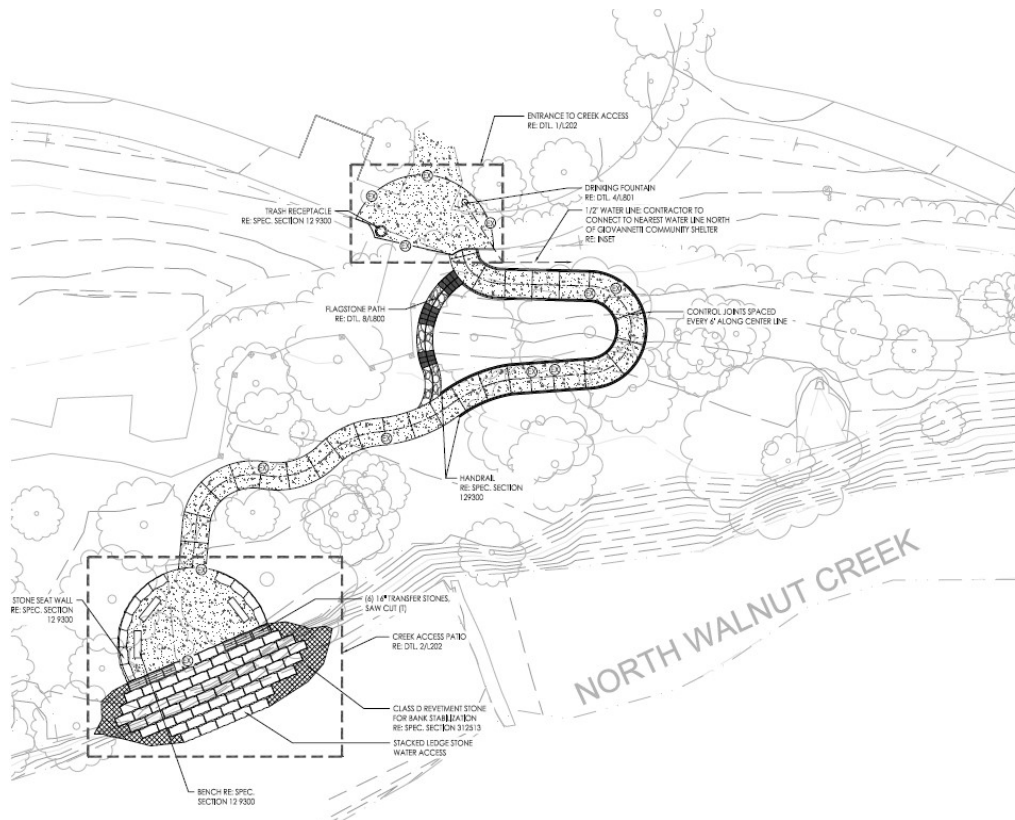
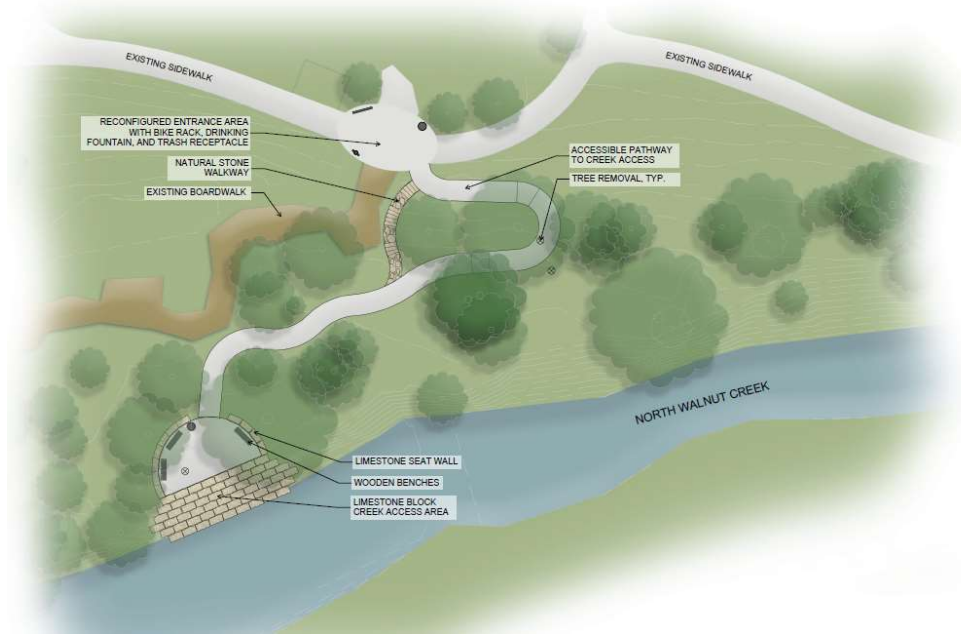
The commissioned piece of artwork will be incorporated and installed within the site of the creek access and outdoor classroom project.

Footings will need to be determined by the artist and will be constructed by the City. Once the footings are installed by the City, the Artwork must be permanently installed by the artist.

Site map for the project:



Below is a sketch of Walker Johnston Park Creek Access and Outdoor Classroom Construction drawings for the Walker Johnston Park Creek Access Project can be provided upon request.



Timeline

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) issued	Thursday, June 22, 2023
RFQ submission deadline	Thursday, July 13, 2023
Up to 3 finalists announced	Thursday, August 17, 2023
Request for Proposal (RFP) distributed to 3 finalists	Monday, August 21, 2023
RFP submission deadline	Wednesday, October 18, 2023
Artist presentations to UPAC & community representatives	Week of November 6, 2023
Commission award announced and contract executed	Late November, 2023
Installation of artwork at specified site completed	Summer or Fall, 2024
Dedication ceremony	Summer or Fall, 2024

Application Requirements:

- **Artist Statement:** (Maximum 250 words) Include a general introduction to your work. Discuss the concepts and ideas you explore in your artwork and how they are presented and represented. If you are applying as a team, the letter should clearly describe the contribution of each collaborator. Teams may present an artist statement up to 350 words maximum.
- **Resume:** (Maximum 2 pages) Outline your recent experience and accomplishments as an artist. If applying as a team, each member may submit a separate one-page resume.
- **Samples of your work** - a maximum of ten (10) files: digital images, video, and audio files are all acceptable with corresponding titles to match the Support Description list. Each file should highlight only one project.
- **Support Description list:** (Maximum 2 pages) For each image/file submitted, include relevant project information. For example, list the title, date, size, and medium for studio work. For public art projects include a description, location, materials, budget, and commissioning organization.
- **References:** Name and contact information of at least three (3) individuals who can speak to the range and quality of artist's experience and artwork as well as follow through with commissioned works. Include names and contact information only.
- **Preliminary Proposal:** (Maximum 250 words) Briefly describe your design process. If you have ideas for the artwork at this project, describe what you might design for this location. Selected finalists will receive a full information packet, so this preliminary proposal is only meant to give a general concept overview of the kind of artwork you

might create. The committee understands this is a preliminary proposal and subject to change once you are given more information about the site. However, the preliminary proposals will give the committee an ability to understand your conceptual thought process. Proposals need not discuss fabrication specifics but should address what types of durable materials that might be used to create the artwork.

- The City is seeking original artwork that is site and project specific. The proposed artwork must be a unique design idea, which has not been replicated for any other project the artist has done.

Selection Process

The UPAC will review all applications and will select up to three (3) artists to receive a Request for Proposal. In selecting the artists, the Committee members will consider input from representatives of various community organizations, agencies, and boards.

The following criteria will be used in selecting the artists to receive a Request for Proposal:

1. Demonstrated successful experience on projects of similar scope entities
2. Ability to meet deadlines of projects of similar scope
3. Durability of previously installed outdoor artwork
4. Success in translating or expressing concepts and themes through artwork
5. Level of expertise and recognition as demonstrated by the following:
 - Works included in private public, corporate or museum collections
 - Participation in outdoor art exhibitions
 - Participation in gallery or museum exhibits
 - Awards, grants, or other types of recognitions and accomplishments

The UPAC will select no more than three (3) finalists from the RFQ process to develop designs that they feel best meet the themes and criteria outlined above, and best complements the site.

Questions about this RFQ or the UPAC may be directed to Jan Herke, Director, Urbandale Parks and Recreation, at 515-331-6793, The Urbandale Parks and Recreation offices are located at 3600 86th Street, Urbandale, Iowa 50322.

Application information must be received by Tuesday, July 13, 2023, by 1:00 p.m. CST.

All materials can be submitted via e-mail to Jan Herke at JHerke@urbandale.org (see electronic submission requirements below) or delivered in person on a flash drive to the Parks and Recreation office by the stated deadline.

Parks and Recreation main office number is 515-278-3963.

Electronic Submission:

The City has a secure e-mail system, and if it detects the possibility of a virus, zipped, packed or any other questionable transmission, your submittal will be rejected without knowledge to the intended recipient.

Please note that any attached file should be the format of name.pdf and should not have an extra period in the file name (multiple extension.) It is the artist's responsibility to follow up before the closing date and time to verify the City received the appropriate information.