

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

For Design of Riparian, Floodplain and Pond Enhancements on the Vail Golf Course

Town of Vail Environmental Sustainability Programs

BACKGROUND

In 2012, Gore Creek was listed as an “impaired waterway” by the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE). The Town of Vail undertook a comprehensive study of the causes of Gore Creek’s declining macroinvertebrate populations and, in 2016, adopted the Gore Creek Strategic Action Plan which identified chemical-intensive landscaping and loss of riparian habitat as some of the main causes of impairment.

Town of Vail has added about 25,000 native trees and shrubs along Gore Creek and its tributaries since 2016, undertaken a comprehensive education and outreach campaign, and enacted new stream setback regulations and no-mow-zones in an effort to Restore Gore Creek. While some planting has been attempted along Gore Creek on the Vail Golf Course, the rocky soil and steep banks have impeded the success and survival of plants on this reach. Town of Vail and Vail Recreation District believe greater success and survivorship of native planting can be achieved if streambanks are modified to have gentler slopes and more contiguous floodplain.

OPPORTUNITY

Develop a master plan for management of riparian vegetation on the Vail Golf Course.

Campaign Goals

1. Improve stream channel conditions to more closely resemble natural hydrology.
2. Improve floodplain connectivity and reduce golf course flooding during peak runoff.
3. Enhance and restore riparian vegetation to shade the creek and ponds.
4. Reduce algae in ponds.
5. Reduce dead vegetation and potential wildfire fuel sources.
6. Reduce landscape chemical use and their ecological impacts.
7. Consider opportunities to adjust alignment of both the stream channel and golf course features.
8. Enhance biodiversity on Golf Course and Golf Course reach of Gore Creek.

Areas of greatest concern include:

- Erosion along Eleventh Fairway
- Algae proliferation in ponds
- Hole Number 7 flooding
- Fifteenth Green proximity to creek

SCOPE OF WORK

The Town of Vail seeks a qualified firm or team with proven experience designing riparian and floodplain restoration projects and/or experience in sustainable golf course design to perform an assessment of existing conditions and provide recommendations to reduce flooding while enhancing riparian vegetation and floodplain connectivity along Gore Creek. This project will also seek to mitigate algae growth in golf course ponds, reduce potential fuel/ dead vegetation, and develop strategies to reduce impacts of landscape chemical use on biodiversity in Gore Creek and surrounding ecosystems.

Deliverables to include:

- Specific recommendations to address erosion, floodplain connectivity, landscape chemical use, fuels/ dead vegetation and to restore riparian habitat.
- Preliminary (50%) designs for floodplain reconnection, mitigation of erosion, and restoration of more natural hydrology in Gore Creek.
- Strategies for reducing landscape chemical use without degrading the quality of grass on greens or fairways.

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

1) Statement of Qualifications: statement covering resources, expertise, client list and references. If a team, partnering firm or organization is proposed, include background information on all participating members.

2) Relevant Work Experience: examples of similar previous work, which may include design of riparian restoration and floodplain connectivity projects, sustainable golf course design and management, navigating Colorado water law, and planning native planting projects. Detail specific case studies that demonstrate abilities in these areas and approximate cost range.

3) Approach to Scope of Work: indicate the proposed approach to identifying areas for improvement, performing assessments of problem areas, developing recommendations for modifications to landscape chemical use, offering solutions to algae proliferation in ponds, and development of a master plan that is both comprehensive and comprehensible for a public audience.

4) List of References: Provide a list of at least three references including contact information.

5) Project Cost: Provide a fee schedule, standard billing rate, and total project budget broken down by task.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The successful candidate firm or team will provide examples and demonstrate the ability to:

- Manage expenses to approved budgets, demonstrate accountability, and meet deadlines.
- Incorporate input from diverse stakeholders with differing priorities.
- Design effective and durable floodplain and riparian restoration projects.
- Bring creative solutions to the project and to problem solving.

TIMELINE

<i>RFP Question and Answer Period Submit questions via email to pwadden@vail.gov</i>	<i>Ends July 31, 2024</i>
<i>RFP Due Date</i>	<i>August 7, 2024</i>
<i>Candidate Selection Process Narrow results to maximum of 3 firms, conduct interviews</i>	<i>Early August 2024</i>
<i>Contract Award</i>	<i>Around August 20, 2024</i>

CONTACT AND SUBMITTAL

Responses are due by 5 PM MST no later than Wednesday, August 7, 2024.

All responses will be submitted via email to pwadden@vail.gov.

Inquiries should be directed to:
Pete Wadden, Watershed Specialist
Town of Vail, Environmental Sustainability Department
970-479-2144
pwadden@vail.gov