

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Long Range Interpretive Plan
Irishtown Bend, Cleveland, OH
for
Canalway Partners**



ISSUED: February 28, 2023

SUBMITTAL DUE: March 23, 2023

About Canalway Partners

Canalway Partners, is a 501(c)3 non-profit. As a cultural heritage organization, we actively develop, preserve, and promote the dynamic history, culture, and landscapes of the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area (NHA) in Cuyahoga County.

Background and Summary

Project partners with the extensive Irishtown Bend (ITB) redevelopment project in Cleveland's Ohio City neighborhood have recently completed an expansive and ambitious design for the future 23-acre park. This regional greenspace destination is bounded by W25th Street, which is along the route of the Ohio & Erie Canal America's Byway, and the Cuyahoga River. It is a key connection for getting Towpath Trail users to the Lake Erie waterfront. Stabilization begins Spring 2023 and will continue into 2025. Park construction will begin as soon as 2025.

While great consideration has been given to the park design, emphasis has not yet been placed on how to tell the compelling stories of the site history and importance to the development of Cleveland's waterfronts, industry, and historic canal.

This project will be led by Canalway Partners to establish a Long Range Interpretive Plan (5-10 years) for the Irishtown Bend park space. This plan will identify how and where the stories will be told and how that will influence programming. The LRIP will identify the education and visitor engagement goals and will recommend strategies for implementation that are in harmony with adjacent sites as well as the Ohio & Erie Canalway interpretive themes.

The ITB site has already had extensive public engagement that is addressing the needs of the intergenerational residents of adjacent communities. It is both a neighborhood park for everyday use by nearby residents as well as a regional greenspace destination and the LRIP should reflect that vision.

General Scope & Qualifications

Canalway Partners is contracting with interpretive planners to develop a LRIP that will provide a vision for the future of interpretation, education, and visitor experience opportunities. Since ITB park is not yet developed, there is great opportunity to influence the design and locations for visitor experiences. The ideal consultant will have experience in creating LRIPs to National Park Service Standards, is trained in interpretive best practices & theory, and will have experience in creating plans for undeveloped sites.

General Site Description and History

Irishtown Bend (ITB), once the site of a 19th-century Irish shanty-town, is a largely-deserted, overgrown green oasis that in recent years has geologically moved, slipping enough to split roads and shake up a major sewer line. The comprehensive stabilization of the hillside begins in Spring 2023.

Irishtown Bend and the Cuyahoga River played a significant role in establishing Cleveland as an industrial center of national prominence, as evidenced by the buried warehouse and coal dock foundations, as well as the still-active Cuyahoga River shipping channel.

Two tunnels from the former Cleveland and Mahoning Railroad, a mid-19th-century short line connecting Cleveland to the coal fields of east central Ohio, pay tribute to the city's industrial history while providing unique features for this Park and its trails.

Irishtown Bend Park will fill a gap in the Cleveland Foundation's Centennial Lake Link Trail, which repurposed an abandoned rail line into a multipurpose trail that leads to Lake Erie.

A portion of Irishtown Bend is an archeological district listed on the National Register of Historic Places (1990). Three homes were excavated in the late 1980's. However, much of the district remains undisturbed.

The plans for **Irishtown Bend Park** elevate resident empowerment, collaboration, and equity considerations. The voice and vision of our community have shaped every aspect of the plans for this Park, which will bring together people, nature, industry, and history in an inclusive and accessible space.

See the appendix for selected slides from the vision plan. A full report is available on request and will be supplied to the selected consultant.

ITB is located in the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area and is identified as a key resource for public engagement. The OECNHA has produced management plans, draft themes, and a communications plan that includes recommendations for interpretation. Those plans are additional resources available.

Scope, Timeline, and Budget

Preference will be given to consultants who can complete the work by December 2023.

The scope of services and cost estimates should include:

- A site visit orientation with Canalway, key ITB partners, and design team.
- Community engagement meeting(s) with the Committee of Champions.
- Interviews with knowledge professionals such as archaeologists and local historians. Will require collaborating with an established park design team.
- Stakeholder workshop(s) that will identify:
 - The purpose and significance
 - A vision for the future based on defined targeted audiences, desired visitor experience, and challenges and opportunities affecting interpretation.
 - Interpretive Themes
 - A Media Report
 - Recommendations & Implementation Strategies
- The final product should be a full-text draft of the LRIP written, edited, and presented for review.
- If budget allows, design of media / signage.

The budget for this project should not exceed \$58,000

Process for Submittal

Canalway Partners will release this request via email and post on <http://www.canalwaypartners.com> Questions or needed clarifications can be directed to Mera Cardenas, Executive Director, Canalway Partners via email: mera@canalwaypartners.com

Consultants are encouraged to visit the park and project site and familiarize themselves with the project scope and Irishtown Bend history.

All proposals will be evaluated by Canalway Partners and selected members of the Irishtown Bend Working Group. Selection will be based on qualifications, ability to complete the work on the designated timeline, and value for services.

A. Statement Submittal to Canalway Partners

Firms interested in the project should provide via email a **letter of interest** in the project, their qualifications, and a range of costs for the scope of work.

The project is expected to be awarded by April 2023.

Consultants should be prepared to engage in the project immediately following the award and complete by December 2023.

Firms responding must have qualifications in interpretive planning.

Consideration will be given to firms with an established office within 50 miles of the City of Cleveland.

The letter of intent should include:

- a. Name, address and phone number of the offices where the personnel assigned to the project will be based.
- b. Name, title, email address and phone number of the principal contact person.
- c. Location of home office, general firm history & services provided, years of firm's existence.
- d. Legal form of firm.

Accompanying documents should include:

Project Experience Relevant projects of similar nature completed by the firm which may include:

- e. Description of the project and the services your firm provided.
- f. Name, title and role of key personnel that worked on the project who will also work on the ITB LRIP. Identify any sub consultants and their role in the project.
- g. Project costs and payment schedule.
- h. Start and completion dates for the project.
- i. Name, title, email address and telephone number of the client contact most familiar with your services on the project.

Project Approach Provide your team's vision of how best to accomplish the ITB LRIP including examples of successful strategies from past efforts.

Financial Information Identify any work that was awarded to you that you failed to complete, explaining where, when and why. Identify any contracts on which you have defaulted, explaining where, when and why. Identify any significant claims, lawsuits, judgments or defaults pending against you, including, as applicable, the name of the lawsuit, jurisdiction, amount of possible judgment and any other pertinent details.

References

List three references, including the company name, address, contact person, email and telephone number. By providing the Statement of Qualifications, you authorize any person, firm or corporation to furnish any information requested by Canalway Partners in verification of the recitals comprising your Statement of Qualifications.

Identify any potential conflicts of interest with Canalway Partners, LAND Studio, City of Cleveland, Ohio City INC, Cleveland Metroparks, or Port of Cleveland.

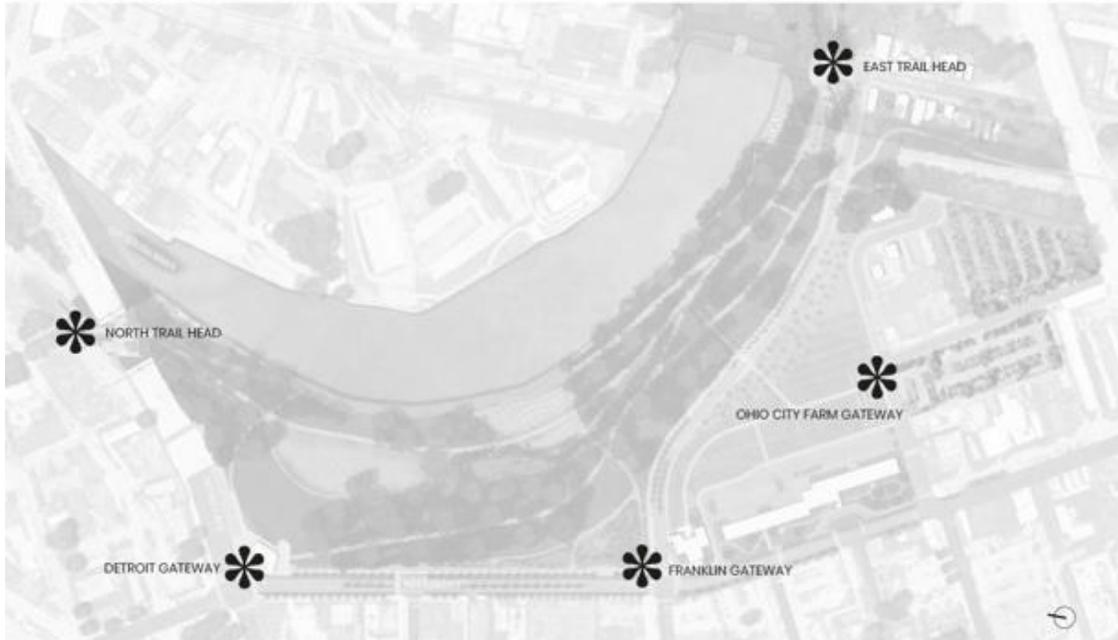
All packets should be submitted via email to Mera Cardenas, Executive Director, Canalway Partners via email: mera@canalwaypartners.com The subject line of the email should read "ITB – LRIP <firm name>". Please include a single PDF of the entire packet and use the same naming convention for the attachment.

Appendix:

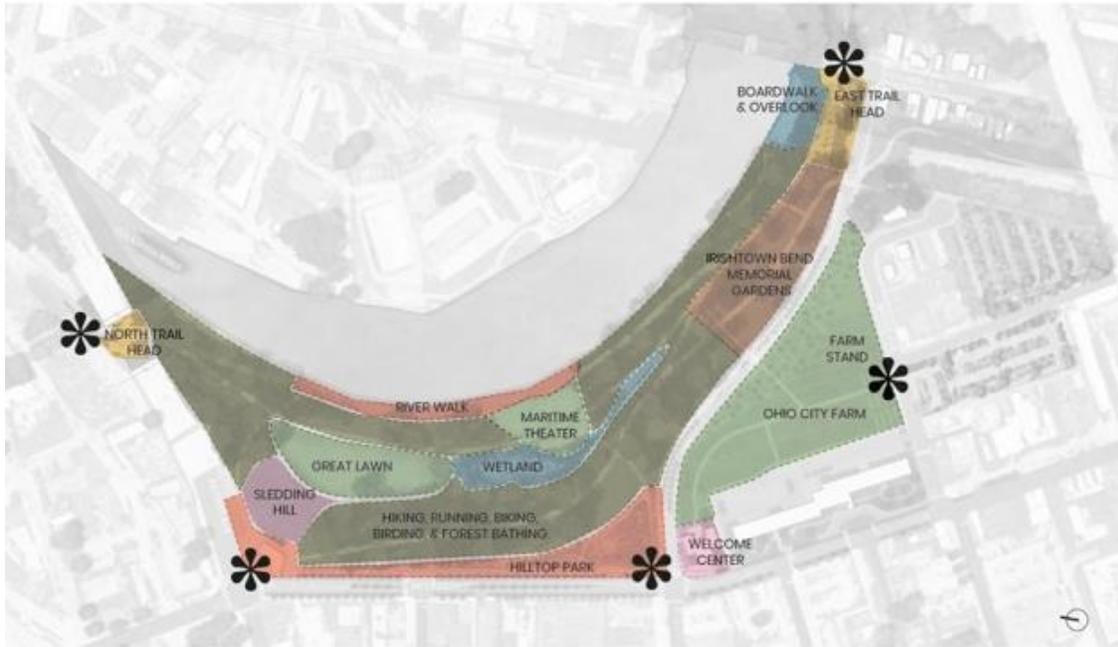
IRISHTOWN BEND PARK VISION PLAN UPDATE - 2021



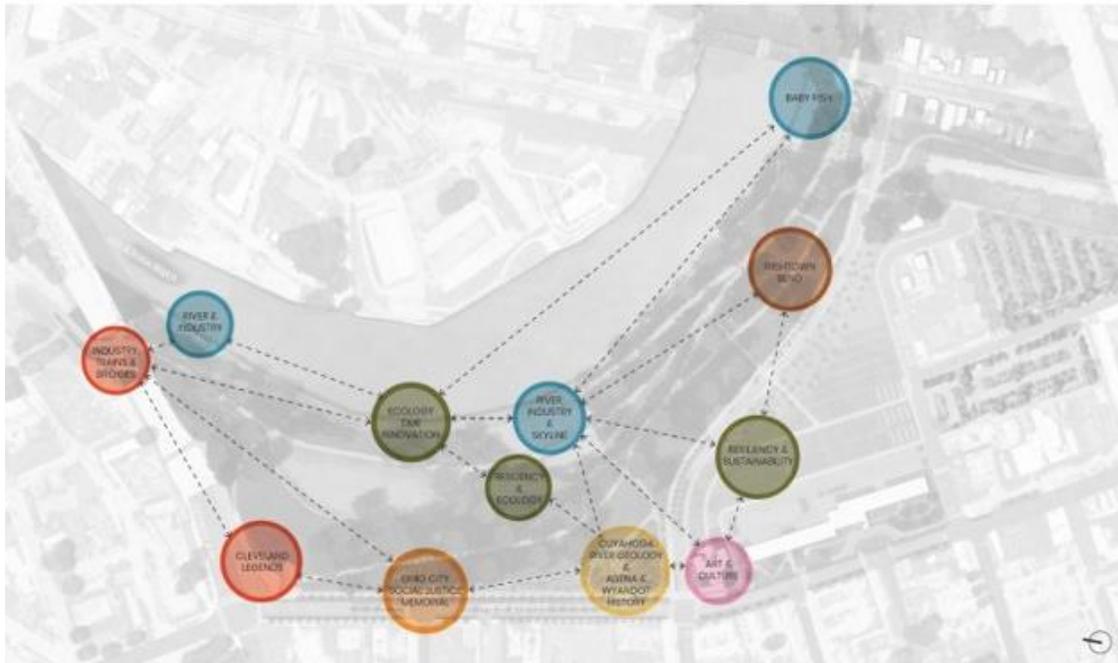
NEIGHBORHOOD GATEWAYS



PARK PROGRAMS



SITE STORIES



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