



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Consulting Services
EOI-X152-2024

Whistler Village Stroll Tree Strategy

Parks Planning Department

Resort Municipality of Whistler

whistler.ca

Whistler Village Tree Strategy

The Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW)

Summary of Key Information

Request Number	EOI-X152-2024
Issued:	February 9, 2024
Closing:	February 26, 2024

Site Visit or Meeting:

No meeting requirement. Interested parties are to submit all enquiries regarding this EOI and/or their expression of interest via email to the Contact Person named below.

Contact Person:

Annie Oja, Parks Planner

aoja@whistler.ca

RMOW Municipal Hall

4325 Blackcomb Way Whistler BC V8E 0X5

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1 Overview

1.1 Introduction: The Resort Municipality of Whistler

Situated within the shared, unceded territory of the Łilwat7úl (Lil'wat People) and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish People), the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) is a destination resort community, local government organization and leader in providing municipal programs, services, progressive planning and infrastructure for almost 14,000 permanent residents and over three million annual visitors. One of Whistler's major attractions is its Village Stroll, a pedestrian oriented linear plaza linking the base of Whistler and Blackcomb Mountains with the various urban amenities of the Village itself.

1.2 Purpose of the EOI

The purpose of this request for expressions of interest / statements of qualifications (the "RFEOI/SOQ") is to:

1. Invite submissions (the "Submission") from respondents (the "Respondent") that describe the desire, relevant expertise, capability, reputation and resources of the Respondent to undertake the project as generally set out in Section 2 Scope of Work; and
2. To select a Respondent or Respondents who may be invited to participate in the next stage of the competitive selection process, if called.

This RFEOI/SOQ is not a solicitation of proposals; rather it is a non-binding invitation to qualified Respondents to make themselves known to the RMOW by providing information and by demonstrating to the RMOW their desire, relevant experience, qualifications, capability, reputation and available resources.

All interested parties should respond to this RFQOI/SOQ as the RMOW does not guarantee that a more formal procurement process (as determined at the RMOW's discretion) will be issued following this RFQOI/SOQ and may elect to directly negotiate with one or more interested parties, or the RMOW may at any time and at its sole discretion decide to cancel this process for any reason.

The RMOW is offering interested Respondents the opportunity to express their interest in providing consulting services to develop a Whistler Village Tree Strategy, located within the Village Stroll (the "Village") in Whistler BC. The Respondent should be skilled and with demonstrated prior experience in urban forest management, arboriculture, greenway planning, landscape architecture, community and land-use planning, landscape ecology, community engagement and public interest group engagement.

The Respondent's Team should consist of professionals with the following backgrounds:

- Urban Forest Management
- Urban Forest Policy
- Arboriculture
- Landscape Architecture
- Urban Planning

Members of the Respondent's Team should be in good standing with their respective professional associations where appropriate (ie. BC Society of Landscape Architects). The Respondent is welcome to propose other team members or disciplines as they feel may be required by the Work.

This Expression of Interest is **NON-MANDATORY** and is not a pre-qualification event. There will be no evaluation, ranking, or selection of suppliers as a result of this EOI. If subsequent competitive bidding opportunities are issued, RMOW is under no obligation to advise any supplier responding to this EOI. Suppliers should monitor the BC Bid website (www.bcbid.ca) and RMOW's Business Webpage <https://www.whistler.ca/business> for such opportunities, which will be open to all suppliers, whether or not a response to this EOI was submitted.

1.3 Project Background

Whistler Village was initially conceived as a built environment carved out of the mountain forest. Mature trees throughout the Village provide shade, introduce a natural element, and are a means to place popular festive lighting. They also serve to add context and interest, frame views, reduce building massing and screen undesirable elements. Today's mature trees, many of them 30 to 50 years old, are an important component of the Whistler Village Design Guidelines yet the number and health of mature trees in the Village has been in decline through redevelopment, retail store visibility concerns, and early mortality due to inadequate tree rooting conditions. Wildfire and climate change are new considerations. Coniferous trees close to buildings are now discouraged. Whistler's summers are expected to become longer and hotter, and use of potable water for irrigation is expected to come under scrutiny.

This project will inventory existing trees in the Village, conduct a SWOT analysis, and develop a long-term action plan to ensure the presence and health of mature trees in the Village over time. It aims to outline the importance of trees and the various roles they play, identify common issues trees face in Whistler, discuss the future of trees in Village, engage with the general public and interest groups, and outline recommendations for the future management of trees.

1.4 The Site

The geographic scope of this strategy is limited to the Village Stroll – Figure 1 highlights this in the yellow tone. The Village Stroll starts at the base of Whistler Mountain and travels north over Village Gate Boulevard before terminating at the Whistler Olympic Plaza just south of Lorimer Road. The strategy will not consider the Upper Village Stroll located in the Upper Village at the base of Blackcomb Mountain at this time. There is mixed zoning and land ownership throughout the Village Stroll.

Figure 1. Site Location – Village Stroll



1.5 Budget

The approximate budget for this project is \$25,000CDN. We request proponents to advise the work from the list of tasks within 2.1 Scope of Work that they can provide for within this budget. Proponents are invited to submit value add tasks with accompanying cost estimates for consideration by the RMOW.

2 Scope of Work

2.1 Overview of Scope

The scope of work includes, but is not limited to, the following tasks:

Inventory

- Review and summarize existing bylaws and plans linked to the management of trees (ie. Guiding policies, implementing tools, supporting bylaws); and
- Update existing Whistler's existing Village Stroll Tree Inventory (2020, see Section 3) and add additional data (private or public land, maintenance control, on slab or not, in a planter, rooting volume and condition, and any special installation technique ie. Structural soil or Silva cells;

Analysis

- Rationale supporting why trees are important in the Village;
- Review and analyze existing tree management throughout the Village Stroll including staffing needs and budgets and compare to best management practices for urban forestry;
- Analysis of existing trees in the Village
 - Overall tree health and life expectancy;
 - Trees located on private land versus public land;
 - Tree canopy cover study;
 - Tree age diversity guide;
 - Species analysis;
 - Maintenance control;
 - Tolerance to current and future climate and disease risks;
 - Based upon the analysis, a higher-level SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities).
- Development of goals, objectives and recommendations for the long-term management of the Village Stroll urban forest; and
- Development of an action plan to implement the recommendations in the Strategy.

Technical review

- Development of a preferred tree species list taking into consideration site specific and Whistler conditions, drought tolerance, Fire Smart principles, and wildlife conflict mitigation; and
- Development of RMOW standard urban tree planting details (ie. tree on slab, tree in a raised planter, tree in a green infrastructure, tree in unit pavers).

Engagement support

- Development of, and participation in, a community outreach and engagement strategy to facilitate input from the public and interest groups; and
- Coordinate and lead 1 round of public and interest group engagement to 'Consult' level on the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum.

2.2 Project Deliverables

The key project deliverables, to be supplied to RMOW in electronic format are:

- An engaging and public facing Whistler Village Stroll Tree Strategy Report.
- Updated Tree Inventory in pdf and GIS format.

RMOW will provide the following information:

- GIS data (property lines, buildings, roads)
- Aerial Photography (10cm) (2023)
- Whistler Village Stroll Tree Inventory (2020) See Section 3

2.3 Foundational Documents

- Community Charter and Local Government Act
- Whistler's Official Community Plan (2020)
 - OCP Schedule T: Whistler Village Design Guidelines
 - OCP Schedule S – Wildfire Protection DPA
 - OCP Schedule J – Protection of Riparian Ecosystems DPA
- Community Energy and Climate Action Plan (2016)
- Climate Action Big Moves Strategy (2020)
- Environmental Protection Bylaw (2012)

2.4 Preliminary Project Timeline

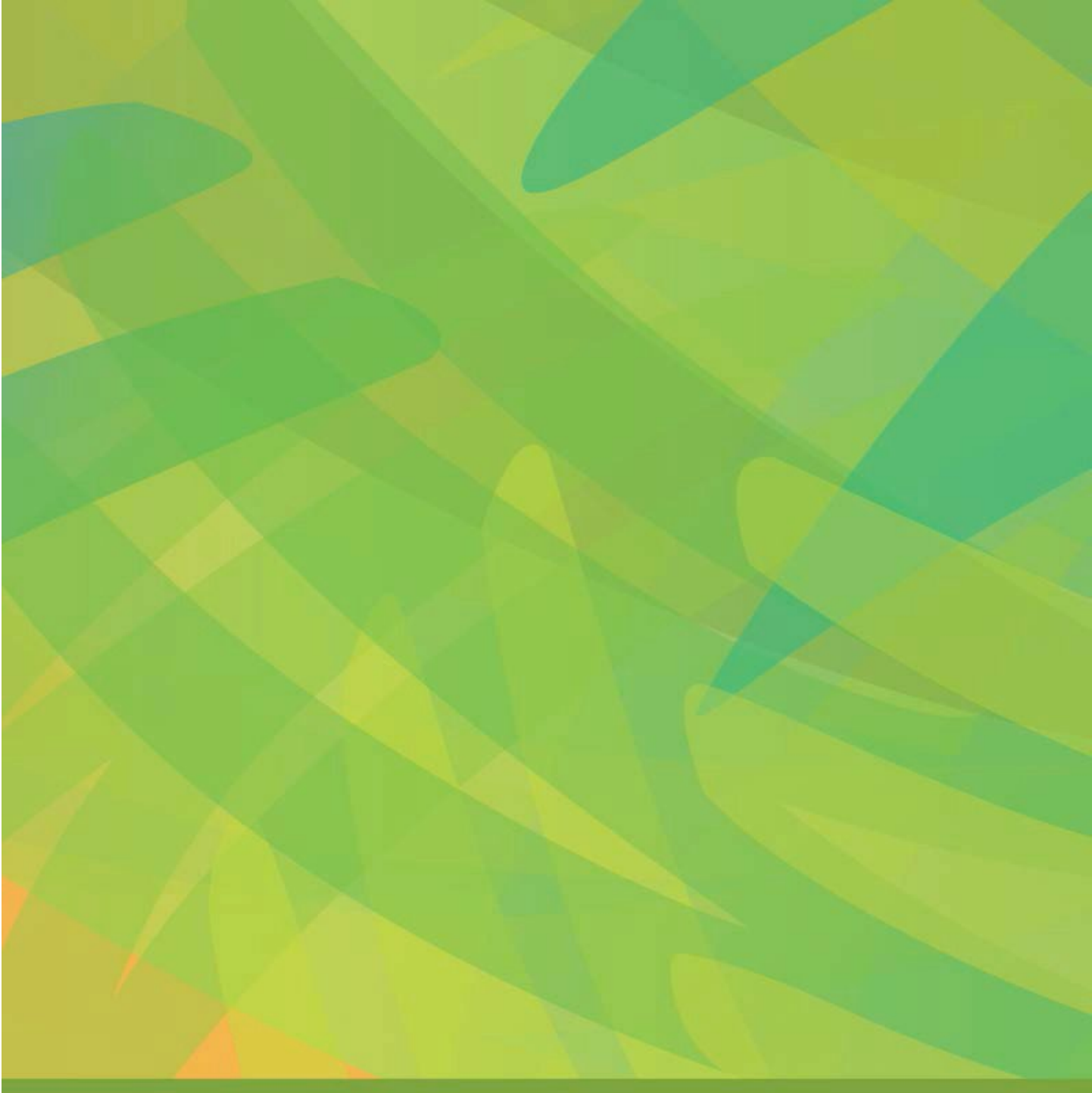
The timeline below is indicative of the anticipated project milestone dates.

Description / Deliverable	Milestone Date(s)
Kick-off meeting	March 2024
Background review and inventory update	March – May 2024
Public and Interest Group Engagement	May 2024
Draft goals, objectives and recommendations	June-Aug 2024
Draft action plan and technical review	Aug-Sept 2024
Final Whistler Village Stroll Tree Strategy	Nov 2024

3 Whistler Village Stroll Tree Inventory (2020)

INCLUDED FOR REFERENCE.

This inventory was originally prepared by B.A. Blackwell and Associates in 2020.



The Resort Municipality of Whistler

Whistler: A place where our community thrives, nature is protected and guests are inspired.

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