

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Franklin's Whitewater Park



RFQ Released | 01/15/2018

Deadline for Questions | 02/05/2018

Deadline for Submissions | 02/15/2018

Prepared by:

City of Franklin

316 Central Street

Franklin, NH 03235



1 | PURPOSE

The City of Franklin is requesting qualifications from professional firms to provide permitting services for the Winnepesaukee River project. The City is seeking an engineering firm capable of joining an integrated team to perform regulatory permitting for a river restoration project with in-stream whitewater features and interconnection to adjacent trail systems.

Submittals should be made by engineering firms capable and with a past history of working with New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, the Army Corp of Engineers and other stakeholders. Any firms with interest shall have the resources (engineers, trained professionals, software, support services, etc.) required to execute within the time identified herein.

The City of Franklin, in partnership with local nonprofit Mill City Park at Franklin Falls, are collaborating on this project. This collaborative team is seeking firms with competence, knowledge, and experience with the work described herein.

Based on the selection criteria set forth, the collaborative team will select a limited number of firms for an onsite interview, of which a finalist will be hired.

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Deadline for Questions	February 5, 2018
Deadline for Quotes	February 15, 2018
Selection of Finalists	February 22, 2018
Interview Process	February 26, 2018

2 | PROJECT

2.1 | OVERVIEW

Once a vibrant industrial hub, Franklin, New Hampshire (NH) is now the smallest and poorest city in the state. Quality of life here can improve and we believe the positive effects of integration of the river into our community can be the second act of our small city.

Franklin's Whitewater Park is depicted by the blue dotted line in the below graphic. An underdeveloped mill district is depicted in red with our historic downtown shaded blue.



PHASE 1'S INTERCONNECTION TO THE DOWNTOWN

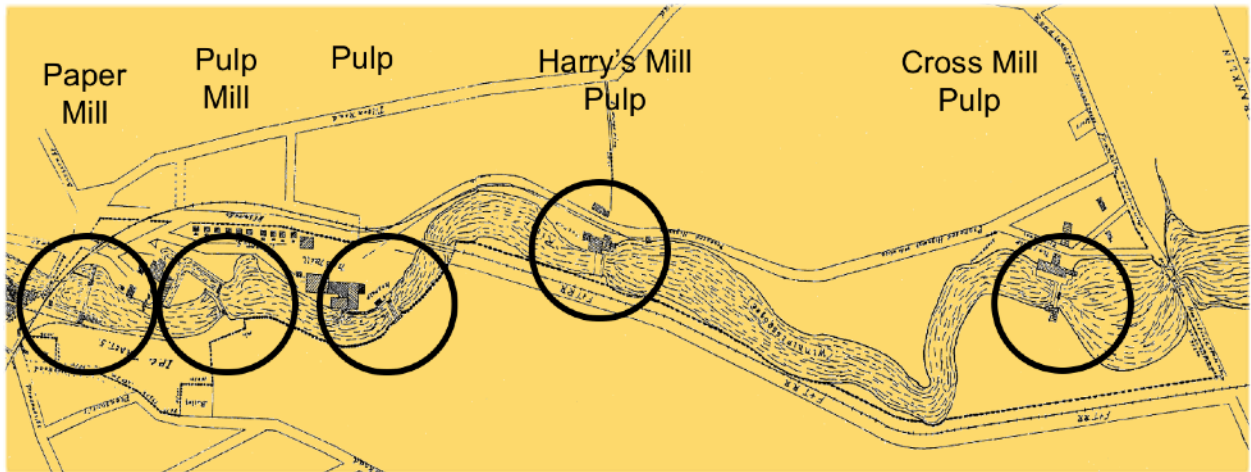
The Winnepesaukee River is the entrance to our historic downtown, which sees over 18,000 cars a day and is the take out for the Class III section of the river. Instead of working on the entire 1.25 mile section, this phase will focus on the last 1,200 feet of the river.

In 2015, a grassroots organization lead the promotion and fundraising of this idea. Their first work product was a collaboration with NH Department of Resources and Economic Development. Together, they produced a report which documented annual direct spending of \$6.8 Million if a similar whitewater park concept was created. In the summer of 2017, they were able to bring McLaughlin Whitewater Design Group into town for a site visit and feasibility study. McLaughlin's Report is attached as Appendix 1.

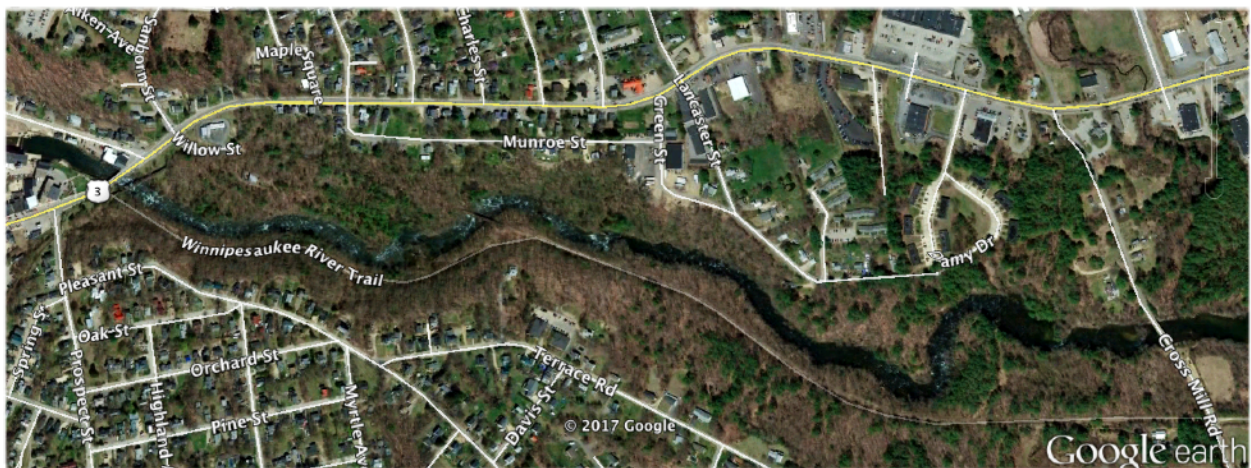
Since then advocacy and reception of this concept has only grown. Now Mill City Park at Franklin Falls, is the face of the movement, with dedicated partners at the City of Franklin, Franklin Business and Industrial Development Corporation (FBIDC) and PermaCityLife. This Downtown Coordination Group is the positive definition of public/private partnerships which have accomplished a great deal together around downtown.

2.2 | RIVER USE & OVERUSE

The 1.25 mile Class III section starts at Cross Mill Road and flows to Trestle View Park. During the industrial age there were 5 mill sites. The buildings are mostly gone but remnants remain in the river and on the adjacent land. There is nothing natural left of the original Winnepesaukee River.



UPSTREAM OF TRESTLE VIEW PARK (THEN 1880)



UPSTREAM OF TRESTLE VIEW PARK (NOW)

Downstream of Trestle View Park, there are two hydropower facilities on the Winnepesaukee River before it joins the Pemigewasset River and forms the Merrimack River.

2.3 | PROJECT TEAM

To efficiently manage this project and the current resources, multiple consultant services are up for procurement rather than a single lead consultant.

For a NH based project this makes sense, especially in view of the fact that there are only 5 qualified engineering/design consultants for these in-stream whitewater parks, all with primary offices in Colorado. At this time, these engineering firms have not completed a NH based project and thus would require significant travel expenses to work through state regulatory issues. Therefore, in addition to procuring an engineering/design consultant, additional consultants for surveying, and permitting will be procured.

The Project Manager/Coordinator role will be filled by the Executive Director of Mill City Park, who works in Franklin.

3 | PHASE 1 SUMMARY & RELATED WORK

The following illustrations were produced out of the McLaughlin Report.



PARK FEATURE



BRIDGE FEATURE

This phase of the project concentrates on the most publicly accessible part of the overall project; the last 1,200 feet of the river, Trestle View Park, associated river outlooks and interconnection to the Winnepesaukee River Trail (WRT).

Funding for preliminary design, permitting and final design has been awarded through the United States Economic Development Agency (EDA).

3.1 | OBJECTIVES

As documented in the EDA application, Franklin's whitewater park should be designed to:

- 1 | Utilize the existing features of the Winnepesaukee River to the greatest extent possible
- 2 | Be user-friendly and accessible to spectators as well as kayakers, rafters, surfers, etc
- 3 | Support year-round and predictable water flows that remove seasonal restrictions on use of the river and promotes Olympic-style competitions
- 4 | incorporates whitewater "play" features to the greatest extent possible

3.2 | PARK COMPONENTS

The elements of the park include, but are not limited to:

1 | Environmental Improvements

All portions of the project should be done in an environmental regenerative or sustainable way. Special concerns are fish passage, plant life, soil erosion, invasive species and native materials.

2 | Safety Improvements

The Winnepesaukee River is marred by old dam and mill remnants that still lie beneath the rapids. Removal of all dangerous materials is a requirement. This includes cribbing, brick, granite and most notably bent rebar.

3 | Terraced Seating & Bank Stabilization

An amphitheater that marries industrial and environmental styles will be constructed at Trestle View Park. This will provide stairs and seating at the signature and most accessible whitewater feature. Terraced seating will be constructed between the Central St. Bridge and the Trestle Bridge to provide viewing of the Bridge Wave and to stabilize the river banks.

4 | River Level Walking Path

The Winnepesaukee River Trail is an established rail trail on the southern bank of the river, meanders from Franklin to Lake Winnepesaukee with plans of interconnected

expansion. A river level walking path will be constructed, linking the River Trail to Trestle View park and downtown.

5 | Park Feature

The signature and most accessible whitewater feature of the Winnepesaukee River should provide the capability to host events at high or low water across from the amphitheater. It is a requirement to be able to loop and perform other aerial moves without flushing off the feature at low water. This feature shall have the ability to be illuminated for night surfing.

6 | Bridge Wave

A secondary signature feature will be located between the Central St. Bridge and the Trestle Bridge. Currently, at flows under 1,000 cfs three signature hits or waves appear with a shallow fast surf wave. Providing an additional play spot, as depicted, in the conceptual drawings would be an improvement. This feature shall have the ability to be illuminated for night surfing.

7 | Slalom Course Channelization

The last rapid, known as Zippy's, provides a fast and shallow riverbed that accelerates the paddler into downtown Franklin. The ambition for the rapid is to channelize the river to create a suitable location for slalom training and competition, as well as kayak instruction.

8 | Ledge Hole

Currently, a ledge hole exists about 1,200 feet upriver from the end of the run at a previous dam site. The hole is just upstream of a large river left eddy. An additional wave or hole at this location will conclude river improvements.

The above numbering of the river elements correspond to the below illustration.



PARK ELEMENTS

3.3 | WORK SCOPE

The work scope for this engineering firm is listed below.

1| Permitting Activities include, but not limited to,

- Responsible for drafting and implementing all project permits with local regulators; CWA Section 404 permit, 401 water quality certification, local floodplain permitting, etc
- Communication with project coordinator and whitewater engineering firms is required to ensure all permits are accurate, expedited and comments addressed.

2 | Communication Activities include, but not limited to,

- Weekly Status and Teleconference for Team Members
- Status based off work schedule, missed dates or milestones identified with root cause and reaction plans to regain schedule
- Onsite two (2) day kick off meeting
- Onsite two (2) day presentation for preliminary design
- Onsite two (2) day presentation for final design

3.4 | SCHEDULE

This project is a part of Franklin's Revitalization, which after decades of neglect, our city finally has momentum on it's side. To ensure it stays that way, performance against the below schedule is crucial.

Tasks	Start	End
1. Procure & assemble consulting team	1/1/18	3/1/18
2. Preliminary design	3/1/18	11/1/18
3. Survey Work	3/1/18	7/1/18
4. Floodplain model	3/1/18	6/1/18
5. Community input sessions/review preliminary designs	12/1/18	12/31/18
6. Obtain necessary permits & approvals	7/1/18	12/31/18
7. Final design	1/1/19	4/1/19
8. Prepare/develop financing strategy	1/1/19	4/1/19
9. Project Coordination	1/1/18	4/1/19

Period of performance of the project is January 1, 2018 through April 1, 2019.

4 | SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

To be considered, an engineering firm shall submit one (1) electronic PDF and five (5) hard copies of the RFQ submittal no later than February 15, 2018. Submittals shall be sent to Judie Milner, City of Franklin, 316 Central Street, Franklin, NH. Late submittals will not be accepted.

Complete RFQ submittals shall include the following items:

- 1 | Identification of the engineering firm's understanding of the Winnepesaukee River Project's objectives, and how that coincides with the firm's capabilities for support of the permitting effort.
- 2 | Summary of the firm's experience with similar projects. Project examples should include the cost and duration of the permitting effort, as well as, the cost and duration of the engineering and construction phases.
- 3 | Contact information for the firm's point of contact.
- 4 | Summary of the individuals dedicated to this project. A description of each member's qualifications and relevant experience, as well as, a description of each member's roll with assigned tasks.
- 5 | Each member of the firm associated with this project shall submit a minimum of two (2) examples of work performed on similar projects. Photographs of completed work are encouraged.
- 6 | Contact information for each team member who would be assigned to this project.

5 | SELECTION

5.1 | EVALUATION & SELECTION

All complete RFQ submittals received by the deadline will be reviewed by a Selection Committee, comprised of the following:

J. Milner, Franklin Interim City Manager
J. Laucks, Mill City Park Secretary
O. Gottlieb, Mill City Park President

The Selection Committee will utilize a weighted criteria approach with an associated score card. In which the three highest engineering firms will be interviewed for a final interview selection.

The engineering firms selected for an interview process, will be selected using the criteria weighing below:

Criteria	Weight
Demonstrated ability to create a unique world class design for the City of Franklin.	20%
Demonstrated understanding of the nature & objectives of this project.	20%
Experience & performance on similar projects, with a demonstrated ability to overcome challenges.	15%
Experience and qualifications of Principal-in-Charge and project team members.	15%
Ability to balance historic preservation, environmental restoration & recreation, in a way that highlights the City's history.	15%
Demonstrated ability to deliver quality work products on time & within budget.	15%
TOTAL	100%

Rating	Definition	Score
Excellent	Exceeds the criterion. Exceptional demonstration by the Respondent of the relevant ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource and quality measures required to meet the criterion. Quote identifies factors that will offer potential added value, with supporting evidence.	10-9
Good	Satisfies the criterion with minor additional benefits. Above average demonstration by the Respondent of the relevant ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource and quality measures required to meet the criterion. Quote identifies factors that will offer potential added value, with supporting evidence.	8-7
Acceptable	Satisfies the criterion. Demonstration by the Respondent of the relevant ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource, and quality measures required to meet the criterion, with supporting evidence.	6-5
Minor Reservations	Satisfies the criterion with minor reservations. Some minor reservations of the Respondent's relevant ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource and quality measures required to meet the criterion, with little or no supporting evidence.	4-3
Serious Reservations	Satisfies the criterion with major reservations. Considerable reservations of the respondent's relevant ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource and quality measures required to meet the criterion, with little or no supporting evidence.	2-1
Unacceptable	Does not meet the criterion. Does not comply and/or insufficient information provided to demonstrate that the Respondent has the ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource and quality measures required to meet the criterion, with little or no supporting evidence.	0

5.3 | SCHEDULE

The RFQ schedule for this process is as follows:

RFQ Released	January 1, 2018
Deadline for Questions	February 5, 2018
Deadline for Quotes	February 15, 2018
Selection of Finalists	February 22, 2018
Interview Process	February 26, 2018
Finalized Selection	March 5, 2018
Project Kickoff	March 12, 2018

5.4 | QUESTIONS & CONTACTS

Questions are required to be submitted before February 5, 2018. Any responses to questions submitted will be provided to all engineering firms that have identified their intent to respond to the RFQ.

Any questions should be submitted in writing to the following contacts:

Judie Milner
City Manager
(603) 934-3900 ext. 5
JMilner@franklinnh.org

City of Franklin
316 Central Street
Franklin, NH 03235



Marty Parichand
Executive Director
(603) 491-8694
info@millcitypark.com

Mill City Park
376 Central Street
Franklin, NH 03235



APPENDIX 1 | EDA GRANT WORK SCOPE SUMMARY