REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS No. 23-054

Regional District of Nanaimo Parks Biodiversity Plan

Addendum 2
Issued: August 24, 2023

Closing Date & Time: on or before 3:00 PM Pacific Time on September 1, 2023

Timeline update
The project timeline will be extended to March 31, 2024.

Data Collection
There is no existing RDN database of invasive or sensitive species. The successful proponent will access data from sources such as, the Invasive Species Council of BC, Coastal Invasive Species Committee, Vegetation Resource Index, and BC Invasives (Formerly Invasive and Alien Plant Program), in addition to field verification. Given the large area of interest, it is understood that field verification of every park is unrealistic, therefore expectations for field verification will be discussed with the successful proponent. Relevant reports from existing park projects will be shared with the successful proponent.

Level of Detail
The project's primary directive is to guide the improvement of biodiversity in parks. While it is anticipated that primary focus will be on plants such as Scotch Broom, Ivy, Daphne laurel, and blackberry as these are the most abundant across the region, the report must also reflect the impacts less common invasive plants have on particular parks. Direction will be taken from the successful proponent regarding the granularity of detail required to have both feasible and accurate action plans. The report will not include data collection or action plans regarding invasive insect and animal species, however observations may be recorded and noted in the plan as additional information.

Fire Hazard
There is a significant link between the presence of invasive species and their influence on wildfire hazard, and where relevant, should be highlighted in this report. No recommended activities should significantly increase wildfire hazard and ignition potential.

Integrated Pest Management
It is expected that the Parks Biodiversity plan will take an Integrated Pest Management approach, blended with best practices as well as important considerations for the environment. The use of herbicide should be avoided, and only considered in extreme circumstances where there are imminent impacts to human safety and public property, where all other non-chemical options have been deemed inappropriate.

Audience
This report and inventory will be a tool for RDN staff which will help prioritize restoration and invasive species management efforts. The report may be shared with community and ecological societies to further support their efforts within RDN Parks.

Level of Engagement
The Parks Biodiversity Plan will be predominantly informed through data collection and expertise of a qualified professional. Where applicable, targeted discussions with other RDN departments, ecological societies or community members will be organized by Parks staff. The successful proponent will participate in these targeted discussions.

Use of Report
The purpose of this project is to identify realistic action plans for RDN Parks spaces in need of biodiversity improvement and invasive species removal. All action plans should be achievable within current budgets and staff capacity. Qualified professionals may report on observations about current resources and make recommendations for future capacity building if technically relevant.

End of Addendum 2