

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
Dinosaur Dig Sand Play Area
At
NIABI ZOO, 13010 Niabi Zoo Road, Coal Valley, IL 61240

1. PURPOSE OF REQUEST

The Rock Island County Forest Preserve District (District) is soliciting proposals from qualified playground equipment manufacturers and/or vendors to design, provide, and install a Stegosaurus Dinosaur Dig Sand Play Area at Niabi Zoo, 13010 Niabi Zoo Road, Coal Valley, IL 61240, as detailed in this Request for Proposals (RFP). In general, the District desires a unique play equipment with realistic features and high play value that will encourage physical activity and enhance motor skill development. The Dinosaur Dig Sand Play Area design must meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and utilize International Playground Equipment Manufacturers Association (IPEMA) certified equipment that meets or exceeds all federal and state guidelines and conforms to the playground related technical standards set by the American Society of Testing Materials International (ASTM) and the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC). This project is funded with grant funds obtained from the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources Open Space Land Acquisition & Development grant program.

The selected vendor(s) will be required to coordinate the final design and selection of equipment with the Niabi Zoo Director to ensure a coordinated and cohesive finished project that benefits the zoo and community. The selected vendor(s) will be required to coordinate the installation of the selected play area equipment with the District to minimize the duration of area closure within Niabi Zoo, if necessary. Vendor's are invited to submit Proposals with designs identified in this RFP.

2. SCOPE OF WORK

Selected vendor will be responsible for the design, provision, surfacing, and installation of a Stegosaurus dinosaur dig sand play area at Niabi Zoo.

Location: Niabi Zoo, 13010 Niabi Zoo Road, Coal Valley, IL 61240. See maps attached.

Desired Equipment:

- Stegosaurus Dinosaur Dig Sand Play Area approximately 30'x10'
- Wheelchair accessibility to and around the play area
- One (1) transfer station from a mobility device to ground level
- Play area and any amenities must be age appropriate with proper signage
- All products shall bear the certificate seal of IPEMA and meet or exceed ADA accessibility Guidelines for Play Areas
- All equipment shall conform to current playground-related ASTM and CPSC technical standards including, but not limited to:

1. ASTM F1487-21 (Playground Equipment)
 2. CPSC Publication #325: Public Playground Safety Handbook
- Vendors and their contractor(s) must be prepared to comply with all state, federal and local requirements for play structure equipment. Vendors are responsible for verifying site conditions. No allowances will be made if a vendor fails to adequately examine a location before submitting a proposal. All equipment shall be installed by a factory trained, insured, and certified installer. Following installation, a full and thorough audit of all newly installed play equipment will be performed by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) of the District to address and resolve any identified deficiencies within (7) days of notification of the deficiencies by the District.
 - This project is subject to the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act (30 ILCS 559/20-1 et seq.): For grants/contracts with an estimated total project cost of \$500,000 or more, the grantee/contractor will be required to comply with the Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative (30 ILCS 559/20-20 to 20-25) and all applicable administrative rules. The "estimated total project cost" is a good faith approximation at the time an applicant submits to the Department an application of the costs of an entire project being paid for in whole or in part by appropriated capital funds to construct a public work. Operational costs are not included in the calculation of estimated total project costs (ILCS 559/20-10). The goal of the Illinois Apprenticeship Initiative is that apprentices will perform either 10% of the total labor hours actually worked in each prevailing wage classification or 10% of the estimated labor hours in each prevailing wage classification, whichever is less. Of this goal, at least half of those apprenticeship hours shall be performed by graduates of the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program, the Illinois Climate Works Program, or the Highway Construction Careers Training Program. Grantees will be permitted to seek from the Department a waiver or reduction of this goal in certain circumstances pursuant to (30 ILCS 559/20-20(b)). The grantee must ensure compliance for the life of the entire project, including during the term of the grant and after the term ends, if applicable, and will be required to report on and certify its compliance.
 - **Prevailing Wage Rates:** This contract is subject to an "AN ACT regulating wages of laborers, mechanics and other workers employed in any public works by the State, County, City or any public body or any political subdivision or by anyone under contract for public works", approved June 26, 1941, as amended, except that where a prevailing wage violates a Federal law, order, or ruling, the rate conforming to the Federal law, order, or ruling shall govern. The "prevailing rate of wages" will be used for this contract. The following conditions will be required: Not less than prevailing rate of wages for Rock Island County as found by the Illinois Department of Labor or determined by a court on review shall be paid to all laborers, workers and mechanics performing work under this contract. These prevailing rates of wages are included in this contract. The contractor and each subcontractor shall keep an accurate record showing the names and occupations of all laborers, workers and mechanics employed by them on this contract, and also showing the actual hourly wages paid to each of such persons. The submission by the contractor and each subcontractor of payrolls, or copies thereof, is required. The contractor and each subcontractor shall preserve their weekly payroll records for a period of three years from the date of completion of this contract. If the

Illinois Department of Labor revises the prevailing rate of hourly wages to be paid by Rock Island County, the revised rates as provided by the public body shall apply to this contract. Please access Rock Island County Forest Preserve District Website (www.ricfpd.org) for Prevailing Wage Information or the Illinois Department of Labor (www.illinois.gov/idol/Pages/default.aspx)

3. INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS

Thank you for your interest in providing the District with your products and services. All submissions must be presented in accordance with the requirements, format, and guidelines described in this RFP document.

To submit a proposal, interested entities must submit (1) hard copy and (1) electronic copy (PDF format) of the information requested no later than **2:00 p.m. Thursday, July 30, 2026.**

Proposal hard copy should be sent to:
Rock Island County Forest Preserve District
Attn: Dinosaur Dig Sand Play Area RFP
19406 Loud Thunder Road
Illinois City, IL 61259

Electronic copy should be sent to:
Lee Jackson, Zoo Director, email ljackson@niabizoo.com

Vendors' shall carefully examine this Request for Proposal and any addenda. Vendors' should seek clarification of any ambiguity, conflict, omission or other error in the RFP in writing. All questions, request for interpretation, and comments shall be prepared in writing and submitted to Lee Jackson (ljackson@niabizoo.com) via email by Friday, July 24, 2026. If the answer materially affects the RFP, the information will be incorporated into an addendum and distributed to the Vendor(s) and posted on the District's website (www.ricfpd.org). Discussions with other District employees or officials during the solicitation and evaluation period are inappropriate. Therefore, vendor(s) shall not contact any other District employees or officials regarding this RFP during the period of solicitation and evaluation. Oral comments do not form a part of this RFP. Question and clarification responses will be sent to all parties having submitted questions. All responses will be binding. If a respondent has no questions, please state so via email so that responses will be forwarded. Oral or other interpretations will be without legal effect.

Any changes in this RFP for will be posted and distributed to any vendors of record. Any and all addenda will be numbered in sequence, dated as the date of issue, posted and distributed via e-mail or U.S. Mail.

This RFP solicitation does not commit the District to pay any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of RFP or in making necessary studies or designs for the preparation thereof, nor to procure or contract for service.

Site visits will be made available for any interested vendor. Vendors are encouraged to review site conditions to familiarize themselves with the park and playground area. Vendors may visit the site independently during Niabi Zoo's daily operational hours of business. When scheduling site visits, please email Niabi Zoo Director, Lee Jackson, ljackson@niabizoo.com

4. GENERAL VENDOR SPECIFICATIONS & REQUIREMENTS

All applicants are encouraged to visit Niabi Zoo prior to submitting a proposal to view and inspect the construction area. All vendors will be required to fulfill any specific permits, licenses or registrations required. All vendors must be in satisfactory standing with the State of Illinois Department of Business and provide a certificate of good standing. It is the responsibility of the vendor to verify that adequate amenities are available to support the specifications requested to be provided at Niabi Zoo. The costs of any modifications to Niabi Zoo to accommodate any services and equipment provided shall be the responsibility of the vendor and such modifications will be made at the discretion and supervision of District (Niabi Zoo) personnel.

A. PRICING

Prices for currently available services and products must be submitted in the proposal and fixed for the throughout the term of the contractual agreement. The proposal shall be a lump sum fixed price. The lump sum fixed price shall remain valid for a period of not less than ninety (90) calendar days from the due date of this RFP.

B. INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. The Vendor will be required to furnish proof of Commercial General Liability Insurance in the amount of one million (\$1,000,000) dollars per occurrence and two million (\$2,000,000) in aggregate for bodily injury, property damage and product liability.
2. Workers Compensation Insurance will be required to cover all persons employed by the Vendor engaged in the performance of the work hereunder.
3. Business Auto Liability Insurance in an amount no less than one million (\$1,000,000) per occurrence will be required.
4. Indemnification and Hold Harmless – The successful Vendor agrees that the District shall not be liable for any damage or injury of whatever nature to any person or property occurring on the premises subject to an Agreement as a result of any activities of the Vendor or its use of the premises during the term hereof. The Vendor shall hold the District harmless from any and all claims which may arise from such damage or injury above-mentioned and shall, at its own cost and expense, defend any and all actions that may be brought against the District upon such claims and pay any and all judgements that may be recovered against the District on such actions, provided, however, the District shall be liable, and the Vendor shall have no obligation to indemnify the District, to the extent that such damage or injury is caused by the sole negligence of the District or any of its agents or employees. Failure to provide insurance information may result in disqualification from further consideration.

C. BASIC PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Proposals should be prepared simply, providing a straight forward and concise description of Vendor capabilities to satisfy the requirements of this request. Special bindings, colored displays, promotional materials, etc. may be submitted. Emphasis should be on completeness and clarity of content.

All proposals must include the following information:

1. Legal name of organization, business and/or individual of those submitting the RFP. Include address of principal place of business, phone numbers, email contact and primary person to contact for sales and service.
2. A narrative background of proposer's ability and experience in providing products and services.
3. In each proposal, please address the following:
 - a. Please identify the services and products you propose to provide.
 - b. Please describe your safety procedures.
 - c. What type, if any, temporary or permanent site improvements required.
4. A minimum of two references indicating recent experience pertaining to construction or installation of similar play area.
5. A copy of the contract with the terms of this proposal outlined.

D. SELECTION CRITERIA (RFP EVALUATION)

The objective of this RFP is to obtain dependable, cost effective and quality. The District will review the proposals, determine the proposal deemed most advantageous to the District, and may interview the Vendor if necessary, and make a final recommendation regarding the award to the qualified proposer offering the best services and value to the District.

5. TERMS & CONDITIONS

Please note the following general requirements that apply to all RFP submittals.

- A. The proposed contractual term shall be for time required to complete the described Scope of Services.
- B. The District reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive minor irregularities in any proposal, to request clarification of information submitted, to request additional information from any proposer, and to make the final decision as to the best proposal.
- C. The contractual agreement resulting from acceptance of a proposal by the District shall be provided by the Vendor and reviewed by the District's legal representatives before being approved by the District and shall reflect the specifications in this RFP.
- D. The District shall not be responsible for any costs incurred by the proposer in preparing, submitting or presenting its response to the RFP.
- D. The Vendor will be responsible to negotiate agreements with all their supply vendors.
- E. The successful Vendor shall comply with standards and recommendations of the state and local law enforcement offices and agencies in all matters.
- F. The successful Vendor shall be required to comply with all Federal, State, County and jurisdictional laws, regulations and codes with regards to licenses or permits to do business, and all other matters. The Vendor further agrees not to allow any employee or volunteer to work at the District's property who does not comply with Section 10 of the agreement. Failure

by the Vendor to comply with this requirement is grounds for immediate termination of the agreement.

G. Vendors will adhere to all Niabi Zoo policies while on zoo grounds.

H. Submission of a proposal indicates acceptance by the proposer of the terms, conditions and requirements described in this RFP unless clearly and specifically noted in the submittal.

6. PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS AND STANDARDS

The District expects the Vendor to meet District's expectations. Vendor employees shall exercise courtesy and consideration in their relations with the public and present a professional neat and clean appearance.

7. SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS

In the event of a dispute, whether between the Vendor and the public or the Vendor and the District, the District reserves the right to immediately suspend operations for up to 48 hours for investigative purposes. A written suspension notice stating just cause for suspension and suspension term must be presented to the Vendor at time of suspension. Within the 48 hours, the District must provide the Vendor with a written recommended course of action or corrective measures.

8. TERMINATION OF CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT

A contractual agreement may be immediately terminated by the District without prior notification if operations are found to be detrimental to the safety and health of the District's staff, zoo animals or general public. The Vendor must give thirty (30) days written notice to the District in order to terminate the agreement. The District reserves the right to terminate the Vendors agreement, with or without cause, with thirty (30) days written notice to Vendor.

9. LICENSING AND REGULATIONS

The Vendor will be responsible for securing and maintaining and displaying where applicable, all licenses and permits required by the applicable authorities to install the desired scope of products and services.

10. VENDOR EMPLOYEES

The Vendor will not use a person as an employee to install or service equipment or deliver goods that has been convicted of crimes against vulnerable persons, such as children, the elderly or the disabled; crimes of dishonesty; or crimes using or threatening violence including, but not limited to the use, display or threat of a weapon.

11. ASSIGNABILITY

The Vendor operator shall not assign any interest in the contractual agreement and shall not transfer any interest in same.

12. RELATIONSHIP

Nothing contained in the contractual agreement shall establish an employer-employee relationship between the Vendor and its employees, subcontractors or independent

contractors and the District. The Vendor shall be solely responsible and shall assume exclusive liability for the actions, conduct, supervision and instruction of its employees, subcontractors or independent contractors.

13. MAINTENANCE

Vendor is responsible for cleaning, maintaining and repairing any and all areas affected from the vendor's access to and at the project site. The Vendor is responsible for removing all trash from the site as needed.

14. UTILITIES & SERVICES

The District will provide access to electrical service. Additional services should be included in the proposal or requested in writing.

15. LAWS & REGULATIONS

This procurement shall be governed by and in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois and the procedures of the District. The project is being funded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Open Space Land Access & Development (OSLAD) grant. Collusion or restraint of free competition, direct or indirect, is prohibited.

2. Site Development Map

Rock Island County Forest Preserve District

Niabi Zoo Educational and Recreational Enhancements



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|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Proposed Installation | Project Boundary | Sewer |
| Proposed Pathway | Paved Walkways | Water |
| Existing Structure | Utilities | Proposed Electric |
| Existing Adjacent Structure | Electric | Proposed Water |



