



## **Consulting Ecologist/Environmental Engineer Request for Proposals**

**Project Title:** Pollinator and Recreator Friendly Capped Landfill Restoration

**Location:** Indian Lake, NY -8-acre clay-capped landfill site on Pelon Road

**Landowner:** Town of Indian Lake, New York

**Project Manager:** AdkAction

**Proposal Submission Deadline:** December 13, 2024

**Contact for Submission:** kimberly@adkaction.org ; 518-856-3233 ext 3

*Proposals may be submitted for Part A, Part B, or both*

This project is funded by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Adirondack Park Community Smart Growth Program. The goal of the grant is to have 6% Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Business (SDVOB) and 30% Minority and Woman Based Enterprise (MWBE). All bidders should try to attain or surpass that goal if possible and state where and how they will do so. Subcontracting portions of the bid to meet these goals is acceptable.

### **Project Overview:**

AdkAction, in partnership with the Town of Indian Lake, invites proposals for consulting services to help transform an 8-acre capped landfill into a pollinator meadow and public recreation site. This project is the first of its kind in the Adirondack Park, and aims to revitalize the site with native, pollinator-friendly vegetation while safeguarding the landfill's infrastructure and clay cap. The project includes significant ecological restoration, and the creation of public access along an ADA-compatible gravel trail, installation of educational kiosks, and sustainable management practices. We seek qualified professionals to guide the project through two complementary roles: **(A) Consulting Ecologist** and **(B) Environmental Engineer**.

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### **Scope of Work:**

#### **Part A: Consulting Ecologist Services**

The consulting ecologist will assess current site conditions and guide the ecological

developments of the project, ensuring successful establishment and maintenance of native pollinator habitat.

**Timeline:** Ability to start within 30 days after application close and availability throughout the grant period (08/01/2024-07/31/2027)

**Deliverables:**

1. **Site Condition Survey:**
  - Conduct a comprehensive baseline assessment of existing soil, vegetation, hydrology, and biodiversity conditions on the project site.
2. **Site Preparation Plan:**
  - Design a site preparation plan, including recommendations for:
    - i. Materials and soil amendments needed for improved soil and native perennial plant health, and protection of the clay cap barrier.
    - ii. Site preparation best practices for the Town Highway Department to implement, such as mowing, aeration, light tilling, etc.
    - iii. Proactive invasive species prevention techniques to create conditions not conducive to invasive species overtaking the native plants, including the prevention of broadleaf species such as garlic mustard, spotted knapweed, loosestrife, stiltgrasses, etc.
3. **Planting and Seeding Site Design Plan:**
  - Create a site design to guide the planting and seeding on the project site.
    - i. Recommend the type, number, and location of native, neonicotinoid-free, perennial, short rooted pollinator friendly plant species (seed mixes and plugs) that are best suited to the local ecotype and pollinator needs of the site.
  - Create a planting schedule to stagger the introduction of seeds and plugs through the test, first, and second growing seasons.
  - Recommend invasive species management techniques applicable throughout the installation phase.
  - Specify ADA-accessible trail planting considerations if appropriate.
4. **Pilot Test and Plan Improvement:**
  - Develop a pilot strategy to test the efficacy and appropriateness of select native seed mixes, plugs, planting techniques, and invasive species management techniques recommended in the Planting and Seeding Plan on the site during the test season.
  - Advise AdkAction, the Town Highway Department, and volunteers in the installation of test plots.
  - Monitor test plot growth and health, documenting the results throughout the season.
  - Refine planting and maintenance plans based on pilot results.
5. **Ongoing Maintenance Plan:**
  - Develop a long-term maintenance plan for the Town Highway Department to follow, including rotational seasonal mowing and other plant management.
  - Communicate with AdkAction project leads regarding any unintended results of first or second seasonal plantings.

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  - 6. **Universal Design Compliance:**
    - Reference and integrate the Universal Principles of Design into site planning, particularly for accessibility and pathway design (Principle 7D).
    - Work with the Consulting Engineer as appropriate to take into consideration the needs of the viewing areas, trail, and educational kiosks.
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## **Part B: Environmental Engineer Services**

The environmental engineer will focus on designing accessible site infrastructure, creating a sustainable and ADA-compatible public use area without compromising the integrity of the site's clay cap.

**Timeline:** Ability to start within 30 days after application close and availability throughout the grant period (08/01/2024-07/31/2027)

### **Deliverables:**

1. **Prospective Use Map:**
    - Develop a detailed map of the site, marking acreage, topography, drainage swales, well vents, access pathways, parking areas, and trail locations.
    - Identify any required modifications to ensure ADA compatibility for pathways and viewing areas.
  2. **Trail Design and Site Accessibility:**
    - Design an ADA-accessible trail system, integrating future educational kiosks (to be designed in house) and public viewing areas in collaboration with the ecologist.
    - Ensure pathways and site access do not interfere with the landfill's clay cap and venting systems.
  3. **Infrastructure Specifications:**
    - Specify infrastructure materials needed and installation requirements, considering low-impact materials and designs that align with ecological restoration goals.
    - Coordinate with AdkAction project leads and the Town Highway Department as necessary for construction and installation guidance.
  4. **Environmental Safeguarding:**
    - Develop guidelines to protect the clay cap and landfill vent structures during site preparation and planting.
    - Provide recommendations for any additional safeguarding measures to prevent erosion and ensure ecological resilience.
  5. **Universal Design Compliance:**
    - Ensure all site elements comply with the Universal Principles of Design, prioritizing accessibility and sustainability.
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## Submission Requirements

### Proposal Format:

- **Cover Letter:** Briefly introduce your firm, qualifications, and relevant project experience.
- **Project Approach:** Describe your proposed approach, methodology, and any innovative techniques.
- **Key Personnel:** List the project team members, their roles, and relevant expertise.
- **Budget:** Provide a detailed budget estimate for your proposed services.
- **Timeline:** Outline a proposed timeline from assessment to implementation and maintenance.
- **References:** Include at least three references from similar projects.

### Selection Criteria:

AdkAction staff will review all proposals received as part of the documented evaluation process. For each decision point in the process, AdkAction staff will evaluate respondents on a variety of quantitative and qualitative criteria detailed below (bids will be scored out of 100 points):

- Demonstrated experience with ecological and environmental engineering projects. (15 points)
- Demonstrated knowledge of pollinator habitat restoration and capped landfill projects. (20 points)
- Demonstrated knowledge with neonicotinoid-free, native, pollinator friendly plant species. (15 points)
- Familiarity with ADA design principles and the Universal Principles of Design. (15 points)
- Competitive pricing and efficient project timeline. (10 points)
- Experience working with nonprofit, municipal, and volunteer teams. (5 points)
- Familiarity with the project site and Hamilton County, NY. (20 points)

AdkAction will select the submission that will provide the best value by delivering the highest level of service and desired deliverables in the most cost-effective manner that most closely meets the project's needs. The lowest price proposal will not necessarily be selected.

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## Submission Instructions

Proposals should be submitted electronically to [kimberly@adkaction](mailto:kimberly@adkaction) by December 13, 2024. Please reference the project title in the subject line.

For any questions, contact Kim Trombly at [kimberly@adkaction.org](mailto:kimberly@adkaction.org).