

**BIDDERS 'S GUIDE
FORD FIELD PARK
PLAYGROUND – DESIGN/BUILD**

Introduction

The Bidder is aware that this is a “Performance Based Selection Process,” and the budget is amount is the same amount for all bidders. The budget for the design and build-out of this playground site is set at \$1,000,000. The project will be judged based upon the bidder’s ability to provide a playground design/build that meets or exceeds the performance standards indicated within the bid package provided.

The bidder recognizes that this is a “competitive design/build process” and the award of the contract will be based upon the Playground Review Committee’s evaluation, the Consultant’s recommendation, and ultimately by the City of Northville based upon their view of what is the best value and, in the cities’, best interests. The Owner will offer no compensation to any bidder, including time/labor, out-of-pocket expenses, travel expenses, presentations, correspondence, or materials.

The bidder accepts these terms and conditions of their own free will and agrees to accept the outcome of the evaluation process. The bidder agrees to hold harmless the Playground Review Committee, the Consultants, and the City of Northville.

Guidelines

Please include in your bid a link to the playground website that includes all relevant play equipment.

Please submit a signed proposal form and a 5% bid bond to City of Northville 215 W Main St, Northville, MI 48167

- 1) **Bid Package:** The Bidder must follow the prescribed method for bidding on this project in the attached bid package. The bid package needs to be filled out completely with unit prices, bid bond, and any sealed construction drawings required, and delivered to **City of Northville 215 W Main St, Northville, MI 48167 by 11 a.m. on April 10, 2025**. The dollar amount should total \$1,000,000. The dollar amount will not be a factor in determining the award. The bidder’s design presentation, manufactured products and certifications will be the significant factors in determining the bid award.
- 2) **Design Guidelines and Acts:** The design must adhere to the following Acts, Guidelines and Standards:
 - a) Sustainable Design Commitments: Recycled plastic roofs and safety considerations throughout play structures.
 - b) Universal Access Design Commitments: Pathways 6'+ wide with slopes less than 5% and cross slopes less than 2%; At least 20% of picnic tables to be accessible from an accessible route anchored on a concrete pad with more than one wheelchair pull-up space seating option.
 - c) U.S. Consumers Product Safety Commission, “Public Playground Safety Handbook,” Pub, 325

- d) The **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)** ([42 U.S.C. § 12101](#)) a [civil rights](#) law that prohibits [discrimination](#) based on [disability](#), the amended ADA act 2010 and the amended act, [2002 ADAAG](#). It affords similar protections against discrimination to [Americans with disabilities](#) as the [Civil Rights Act of 1964](#),^[1] and as amended in 2008 and 2010.
- e) American Society Testing and Materials (ASTM), F1951. The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) is an internationally recognized body that develops and delivers voluntary consensus standards designed to improve product quality, make products safer, improve international standardization and therefore facilitate trade.
- 3) **Certifications:** The bidder must be certified to participate in this process by the following:
- International Play Equipment Manufacturers Association (IPEMA) Certification. The Bidder must demonstrate the company is IPEMA certified and be in good standing.
 - The Bidder must indicate that they have staff that are certified through the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), or other comparable sanctioning organization, and has at least (1) Nationally Playground Safety Inspector (NPSI) assigned to this project and indicate how many current employees are certified. The bidder should also demonstrate familiarity with the most recent guidelines from the Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) "Public Playground Safety Handbook."
 - Other certifications should be presented relative to the scope of work such as subcontractor certifications and/or licenses.
- 4) **No Communication Allowed:** Bidders will not seek to communicate with any person, or staff member, from the City of Northville, other than what is stated in the bid package, including this Guide. If it is reported that Bidder has contacted the Playground Review Committee before the Presentations and a final decision is made, it could be reason for disqualification.
- 5) **Playground Design Factors:** Design factors that will influence the bid selection are included below. These statements are meant to provide the Playground Review Committee with a basis to judge the playground design, and value of the equipment and design represented. They would like play elements that present a **"Unique Character"** and theme that reflects the castle/fort concept of the playground that will be removed, without just duplicating the current play structure.

The "Unique Character": The Unique factor is important and should be something captivating, towering or intriguing. The bidder will also need to include many of the fundamental requests from the City of Northville Residents Survey as listed below. A public meeting was held on June 27, 2024 to provide information and solicit feedback from community members. An online public survey was conducted after the meeting. The outcomes of the public meeting and public opinion survey of adults and children are indicated below:

- **Characteristics:** Naturalistic with either natural materials or styles that mimic wood and natural materials. A style of whimsy with an emphasis on climbing and movement. Circular design pattern to provide for flow of play from one element to another. A multi-height play structure that provides multiple experiences throughout.

- Inclusive Play: ramps, multi-generational facing swings, wheelchair accessible merry-go-round, and spinning or rocking features. A comfortable enclosure that provides a sense of safety without limiting line of sight for care takers. Cooperative play elements. A communication board. Elements to encourage imaginative play.
- Play Equipment: from community: Top Items = swings, slides, climbing opportunities, shade, bridges, a small hill, and imaginative or sensory play
- Colors: Green, Blue, and Brown/Tan with pops of appropriate contrasting color
- Welcoming: Clean, well maintained, accessible to all in the community
 - Shady areas and seating for socialization
 - To make it both handicap and multi-generation accessible

The play surface should be Poured in Place with patterns to complement design of play features and circulation, engineered wood fiber to be used on edge as shown in drawings. The bidder should provide surfacing to not only meet ADA but to also provide barrier-free access in a discrete manner so the distinction between disabled and able-bodied individuals is subdued.

- 6) Presentation to Playground Review Committee: Each bidder will be given a presentation time after the bid opening.
- a) Time Allotment: The Bidder will be given time to make a presentation to the Playground Committee and administrative personnel. There will be a questions and discussion period following the presentation. Should the Playground Committee have additional questions, you will be contacted in writing to provide answers, and/or meet in person as a group if necessary to clarify your design.
 - b) Presentations will take place either April 23rd and 24th, (based on Playground Committee), at the City of Northville city hall. The Owner will designate the time and place at least one week in advance.
 - c) Presentation Materials: The required materials that must be included are:
 - i) Two or more presentation display boards at a minimum size of 24" x 36"
 - ii) A Narrative describing the attributes of your design (5,000 words max).
 - iii) You may offer other presentation materials if you choose, including an electronic presentation (a computer with monitor will be available) leave behind materials are also allowed you have other items, please let us know in advance, to decide if they are appropriate.

The following is a compilation of information that the Playground Committee will be given in advance of your presentation. This information is important for the Playground Committee members to learn more about the bidder's playground design layout, purpose, unique features, and maintenance. You will see that there are some natural questions that will evolve from this discussion that the Consultant will have with the Playground Committee, so you can be better prepared to respond to their questions.

Child development is a vast subject and is continuously being researched by universities and other institutions. There are some fundamental areas that should be pointed out in your presentation including the following:

- a) Physical and Motor Skill Development: This includes appropriate progression for the physical challenges of the child's motor skills. Not only is it important to see the

progression, but it is also important to identify an assortment of physical challenges that are inviting.

- b) Emotional and Egocentricity Development: How does a child develop emotionally? This is an interesting challenge which usually is based upon having enough play variety for children to experience and become successful at younger and older ages. Once a child succeeds at a play event, they tend to gain confidence, and after a while look toward the next challenge. Include events that are age-appropriate and reward the child at progressive stages of development.
- c) Social and Relationship Development: Tell us how your design encourages children to engage with one another. The early child does not recognize the need to engage or cannot recognize the viewpoint from another person's perspective, but as they age there should be events that encourage more social interaction. Many of these items are stationary play events, individual hands-on or involve small group participation. Tell us where these types of events within the play areas will be located and the benefits.
- d) Cognitive and Intellectual Development: These skills evolve through distinct stages and allows the child to explore spatial experiences, the awareness of others, logical progression, varied sizes of objects, what is time, what is velocity, and the logic of cause and effect. Include events that are age appropriate and explain how these play elements will aid in cognitive and intellectual development of the child.
- e) Children with disabilities: Although disabled children are different than able bodied individuals, they should be included with the appropriate number of play events that allow for children with disabilities similar challenges. You should strive to include physical, visual, cognitive, emotional, and/or hearing impairments in the design.
- f) Age Appropriateness: Playgrounds are recommended to be separated into age-appropriate groups 2-5 and 5-12.
- g) Surfacing: Playgrounds are also recommended to have soft-landing surfaces such as: wood fiber, synthetic surfacing, and rubber-based products. The city prefers the base bid to use a mix of "poured-in-place," synthetic tiles, and "Engineered Wood Fiber" (EWF). You need to indicate area (square foot of each) of the surfaces. If a different surface is used, please indicate the type of material and the square footage.
- h) Flow: Playgrounds should have a "flow" or "loop" to allow Children to complete a circuit of play events. Indicate where loop play circuits are located on the playground design so the Playground Committee can see this.
- i) Aesthetic: The playground should be visually appealing and allow children to use their imagination while they are playing on the equipment. The community prefers blues, greens, and natural colors, with an accent of a brighter color. Please indicate what the "Unique Feature" or idea would be to differentiate this play area from other area playgrounds.
- j) Active/Passive: Playgrounds should have an active component and a passive component. Please indicate where active and passive areas are located within the playground design.
- k) Risk/Reward: The playground also needs to challenge the child at various stages of development but not overwhelm them depending upon their age. Indicate what types of "risk-rewards" are built into the playground design.

Questions

Should the Bidder have any questions, please provide those in writing via email to Claire Perko at cperko@sda-eng.com.