



Carter Lake
Preservation
— Society —

107 Shoal Drive
Carter Lake, Iowa 51510
(712) 347-6455
carterlake@hotmail.com

Vision:

To preserve and to improve the lake and its watershed for continued use and enjoyment for future generations.

Mission:

- *To improve the environmental qualities of the lake through cooperation with city, county, state and federal agencies as well as educational institutions, foundations and other private resources.*
- *To ensure the fishery and wild life habitats continue to thrive.*
- *To showcase the lake as a metropolitan recreational area for everyone to enjoy.*

Board of Directors

Jeanne Eibes – President
Joel Adamson – Vice President
Heather Laufman - Secretary
Joan Harder – Treasurer
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Susan Ogborn
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November 19, 2007

Dear Landscape Designer,

The Carter Lake Preservation Society is requesting local Nurseries and Organizations to help us rebuild our lake front rain gardens.

Attached is a Request for Proposal. As you can see by the Request for Proposal, we are more interested in working with an organization that will collaborate with us by developing preliminary designs to be used for grant writing and fund raising.

Then, after the funds are raised and budget is determined, the selected organization will need to be willing to modify the plant plan based on the amount of funding raised.

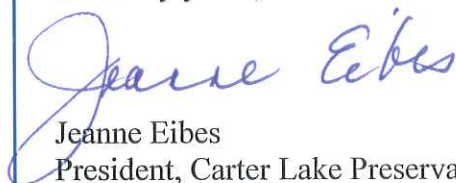
We would like your final proposal submitted by December 18, 2007 to me at:

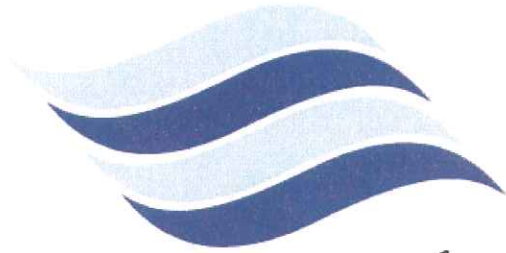
Jeanne Eibes, President
Carter Lake Preservation Society
107 Shoal Drive
Carter Lake, Iowa 51510
Cell Phone: 402-669-8586
Email: carterlake@hotmail.com

If you have any questions about this project, please call or email me.

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you on this exciting and challenging project.

Sincerely yours,


Jeanne Eibes
President, Carter Lake Preservation Society



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Request for Proposal:
Rain Garden Installation
In a Carter Lake City Park

Request for Proposal for Rain Garden Installation

Statement of Purpose

The Carter Lake Preservation Society is soliciting competitive proposals from local nurseries and organizations to design and install plantings in two large rain gardens.

- The two rain gardens are approximately 200 x 14 feet each. They will be the largest rain gardens in the area covering a total of over 5,600 square feet.
- The rain gardens will be designed and planted according to best practices for rain garden installation.
- The selected nursery or organization must demonstrate knowledge of rain garden practices and be willing to enthusiastically embrace this project.
- The proposal may be presented with various initial plant sizes. For example: an organization may present three to four different proposals based on the size of plants recommended. If 3 inch pots were used, the pricing would be less than gallon or larger sized plants. We encourage multiple price quotes based on plant size.
- The proposals will be used as a basis for fundraising. The Carter Lake Preservation Society will apply for grants and raise money through donations using the designs and quotes from the winning organization's proposal.
- The two gardens have four distinct areas and we encourage a variety of plants in all areas. It is also recommended that some landscape enhancements be included for visual interest and public enjoyment.
- The selected organization will also be required to assist in developing signage for plant identification.
- This project represents an important, highly visible stormwater management effort that will potentially serve as a model for other regional rain garden projects. As a result of supporting this project, the selected nursery or organization will likely be given the opportunity to provide future sponsorship, education and design support of other rain garden projects in and around the Metro Omaha Area.



Request for Proposal for Rain Garden Installation

Background

Why build a Rain Garden along the Lake Shore?

Rain gardens are an example of a low impact development practice that enhances effective storm water management. In addition, the natural plantings in the gardens will attract wildlife to the area. The lake front park renovation will also bring visitors, educational programs and environmental groups to see the results of this innovative storm water management program.

The purpose of these rain gardens is to use native plants and soil percolation to filter the rain water before it enters the lake. Previously, storm water from the residential area went



directly into the lake via two concrete chutes. The storm water entering the lake contained pollutants such as lawn fertilizers, pesticides, oil and other auto fluids causing poor water quality and increased algae blooms.

These gardens will be used as demonstration gardens to show the metro area how to manage storm water run off. The gardens will be accessed via a sidewalk through this public lakefront area. Signage is needed to guide visitors through a residential area to the lake shore.

Why the first garden planting failed

The Carter Lake Preservation Society and the City of Carter Lake initially planted two 200 feet by 15 feet rain gardens in July 2007. The plant plugs of native grasses and forbs were placed by volunteers. After the gardens were planted, it became obvious that the garden area did not drain and most of the 2,800 plants died.

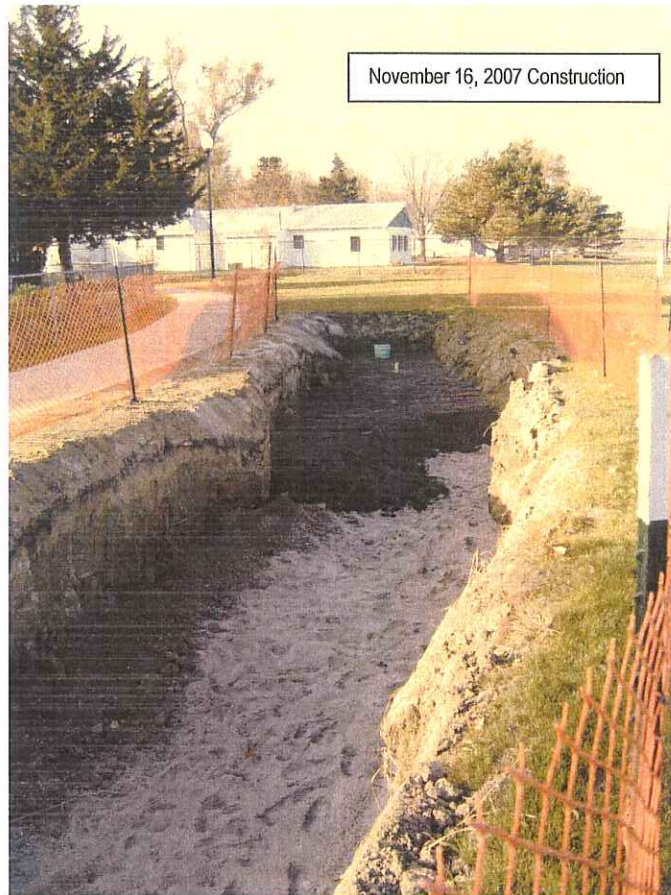


Request for Proposal for Rain Garden Installation

During the month of November 2007, the City of Carter Lake is excavating the garden area by removing up to seven feet of soil and clay (see attached picture.) The bottom of the gardens is just above the water table. Additional gravel and a perforated tile with a stand pipe is being placed just above water table and in the bottom of the excavation. There will be an outlet pipe constructed from the center of the gardens to draw the water collected in the tile and drain to the lake. Sand, compost and topsoil will be added until the garden basin is approximately 20 to 24 inches below grade.

The two gardens measure approximately 200 feet in length and 14 feet wide. The center of each garden is slightly wider where the storm water outlet chute enters the gardens. During a heavy rain event, the water entering the gardens comes at a high velocity so that area will be reinforced and additional support features will be added.

Scope of Work



Design

- The Garden Review Committee is looking for a design concept that:
 - creatively incorporates a wide variety of plant heights, textures, colors and forms while establishing enough repetition and “framework” that a strong unified garden character results,
 - provides a high degree of seasonal interest and habitat value,
 - uses both woody and herbaceous perennial plants; and
 - reflects plant massing and use of naturalizing plants that will lead to a dense planting over time.
- The relatively large planting areas are conducive to demonstrating a variety of plant combinations not feasible in smaller gardens, and provide unique opportunities for plant comparisons and contrasts in a rain garden setting.
- These gardens are to serve not only as successful functioning rain gardens, but should also reflect a high level of educational value for demonstration and case study purposes.

Request for Proposal for Rain Garden Installation

Plant Selection

- Select a variety of native and adapted grasses and forbs that are adaptable to rain garden conditions. See NebGuide produced by the University of Nebraska – Lincoln Extension: “Storm Water Management: Plant Selection for Rain Gardens in Nebraska.” <http://www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/epublic/pages/publicationD.jsp?publicationId=852>
- Plants on this list have been selected for their potential tolerance of rain garden conditions as well as their ability to root deeply and enhance soil percolation over time. Some plants may not be as readily available as common landscape species/cultivars, but should still be considered if viable sources can be located. Cultivars from listed plants, as well as plants not on the list, may also be considered if the design intent and functional considerations of the proposed plants are appropriate and identified by the designer.
- Select plants that will survive the variety of growing conditions inherent to the garden construction such as the sloped sides, variable soil moisture conditions, and one area of shade cast by an adjacent large tree.
- Prepare a suggested plant lay out design with the proposal submittal.
- The proposal can be presented using different sized plantings. For example: If smaller plants are used, the proposal would be less than a design specifying gallon size or greater plants. Multiple quotes can be submitted indicating multiple sized plants.
- After the organization is selected, the plans will be used for grant application and funding requests.
- After the funding is secured, the winning proposals will require a detailed plant lay out based on the funding budget.
- The Garden Review Committee may recommend alternative plant selections prior to planting. The plant selection will be a cooperative process between the garden review committee and the selected contractor.

Installation

- Coordinate planting activities with Sherry Rydberg, Director Parks and Recreation, from the City of Carter Lake.
- Prepare the gardens for planting in the spring. Till the basin, add soil amendments, level the bottom, and make final adjustments to the plant design.
- Provide the labor, plant material, landscape enhancements and shredded mulch.
- Complete the garden installation as soon as practical in the spring 2008.
- Monitor and make adjustments to the plants, if necessary through out the first growing season.
- Supplemental watering, weeding and required maintenance during initial establishment will be provided by volunteers and city staff.
- The gardens are directly adjacent to a walking trail, so there will be relatively easy access for equipment and materials.

Request for Proposal for Rain Garden Installation

Plant Guarantee

- Guarantee the plants will survive for one year after planting and make plant replacements as necessary.

Ongoing Education and Support

- The Carter Lake Preservation Society will develop signage, education and information about the lake shore rain gardens. The selected organization will be asked to assist in providing information to support the signage and educational materials. The selected nursery or organization will be recognized as a sponsor and contributor in the signage that is placed near the gardens.

Requirements for Proposal

- **Qualifications of Design Team and Organization:** Summarize the qualifications of the design team and organization. Describe background in rain garden or other bio-retention BMP installation projects.
- **Landscape and Garden Design:** Prepare separate designs for each garden area with recommended plant species and plant placements. Describe why certain plants and species were selected. These drawings will be used for fund raising and grant application submissions.
- **Describe Soil Preparations Prior to Planting:** Include all soil amendments and landscape features that will be added prior to or during the planting.
- **Estimates:** Provide estimates using various plant sizes and landscape features. These estimates will be used for fund raising and grant applications.

Evaluation and Selection Process

All proposal proposals will be evaluated by the Garden Review Committee. The Garden Review Committee may ask for modifications to the proposal prior to final selection.

Selection will be based on the organization's willingness to work with an undetermined initial budget because the final budget will be based on fund raising efforts.

Selection will also be based on the organization's willingness to collaborate with the City of Carter Lake, the Rain Garden Committee and various other organizations associated with the Watershed Planning Process for Carter Lake.

Project Schedule

Activity	Due Date
Request for Proposal is Mailed to Local Nurseries and Organizations	November 19, 2007

Request for Proposal for Rain Garden Installation

Activity	Due Date
Organization asks questions, gathers data and visits the garden areas.	November through December 2007
Organization submits design proposal.	December 18, 2007
Rain Garden Committee makes final selection and notifies applicants of the Organization selected.	January 4, 2007
Carter Lake Preservation Society applies for Grants and solicits additional donations.	January 4, 2007 to April 2008
Carter Lake Preservation Society notifies the selected organization of the final garden budget.	April 18, 2008
Organization begins the project	April 21, 2008
Gardens completed	June 30, 2008
Dedication and signage completed	September 30, 2008

Rain Garden Committee Members

Carter Lake President Preservation Society

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City of Carter Lake

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Carter Lake Preservation Society

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Water Quality Educator, City of Lincoln

Amanda Meder
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Carter Lake Preservation Society

The Carter Lake Preservation Society, Inc. is an Iowa non-profit (501 (c)(3) corporation formed as a result of community action and commitment to improving the Carter Lake watershed. The lake has never had a single, shared voice of advocacy. Carter Lake Preservation Society (CLPS) was formed to be a single shared voice of advocacy for the lake and to speak with energy and commitment necessary to find solutions to the impairments that affect the Carter Lake watershed.

For more information about the Carter Lake Preservation Society, visit our web site at: www.carterlakepreservation.org.