



Call for Design of New Quarry Hill Park & Nature Center Entrance Sign

City of Rochester, MN

The Rochester Park and Recreation Department is seeking artistic designers and/or sign companies to design and implement a new sign at the main pedestrian entry to Quarry Hill Park & Nature Center. The new sign is to be installed in 2020.

Background

Minutes away from busy downtown Rochester, Minnesota, Quarry Hill Park and Nature Center (QHP&NC) at 701 Silver Creek Road NE is a gateway to the natural world. Designated as one of three MN Parks and Trails of Regional Significance within the city, Quarry Hill features 329 acres of diverse wild communities including deciduous forest, prairie, oak savanna, creek, pond, sandstone caves, and a fossil quarry, as well as a variety of recreational trails. Throughout the seasons, the park is a destination for hiking, picnicking, bird watching, fishing, fossil hunting, skiing, snowshoeing, summer camps, and natural science programs for all ages.

Quarry Hill Park is home to one of the largest nature centers in the state of Minnesota, open 361 days a year with free admission. The Nature Center's newly renovated Exploration Hall features interactive displays, hands-on touch tables, an indoor observation beehive, a children's reading area and natural science library, an 1,800-gallon native fish aquarium, and live animal displays featuring 35 Minnesota species of birds, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates. Adjacent to the Nature Center Exploration Hall is a bird observatory room, a great spot to observe federally-licensed bird banding operations. The Nature Center provides rental equipment to park visitors at binoculars, GPS, skis, snowshoes, and self-guided nature exploration backpacks.

The Friends of Quarry Hill professional naturalist staff provides hands-on natural science education and staffs the nature center, welcoming over 170,000 visitors through the park gates each year.

Eligibility

Sign companies and individual designers/artists 18 years of age or older are invited to submit proposals individually or collaboratively. Individuals who do not meet the age requirement can participate by having an age appropriate individual sponsor and be responsible for the proposal.





Selection Criteria

Proposals will be judged based on design merit as evidenced by representation of past work, the proposal itself, and other supporting materials. A review panel consisting of representatives of the Parks and Recreation Department and the Friends of Quarry Hill Nature Center will review and select the winning proposals by Friday, April 17, 2020. The Board of Parks and Recreation will ultimately provide their approval for the project to proceed.

Sign quality must be of the highest standard in regard to design, materials, craftsmanship, assembly, and appropriateness to the character of the site. Projects must be in place before August 30, 2020.

Proposal must consider the following criteria:

Design merit of the proposed work, including:

- Idea to be conveyed
- Key theme(s) engaged
- Appropriateness of media to idea
- Visual impact, including color, form and composition
- Harmony/compatibility with physical and social context

Feasibility of the proposed work, including:

- Sustainability/durability
- Public safety
- Risk assessment
- Maintenance obligation
- Responsibility for securing all necessary permissions and special permits, fabrications, installation of sign is assumed by the designer and installer.

Ability of the designer to successfully complete the project, including:

- Training and experience
- Evidence of careful financial planning
- Technical competence

Landscaping:

- Prairie plantings and boulders will remain a part of the sign site. As necessary for sign installation, plantings and boulders around the new sign location will be temporarily moved by Parks and Recreation staff. Plantings will be restored by Parks and Recreation staff upon completion of installation. Sign design should take into account prairie plants as tall as 4' are located in the installation site.





Review process

Proposal Materials:

Proposal should contain the following:

- First and last name, address, city, state, county
- Designer and or Company Statement (250 words maximum)
- Project Proposal (1,000 words maximum)
 - What is the idea or concept of the new sign? Describe what the project will consist of and/or look like.
 - How will it be installed on location?
 - What are your proposed installation availability dates?

Budget and resume saved in either Word or PDF format:

- Budget Outline: the budget will cover design, fabrication and installation. Designers should factor these costs into their budget.
 - Budget should include: rental of equipment, cost of materials, design fees, etc.
- Designers resume/C.V. (one page maximum)

Examples of previous work:

- Maximum 3-5 images or videos documenting work completed within the last four years. Images must be formatted digitally to the following specifications:
 - JPEG format
 - Each image less the 3 MB in size
 - Label each file with your company or individual name and number as a title. The number indicates the order in which you want the slides presented
 - i.e. Name_01.jpg, Name_02.jpg, etc.
 - Up to three additional images, sketches, models or renderings of what the project will look like may also be included with the last name, first name, "proposal" and number as a title.
 - i.e. Name_Proposal_01.jpg, Name_Proposal_02.jpg, etc.
 - Video samples of up to 3 minutes via links to Vimeo or another web-based video file
 - Optional: include a separate Word or PDF document with descriptions of each piece (title, medium, size, etc.)

Materials should be emailed to Jeff Feece jfeece@rochestermn.gov on or before Friday April 3, 2020.

There is no fee to apply. Materials will not be returned.

There will be no reimbursement for submitted conceptual designs.

Quarry Hill Entrance Sign

Specifications

The entrance sign should reflect the natural context of the Quarry Hill Site and be influenced by the Park & Nature Center's vision to be a community hub for outdoor recreation and natural science exploration and education.

The sign should read "Quarry Hill Park & Nature Center", and contain the logos for Rochester Park and Recreation, Friends of Quarry Hill Nature Center, and Legacy Amendment.

Budget: \$15,000



Location of sign





Existing sign