



**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM  
Department of General Services  
Parks & Conservation Resources**

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**Date:** February 27, 2020

**To:** The Honorable Board of County Commissioners

**Through:** Jason E. Brown, County Administrator  
Michael C. Zito, Assistant County Administrator  
Kevin Kirwin, Director Parks & Conservation Resources

**From:** Beth Powell, Assistant Director Parks & Conservation Resources

**Subject:** Lost Tree Islands Conservation Area Enhancement Design & Engineering – Award RFQ 2020008 to Carter Associates, Inc.

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**DESCRIPTIONS AND CONDITIONS**

The Lost Tree Islands Conservation Area (LTICA) was purchased in 2003 with funds from the Florida Communities Trust. The 508-acre site is located in the Central Indian River Lagoon (IRL) approximately 0.75 miles north of the SR 60 boat launch on the barrier island. The LTICA is the second largest publically-owned island system that is protected in Indian River County, and includes more than 10 miles of shoreline in the Indian River Lagoon. The LTICA ecological enhancement project will be the largest lagoon-based enhancement project undertaken by Indian River County.

The project objectives for design and engineering of the LTICA habitat enhancement plan are summarized as follows:

- Water quality benefits through creation and enhancement of wetland communities
- Incorporation of innovative, low maintenance elements for shoreline stabilization
- Establishment of endemic habitat, including, but not limited to:
  - High marsh habitat which is a rare resource in Indian River County
  - Strategically located mangrove wetlands
  - Maritime hammock habitat that provides habitat for native wildlife
  - Salt flats and open sandy beaches for shorebird nesting
  - Seagrass habitat (based on appropriateness and feasibility)
  - Oyster reefs (based on appropriateness and feasibility)
  - Expanded nursery habitat for fish and invertebrates
- Site design that is resilient and versatile, and by its nature will be adaptable during extreme weather events and climate change
- Incorporation of green technologies where appropriate and feasible
- Site design that incorporates passive recreational opportunities that promote ecotourism, educational awareness, local responsibility and facilitates informed community input
- Consideration for mosquito management and minimization of mosquito production
- Minimization of long-term maintenance, management, and capital costs

The deliverable for the project will be a fully designed and engineered plan that will be ready for submittal of the required construction permits. The County will submit for permit approvals upon completion of the

design. Engineered plans will include preparation of technical specifications to be used for project bidding purposes. The design will be produced to allow for flexibility in construction timeframes; thus the construction may be completed in phases based on logistics, and funding opportunities.

A proposal requesting cost-share funds to complete the enhancement project design was submitted to the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program (IRLNEP) for consideration as part of their annual funding for restoration projects funded. The project was selected to receive funding, and on October 15, 2019, the Board approved the \$65,000 agreement with the Council (Contract IRL 2019-18). Since October, staff has undertaken the following measures to initiate the design of the enhancement project:

- October 17, 2019, RFQ 2020008 for Lost Tree Island Conservation Area Ecological Enhancement Planning and Design Services was advertised (RFQ opening date November 8, 2019)
- December 3, 2019, Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan - Capital Improvements Elements approved allocating \$200,000 from Optional Sales Tax in FY19/20 to the Lost Tree Islands Conservation Area Enhancement, Public Facilities/Trails/Boardwalks and an associated capital outlay through FY2024
- January 7, 2020, the Board approved the committee's final ranking and authorized negotiations with Carter Associates, Inc., the highest ranked firm RFQ 2020008.

## **SUMMARY**

Staff met with Carter Associates, Inc. staff to negotiate the scope of work and associated tasks necessary to complete the design and engineering based on the project objectives listed above. Because the design and engineering is also associated with the IRLNEP grant, time is of the essence for completion. The tasks and scope of work/timeline has been reviewed by staff and is consistent with the project objectives and associated funding from the IRLNEP.

The project presents a challenge for completion of design services due to both its location and current conditions on site. Any on-island work requires use of watercraft which is reflected in the project schedule and budget. Additionally, the spoil islands are densely covered with exotic vegetation and accumulated debris from multiple hurricane events. Based on a comparison of alternatives, it was determined that in order to maintain the project schedule, the best alternative to complete initial site work is to mechanically clear the necessary survey transects. This alternative significantly expedites the survey process, shortens the duration of the survey task, and provides for access to the inner sections of the island for design and planning purposes, maintenance activities, and site visits by staff and regulatory personnel. Based on a comparison of alternatives, the additional cost associated with the mechanical clearing versus hand clearing is approximately \$13,000, but reduces the survey time by 3 months and provides for longer-term access/monitoring points.

The Scope of Work and Budget was developed as a detailed task list with measurable objectives and a budget with manhours and not to exceed line items. Items in the Scope of Work include:

- Preliminary Planning
- Site Surveys
- Conceptual Ecological Enhancement Plan
- Additional Survey Data Collection
- Development of Project Plans
- Progress and Stakeholder Meetings
- Reimbursables

**FUNDING**

Funding for the project in the amount of \$265,000 is provided through Optional Sales Tax and the IRLNEP Grant which is identified in the December 3, 2019 update to the Capital Improvement Element of the Comprehensive Plan-Lost Tree Islands Enhancement, Restoration & Public Facilities/Trails/Boardwalk. The total proposal, including mechanical clearing of the survey lines is \$338,080.00, leaving a funding deficit of \$73,080 which is proposed to be funded from Optional Sales Tax through a budget amendment.

	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
CIE Approved FY19/20 – Optional Sales Tax \$200,000/IRLNEP \$65,000	31521072-066510-20001	\$265,000
Budget Amendment – Optional Sales Tax		\$ 73,080

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Board accept the Agreement with Carter Associates, Inc. authorizing the professional services as outlined in the Scope of Services and requests the Board to authorize the Chairman to execute Agreement on their behalf for a lump sum amount of \$338,080 upon approval by the County Attorney as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Sample Agreement including Exhibit A and Exhibit B

**APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR MARCH 10, 2020**