

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Public Art for New Athletic Park on Hoover Road in Durham, NC

632 North Hoover Road Durham, NC 27703

The [City of Durham's Cultural and Public Art Program](#) (the "City") and [Durham Parks and Recreation](#) (DPR) are seeking artists or artist teams (referred to as "Candidates") with experience in creating public art that fosters a unique sense of place based on community-informed designs for the New Athletic Park on Hoover Road to support a welcoming user-experience.

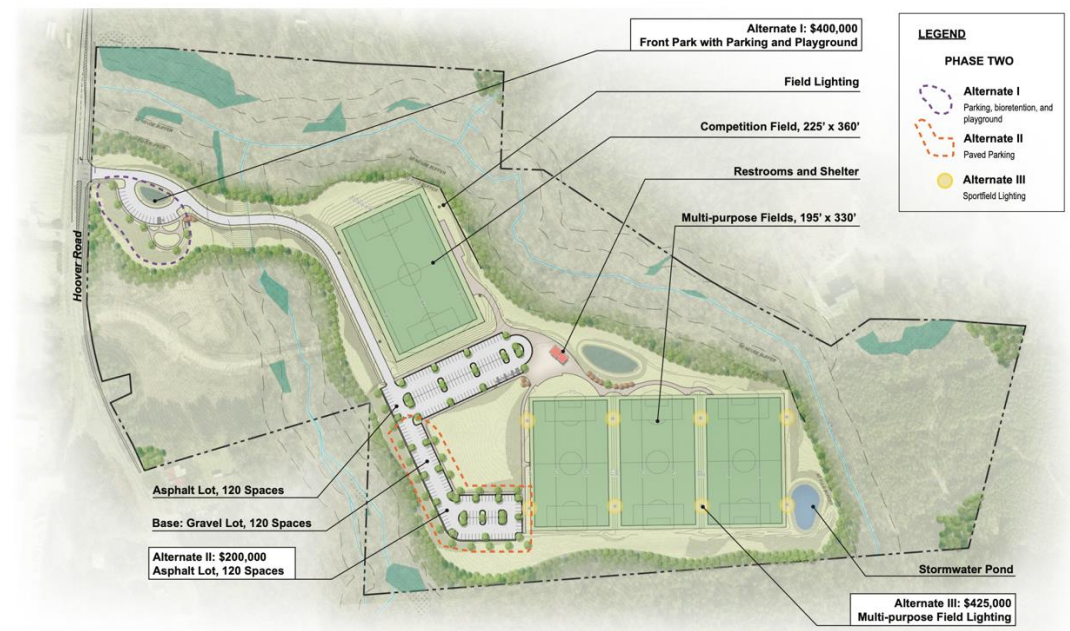


Figure 1: Rendering of New Athletic Park at Hoover Road. Rendering by Timmons Group.

If you are interested in being a part of this project and contributing to the beautification of Durham's newest athletic park, please submit all requested information and RFQ questions to rebecca.brown@durhamnc.gov with "RFQ: Hoover Road" in the subject line.

Candidates who have already registered with the City of Durham's [Pre-Qualified Artists Registry](#) **must** submit all requested RFQ materials as outlined below via email to rebecca.brown@durhamnc.gov to be considered for this public art project.

RFQ Deadline: Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 11:59 PM EST

PROJECT BACKGROUND

On Thursday, October 2020, Durham Parks and Recreation (DPR) broke ground on a new athletic park, located at 632 North Hoover Road. The 50-acre site is in east Durham across from the Wheels Fun Park. This park, not yet formally named, is the first park constructed to serve several neighborhoods in northeast Durham, including the historically Black neighborhood Merrick-Moore. The purpose of this project is to create a tournament level athletic park consisting of four natural turf soccer fields, associated vehicular circulation and parking, a maintenance and restroom building, a playground and shelter, sidewalks, walking trails, storm water management measures, lighting, and irrigation.

This athletic park will provide a location suitable for small tournaments and alleviate the heavy use at Herndon, and Old Chapel Hill Parks, in addition to providing a large recreational opportunity in the Eastern portion of Durham, where there is currently only one soccer field operating out of Twin Lakes Park. The construction team members are Timmons Group and Skanska USA, with a total construction budget of \$9,455,660. For more information on the site and construction, visit: <https://durhamnc.gov/3940/Hoover-Road-Park>.

As the City of Durham improves public amenities through the Capital Improvement Plan projects (CIP), the Cultural & Public Art Program can provide public art for [New Athletic Park at Hoover Road Background](#). For the FY 2020-25 CIP, capital projects are funded through impact fees, enterprise funds, grants, the capital project fund, pay-go funding, and debt financings. More information about the CIP process and funding can be found [here](#).

The public art project's goal is to center the community throughout the design and fabrication process. Initial community engagement indicates preference for artwork that: is interactive, uses natural elements, is functional and reflects local history.

The selected Candidate(s) will work to:

- Design, fabricate and install sculptural, functional artwork and/or incorporate public art that is integrated into the site based on community-informed designs.
- Lead, plan, and facilitate an engagement process to solicit community input on public art with at least two (or more) community sessions, prior to submission of design concept(s).
 - Sessions should include in-person or virtual community conversations, an online element (i.e. survey, community board, etc.) and at least one on-site event.
 - Additionally, artist should participate in at least two community engagement sessions hosted by DPR.
- Based on initial engagement, the public art piece(s) may
 - Connect visually to local history;
 - Utilize natural elements;
 - Beautify the site through site-specific, functional public art amenities; and/or
 - Contain interactive elements for adults and children.



City of Durham's Durham Parks and Recreation

Durham Parks and Recreation provides opportunities for the Durham community to Play More by connecting our whole community to wellness, the outdoors, and lifelong learning. To learn more about Durham Parks and Recreation, visit us [online](#), follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#), or call (919) 560-4355.

City of Durham's Cultural & Public Art Program

The Cultural and Public Art Program believes that Durham's rich cultural heritage is an important part of what makes Durham's neighborhoods thrive, attracts tourism and business development, and what brings the community closer together. The program seeks to bring public art into the everyday experience of Durham residents through the implementation of community-informed placemaking practices. The program works to invest and create public art experiences – both downtown and in neighborhoods – that illuminate residents' history, sparks reflection and dialogue, and enhances daily life.

To further help artists connect with opportunities, the City has also launched a [Durham Calls for Artists](#) page on its website, which lists a number of upcoming opportunities for artists in and around Durham. Artists and other stakeholders who would like to be notified of current and future art-related opportunities and news can now sign up for alerts through the [Cultural and Public Arts Calls for Art mailing list](#). For more information about the City's Cultural and Public Arts Program, visit the City's [cultural and public arts page](#).

PUBLIC ART PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PUBLIC ART PROJECT BACKGROUND

In collaboration with the City of Durham's Durham Parks and Recreation (DPR), the City of Durham's Cultural and Public Art Program is seeking an Artist or Artist Team with experience in site-specific projects centered around community-informed designs and functional, interactive artwork to design and fabricate a public art installation(s) at the New Athletic Park at Hoover Road located at 632 North Hoover Road in Durham.

Selected artist(s) will continue to gather and synthesize community feedback and suggestions to design a site-specific, functional artwork installation or incorporate public art that is integrated into the site that speaks to the importance of staying active and going outdoors in Durham. The selected artist(s) should be comfortable with fabricating and installing public artworks during the construction design process, in addition to hosting community conversations and interacting with the general public.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The public art will be installed at the New Athletic Park at Hoover Road project site, with specific locations determined by the selected artist and City staff collaboratively based on community-input.

New Athletic Park at Hoover Road
632 North Hoover Road Durham, NC 27703

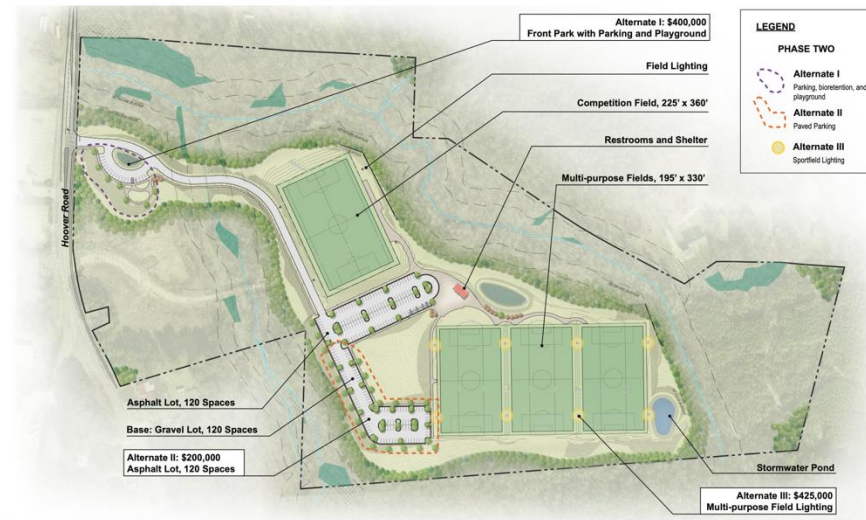


Figure 2: Rendering of New Athletic Park at Hoover Road; May 2019

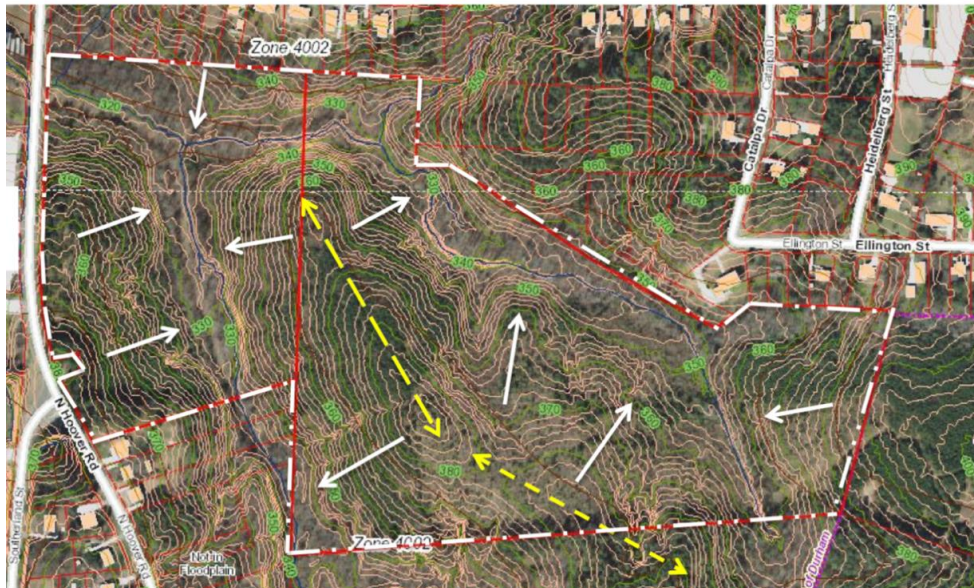


Figure 3: Existing Conditions



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

To reflect the community's voice in the public art component, the selected Candidate will plan and facilitate inclusive and accessible community engagement activities to encourage public input and participation as outlined in the "Scope of Work" section below. The selected Candidates will be expected to lead, host, facilitate, and participate in community and staff engagement activities before finalizing their designs to gather feedback from residents living in the respective City Council Wards, especially in Ward 1 and Ward 2 near the New Athletic Park on Hoover Road.

The City of Durham may use virtual platforms that include SMS capabilities, geo-tagging, and surveys to assist the Candidates throughout the engagement process.

Past Community Activities

Throughout the fall of 2021, Durham Parks and Recreation and other City partners hosted several community events about Durham's newest park on Hoover Road. Participants were able to preview the park, share ideas about the playground, public art, and site furnishings, and also learned about the construction and athletic features. Information from these meetings will be shared with the contracted artists to inform the public art designing process. Based on initial engagement, the public art information was gathered that determined public art pieces should connect visually to local history; utilize natural elements; beautify the site through site-specific, functional public art amenities; and/or contain interactive elements for adults and children.

City of Durham Plans and Resources

The selected Candidates are encouraged to review existing City plans to develop and shape the community's involvement in the design and development of the public art project. The City of Durham Strategic Plan serves as a roadmap to make Durham a diverse, welcoming and innovative community, which highlights goals to foster cohesive, engaged and diverse communities where residents have equitable access to community resources, and the opportunity for a high quality of life. More information can be found here:

<https://durhamnc.gov/183/Envision---Strategic-Plan>.

The City of Durham's [Neighborhood Improvement Services](#) have issued a draft Equitable Engagement Blueprint document to advance equitable community engagement by offering specific guidelines that can be adapted and replicated across City initiatives. More information can be found here:

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/durhamnis/pages/592/attachments/original/1543332399/Draft_Equitable_Engagement_Blueprint_%2818%29_11.06.pdf?1543332399



RFQ SUBMISSION & SELECTION PROCESS

RFQ ELIGIBILITY

This RFQ is open to all residents of North Carolina, but preference will be given to residents of the County of Durham with connections to the Durham community and/or who are connected to and aware of the history of the area. The City encourages people from diverse backgrounds to apply. Candidates must be artists, designers, or fabricators or partnered with artists, designers, or fabricators, eligible to work in the United States, and age 18 and older. Candidates are eligible regardless of race, color, ethnicity, religion, national origin, gender, gender identification, military status, sexual orientation, marital status, or physical ability.

RFQ SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Submissions must be received by **Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 11:59 PM EST** via email to the project manager, Rebecca Brown (rebecca.brown@durhamnc.gov), with the subject line: "RFQ: Hoover Road".

The project manager will distribute all questions and answers to those respondents who have requested RFQ's from the City. No other City official or employee is empowered to speak for the City with respect to this RFQ.

If a Candidate(s) does not receive confirmation receipt from the City by **Friday, January 14, 2022** at 3:00 PM EST, it is the responsibility of the Candidate(s) to contact the City to confirm submission by **Monday, January 17, 2022 by 3:00 PM EST** to be considered eligible.

The RFQ submissions shall include the following (PDF is preferred file type):

- **Statement of Interest:** narrative outlining the Candidates' qualifications and interest in this project, including descriptions of past engagement work within the Durham community or other communities and/or interest in community engagement. **Artists are encouraged to include information on how they may identify and engage residents and community contacts on Hoover Road and in neighborhoods surrounding the area.**
- **Work samples:** visual representations of past artwork that demonstrate the Candidates' qualifications for this project. In order to be considered for this project, the Candidate must submit at least five (5) images or documents of at least five (5) previously completed projects, with the option to submit up to ten (10) images or documents of no more than ten (10) previously completed projects. Each sample should have an accompanying summary of the title, location, cost, materials/media, and date associated with the image(s) and/or project(s).
- **References:** each Candidate team should provide at least three (3) current references (non-familial) or recommendation letters with contact information for each reference, who can speak to the Candidates' work ethic, skills and strengths.

SELECTION PROCESS

- The Review Committee will include staff from the City and may at the City's discretion include representatives from the City of Durham's General Services Department, Durham Parks and Recreation, and others.
- The Review Committee will review submissions for completeness and may reject incomplete or non-responsive submissions.
- The Review Committee will evaluate applications based on criteria that may include, but is not limited to the following:
 - Aesthetic excellence of past projects.
 - Examples of past community engagement. Experience, success, and/or interest in community engagement in the process of creating public artwork.
 - Proven track record of using the materials and methods appropriate for this project.
 - Demonstrated ability to manage projects with similar budgets on time and on budget.
- The Review Committee may invite up to five (5) Finalists to interview with the committee or committee members.
- Finalists may be required to visit site location and interview in-person or online with the Review Committee (in compliance with all local, state, and federal guidelines regarding COVID-19).
- After the interviews, the Review Committee will recommend the Candidates to the City, who will make the final determination as to which Candidates are selected.
- The City and selected Candidates will enter into a written contract detailing mutual responsibilities and the full scope of work, including a project budget. Selected Candidates must provide proof of insurance that meets the City's requirements.

SCOPE OF WORK

The services and obligations that will be required from the Candidate during the contract period include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Leading, planning and facilitating an engagement process to solicit community input on public art with at least two (or more) community sessions, prior to submission of design concept(s).
 - Sessions should include in-person or virtual community conversations, an online element (i.e. survey, community board, etc.) and at least one on-site event.
 - Additionally, artist should participate in at least two community engagement sessions hosted by DPR (if applicable).
- Collaborating with the City and the community on the final design.
- Will oversee the fabrication, installation and documentation of the public art piece(s).
- Submission of a reasonable maintenance plan to ensure proper conservation of the pieces.
- Completing project within agreed upon timeframe.

PROPOSED TIMELINE

- **November 12, 2021:** RFQ Release (open for 9 weeks)
- **Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 11:59 PM EST:** RFQ Deadline
- **Friday, January 14, 2022:** Confirmation of RFQ Receipt via email from the City of Durham to Candidates
- **Monday, January 17, 2022 by 3:00 PM EST:** By this date if a Candidate(s) does not receive confirmation receipt from the City, it is the responsibility of the Candidate(s) to contact the City to confirm submission.
- **February 18, 2022:** City to notify Candidates of decision
- **February – March 2022:** City and Candidates to enter into contract
- **March – April Spring 2022:** Design Development and Stakeholders engagement
- **April 2022:** Final Designs shared with the Stakeholders
- **May 2022:** Candidates submit Final Designs to City for final approval
- **May – September 2022:** Fabrications & Installation

BUDGET

The selected artist or artist team will have a total public art project budget of \$50,000, including artist fees, artist-design, community engagement, fabrication, and documentation of the artwork on site.

DISCRETION OF THE CITY

- A. The City of Durham reserves the right to reject any or all RFQs.
- B. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this document or in any addendums to this document, unless the contrary provision refers specifically to this provision, the City reserves the right (i) to negotiate changes of any nature with any candidate with respect to any term, condition, or provision in this document and/or in any RFQ application, whether or not something is stated to be mandatory and whether or not it is said that a RFQ application will be rejected if certain information or documentation is not submitted with it, and (ii) to enter into an agreement for some or all of the work with one or more persons, firms, or corporations that do not submit SOQs. For example, all deadlines are for the administrative convenience or needs of the City and may be waived by the City in its discretion. This subparagraph B applies to the entire RFQ.
- C. Where the City asks or tells candidates to do stated things, such as that a proposal and/or RFQ application should follow a stated format or that the candidate should do stated things in seeking the contract, the City may reject a proposal and/or RFQ application because it does not comply with those requests, so the candidate is adding to its risk of rejection by non-compliance. Still, the City may, in its discretion, waive non-compliance. This subsection (C) does not limit subsections (A) and (B).
- D. Once a contract is signed, the parties to the contract may enforce the contract according to its terms as allowed by applicable law.