



User Department's Recommendation

User Department Name: Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs (RPCA)

Recommended Bidders: Grand Landscapes, The Simmons Group, Universal Landscaping meets our approval.

Project Amount This Term: \$ 573,576

Funding:

General Enterprise 3 Digit Fund Code _____

CIP Line-Item No. (if applicable): _____

SPLOST

Justification:

DeKalb County Park System, RPCA recommends awarding the contract for the park maintenance to the following vendors: 1- Paths The Simmons Group \$228,800. 2- Parks Grand Landscapes \$159,176. 3- Recreation The Simmons Group \$139,200. 4- FEMA, Land, and Cemetery Universal Landscaping \$46,400.

We have consistently struggled with Russell Landscape performance, and believe those challenges will continue unless we transition to a new vendor. It is evident they are understaffed and do not fully understand the scope of work. We believe this is reflected in their low pricing, which appears to have been submitted simply to secure the bid.

At this point, we need a vendor with adequate staffing levels and the necessary experience to meet expectations. Currently, a significant amount of RPCA staff time is being spent following behind their work to identify deficiencies, and our parks team is having to step in to fill gaps at times.

We chose not to terminate their previous contract earlier, as we did not have another vendor ready to step in at the time. As a result, we have been managing the situation as best we could under the circumstances.

We have selected a new group of vendors, most of whom RPCA has not previously worked with. The expectation is that bringing in new vendors will provide fresh perspective, improved accountability, and ultimately better overall performance.

Chris Bass, Director 4/14/26

Name, Title Date

Christopher Bass 4/14/26

Department Director Date