

Request for Proposals (RFP)

Kinkaid Lake Vision Plan Framework

Issued by: Kinkaid–Reeds Creek Conservancy District (KRCCD)

Location: 1763 Water Plant Road, Murphysboro, Jackson County, Illinois

Issue Date: December 11, 2025

Proposal Due Date: January 30, 2026

1. Introduction and Context

The Kinkaid–Reeds Creek Conservancy District (KRCCD) invites qualified planning, environmental, and landscape architecture firms to submit proposals to develop a Vision Plan Framework for Kinkaid Lake in southern Illinois.

Kinkaid Lake is a critical regional resource, serving as a major water supply, recreation area, wildlife habitat, and environmental asset for Jackson County and surrounding communities. Decades of recreational use, watershed changes, sedimentation, and evolving public expectations call for a coordinated and sustainable vision to guide the lake's future management and development.

The Vision Plan Framework will serve as a strategic blueprint to align stakeholders, identify conservation and restoration priorities, and provide actionable recommendations for long-term ecological and community resilience.

A total of \$50,000 has been allocated by the Kinkaid–Reeds Creek Conservancy District for this initiative.

2. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this RFP is to solicit professional services to:

- Develop a shared vision for the future of Kinkaid Lake.
- Identify goals and objectives for environmental protection, public access, recreation, and community partnerships.
- Outline strategies for conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of natural resources.
- Recommend implementation actions and funding opportunities for near-term and long-term progress.

The Vision Plan Framework should be comprehensive, inclusive, and actionable, integrating environmental science, community engagement, and policy considerations.

3. Project Components

3.1 Context Setting

The consultant shall compile and analyze existing data, studies, and planning documents related to:

- Kinkaid Lake's hydrology, water quality, and sedimentation
- Watershed land use, conservation areas, and public lands
- Recreational assets and public access
- Ecological resources, including sensitive habitats and species
- Infrastructure and governance structures

Deliverable: Baseline Assessment Report summarizing existing conditions, opportunities, and constraints.

3.2 Stakeholder Engagement

Conduct an inclusive and transparent stakeholder process to ensure diverse perspectives are incorporated. Stakeholders should include:

- KRCCD board and staff
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
- USDA Forest Service – Shawnee National Forest
- Local municipalities and counties
- Adjacent landowners, agricultural interests, and tourism representatives.

Deliverables:

- Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- Summary of Meetings and Findings
- Public Workshop Materials

3.3 Vision Statement

Facilitate a collaborative process to draft a unifying vision statement that reflects community values, ecological priorities, and sustainable management goals.

Deliverable: Vision Statement Document endorsed by key stakeholders and KRCCD.

3.4 Goals and Objectives

Develop specific, measurable, and achievable goals under central areas of focus such as:

- Environmental quality and watershed health
- Recreation and access
- Habitat protection and biodiversity
- Water resource management
- Education, outreach, and stewardship

Deliverable: Goals and Objectives Framework outlining strategies and performance indicators.

3.5 Environmental Conservation, Restoration, and Sustainability

Identify and prioritize conservation and restoration opportunities within the lake and its watershed. Address:

- Sediment reduction and water quality improvement
- Riparian and wetland restoration
- Invasive species control
- Sustainable recreation and access management
- Climate adaptation and resilience strategies

Deliverable: Environmental Action Framework including maps, project concepts, and sustainability metrics.

3.6 Recommendations and Implementation

Provide a comprehensive set of recommendations for implementation, including:

- Short, medium, and long-term action plans
- Potential partnerships and funding sources
- Suggested policy or regulatory updates
- Performance monitoring framework

Deliverable: Final Vision Plan Framework Report.

4. Proposal Requirements

Proposals should include:

1. Letter of Interest
2. Understanding of the Project and Proposed Approach
3. Proposed Work Plan and Timeline
4. Team Qualifications and Experience
5. Relevant Project Examples
6. Budget and Fee Proposal
7. References

5. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated on:

- Understanding of the project scope and regional context
- Experience with environmental, recreational, and watershed planning
- Strength and experience of proposed team
- Quality of engagement and communication strategies

- Creativity and practicality of the proposed approach
- Cost-effectiveness and schedule feasibility

6. Submission Instructions

Submit proposals electronically in PDF format to:

J.T. Jenkins, District Manager

Kinkaid-Reeds Creek Conservancy District

Email: jt.jenkins@krccd.com

1763 Water Plant Road

Murphysboro, IL 62966-4456

Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted to: jt.jenkins@krccd.com.

Late or incomplete proposals may not be considered.

7. Ownership and Use of Documents

All work products developed under this contract shall become the property of the Kinkaid-Reeds Creek Conservancy District. The District reserves the right to use, reproduce, and distribute the final plan for public and administrative purposes.

8. Rights Reserved

KRCCD reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all proposals
- Overlook minor errors or inconsistencies
- Modify or cancel this RFP at any time
- Negotiate terms with the selected consultant