



CITY OF CLEARWATER

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT,
100 SOUTH MYRTLE AVENUE, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33756
TELEPHONE: (727) 562-4800 FAX (727) 562-4825

Emilyvette DeGeatano, P.L.A.
District Seven Landscape Architect
Florida Department of Transportation
11201 N. McKinley Drive, MS 7-800
Tampa, FL 33612

June 21, 2024

**RE: Letter of Interest
Landscape Improvements for the following:**

- **State Road 55 (US Highway 19) from SR 60 to the CSX Railroad Crossing rights-of-way.**
- **SR 595 & 651 (South Missouri Avenue) from Kingsley Street to Court Street medians.**

Dear Ms. DeGeatano:

The City of Clearwater (city) has received a letter outlining Funding Availability for Landscaping on State Roadways and is very interested in initiating the Highway Landscape Reimbursement Agreement process with the Florida Department of Transportation (the Department) for beautification projects consisting of rights-of-way located at or near the intersection of State Road 55 (US Highway 19) from SR 60 to the CSX Railroad Crossing, and medians located at or near SR 595 & 651 (South Missouri Avenue) from Kingsley Street to Court Street.

The city desires to continue to provide superior roadway landscaping from bay to beach for our residents and visitors alike. The current soil profiles within both outlined areas are of poor quality and nutrient deficient. It is the desire of the city to remove the inferior soil and replace with a more complimentary soil to ensure the vitality the new proposed landscaping.

The city proposes to replace the existing soil, shrubs, and groundcover within the rights-of-way of State Road 55 (US Highway 19) from SR 60 to the CSX Railroad Crossing with new soil, ornamental flowering vitex trees, mulch and bahia sod. The costs to complete the right-of-way landscaping is estimated to be \$265,369.77, which includes material and installation. Additionally, the city proposes to replace the existing soil, shrubs, and groundcover within the medians of SR 595 & 651 (South Missouri Avenue) from Kingsley Street to Court Street with new soil, Indian hawthorn, variegated schefflera, mulch and Saint Augustine sod. The costs to complete the median landscaping is estimated to be \$435,771.14 including material and installation.

Ryan Cotton, Councilmember
Mike Mannino, Councilmember

Bruce Rector, Mayor



David Allbritton, Councilmember
Lina Teixeira, Councilmember

"Equal Employment and Affirmative Action Employer"

We understand and agree to the following conditions of the Department's roadway landscape program:

- Participation subject to City Council approval.
- Resolutions from the City Council will be provided in support of the reimbursement and maintenance agreement.
- Documented plant material installation and establishment costs up to the agreement amount are eligible for reimbursement. Costs for irrigation systems are not eligible for reimbursement (unless otherwise approved by Florida Department of Transportation).
- The city will design and construct the landscape project. The landscape design must receive approval from the Department prior to the notice to proceed with landscape construction. The project must be designed, constructed, established (90 days), accepted and billed within two years of the execution of the agreement.
- A single reimbursement payment will be made upon the Department's final approval of the landscape Installation.
- Project records are subject to review and audit.
- Installation may not conflict with any scheduled roadway construction.
- The City will provide ongoing maintenance in accordance with the executed agreement.

Thank you for this opportunity and consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Craig Wilson, Parks Senior Division Manager, at 727-444-8584 or via email at craig.wilson@myclearwater.com. We are excited to meet with you to discuss this project in further detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Art Kader". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Art Kader, Director
Parks and Recreation Department