REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Wicker Park Bucktown SSA #33

2027 Landscaping
Orange Planter Containers on Milwaukee & Damen Ave.

Special Service Area #33, the business improvement district for the Wicker Park and Bucktown neighborhoods, is seeking a landscaping contractor to design, install, care for, and maintain 94 concrete on-street planters along Milwaukee Ave. from Division St. to Western Ave., and on Damen Ave. from Le Moyne St. to Webster St.

Services will be provided over a 9-month period:

- Beginning **March 1, 2027**
- Ending **December 31, 2027**

Services Requested:

- 2 main plantings per year with drought resistant and robust flowers and greenery
  - Summer (approx. May 15 – June 15)
  - Winter (approx. Nov 1 – Dec 1)
- 2 additional planting adjustments for Fall and Spring to add/remove foliage and accessories as necessary based on the condition of the main plantings
- Maintenance, watering, trimming and other care as needed twice per week during plant growing season (including weeding, removal of litter, and cultivation of soil every 4-6 weeks)
- Occasional care/maintenance in winter "off season" as necessary
- Meet with SSA staff/committees prior to each seasonal planting to discuss options

Proposals should include:

- Basic description of your firm: size, location, areas of expertise
- Description of your firm's nonprofit industry experience (especially if it includes other chambers of commerce, special services areas, or business improvement districts)
- Detailed breakdown of fee structure and scope of services and anticipated timelines
- Information on the professionals who would serve as primary contacts for the WPBCC and SSA #33
- Contact information for 3 references from not-for-profit organizations (SSAs or SSA service provider organizations encouraged)
- Proof of liability coverage
- **Full monthly and yearly cost breakdown and pricing**

Please refer to *Attachment A: SSA #33 Service Map* and *Attachment B: Background on WPB SSA #33 and Core Values.* If you have questions prior to submission, please email us at ssa33@wickerparkbucktown.com

Submission Deadline:
Friday, October 30th, 2026 at 5pm.

Proposals should be sent to:

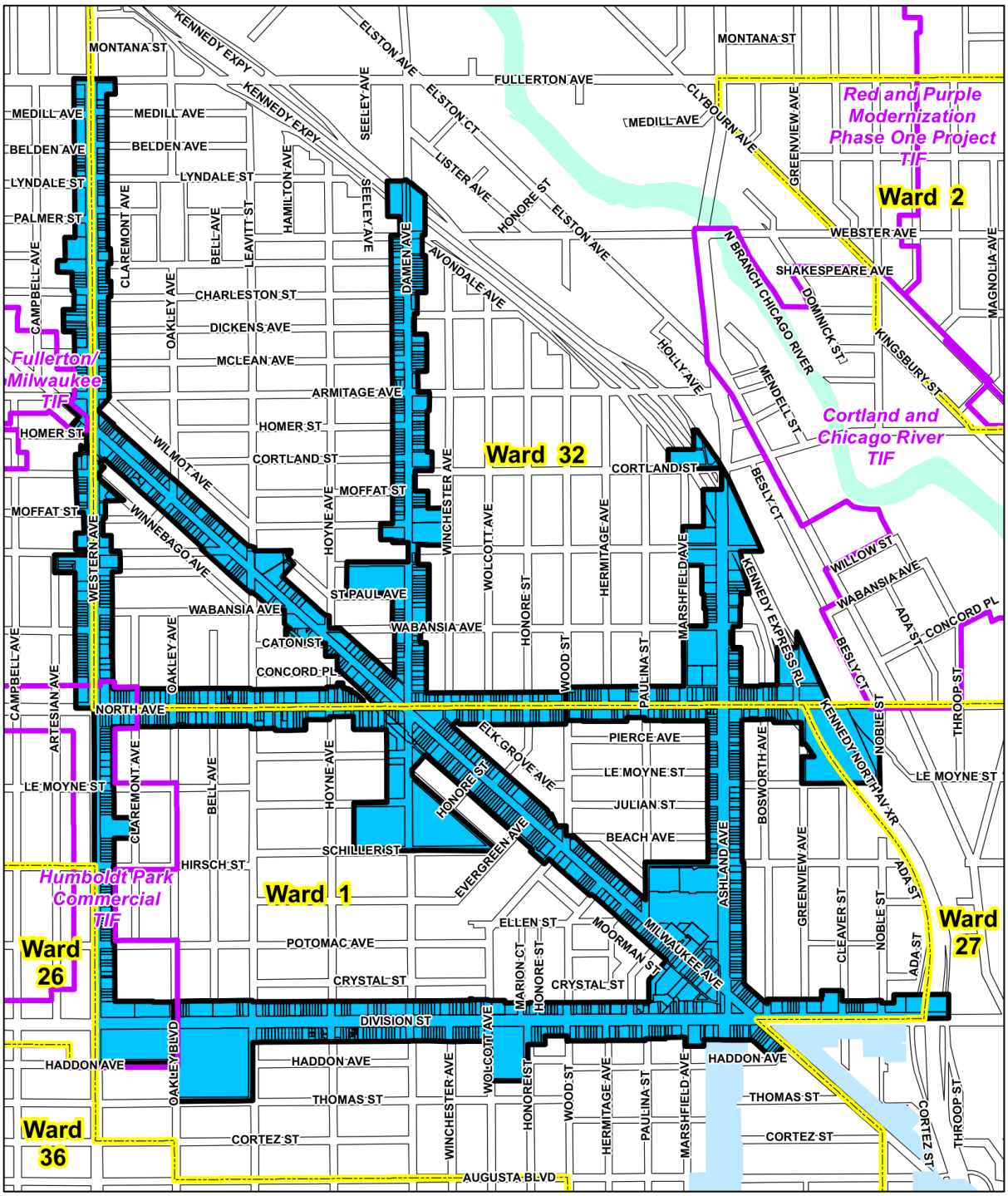
Email (preferred method) to: ssa33@wickerparkbucktown.com

Or mailed to:

Wicker Park Bucktown SSA #33
1414 N. Ashland Ave.
Chicago, IL 60622

Late proposals will not be accepted or considered.

Attachment A



Legend

- Wicker Park / Bucktown
- Other SSA
- TIF
- Wards (2023)

Wicker Park / Bucktown SSA #33

NORTH

Copyright, 2011, City of Chicago
WORK PRODUCT

Attachment B

Background on WPB and Core Values

What is WPB SSA #33?

SSA #33 is the Special Service Area for the Wicker Park and Bucktown neighborhoods of Chicago. The mission of WPB is to sustain and promote the prosperity and unique qualities of life in the Wicker Park and Bucktown neighborhoods and commercial district, whilst preserving its diverse character for the benefit of its residents, visitors, and businesses through the wise and discerning investment of resources to enhance our public ways.

Core Values

The Commission of SSA #33 has a set of core values that are at the heart of any and all decisions made. These values guide the Commission, influencing goals, priorities, and allocation of funding for projects.

Environmental best practices are preferred, and should be incorporated into all projects. Being located in a well-established urban area presents unique environmental challenges. Green space is limited, while hard, impervious surfaces abound, especially on the commercial streets of WPB. Alternatives to conventional methods of managing stormwater runoff should be explored and implemented whenever possible. As natural resources become more and more limited, the need to recycle as well as find alternative methods for powering vehicles, buildings, etc. is becoming more imperative. The Commission of WPB is committed to finding ways to encourage recycling and a more "green lifestyle" in order to lessen the burden on infrastructure and resources.

Walking, bicycling, and public transit are preferred methods of transportation. Traffic congestion and parking are major concerns in the Wicker Park and Bucktown neighborhoods. The Commission of WPB feels that it is important to maintain the neighborhoods as safe, interesting, and inviting places to walk and bike. When residents are walking and biking, they are more likely to use transit. The private vehicle is here to stay and needs to be considered in planning, however, the Commission of WPB desires to put the needs of walkers, cyclists and transit riders first, as they are the more sustainable means of transportation in an urban setting.

Public space, particularly streets, are an integral part of making a neighborhood exciting. When people talk about a great neighborhood, they are often referring to the public life of the neighborhood, an experience that can only be had in the public way, on streets or sidewalks. An active, exciting, and interesting street life is the backbone of successful neighborhoods, as it serves residents, visitors, and businesses of all kinds equally. When people talk about a great neighborhood, they rarely speak of the interior of houses or stores, but rather the people they watch, the storefronts that catch their eye, the outdoor spaces where they relaxed, and the overall experience of being in the neighborhood as experienced from its sidewalks. To this end, the Commission of WPB is interested in maintaining the unique atmosphere of Wicker Park and Bucktown that can only be experienced in the public way.

Honoring the heritage of the neighborhoods while progressing into the future.

The Wicker Park and Bucktown neighborhoods have been home to many artists, musicians, writers, and others in the creative community for many years. Unfortunately, there has been a decline in the creative community, a detriment to the culture and liveliness of the neighborhoods. Similarly, the neighborhoods have a wealth of architectural history that has also been lost. The Wicker Park and Bucktown neighborhoods are at an important crossroads: find ways to nourish the creative community and preserve architectural heritage so that it continues to flourish or risk further decline and the loss of what has helped define the neighborhoods for so long.

Any community process should be open and transparent to its stakeholders. WPB is funded through property tax dollars, and exists as a public body. Any planning, budgeting, or decision-making process

shall be open to the public. Innovative methods to solicit public comment and input are expected; WPB considers transparency and engagement to be paramount to its success and validity.