REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Wicker Park Bucktown SSA #33

2027 Tree Care Services

Special Service Area #33, the business improvement district for the Wicker Park and Bucktown neighborhoods, is seeking a certified arborist to care for and maintain trees lining the streets of the major thoroughfares within the Wicker Park Bucktown SSA #33 district boundaries (as outlined in Attachment A: Boundary Map).

Contract period is for January 2027 through December 2027. There may be an option to extend the tree care service contract through December 2028.

Services requested:

- Develop and execute a management and care plan
- Communicated objectives with a timeline for tasks completion
- Pruning of all trees within the public way and, when feasible, using the most environmentally-friendly and safe products

Complete Landscape Purview:

- All trees in the public way
- All tree pits in the public way, whether open, surrounded by fencing or covered with a grate

Urban forest care and maintenance will be provided to the standards as outlined in American National Standard (ANSI) documents, ANSI A300 (Part 1)-2008 Pruning and ANSI A300 (Part2)-2004 Fertilization.1 Services will be provided during a year-long period to begin in January and conclude December.

Tree Care Maintenance Plan (3 year)

- Identify all trees within the SSA and assign a tag number to each tree. (Trees can be physically tagged)
- Identify the condition and health of each tree.
- Recommend hazard evaluations and removals of appropriate trees.
- Recommend pruning, soil management, and pest management treatments to promote tree safety, health, and longevity.
- Map the trees using Global Positioning Satellite Receiver (GPSr) hardware and Geographic Information System (GIS) software

The assessment shall consist of a visual inspection of each tree for the following considerations:

- Tree species and condition rating (Good, Fair, Poor or Dead)
- Dead trees
- General health including cracks and breaks to limbs or trunks
- Treatment process, if applicable

[1] The specified ANSI Pruning and Fertilization standards can be found online: https://treecareindustryassociation.org/business-support/ansi-a300-standards/

Tree Pruning: The selected arborist is to develop and execute a three-year tree pruning schedule for all trees in the SSA. This task includes pruning of trees to reduce risk, manage tree health, provide appropriate clearance, supply aesthetic and structural improvements or corrections, and restore overall tree health. Such pruning activities shall be performed as needed by priority in WPB's urban forest. (Total number of trees: approximately 1,600).

Soil Management: Annually apply sub-surface liquid fertilizer injection to tree pits and planters during spring mulching. Such fertilization is desired to correct nutrient deficiencies and improve plant health. Standard fertilization practices including random soil analysis (to determine deficient nutrients) and the avoidance of phosphorus-based products (phosphorus is a known pollutant and is harmful to wildlife) shall be employed. (Approximate number of trees: 1,600).

Integrated Pest Management: The selected vendor should possess (and be willing to share) extensive knowledge regarding urban trees, suitable management plans for insects and diseases that affect trees, as well as other relevant best management practices for optimal urban forest health. Throughout the term of the contract, the arborist will inspect and treat WPB's urban forest for and report observed instances of insects, mites, disease, and cultural problems that could impact tree health. All inspections/treatments shall be reported and sent to the SSA for review. The selected arborist will prioritize and treat affected trees to best suppress pest damage and promote overall tree and forest health. Aside from Emerald Ash Borer preventive treatments only naturally occurring compounds or beneficial insects shall be used for pest management.

Additionally, the selected vendor should be willing to work productively and proactively with a separately contracted landscape service company that will be simultaneously operating in the SSA #33 district during the growing season (April-December).

Proposals should include a scope of services, anticipated timelines, and all related fees. Please include at least 3 references that are familiar with your work.

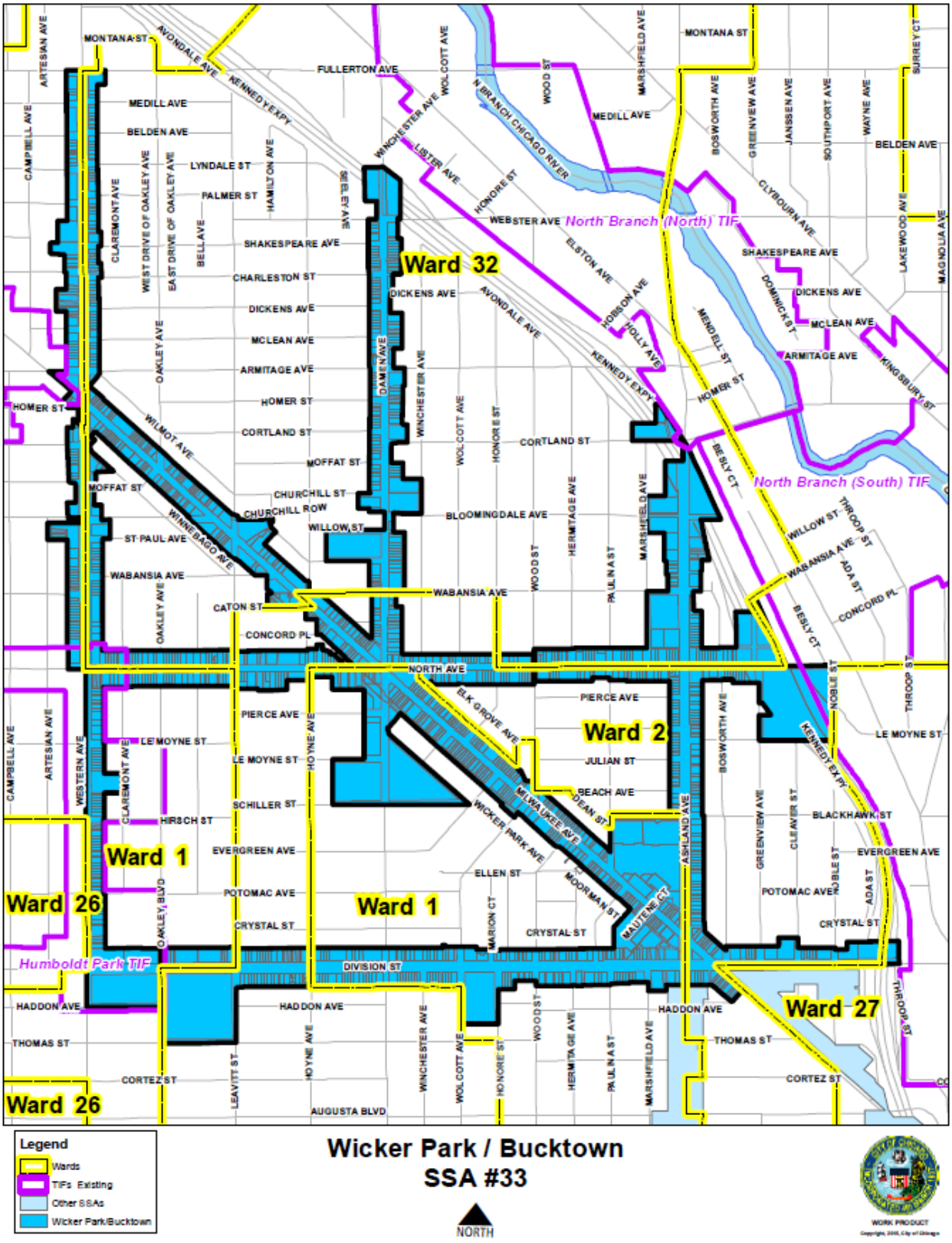
For more information, please see *Attachment B: Background on SSA #33 and Core Values.* If you have questions prior to submission, please call or email us at 773-384-2672 or ssa@33@wickerparkbucktown.com

Proposals should be sent via:
Email (preferred method) to: ssa33@wickerparkbucktown.com

Or in person or by mail to:
Wicker Park Bucktown Chamber of Commerce
Attention: SSA #33
1414 N Ashland Ave
Chicago, IL 60622

Please Note: All proposals must arrive at the Chamber of Commerce office by ***5pm Friday October 30th, 2026***. Late proposals will not be accepted or considered.

Attachment A



Attachment B

Background on SSA #33 and Core Values

What is WPB SSA #33?

The mission of SSA #33 is to sustain and promote the prosperity and unique qualities of life in the Wicker Park and Bucktown neighborhoods and commercial district, while 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 SSA #33. 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 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 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 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 \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. SSA #33 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. The Commission considers transparency and engagement to be paramount to its success and validity in the community.