

PTR Plan RFP Frequently Asked Questions

As of 5/6/2017

1. Erie County Does Not have a Parks Department, what is the purpose of the Plan?

Please refer to the entire RFP for a description of the intended Scope of Work. Parks and other public, recreational amenities are owned and operated by municipalities or other public entities like the Port Authority or the State of Pennsylvania in the case of Presque Isle or Erie Bluffs state park. However, the County is required to update their Comprehensive Plan including an element on the Physical Environment, Natural and Historical Resources. The County also administers an Act 13 Greenways program to assist in preserving and enhancing greenways and open space within the region.

The PTR plan will need to address how best the County can support our existing and future parks, recreation and trail systems. The plan must include a clear understanding of the system and its challenges given the organizational structure, or lack thereof, for management and development of the PTR systems. The plan must include what the County's role in this system should be to ensure success and how the Act 13 Greenways funding should best be utilized to ensure the plan's implementation. If additional funding is needed to meet regional goals, that should also be addressed.

To be successful, the selected consultant must be prepared to take a non-traditional approach at development of the plan and have a clear understanding of how each municipality within the County operates in order to determine real and implementable plan recommendations.

2. Should the plan include an analysis of the County adding a Parks Department to their services?

The plan should look at all opportunities to more effectively involve the County in support of parks, recreation and open space development. However, the County used to own and manage a parks system but divested itself of that service. That fact should be a consideration.

3. What is meant by a robust but effective public engagement process?

The best way to explain this expectation is that quality public engagement does not necessarily mean quantity of people. Erie County is looking for a consultant to team who can effectively engage a broad spectrum of stakeholders to understand how best to support and improve our open space and recreational system. The best way to garner input and truly understand barriers to success and how to achieve regional goals will need to be determined through the planning process. It is anticipated that anecdotal research with our 38 municipalities will be needed and may prove to be most effective but online surveys may also be considered along with public meetings that are focused, targeted and well facilitated.

The plan should include broadly supported regional goals for the PTR systems.

4. Can the consultant expand the membership of the Steering Committee, if needed, to include other interested parties?

Yes, we are open to suggestions on how best to include those who need to be included in the planning process. However, the size and way of communicating will need to be contemplated and how the committee will be managed must be considered.

5. What is the Planning Commission's role in the plan? Who will adopt it?

The Planning Commission will review and make a recommendation as to the adoption of the plan but County Council will be the adopting agency. This will become part of the County's Comprehensive Plan. Both County Council and the Planning Commission will need to be involved in the planning process to ensure that the Plan is supported and implemented.

6. What is the Planning Department's role in the plan's development?

The Planning Department will be very involved in all aspects of the plan and the process. We see ourselves as partners with the selected consultant or consultant team but will rely on the Consultant to provide develop a realistic plan, recommendation and actions that will lead to success.

7. What is meant by "training" stakeholders?

We see our PTR stakeholders as advocates for the plan, its goals and the overall success of its implementation. During the planning process, the consultant should be preparing the stakeholder group or steering committee to advocate for acceptance of the plan and how to implement it.

We anticipate that the Plan will need to be "owned" by the County, the municipalities and the larger stakeholder group in order to be effective. To that end, teaching the value of PTR systems will be imperative.

8. Should the consultant include private recreational amenities in the inventory?

Yes, the County wants to ensure that all recreational opportunities are identified as well as how to best link or connect them to people who need to utilize those amenities.

9. Should the cover letter be addressed to the Controller, Mary Schaaf, or, should the letter be addressed to the Planning Director, Katherine Wyrosdick?

The cover letter can be addressed to Katherine Wyrosdick but the Sealed Bid must follow the directions outlined in the RFP

10. The RFP asks for examples of a completed plan. Is that something that can be emailed to you, or does it need to be a hard copy

You may include a CD, thumb drive or an electronic link of sample plans.

11. Does Erie County receive funding from the Casino?

Yes, Erie County is a recipient of Gaming Revenue. However, it is not currently apportioned to greenways or parks.

12. What are some issues identified regarding parks and recreation in Erie County?

These will be identified through the planning process but the Department is concerned with the lack of a coordinated system of parks and open space. Since these are owned and operated by separate municipalities with differing levels of ability to manage park development, there may be missed opportunities that can be realized through a coordinated system. How trails and transportation linkages can be accomplished also needs to be well understood.

13. Should the 4 public meetings be held throughout the County?

Yes

14. Should the consultant plan on meeting with each municipality?

Perhaps but that will be up to the consultant, the Planning department and steering committee to decide who needs to be involved in providing feedback and guidance to the planning process.