



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:
Landscape Services for SSA 61 – Hyde Park
March 26, 2026**

The Special Service Area #61 Downtown Hyde Park Chicago (DTHP) seeks a qualified landscape service company (“Contractor”) to install and maintain plants in the in-ground plant beds (“medians”) on the section of Lake Park Avenue within the SSA boundaries for the 2026 season.

General Invitation

SSA 61 invites the submission of responses for an RFP for Median Landscape Project.

1. Site to be serviced:
Medians along S. Lake Park Avenue from 52nd Street to 55th Street. See **Appendices 1 and 2** for SSA map and photos of sites
2. RFP Timeframe:
 - a. RFP Opens **March 25, 2026**
 - b. RFP Closes **April 17, 2026**
3. Service Schedule (Approximate):
 - a. Spring/Summer Service Begin Date: **May 4, 2026**
 - b. Spring/Summer Service Completion Date: **June 5, 2026**
 - c. Maintenance Schedule (Approximate): **July – October, 2026**
 - d. Autumn Service Period (Approximate): **October, 2026**
 - e. Winter/Holiday Service Period (Approximate): **November – February, 2027**

Contractor must produce a detailed policy for replacing damaged or stolen plants.

Contractor must break down costs for Spring/Summer, Autumn, Winter/Holiday and maintenance schedules.

Proposal Submission

Please submit a proposal for services by noon, **Monday, April 17th, 2026**. Proposals should include a scope of services, anticipated timelines, experience and qualifications, and all related fees (with Fall and Holiday planting and maintenance costs laid out separately from Spring and Summer). Include at least 3 references that are familiar with your work. Median design and renderings are strongly encouraged with submission.



No more than three (3) potential contractors will be invited to give an in-person presentation to demonstrate their landscaping concepts providing more detail during the week of April 20th, 2026

A finalist will be selected during the week of April 27th and contracts to be presented to the full commissioners to be signed during that week

Work will commence beginning the week of **May 4th, 2026**, to be completed no later than the week of **June 5th, 2026**.

Services Requested

Median planting: Contractor will present content with schedules of Spring, Autumn, Winter/Holiday and maintenance schedules.

Contractor will install and maintain plant material in the existing medians (see Appendix 2). Contractor will strive to create a corridor that reflects the bright landscape aesthetic of the Hyde Park neighborhood shops. Contractor will use sufficient blocks of color and height to draw the eye from the street toward the retail area and make Lake Park Avenue cohesive with the rest of Downtown Hyde Park. The Subcontractor will select plant materials that beautify the streetscape, within the guidelines of the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) while prioritizing varieties that are less susceptible to theft. Contractor will adhere to decorations and plants that are also within the guidelines of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

Main Planting Responsibilities

1. Plant material for the Spring/Summer season.
2. Plant/arrange season-appropriate material for the Fall Season as well as plantings that will come up in the Spring.
3. Plant/arrange season-appropriate material for the Winter season. Holiday presentations should be in place by mid-November
4. Prune existing trees on the medians within Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) guidelines and enhance consistency with the median presentation

Ongoing Plant Maintenance

Contractor is expected to maintain plant health and attractive appearance for all plants during the service months and inspect and maintain all plantings or holiday presentations.



This includes:

1. Removing weeds and dying plant material as needed
2. Cleaning out any litter from medians
3. Cultivating soil
4. Watering plants as needed, per recommended schedule
5. Fertilizing as needed, per recommended schedule
6. Prune trees as needed, within Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) guidelines and to preserve consistency with the median presentation

Additional Requirements

Special Conditions:

In the event of extreme weather conditions, as determined at the discretion of provider management, provider management shall determine whether work schedules should be modified or curtailed to ensure the safety of the provider personnel. Whenever such conditions arise, provider management will contact and notify the appropriate client contact.

Special consideration will be given to proposals that include green initiatives for removal and disposal of seasonal plantings.

Compliance with Applicable Laws, licenses and permits

Contractor must comply with all applicable federal and state laws and city ordinances related to performing these services as a Contractor to the City of Chicago for a Special Service Area.

Contractor must be licensed to do business and be in good standing in the state of Illinois and the City of Chicago, and shall be responsible for acquiring any licenses necessary to perform the contracted services within those jurisdictions.

Contractor must sufficiently be bonded and licensed and shall be responsible for acquiring any permits necessary to perform the contracted services.



All responses will include a minimum of the following:

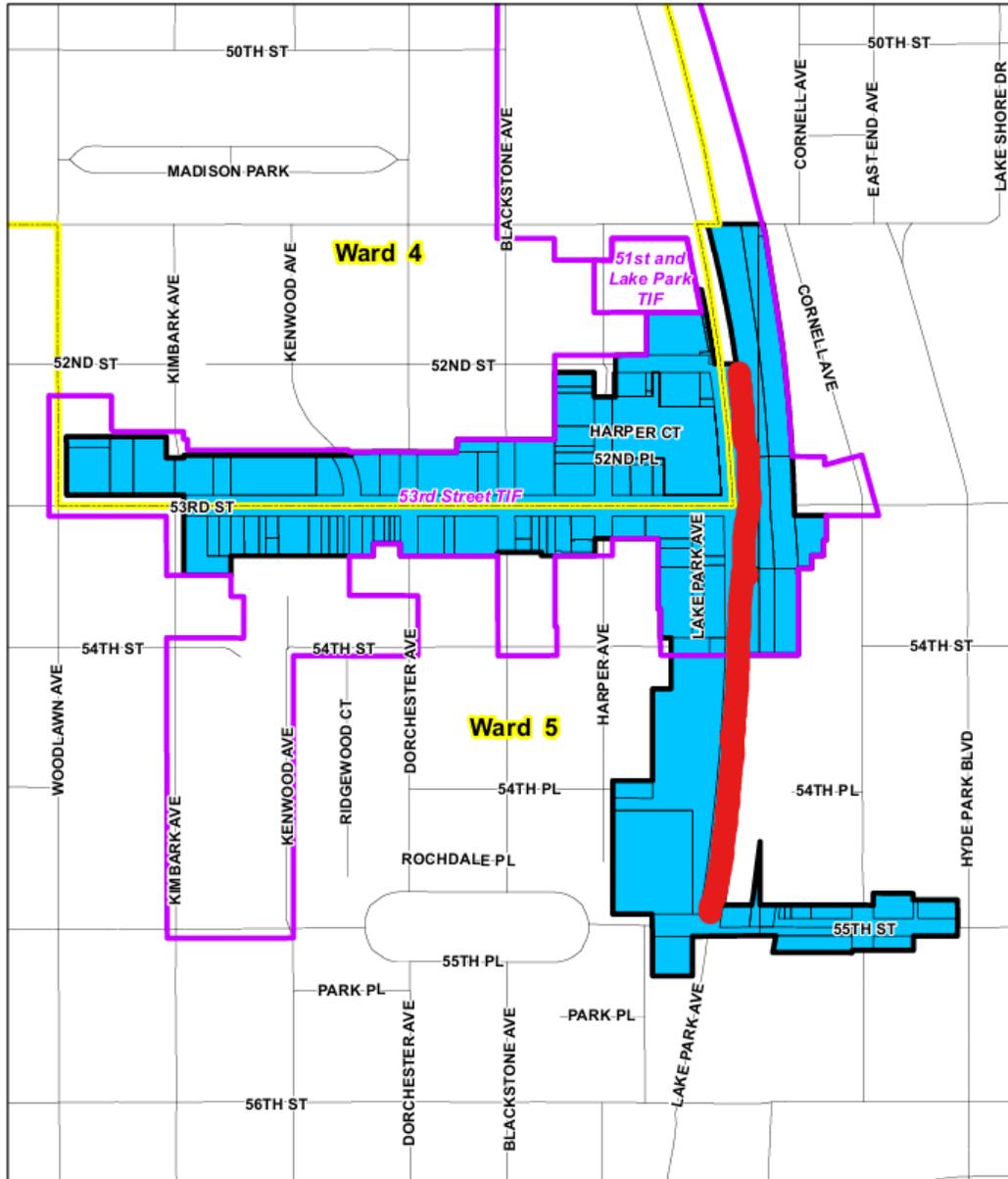
1. A one-page cover letter of introduction to your firm and capabilities
2. The presentation
 - a. Proposed illustration of areas (see appendixes 2 and 3).
 - b. List of proposed plants to be used and their appropriateness in blending into the landscape.
 - c. Schedule of installation and maintenance per Spring/Summer, Autumn and Holiday seasons.
 - d. Cost estimates for Spring/Summer, Autumn and Holiday seasons.
 - e. Plant damage and replacement policy.
3. Statement of insurance and limits (actual certificates are not required).
4. At least three references demonstrating your work.
5. Contact information of person(s) who will be involved on the project.

Please send all responses to this RFP and direct questions to:

Rod Sawyer
Program Manager
SSA 61- Hyde Park
1511 East 53rd Street
Chicago, IL 60615
Email: rod@secc-chicago.org
Office: (773) 324-6926



Appendix 1 – Map of Median Area



- Legend**
- Hyde Park
 - Other SSA
 - TIF
 - Wards (2023)

**Hyde Park
SSA #61-2023**





Appendix 2: Street Level Pictures of SSA #61 Lake Park Medians:

52nd and Lake Park Avenue Within SSA 61



North



Center



South

53rd and Lake Park Avenue Within SSA 61

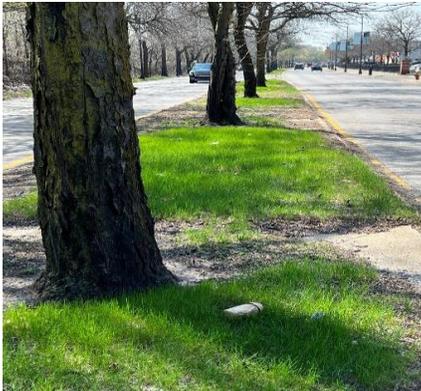


Looking South



On Street

54th and Lake Park Avenue Within SSA 61



North before Curb Cut



South after Curb Cut



Appendix 3: Sample Floral Decoration Suggestions. Ideas from other city of Chicago displays. These are not directives.

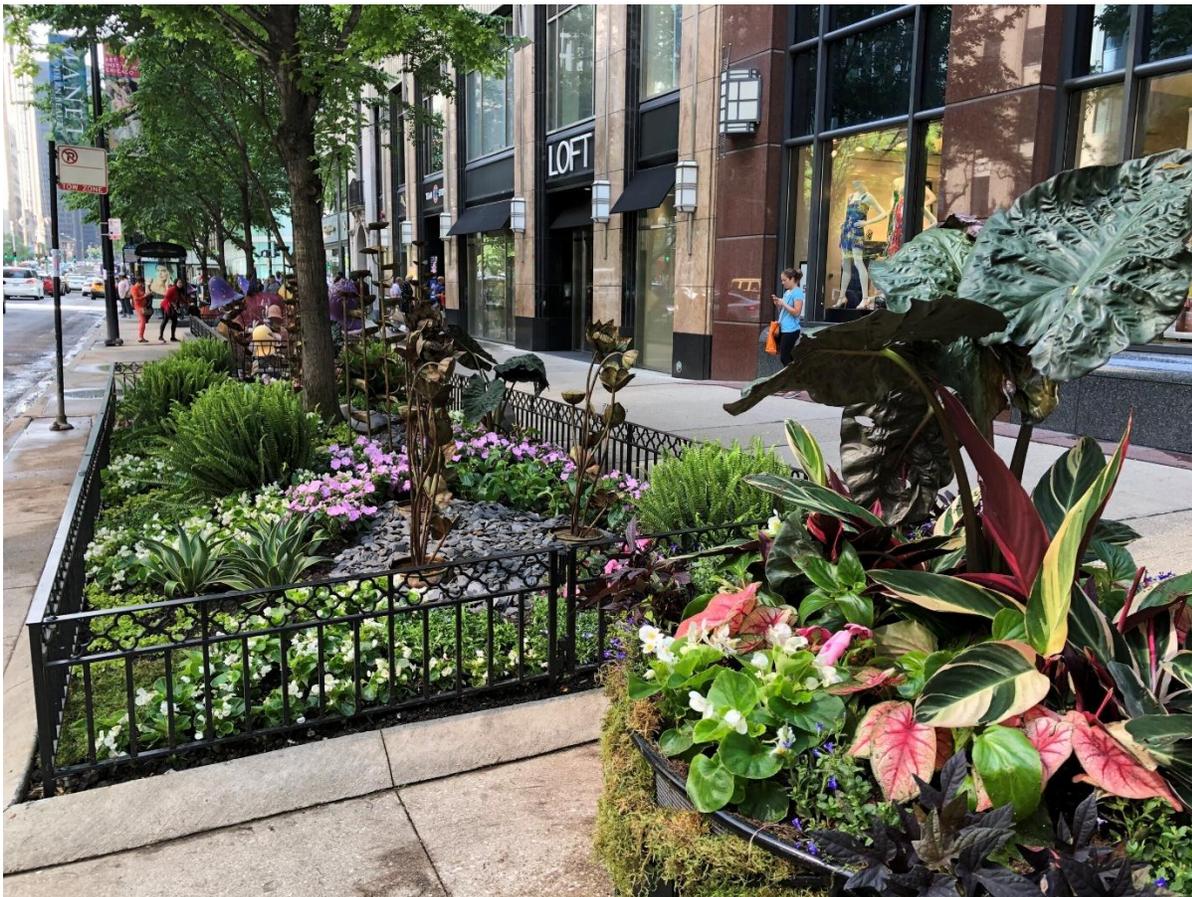




Photo Source Credits: WBEZ: What Happens To The Colorful Plants Along The Mag Mile In The Winter?



Photo Source Credit: City of Chicago