

Date: November 3, 2006

To: Hamilton County Environmental Solid Waste Management District

From: Cincinnati Park Board

Proposal: Sawmill Operation to Reclaim Potential of Urban Timber

**Purpose:**

To create a countywide model of practice for handling saw logs originating in the Urban Forest, and on private property, that fosters "highest and best use" of the resource as part of the disposal process.

**Objectives:**

- To establish a program that creates a simple and efficient mechanism for diverting saw logs from the current processing cycle, so that their lumber resource can be graded, processed, and marketed.
- To develop a broad-spectrum customer base for the lumber products that maximizes salvage potential.
- To anticipate and facilitate the removal of trees, and remediate costs associated with that removal, infested with Emerald Ash Borer.
- To raise public awareness of and appreciation for tree resources in the local urban environment.
- To create a viable and replicable model of practice for the region.

**Proposal:**

To seek funds for the following:

1. the purchase of capital equipment to outfit the sawmill operation that will be owned by Cincinnati Park Board,
2. operational funds to manage the contract with a party that will lease the sawmill and a selected site for the sawmill operation for a terminal period, possibly two years,
3. operational funds to develop the marketplace for the wood products generated by the accumulated saw logs.

**Concept:**

Sawmill and site will be owned by the Cincinnati Park Board, which will request proposals from non-municipal entities for creating and operating a sawmill operation utilizing the equipment and site furnished through a lease-agreement with the Cincinnati Park Board (owner/lessor). The contractor/lessee will provide the owner/lessor full release from liability for the equipment and operations, will perform maintenance on the capital assets, and will maintain the operation site. The City's contractor for forestry will deliver saw logs originating in the City of Cincinnati to the

sawmill site. Saw logs originating from private property will be delivered to the sawmill site at the expense of the owner. Saw logs originating in other municipalities, whether publicly or privately owned, may be accepted for processing when delivered at the owner's expense, depending on the availability of the sawmill operation.

The sawmill operator will assess saw logs for recovery of most valuable assets, i.e., lumber, veneer, firewood, mulch. After cutting, the lumber will be stickered and stacked for seasoning, or staged for shipment in the case of lumber sold green. Secondary products (firewood and mulch) will be processed and staged appropriately. Sawmill operator will maintain fully detailed inventory records, available on a monthly basis, for analysis of the program, and financial accountability.

**Budget (in \$s. discounts estimated):**

	<b>Grant</b>	<b>Discount</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>A. Expenses</b>			
1. Personnel			
2. Equipment			
a. Wood-Mizer LT40HDD51 Sawmill	37,792	3,124	40,916
b. Bobcat T250 Compact Track Loader	37,367	16,014	53,381
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>75,159</b>	<b>19,138</b>	<b>94,297</b>
3. Contractual Service			
a. Development*	23,000		23,000
b. Consultancy**	2,000		2,000
c. Promotion***	703		703
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>25,703</b>		<b>25,703</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>100,862</b>	<b>19,138</b>	<b>120,000</b>

\*Development: includes identifying and establishing relationships within the marketplace that will utilize the wood products. Some examples: original cuts on the logs provide raised bed timbers for community gardens (Civic Garden Center, Neighborhood Gardens Program), framing quality lumber might be sold as green wood to the drying facility in Washington Courthouse, OH, artisanal quality wood, including tree roots, will be promoted to the craftsmen and artisans that fabricate furniture and interior design articles. Some of these 'customers' will facilitate the collaborative partnerships that will promote the public education potential of this program, as in the case of the 2003 Park Bench Design Competition that engaged UC Design Students in a practicum exercise conceptualizing and fabricating park benches for public spaces. Development also includes working with the sawmill operators to establish appropriate reporting mechanisms to develop optimal logistical and financial efficiency.

\*\*Consultancy includes the necessary expertise to evaluate timber for best potential cutting strategy, and developing contacts outside the region for the program.

\*\*\*Promotion might include funding prize money for a juried design competition.