Request for Proposal: Seal Cove Pond Stream Restoration Design

Issuing Organization: Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park
Date of Issuance: October 15, 2026
Proposal Submission Deadline: November 30, 2026 at 5:00pm Eastern Time
Design Completion Date: June 1, 2027
Construction Date: July 15 – September 30, 2027

Introduction and Background

Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park seeks qualified firms to provide technical assessments and design for a stream rehabilitation project on Seal Cove Stream near Seal Cove Pond in Tremont, Maine. The objective is to improve passage for adult and juvenile river herring while supporting other migratory fish, including American eel and rainbow smelt. This Request for Proposal (RFP) covers design only. Schoodic Institute will issue a separate RFP for restoration construction based on the completed design; construction and construction oversight are excluded from this contract.

Nature-like fishways were installed in two locations on Seal Cove Stream in 2024. An additional rehabilitation area near the head of tide consists of braided channels flowing through coarse streambed material that impedes fish migration, particularly during low flows. The design should evaluate concentrating low flows into a passable channel while maintaining channel stability, sediment transport, floodplain function, and aquatic habitat. The firm shall assess alternatives and recommend an approach rather than assume channelization is required.

Scope of Work

- Review existing information and collect necessary survey data to assess fish passage limitations, channel geometry, substrate, hydrology and hydraulics, and tidal influence where relevant.
- Develop a cost-effective, nature-like restoration design with fish passage criteria, design flows, and supporting calculations. Evaluate channel, streambed, bioengineering, woody debris, bank stabilization, and native revegetation measures as appropriate.
- Provide a project execution plan with quantities, an itemized construction cost estimate and contingency, access and staging needs, and construction sequencing.
- Provide concept, draft and final construction drawings and specifications suitable for a separate construction RFP, including erosion control, flow diversion and fish protection measures. Includes review by Schoodic Institute and Acadia National Park at each stage; provide Maine professional engineering services and sealed documents where required.
- Identify required permits and consultations; coordinate early with Maine DEP, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW), Marine Resources (DMR), and other agencies as applicable. Provide technical materials for permit applications and National Park Service (NPS) compliance review. Schoodic Institute/NPS will lead submissions and approvals unless otherwise agreed; identify additional permitting services separately.
- All designs will be subject to applicable Acadia National Park standards and review.
- Submit all survey data, calculations, design files, drawings, specifications, and cost estimates in PDF and editable native formats for use by Schoodic Institute and NPS in permitting, construction procurement, and implementation.

Period of Performance

Allow approximately 6 – 7 months from notice to proceed, anticipated in December 2026. Proposed milestones concept design due by January 29, 2027, draft design and permit-support materials due by March 31, 2027, and final design due by June 1, 2027. Allow at least two weeks for NPS review at each interim stage.

Upon selection, the firm and Schoodic Institute will finalize the scope, fee, and schedule. Proposals may offer alternative timelines with justification, including field-season needs, agency review, and effects on potential construction in 2027. Construction is anticipated in summer/fall 2027, subject to approvals, funding, and separate procurement; if infeasible, it may move to 2028 without extending this design contract automatically.

For construction planning, assume July 15 – September 30, 2027, pending site-specific agency confirmation. DEP Chapter 305 stream-crossing provisions use July 15 – October 1, with timing review outside that period; these do not establish a blanket restoration work window. Habitat restoration under Section 13 requires low-water work. Confirm permitted dates with DEP, IFW, and DMR, including fish migration restrictions, and incorporate them in the construction documents. These construction dates do not restrict non-disturbing design work.

Required Components

Proposals must include the following elements:

- **Technical proposal**
  - Approach, deliverables, assumptions, exclusions, and proposed review meetings.
  - Schedule aligned with June 1, 2027, or a justified alternative timeline.
- **Qualifications and experience**
  - Key personnel, relevant restoration and fish passage experience, and two project references.
- **Cost proposal**
  - Total fee and task-level cost breakdown; identify optional services separately.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated using the following weighted factors:

- **Relevant experience and qualifications (40%)** Restoration and fish passage expertise.
- **Technical approach (30%)** Clarity, feasibility, and quality of the work plan and schedule.
- **Past performance (15%)** Results and references from similar projects.
- **Price (15%)** Cost-effectiveness and reasonableness of the proposed budget.

Awards will be made to the responsible entity whose proposal is most advantageous to the project, with price and other factors considered. Schoodic Institute reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

Submission Instructions

Please submit your proposal as a single PDF by November 30, 2026 at 5:00pm Eastern Time to:
Samantha Bocionek, Projects & Grants Coordinator, sbocionek@schoodicinstitute.org

About Schoodic Institute

Founded in 2004 and based on Wabanaki homeland in Winter Harbor, Maine, Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and the largest of 18 NPS Research Learning Centers. Our mission is inspiring science, learning, and community for a changing world—helping land managers understand and adapt to environmental changes. Our 100-acre, year-round campus accommodates up to 150 guests with modern lab, classroom, dining, and event facilities. We are an inclusive Equal Opportunity Employer dedicated to advancing diversity in environmental science, education, conservation, and hospitality.