

UPPER BIG BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP 2026-008)

PIONEER TRAILS RECREATION AREA

PLAYGROUND

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# Pioneer Trails Recreation Area

## Playground

### 1. INTRODUCTION

This Request for Proposal (RFP) is issued by the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, CONTRACTOR; to solicit proposals for providing and installing a playground at Pioneer Trails Recreation Area, which is located northeast of Aurora in Hamilton County, Nebraska.

Pioneer Trails Recreation Area is located in the Northwest Quarter Section 35, Township 11 North, Range 6 West and the Southwest Quarter of Section 26, Township 11 North, Range 6 West in Hamilton County, Nebraska. The area is located 1 mile north and 1.5 miles east of Aurora, Nebraska (address is 1714 East 14 Road, Aurora, Nebraska). (See Exhibits C-1, C-2, C-3, and C-4).

Pioneer Trails Dam was constructed on a tributary of Lincoln Creek in 1986. The project was designed to provide flood control, aquifer recharge, wildlife habitat, and recreation opportunities. The project features a 40-surface acre lake that can store 277 acre feet of water, with room for an additional 288 acre feet of flood storage. The lake's water source is supplied by rainfall from a 5,210 acre drainage area.

The crest of the dam is 15.0 feet wide with a crest elevation of 1763.7 feet. The dam has a 30 foot wide concrete spillway with a crest elevation of 1755.0 feet located near the center of the dam. The dam also has a 50 foot wide grass auxiliary spillway located at the east end of the dam with a control section elevation of 1759.0.

Existing facilities at Pioneer Trails Recreation Area include a boat ramp, amphitheater overlooking the lake, picnic shelters, a flush restroom, a vault restroom, a RV camping area, a tent camping area, grills, and a hiking trail around the lake.

### 2. EXAMINATION OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS AND EXPLANATION TO OFFEROR

Should the OFFEROR find discrepancies in, or omissions from the RFP, or should the intent or meaning appear unclear or ambiguous, or should any other questions arise relative to the RFP, the OFFEROR shall notify CONTRACTOR by January 23, 2026, via e-mail to

[dtenbensel@upperbigblue.org](mailto:dtenbensel@upperbigblue.org). The OFFEROR making such a request solely will be responsible for its timely receipt by the CONTRACTOR. Replies to such notices will be addressed within 2 working days of receipt by the CONTRACTOR. If the request(s) require changes to the original RFP, then an amendment to the RFP will be issued to all prospective OFFERORS and shared via <https://www.upperbigblue.org/about/bid-proposals>. As reviewed by the CONTRACTOR, if a request(s) is deemed significant, the CONTRACTOR at their discretion may extend the closing date of the RFP.



### 3. EXHIBITS INCLUDED IN RFP 2026-0005

Exhibit A – Schedule of Events

Exhibit B – Project Background, Scope of Work

Exhibit C – Pioneer Trails Recreation Area – Location Maps

C-1 Hamilton County

C-2 Pioneer Trails Recreation Area

C-3 Pioneer Trails Recreation Area

C-4 Pioneer Trails Recreation Area - Playground

Exhibit D – Pioneer Trails Playground - Contractor’s Quote - Schedule of Values

### 4. AMENDMENTS TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

If this RFP is amended, all terms and conditions that are not modified remain unchanged. The term "RFP" includes all exhibits and amendments provided by the OFFEROR as part of this RFP.

### 5. PREPARATION COST

The preparation of the proposal shall be by, and at the expense of, the OFFEROR.

### 6. PRICE CONDITIONS

The quoted price must include all costs to the CONTRACTOR for all supervision, labor, tools, supplies, materials, equipment, transportation, testing, and any other miscellaneous for full and complete performance of the work as set forth herein.

Pricing will be guaranteed for 90 days from submission of proposal. All pricing information requested in this RFP must be provided. Costing/Pricing by details must be broken down by labor, materials, etc. CONTRACTOR reserves the right to require the OFFEROR to furnish an accounting breakdown of all contract prices.

### 7. PAYMENT TERMS

CONTRACTOR payment terms are net 30 days upon receipt of invoice, subject to approval by the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District Board of Directors.

### 8. RIGHT OF ACCEPTANCE

CONTRACTOR reserves the right to:

- Accept or reject any proposal in whole or in part.
- Reject all proposals, with or without, notice or reason.
- Enter into discussions or negotiations with OFFEROR prior to award. Negotiations do not constitute an acceptance of the proposal, nor rejection of the proposal, nor a counteroffer by the CONTRACTOR.
- Abandon the work or have the work performed in such a manner as CONTRACTOR may elect, if no proposal is accepted.



## 9. PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

While the CONTRACTOR intends to engage in the purchase of services, this event shall not guarantee that the participating OFFEROR will be awarded a contract.

Any award resulting from this request will be made to the OFFEROR whose proposal provides the best value to CONTRACTOR. The best value determination will be at the sole discretion of CONTRACTOR and could result in an award to someone other than the lowest price proposal. Any resulting purchase award will be set forth in writing between the CONTRACTOR and the successful OFFEROR at some date after the close of the request. CONTRACTOR reserves the option to cancel this RFP process at a time and/or to elect not to engage in a contract.

The OFFEROR must provide all data required in order to be considered an acceptable OFFEROR. All data must be executed completely, correctly, and accurately by the OFFEROR. Should the OFFEROR not complete all forms and documents, the OFFEROR will be deemed non-responsive.

This RFP will be evaluated based on the following criteria. OFFERORS are reminded the contract will be awarded for best value with technical ability having the highest weighted percentage.

Criteria	Weighted Percentage (%)
Technical Ability (Experience, Project Plan, Schedule)	25%
Cost	75%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 10. SUBMITTAL OF PROPOSAL

OFFEROR's proposal must be submitted with

- Past similar project experience,
- Project Lead
- Estimated project schedule (**Project completion by June 23, 2026**).  
(See Exhibit A – Schedule of Events)
- Detailed cost estimate: Please utilize the attached Schedule of Values.  
(see Exhibit D – Pioneer Trails Recreation Area – Playground – Contractor's Quote – Schedule of Values)
- Listing of Subcontractors if applicable.
- **Proposals must be received by the CONTRACTOR by 3:00 p.m. CST. on Tuesday, February 10, 2026.**
- Proposals should be submitted via hand delivery, USPS, or E-mail to:

Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District  
Attn: Drew ten Bensel  
319 East 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
York, NE 68467

Or emailed to:



dtenbensel@upperbigblue.org

## **11. AWARD OF CONTRACT**

CONTRACTOR contemplates award of a contract in accordance with the requirements and conditions set forth or incorporated by reference in this RFP.

Proposals for other than the total work defined may be rejected. The Award may not be made to any OFFEROR who has not responded to all instructions and representations indicated in the RFP.

CONTRACTOR may reject any or all proposals if such action is in the best interest of CONTRACTOR and their PARTNERS and/or waive informalities and minor irregularities in offers received.

CONTRACTOR and their PARTNERS may evaluate proposals and the CONTRACTOR award a contract without discussions with OFFEROR. Therefore, each initial proposal should contain the OFFEROR's best terms.

CONTRACTOR reserves the right to conduct discussions, if later determined to be necessary by CONTRACTOR's contract Administrator and Project Lead.

The OFFEROR agrees, if the proposal is accepted within the number of days allowed, to furnish all items upon which prices are offered, at the set price opposite each item, at the designated point(s) within the time specified in the schedule.

## **12. NOTICE TO SUCCESSFUL OFFEROR – W-9 Verification, Certificate of Liability Insurance**

CONTRACTOR will require any successful OFFEROR to supply a W-9 form (Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification and a Certificate of Liability Insurance.

## **13. NOTICE OF UNSUCCESSFUL OFFEROR**

The OFFEROR will be informed whether the proposal was successful using a method deemed adequate by the CONTRACTOR.



## Exhibit A

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Event	Date
Opening Date	January 9, 2026
Omissions and/or Questions	January 23, 2026
Closing Date	February 10, 2026
Evaluation Period	February 10-12, 2026
Anticipated Contract Award	February 20, 2026
Notice to Proceed	February 20, 2026
Project Completion, Final Report	June 23, 2026



## Exhibit B

# BACKGROUND & SCOPE OF WORK

### Project Background

Pioneer Trails Recreation Area is located in the Northwest Quarter of Section 35, Township 11 North, Range 6 West and the Southwest Quarter of Section 26, Township 11 North, Range 6 West in Hamilton County, Nebraska. The area is located 1 mile north and 1.5 miles east of Aurora, Nebraska (address is 1714 East 14 Road, Aurora, Nebraska). (See Exhibits C-1, C-2, C-3).

Pioneer Trails Recreation Area is owned, operated, and maintained by the UBBNRD.

Pioneer Trails Dam was constructed in 1986 and features a 40-surface acre lake that can store 277-acre feet of water, with room for an additional 288 acre feet of flood storage. The lake's water source is supplied by rainfall from a 5,210 acre drainage area.

The crest of the dam is 15.0 feet wide with a crest elevation of 1763.7 feet. The dam has a 30 foot wide concrete spillway with a crest elevation of 1755.0 feet. The dam also has a 50 foot wide grass auxiliary spillway located at the east end of the dam with a control section elevation of 1759.0.

Existing facilities at Pioneer Trails Recreation Area include a boat ramp, amphitheater overlooking the lake, picnic shelters, a flush restroom, a vault restroom, a RV camping area, a tent camping area, grills, and a hiking trail around the lake.

### Scope of Work

The suggested scope of work is below, and prospective consultants should suggest any proposed alterations to this scope of work.

The tasks and specific steps for this study include the following:

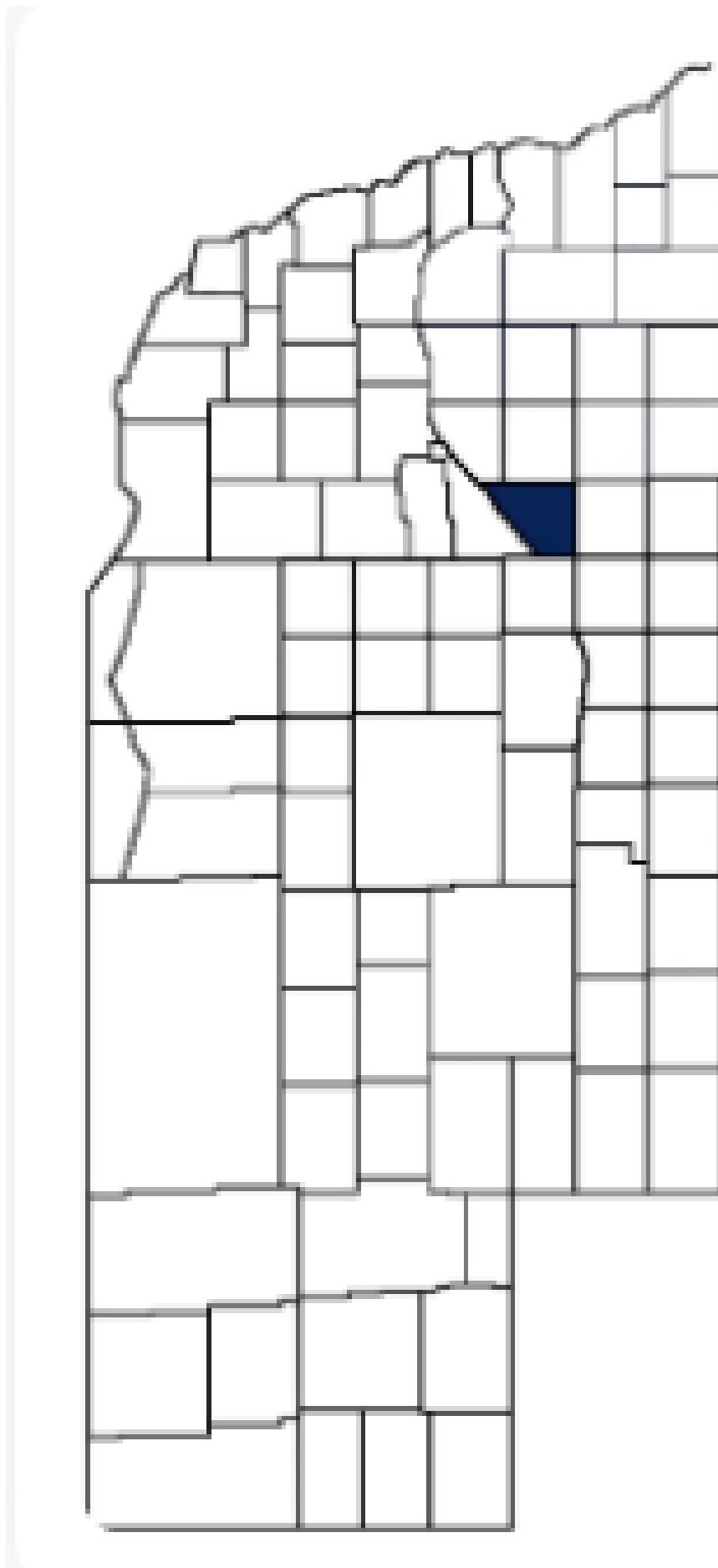
1. Provide and install a playground (with a target age of 5 – 12 year old children) near the large picnic shelter at Pioneer Trails Recreation Area.
  - a. Playground equipment shall include:
    - i. Support posts/beams with a minimum of 5" outer diameter (OD)
    - ii. A minimum of 14 play events/engagements
2. Playground area will include the following
  - a. An area approximately 50 feet by 40 feet.
  - b. Area may need to be excavated approximately 9 inches deep. Excavated material can be deposited in the pile near the park entrance.



- c. A concrete border (8 inch wide by 12 inches deep) around the perimeter (50 ft x 40 ft) of the playground
- d. Install fabric over the entire playground area (50 ft x 40 ft)
- e. Install a drainage system below the playground that outlets near the existing drain inlet approximately 150 feet southwest of the playground site.
- f. Install 12 inches of engineered wood fiber chips in the playground area.
- g. Re-seed the disturbed area around the new playground.
3. During construction, appropriate access and warning signs will need to be posted near the park entrance and near the construction site.
4. If the OFFERER plans to haul material to/from the borrow/waste area near the park entrance (Exhibit E), the OFFERER will need to post appropriate warning signs on East 14 Road.
5. The OFFERER will provide a monthly update on the project progress to the UBBNRD.
6. **The OFFERER shall complete the work by close of business on June 23, 2026.**



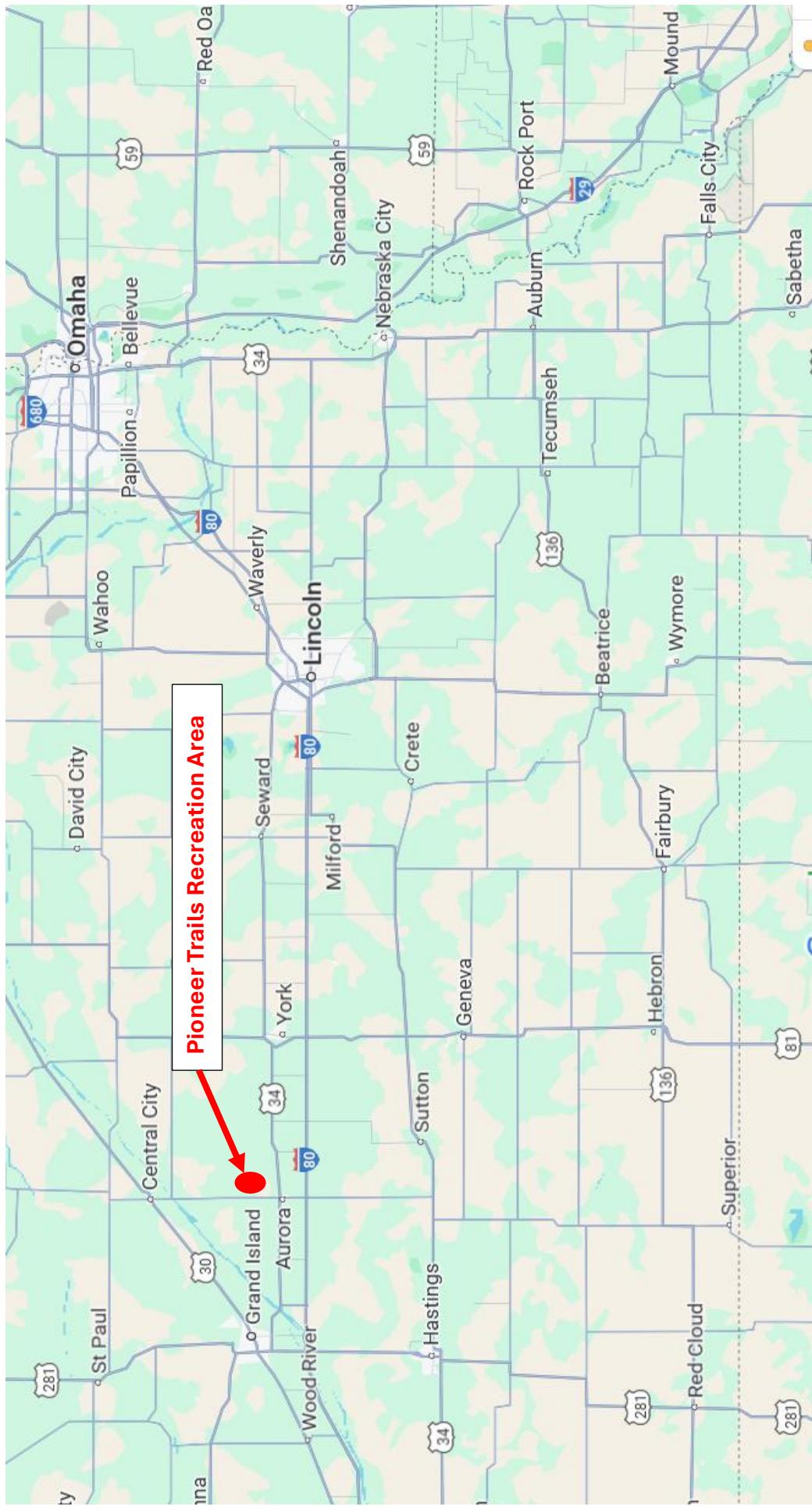
Exhibit C-1



**Hamilton County**

## Pioneer Trails Recreation Area – Location

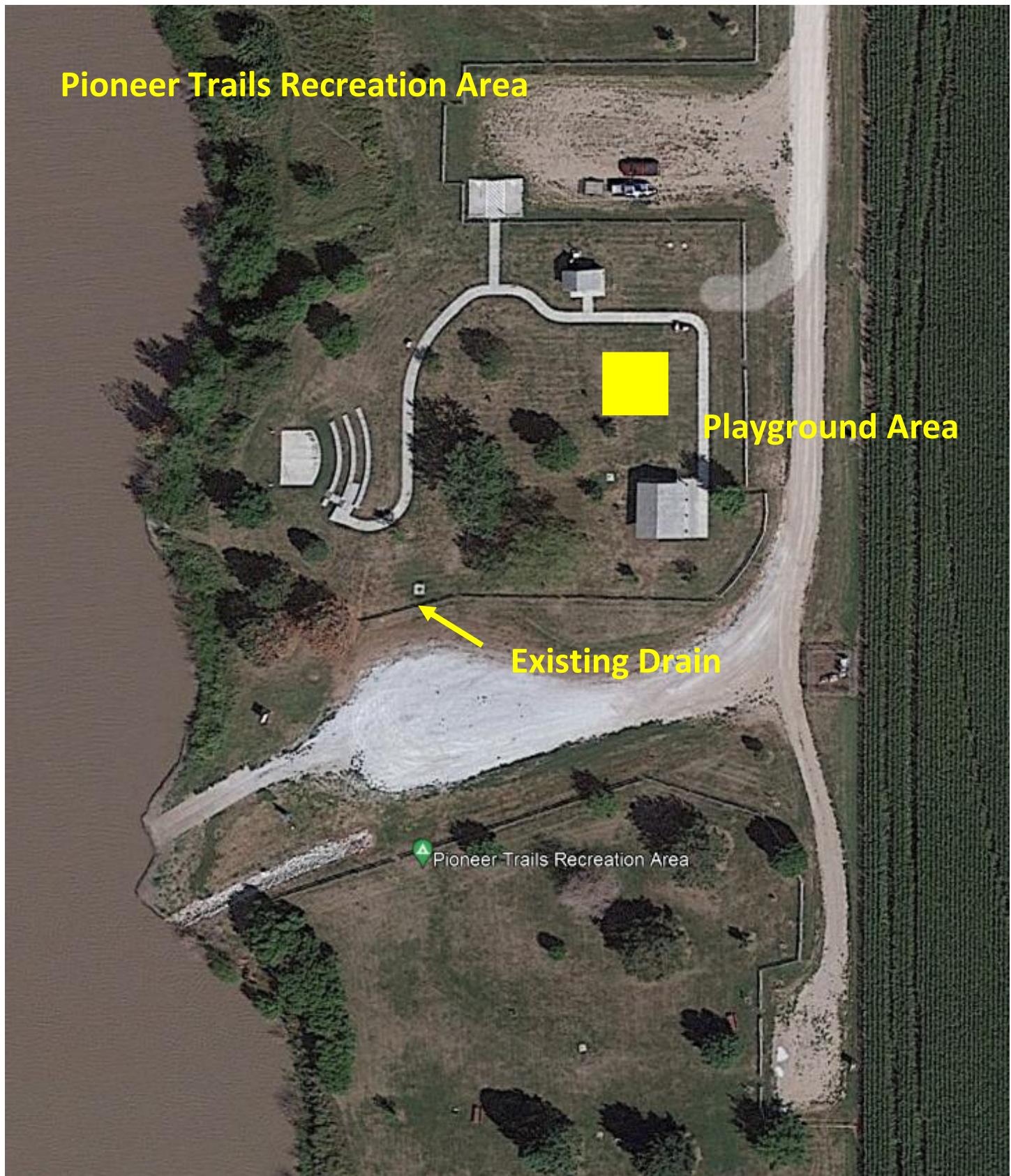
## Exhibit C-2



**Exhibit C-3**



# Exhibit C-4



**EXHIBIT D****CONTRACTOR'S QUOTE****CONTRACTOR'S SCHEDULE OF VALUES  
PIONEER TRAILS PLAYGROUND**

Item #	Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price (\$)	Amount (\$)
1	Mobilization	1	LS		
2	Construction Access Signage – near the park entrance and near the playground area	1	LS		
3	Playground equipment (designed for ages 5-12)	1	LS		
4	Playground Installation				
4a	Installation of Playground Equipment	1	LS		
4b	Excavation of Playground Site (50' x 40' x 9")	60	Cu yds		
4c	Concrete for Border (8" wide x 12" deep x 50' x 40')	5	Cu Yds		
4d	Fabric (50' x 40')	240	Sq yds		
4e	Engineer Wood Fiber chips – provide & install (50' x 40' x 12")	75	Cu yds		
4f	Drainage System – below playground wood chips Exit approximately 150 feet to the southwest of playground near existing drain inlet	1	LS		
4g	Re-Seeding of area around playground	100	Sq yds		
				<b>TOTAL =</b>	

**NOTES**

1. All necessary labor and materials needed to complete the items shall be considered subsidiary to the items of the work.

2. OFFERER to provide and install playground equipment with a targeted age group of 5 – 12 years old.
3. OFFERER will be responsible for any required permits for installing the playground
4. Material removed for playground should be placed near the park entrance.
5. **Work must be completed and ready for payment by the end of the day, Friday, June 26, 2026.**
6. **Quotes must be received in the Upper Big Blue NRD Office by 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 10, 2026.**
7. **Quotes can be emailed to [dtenbensel@upperbigblue.org](mailto:dtenbensel@upperbigblue.org) or mailed to the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, 319 East 25<sup>th</sup> Street, York, NE 68467.**

AS SUBMITTED BY:

Business Name (typed or printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared By: (typed or printed Signature Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_