



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR
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AMPHIBIOUS TOUR VEHICLES

How We Got Here

- Following July's tragedy on the Delaware River, the City worked with Ride the Ducks to voluntarily suspend their operations, improve their safety protocols, and seek alternatives to operating on the Delaware in order to minimize the likelihood of future accidents
- To address safety concerns, at the City's request, the Ducks explored the Schuylkill River
- In late September, the Ducks presented a preliminary **mock-up** of what a solution on the lower Schuylkill might look like – there was no proposal submitted.
- After a standard legal review of the potential effort, the City issued an open Request for Proposals ("RFP") for a tour company to operate on the Schuylkill River

Highlights of the RFP

- Recognizing the sensitivity of the Schuylkill Banks and hearing constituent concerns, the City carefully crafted an open RFP for an amphibious tour on the lower Schuylkill River
- Highlights include:
 - Noise: noise must be minimized at all times a vehicle is on parkland (ex. no quack zone)
 - Creativity and Flexibility: the RFP allows boats to access the River from either side and at different access points
 - Serenity: the operator must maintain and preserve the serenity of the Banks
 - Recreational Uses: the tour cannot interfere with recreational uses of the park
 - Trail maintenance: the operator must provide appropriate landscaping
 - Special events: special events must be accommodated
 - Revenue: the tour operator must contribute a minimum of \$50,000 per year to be reinvested into the Schuylkill Banks
- Bids will be received next week and a committee will review them in light of the RFP's requirements and with regard to concerns raised by the public and individual stakeholders
- The Committee consists of representatives from the Managing Directors Office, Commerce, Planning, Parks, Transportation, and the Office of Equal Opportunity
- The City's decision – including the potential to select no one – should be made in January.
- Following the decision, the successful respondent, if a respondent is chosen, will be encouraged to meet with stakeholders to address concerns.
- Opportunities for additional public comment include City Council and City Planning.
- Additional approvals are required by City Council; City of Philadelphia Art Commission; Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection; Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission; United States Army Corps of Engineers; and United States Coast Guard.