

## Contractor Questions & Responses

The following clarifications are provided in response to contractor questions. These responses are intended to supplement the bid documents and should be considered part of the project requirements.

### General

1. Q: Are we submitting proposals only at this stage, or should quotes be included with the proposals?

A: Quotes should be included with proposals using the budget spreadsheet provided.

2. Q: Can you share any associated budgets with contractors? This would help ensure that our proposals are aligned with realistic expectations and avoid unnecessary time spent developing plans that exceed the available funding.

A: We do not share detailed project budgets with contractors. Instead, contractors should provide accurate per-unit costs (e.g., per acre, per hour, per tree). If proposed costs exceed available funding, we will work with both the parks and contractors to adjust the treatment plan to stay within budget.

3. Q: Can ATVs/UTVs be used when advantageous for project work?

A: Yes. However, their use is subject to park-specific requirements and must comply with all applicable regulations and approvals.

- Delaware Water Gap: UTVs (not ATVs) may be used in limited areas with adequate access. Bridges and trail infrastructure may significantly limit access. UTVs may not be used off trail. Specific locations of use require NPS approval.

4. Q: Is it permissible to reopen old existing trails to improve access and enhance control/management efficiency?

A: - Fredericksburg: If necessary, the park is open to discussion.

- Gettysburg: No.

- Richmond: Any reopening must remain within the limits of existing roads.

- Delaware Water Gap: Generally, no. If a specific need is identified, it must be reviewed and approved by NPS prior to any improvements or reopening.

5. Q: Will contractors who attended site visits and reviewed the sites receive any preference or bonus points, particularly if they assisted with planning or identified areas of concern?

A: No.

6. Q: Does each park have a separate budget for this project, or is the total budget coming from one entity?

A: The total budget is managed by a single entity. We will work with both contractors and parks to adjust treatment plans and align budgets as needed.

7. Q: If the proposal is all-inclusive, can the budget proposal be “overall” rather than park-specific?

A: Budget proposals should be provided for each individual park.

8. Q: Can the budget proposal include a down payment percentage?

A: No

9. Q: Is there a preference for monthly payments, or can the proposed budget be set up in a way that is still periodic but not necessarily monthly?

A: Invoices should be submitted monthly, unless there are no billable services for that period.

10. Q: What percentage of the budget can be spent prior to the final inspection?

A: There is no set percentage of the budget that can be spent prior to a final inspection. The timing of interim and the final inspection will be determined on a case-by-case basis and in collaboration between the contractor and the Guild.

11. Q: Are we permitted to propose alternate or additional acreage for the projects?

A: Yes. Contractors may propose alternative or additional acreage with justification provided. All final decisions will be approved at the park level before finalizing any contracts.

12. Q: What are the public notification requirements for all categories of work?

A: Public notification is subject to park-specific requirements and will be coordinated during the contracting phase. Notifications may be required if registered sensitive populations are near work areas. Signage may be needed to notify trail users of treatments, especially for foliar herbicide applications

13. Q: During the pre-bid call, it was stated that we would have a three-year period to complete the invasive species management services, followed by an additional two years for planting implementation—totaling five years. Could you please confirm if that understanding is correct?

A: The work can be done simultaneously depending on invasive density and subsequent herbicide application at planting sites. This contract period may last up to five years.

14. Q: How many onsite and virtual meetings should we assume per year in our budget?

A: This will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

15. Q: Page 2 of the solicitation states the resulting work will be partially funded by the National Park Service. Will the Guild please provide a copy of any mandatory federal flow-downs that would apply to the resulting contract?  
A: Agreements awarded because of this solicitation will be paid with federal funds, and as such will be subject to provisions outlined in 2 CFR.
16. Q: Are Davis-Bacon Act, Service Contract Act (SCA), or prevailing wage requirements applicable for this project?  
A: The Service Contract Act applies.
17. Q: For invasive species management, are cut stump, foliar, and basal bark treatments on woody plants all acceptable, or are there particular techniques to which we would be limited?  
A: All the listed techniques are acceptable. Any activity that involves soil disturbance will be subject to park compliance procedures.
18. Q: What are the proposed payment terms? Net 10?  
A: Invoices for approved expenses will be paid within 30 days of receipt (Net 30).
19. Q: For all of the planting projects, should we assume three years of annual maintenance, including replacing any non-performing stock in year one?  
A: Yes.
20. Q: Can work start in December?  
A: Based on the current timeline, contracts are expected to be awarded in late November, and final execution is unlikely to be completed in time for a December start. We will, however, work to facilitate a quick turnaround so that work can begin as soon as possible.
21. Q: Can invoices be submitted bimonthly?  
A: No. Invoices must be submitted monthly.

## Gettysburg

1. Q: The RFP briefly mentions public interaction. Specifically for the Gettysburg sites, which are highly visible and near major tourist destinations, I anticipate that activities like operating chainsaws at full RPM near Culp's Hill and Little Round Top could interfere with interpretation programs. Could you provide more guidance on managing public interface in such sensitive areas?  
A: - Chainsaw work is part of normal operations at Gettysburg. Contractors are required to notify the park contact prior to conducting work so appropriate staff can be informed. If herbicide applications occur adjacent to trails, parking areas, picnic areas, or other public use areas, contractors must notify park staff and post signage to deter visitors from entering treatment sites.

2. Q: Water Bags (Reference Page 10) - Can you clarify what is meant by “water bag maintenance”? If maintenance includes filling the water bags, the labor cost and repair work for damaged areas caused by whatever equipment you use to water may far exceed the initial installation cost. Should the bid account for this ongoing maintenance? or can we offer a warranty on the trees for a year? the warranty would be far less expensive.

A: - Contractors are responsible for the initial installation and watering of containerized trees. The park will fill the water bags every two weeks throughout the growing season. Contractors are responsible for removing, cleaning, and storing the bags at the end of the season, and for re-installing and conducting the initial watering the following year. Contractors will not be held responsible if the park fails to water as committed.

3. Q: Tree Planting Quantities - The bid documents indicate a range of 50–100 trees for planting. Could you please specify a more exact quantity, or should we assume the minimum number for bidding purposes?

A: Based on the planting densities outlined in the RFP, we estimate that approximately 103 seedlings and 54 containerized trees can be planted within the canopy gaps. For exact quantities by gap, please refer to the shapefile’s attribute table.

4. Q: What is the total canopy gap area/acres to be planted? 0.5 acres?

A: 0.5 acres is correct. For exact gap acres, please refer to the shapefile’s attribute table.

5. Q: What is average DBH of the tree of heaven in the units?

A: Average DBH values are not provided. Contractors are strongly encouraged to conduct site visits to assess tree size and density firsthand in order to develop accurate cost estimates and treatment plans.

6. Q: For watering, would you like a per-watering cost?

A: Please refer to the clarification provided in Question 2. The unit of measurement is left to the contractor’s discretion. Costs may be structured in a lumped format (e.g., initial watering included in the per-tree planting cost) or split format (e.g., separate costs for tree planting and tree watering/maintenance).

7. Q: Could you clarify whether the stiltgrass treatment at Culp's Hill is the whole block or not? Some of the language in the RFP sounds like it is supposed to be just a particular area.

A: Stiltgrass will only be treated in the immediate vicinity of Forbes Rock.

8. Q: I observed several invasives in the field that are not listed as targets in the RFP: sycamore maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Japanese angelica tree (*Aralia elata*), common teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*), white mulberry (*Morus alba*), beafsteak (*Perilla frutescens*), and oriental lady's-thumb (*Persicaria*

longiseta). How should we plan to approach these and any other species that are not listed in the RFP?

A: The treatment focus is on woody invasive plants, with the exception of stiltgrass at Culps Hill. Treatment of the herbaceous species listed in the question is not required. The woody invasive species listed should be treated. Trees larger than 5 inches DBH should be treated using hack-and-squirt, unless located in areas where standing dead trees would pose a risk to visitors; in such cases, treatment should be omitted.

9. Q: Are you looking for a plan and cost estimate for either seedlings/tublings or containerized trees? Or would you like a plan and cost estimate that includes both?

A: Please provide separate cost estimates for both seedlings/tublings and containerized trees. The final selection will be made in coordination with the parks and within available budget constraints.

10. Q: For watering containerized trees, the RFP requires one year of watering bag maintenance. Do you have a standard schedule in mind, or are we expected to propose frequency?

A: Please refer to the clarification provided in Question 2.

### Fredericksburg

1. Q: For tree plantings, is there an 'act of God' exclusion to the guarantee of 80% survival after three years? In such events, are contractors still required to ensure 80% survival at no additional expense, even if unforeseen circumstances arise?

A: Yes. An 'act of God' exclusion is included. In the event of such circumstances, the contractor will not be held responsible for meeting the survival guarantee. An 'Act of God' is defined as any event beyond normal and predictable site conditions, including but not limited to severe storms or hurricanes, flooding, extreme drought, severe hail or ice storms, or wildfires.

2. Q: Specifically concerning the Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania site, will access into fields through locked cable gates be permitted during treatment?

A: Yes. The contractor may install their own lock on the gate.

3. Q: What is current condition of riparian buffer planting areas?

A: Please refer to page 12 of the RFP. Site visits are encouraged.

### Richmond

1. Q: Regarding the Richmond site, where hunting occurs on the property, what avenues for deconfliction should we consider?

A: The park will ensure that no hunting occurs during treatment activities.

2. Q: Invasive Species (Reference Page 15) - The documents state that invasive species located outside the mapped polygons shall also be documented and treated. Can you

please quantify the anticipated acreage of these areas so that we can price this work appropriately?

- A: An updated shapefile geodatabase has been uploaded to the RFP webpage. The new shapefiles outline the park's treatment priorities as follows:
  - Field Edge (25 acres)
  - Kudzu Infestation (2 acres)
  - Pine Plantation (72 acres)
  - River Edge (34 acres)

Please provide separate cost estimates for each priority area, as well as an additional estimate for treatment of the remainder of the unit.

3. Q: What is the minimum size for a canopy opening? Or how large does a canopy opening need to be to be considered for treatment or planting?

A: Tree planting is not part of the project plan for this unit.

4. Q: What is average DBH of the Tree of heaven, Princess Tree and mimosa trees in unit?

A: Average DBH values are not provided. Contractors are strongly encouraged to conduct site visits to assess tree size and density firsthand in order to develop accurate cost estimates and treatment plans.

### Delaware Water Gap

1. Q: Canopy Gaps (Reference Page 20) - Could you provide more detail on the number of trees to be planted in canopy gaps? An estimated planting density or total tree count would help us prepare accurate pricing.

A: At this stage of the project, we are only asking for bids on the development of a planting plan, which will provide an estimate of the number of trees to be planted in the existing canopy gaps.

2. Q: GPS Equipment - Our crews are currently using Avenza for mapping and documentation. Can you confirm whether this is considered an adequate GPS solution for this project, or if another system is required?

A: Yes, we can accommodate the use of Avenza for site mapping and documentation. We require that all data provided for the project be submitted as spatially explicit data.

3. Q: Are planting costs for areas 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10 to be included in bid? Or are planting stem numbers and costs TBD pending development of the planting plan?

A: No, please only include the cost to develop a planting plan in the bid. The planting stem numbers and costs are pending the planting plan.