

AMENDMENT #1

IFB Questions & MFC Answers

1. IFB Section, Page No. Section 2.2.2, Page 5; The contractor shall guarantee all plant material for one full year from the date of acceptance by the city.

Vendor Question/Request for Clarification

If our company needs to guarantee the vigor/life of a tree, we follow urban forestry BMP's. We first do a site assessment and evaluate site conditions and environmental factors. Next we select a species that is adapted to the site conditions. We then inspect/select plant material during the growing season and select plants with good structure and good vigor. In this contract we are bidding on planting an unknown species and quantity of trees on an unknown urban site, with no real method to calculate the true cost per tree for planting. Can clarification be given on why a guarantee is required when common BMP's promoted by MFC are not being followed. If this section (2.2.2) was removed, it would make it easier for a responsible bidder to submit a bid.

MFC Response

This contract is for the contractor to plant the tree and then turn it over to the city to water the tree with a detailed watering plan. The city is to keep a detailed record of when they water the tree and how much. The contractor will only replace the tree if the tree died due to issues while planting. If the tree dies and the city has no watering documentation, then the contractor will not be liable for replacing that tree.

2. IFB Section, Page No. Section 2.2.4, Page 5; All plants shall be well-formed and vigorously growing specimens. All plants shall comply with sizing and grading standards of the latest edition of the "American Standards for Nursery Stock" as published by the American Nursery & Landscape Association (ANLA).

Vendor Question/Request for Clarification

Selecting deciduous planting stock during the summer for fall/winter planting allows the arborist to evaluate the plants' vigor. Based on the timeline of the contract (fall procurement) how can we inspect the vigor of a deciduous tree in the fall/winter, when the tree is dormant? Can clarification be given on if deciduous trees will be a part of this contract? If deciduous species are required, can the contract give more clarification on what method should be used to evaluate/select vigorous plant materials during dormancy?

MFC Response

This project is intended to overstory deciduous trees to intercept and collect stormwater runoff. An amendment has been made for a recommended tree list and will be added to appendix G "Tree Species". The required ANSI standards are required to ensure the contractor obtains high-quality trees free of defect. Referring to the ANSI Z60.2 standards will give insight into methods and techniques used to inspect trees in the nursery.

3. IFB Section, Page No. Section 2.2 Planting Requirements

Vendor Question/Request for Clarification

Mulch is critical in moisture conservation during transplant establishment. Also, temporary staking is helpful on municipal tree planting projects. I see no specifications for mulch or staking. Are these BMP's also required on this job? Are we suppose to guarantee a tree that receives no mulch or stakes at the time of planting?

MFC Response

Yes, mulching the tree the day of planting will be included. Mulching was required as part of the all-inclusive price on the bid sheet (page. 42 of the bid packet) but was not included in the planting requirements. An amendment has been made to add mulching to the planting requirements. Shredded hardwood mulch free of dye and coloring is to be used the day of planting. The mulch should be spread 2-3 inches thick and out to the dripline of the crown or 4 ft. away from the tree trunk and then raked off the trunk (mulch should not touch the trunk or be piled up the trunk of the tree). Staking will not be a requirement for this project. Staking will be done in house when deemed necessary by MFC staff. If there is a tree that needs staking the day of planting, consult with MFC staff to mark that tree for staking.

4. IFB Section, Page No. Section 2.3.b; Contractors must be capable of reaching remote or difficult-access sites, and work with City officials in high-traffic areas.

Vendor Question/Request for Clarification

Man-hours required to plant will vary greatly based on site conditions and urban factors (i.e. high traffic areas). Frankly, it's hard for anyone to be a responsible bidder and provide a reliable bid with the current terms of this contract. This contract is vague for the responsible bidder and reduces the level of confidence in being able to supply vigorous

plant material with a guarantee. MFC should cancel this bid invitation. The next steps should be to determine planting location, plant species and volume. Reissue the bid invitation this fall, with planting set to begin in the fall of 2027. This gives the winning bidder time in the summer of 2027 to judge/select the trees that will meet contract specifications regarding vigor. Also, the bid invitation was sent out September 14, 2026 with a deadline of October 1, 2026 to submit a bid. This is a very short time frame to quote a vague job. I recommend, giving more bid time for the responsible bidder to evaluate each site to better understand planting conditions and factors that may influence job site safety and cost of planting.

MFC Response

MFC appreciates the comments and concerns regarding the variability of planting locations and site conditions. The intent of this solicitation is to establish pricing for tree planting across multiple locations, and site conditions will necessarily vary. MFC has reviewed the concerns presented and does not intend to cancel the solicitation at this time. Bidders should develop their pricing based on the requirements and conditions identified in the IFB and subsequent amendments or clarifications issued by MFC.

5. IFB Section, Page No. Section 4.9; Page 15 &16; Reconsideration of the Terms of the Solicitation - Any potential bidder has the opportunity to request reconsideration of the terms of the solicitation as allowed by and in compliance with Section 5.2.4 of the PPRB OPSCR Rules and Regulations. Any such request shall be submitted to: Rebekah Olander, Bid Coordinator, at rolander@mfc.ms.gov. Your email should include "Request for Reconsideration of the Solicitation" in the subject line of the email. Requirements for said request shall comply with the information stated in Section 5.2.4.

Vendor Question/Request for Clarification

I think the MFC should reconsider the terms and provide more details that align with the BMP's promoted by the MFC. Should I send this as a separate email?

MFC Response

Yes. If you wish to formally request reconsideration of the terms of the solicitation, the request should be submitted separately in accordance with Section 4.9 of the IFB and Section 5.2.4 of the PPRB OPSCR Rules and Regulations.

6. Vendor Question/Request for Clarification

Will any of the project areas require forestry mulching, brush or vegetation removal, clearing, or other mechanical site prep before planting can begin?

MFC Response

No, this project will not require those activities. Planting areas should be clear of brush and ready for tree planting.