

# **NJ Conservation Foundation**

## **Request for Qualifications for Assistance for Sidewalk Removal and Citywide Tree Planting within the City of Trenton, New Jersey**

To be received by 5 pm on March 18, 2026

Via email: [Jay@njconservation.org](mailto:Jay@njconservation.org)

or

by mail to Bamboo Brook, 170 Longview Road, Far Hills, NJ 07931

RFQSPRING2026-001NJConservation

**NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**  
**RFQSPRING2026-001NJCONSERVATION**

NJ Conservation Foundation (NJCF) is soliciting proposals for:

**Assistance for Citywide Sidewalk Removal and Citywide Tree Planting**  
**For**  
**The New Jersey Conservation Foundation**

The NJCF requires submission by **Wednesday March 18, 2026 at 5pm** at [Jay@njconservation.org](mailto:Jay@njconservation.org) or via mail at Bamboo Brook, 170 Longview Road, Far Hills, NJ 07931

The link to request a copy of the proposal is located at [www.njconservation.org/](http://www.njconservation.org/)

**With the exception of the United States Postal Service, express mail shall be delivered to 170 Longview Road, Far Hills, NJ 07931 Late submissions will not be accepted.**

It is the responsibility of prospective respondent's to check the NJCF's website for any addenda issued prior to the request for bid proposal opening at [www.njconservation.org/](http://www.njconservation.org/)

**SCHEDULE**

Release Date: March 4, 2026

Questions by email to [jay@njconservation.org](mailto:jay@njconservation.org)

Addendum Release Date: March 11, 2026

Proposal Opening: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 5:00PM

**BID PROPOSAL DOCUMENT CHECKLIST**  
**(REQUIRED WITH SUBMISSION OF BID PROPOSAL)**

The following checklist is provided as assistance to the development of the Bid Response. It in no way supersedes or replaces the requirements of the Bid. Please initial on the lines below for each document/section attesting to the fact that you have read and/or included the documents with your Bid.

Business Registration Certificate to be supplied <b>(Prior To Contract Award)</b>	√
Acknowledgement of Receipt of Addenda	√
Stockholder Disclosure <b>(Mandatory Rejection If Not Included)</b>	√
Affirmative Action Statement	√
Affirmative Action Mandatory Language	√
Americans with Disabilities Act Mandatory Language	√
Non-Collusion Affidavit	√
Certification and Disclosure of Political Contributions	
Disclosure of Invested Activities in Iran <b>(Required To Be Completed And Signed)</b>	√
Detailed Information as Mentioned in this Request for Proposal	√
Original Copy with <b>original</b> signatures	√
Proposal Form with <b>original</b> signature	√

Questions regarding the project shall be send by email no later than March 11, 2026 to [jay@njconservation.org](mailto:jay@njconservation.org)

## **CONTRACTOR SCOPE OF SERVICES**

### **Introduction**

The New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJCF) requests qualifications from qualified Landscape Contractors (“Contractor”) for the removal of sidewalk, creation of tree pits, and assistance of planting trees on municipal property within the city of Trenton. This task is a part of the Throwin’ Shade grant funded initiative, which intends to plant 1,000 trees across the City of Trenton.

The selected Contractor shall assist with the cutting and removal, and/or storage of brick, asphalt, and concrete sidewalk at sites designated by the NJCF. A number of these sites will also require the digging of tree pits and assisting NJCF partners while planting, including but not limited to offloading and moving trees to and from the stage area to the pits, watering, mulching, installing specified protective/watering measures, general oversight, and post-planting cleanup and disposal.

Please note that the proposed planting will typically be scheduled for a discrete section of each park and/or several contiguous blocks of a city street.

This RFQ is being released in conjunction with RFQSPRING2026-002NJConservation - Contractor Sidewalk Removal and Citywide Tree Planting. Estimated workload, timing, and pricing for both jobs will be considered by the NJCF while reviewing prequalification submissions from contractors. The NJCF intends to prequalify 1-2 contractors for both RFQs.

### **Available Documentation**

The following documents are made available for reference:

Tree Planting Standards

Spring 2026 **Assistance** Trees

The documents can be accessed via this link: <https://spaces.hightail.com/space/mosXtwC3k8>

The full list of tree species can be found at the end of this RFQ.

### **Protection of the Contents of the Property**

The Contractor shall provide guidance and direction to all contractors and subcontractors to preserve and protect the Property before, during, and after any work completed at the Property.

Any damage sustained to the property shall be the responsibility of the contractor to repair to the satisfaction of NJCF, at no cost to NJCF.

## Scope of Work

The scope of work includes 4 types of work that may be assigned to a particular tree pit location. Any individual tree pit may require 1 or more of the types of work outlined below. Qualified Contractors shall be responsible for having the experience and equipment necessary to complete the following:

- Sidewalk Cutting, Removal and Disposal/Storage
- Contractor and Owner Site Walk
- Tree Pit Preparation and Digging
- Tree Planting Assistance

Contractors should review the document “Spring 2026 **Assistance** Trees”, which displays the project areas that Contractors may be assigned to. Note that some sites shall be planted entirely by the Contractor, while other sites may require only preparation and assistance from the Contractor.

It is anticipated that there will be TWO major planting events. Planting event 1, consisting of 87 trees, is anticipated to be held on April 6-10, 2026, assisting Isles, Inc. Planting event 2, consisting of 35 trees, is anticipated to be held on April 24, 2026, assisting Isles, Inc. and volunteers.

The scope of work shall provide for the following:

### Task 1: Sidewalk Cutting, Removal and Disposal/Storage

- 1.1 - Concrete Saw Cut: The Contractor shall be responsible for saw-cutting concrete sidewalk at various locations throughout the project area. The Contractor shall maintain safe conditions and avoid creating tripping hazards while proceeding with cutting and removal. The concrete sidewalks are typically between 4”- 5” thick and are to be neatly saw-cut and left in place until directed by the NJCF. Cuts will form rectangular tree pits of approximately 16-20 sq. feet, with cuts to be clarified by NJCF and Project Partners on site.

Any resultant debris from the saw-cutting will be cleared by the Contractor before leaving the site. Additionally, where there are existing tree grates, they shall require removal and relocation to a designated site within the city of Trenton.

Certain sites may contain existing tree pits to be expanded. These shall be treated in the same manner and expanded according to the direction of NJCF.

Any metallic fixtures such as grates shall be stored by the Contractor at a location determined by the NJCF.

The Contractor, immediately following the removal of the sidewalk material, shall mark out pits with 4-5 foot stakes and caution tape unless trees are immediately planted and filled / mulched.

- 1.2 - Brick Saw Cut: The Contractor shall be responsible for saw-cutting brick sidewalk at various locations throughout the project area. The Contractor shall maintain safe conditions and avoid creating tripping hazards while proceeding with cutting and removal. The brick sidewalks are to be neatly saw-cut and left in place until directed by the NJCF. Cuts will form rectangular tree pits of approximately 16-20 sq. feet, with cuts to be clarified by NJCF and Project Partners on site.

Any resultant debris from the saw-cutting will be cleared by the Contractor before leaving the site. Additionally, where there are existing tree grates, they shall require removal and relocation to a designated site within the city of Trenton.

Certain sites may contain existing tree pits to be expanded. These shall be treated in the same manner and expanded according to the direction of NJCF.

Any metallic fixtures such as grates shall be stored by the Contractor at a location determined by the NJCF.

The Contractor, immediately following the removal of the sidewalk material, shall mark out pits with 4-5 foot stakes and caution tape unless trees are immediately planted and filled / mulched.

- 1.3 - Asphalt Saw Cut: The Contractor shall be responsible for saw-cutting asphalt sidewalk at various locations throughout the project area. The Contractor shall maintain safe conditions and avoid creating tripping hazards while proceeding with cutting and removal. The asphalt sidewalks are typically between 3"- 5" thick and are to be neatly saw-cut and left in place until directed by the NJCF. Cuts will form rectangular tree pits of approximately 16-20 sq. feet, with cuts to be clarified by NJCF and Project Partners on site.

Any resultant debris from the saw-cutting will be cleared by the Contractor before leaving the site. Additionally, where there are existing tree grates, they shall require removal and relocation to a designated site within the city of Trenton.

Certain sites may contain existing tree pits to be expanded. These shall be treated in the same manner and expanded according to the direction of NJCF.

Any metallic fixtures such as grates shall be stored by the Contractor at a location determined by the NJCF.

The Contractor, immediately following the removal of the sidewalk material, shall mark out pits with 4-5 foot stakes and caution tape unless trees are immediately planted and filled / mulched.

- 1.4 - Concrete and Asphalt Site Debris Disposal: The Contractor shall return to the sites as directed to remove and legally dispose of concrete slabs, asphalt slabs, and

resultant debris. The Contractor shall be notified of the date of the removal deadline no later than (3) weeks in advance. The Contractor shall be responsible for adhering to the codes and regulations of the city while completing tasks and disposal of materials.

- 1.5 - Brick Site Storage and Debris Disposal: The Contractor shall return to the sites as directed to remove and store brick pavers and dispose of resultant debris. The bricks shall be safely removed and stored at a site designated by NJCF. The Contractor shall make note of the location that each group of brick pavers was removed from. The Contractor shall be notified of the date of the removal deadline no later than (3) weeks in advance. The Contractor shall be responsible for adhering to the codes and regulations of the city while completing tasks.

Concrete shall be removed at minimum 2 weeks prior to the planting date.

Circumstances may allow for the Contractor to remove sidewalk debris from site immediately after cutting material, instead of leaving in place. Early removal shall be verified by the NJCF, and the Contractor shall ensure that any pits with removed materials shall be immediately marked out as described.

Debris, stumps, additional concrete layers, or other materials may be found underneath cut sidewalk. The Contractor shall be responsible for the removal and equipment necessary to restore these pits to tree planting conditions. Removal of these shall be billed to the Contingency line item.

The Contractor may be required to move existing fixtures where trees are scheduled to be planted. These fixtures include but are not limited to trash cans and concrete planters. The Contractor may additionally be required to remove existing fixtures within the planned tree pit areas. These fixtures include but are not limited to parking meter poles, etc.

It is anticipated that there shall be 1200 sq ft of concrete, 450 sq ft of brick, and 0 sq ft of asphalt to cut, remove, and store within this project across all sections. These quantities will be further verified during Task 2.

## Task 2: Contractor and Owner Site Walk

- 2.1 – Site Walk: The Selected Contractor(s) shall perform a site walk with the Owner and member of the partnership, to review current conditions at all planting locations after the concrete or other hardscape is removed and before the select planting date. The Owner shall provide maps ahead of the site walk for Contractor review, detailing tree locations, species, and types of work to be done. The site walk shall serve as a final assessment of the planting locations, and the Contractor(s) shall notify the Owner of any irregularities or additional work that shall be required before planting.

The Contractor shall be expected to perform some light spade digging at the Owner's request or when otherwise deemed necessary by the Contractor, to assess current conditions.

### Task 3: Tree Pit Preparation and Digging

- 3.1 - Site Preparation: The Contractor shall be responsible for preparing the designated sites 2-4 days prior to the determined planting date. The Contractor shall be notified of the planting date a minimum of two (2) weeks ahead of time. The Contractor shall be responsible for clearing the site in preparation for planting. Each of the holes shall be staked and provided with caution tape from the time of site preparation until the installation is completed.

The Contractor will ensure the site is free from all debris before proceeding with digging procedures. The Contractor shall be responsible for the removal of all debris resulting from site preparation.

Any metallic fixtures such as grates or other items of note shall be stored by the Contractor at a location determined by the NJCF.

The Contractor may be required to move existing fixtures where trees are scheduled to be planted. These fixtures include but are not limited to trash cans and concrete planters.

3.2 – Dead Tree Removal: Certain sites, as designated by the NJCF, may require the removal of dead trees. The Contractor shall remove these trees before preparing the site as described in Task 3.1 – Site Preparation.

3.3– Stump Removal: Certain sites, as designated by the NJCF, may require the removal of tree stumps. The Contractor shall remove these trees before preparing the site as described in Task 3.1 – Site Preparation.

It is anticipated that 122 sites will require preparation across all sections.

It is anticipated that 0 sites will require dead tree removal, and 6 sites will require stump removal across all sections.

### Task 4: Tree Planting Assistance

- 4.1 – Transport and Offloading Assistance: Isles, Inc. “Isles”, a partner of the NJCF, shall be responsible for purchasing trees for their designated locations. The Contractor shall assist in the offloading of these trees at the staging area as necessary, as well as delivering trees to planting sites as directed by Isles across multiple planting dates. It is anticipated that trees to be delivered shall range in size from a minimum of 2”-2 ½” caliper.
- 4.2 – Mulch Purchase and Delivery: Where mulch is not currently distributed, the Contractor shall purchase ~1/3 cubic yards of compacted twice-ground composted hardwood mulch according to arboricultural standards and deliver it to volunteer planting sites. Mulch shall be applied to ensure that the tree pit is covered entirely to a depth of 3”.

- 4.3 – Watering: The Contractor shall be responsible for watering each tree with 10 gallons of water on the day of planting.
- 4.4 – Isles Planting Assistance: The Contractor shall assist Isles during planting as directed by Isles, including but not limited to moving trees, watering, mulching, installing specified protective/watering measures, general oversight, and post-planting cleanup and disposal.

The Contractor, while assisting, shall maintain a proper depth of soil for a pit by pit basis. The Contractor shall provide additional soil when necessary to compensate for removed debris, and remove soil when necessary to compensate for larger disturbances. The Contractor shall be responsible for readying each pit for proper mulch installation.

The Contractor shall note that additional mulch may be required and make provisions for additional mulch to be added to tree pits as required.

It is anticipated that 122 trees will require offloading and delivery across all sections.

It is anticipated that 45 cubic yards of mulch will be required by Isles across all sections.

It is anticipated that 1220 gallons of water will be required by Isles across all sections.

It is anticipated that 122 sites will require Contractor assistance across all sections.

It is anticipated that there will be TWO major planting events. Planting event 1, consisting of 87 trees, is anticipated to be held on April 6-10, 2026, assisting Isles, Inc. Planting event 2, consisting of 35 trees, is anticipated to be held on April 24, 2026, assisting Isles, Inc. and volunteers.

The Contractor shall be responsible for adhering to codes and regulations of the city while completing tasks.

The NJCF reserves the right to proceed or not to proceed with any portion of the project, strictly as needed, based solely on the determination of the NJCF.

### Schedule

The Contractor shall agree to commence work immediately upon receipt of Notice to Proceed from the NJCF and diligently pursue the work as per a schedule to be determined by the NJCF's Representative and the Contractor prior to the commencement of the work.

The NJCF has established the following goals for the project schedule:

- For the purposes of preparing a project schedule anticipate Notice to Proceed by Friday March 20, 2026

The schedule for the tree planting services of this project will be determined by the Contractor and NJCF.

**PRICE FORM**

**Request for Qualifications for Assistance for Sidewalk Removal and Citywide  
Tree Planting within the City of Trenton, New Jersey**

**For**

**The New Jersey Conservation Foundation**

**Via email: [jay@njconservation.org](mailto:jay@njconservation.org) or via mail to Bamboo Brook, 170 Longview Road, Far  
Hills, NJ 07931**

An Officer of the Respondent Firm must sign and date this Price Form and return with the proposal.

<b>Description</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Qty.</b>	<b>Unit price (\$)</b>	<b>Total (\$)</b>
Task Item 1.1 – Concrete Saw Cut	PER SQ. FT.	1200		
Task Item 1.2 – Brick Saw Cut	PER SQ. FT.	450		
Task Item 1.3 – Asphalt Saw Cut	PER SQ. FT.	0		
Task Item 1.4 – Concrete and Asphalt Site Debris Removal	PER SQ. FT.	1200		
Task Item 1.5 – Brick Site Storage and Debris Disposal	PER SQ. FT.	450		

Task Item 2.1 – Contractor and Owner Site Walk	LUMP SUM			
Task Item 3.1 – Site Preparation and Digging	PER PIT	122		
Task Item 3.2 – Dead Tree Removal	PER PIT	0		
Task Item 3.3 – Stump Removal	PER PIT	6		
Task Item 4.1 – Transport and Offloading Assistance	PER PIT	122		
Task Item 4.2 – Mulch Purchase and Delivery	PER CU. YD.	45		
Task Item 4.3 - Watering	PER GALLON	1220		
Task Item 4.4 – Isles Planting Assistance	LUMP SUM			

Contingency / Unforeseen (10% of Sum of Tasks)	LUMP SUM			
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On the lines below, insert the **Total Price for the entire Scope of Services.**

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Total Amount in words

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount in numbers

The undersigned proposes to furnish and deliver the above goods/services pursuant to the PROPOSAL and made part hereof. The price provided in the Price Form shall include all equipment, materials, supplies, labor, subcontractor's fees, per diem, overhead, insurance, profit, taxes, shipping fees, warranties, submittal preparations, conformance with health and safety protocols, compliance with all regulations and other incidentals required to complete the Work as described in the Scope of Services.

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Company

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Federal ID #

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Address

---

Signature of Authorized Agent

---

Print Name

---

Title

---

Date

---

Telephone Number

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E-mail Address

## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The undersigned respondent declares that he/she has read the Notice of the Bid, Instructions to Respondents, Affidavits and Scope of Services, Requirements, that he/she has determined the conditions affecting the proposal agrees, if this proposal is accepted, to furnish and deliver the following:

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**(SIGNATURE BY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE)**

The undersigned is a Corporation, Partnership or Individual under the laws of the State of

\_\_\_\_\_ having its principal office at \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY:

ADDRESS:

FED. ID No.:

NAME:

TELEPHONE:

FAX:

E-MAIL:

DATE:

**TREE SPECIES BY PLANTING DATE:**

**Planting Date 1, April 6-10, 2026:**

Botanical Name	Common Name	Quantity
Gymnocladus dioicus	Kentucky coffee tree	<b>15</b>
Quercus stellata	Post Oak	<b>11</b>
Tilia americana	American Linden	<b>14</b>
Ulmus americana Princeton	Princeton Elm	<b>47</b>
<b>Total:</b>		<b>87 trees</b>

**Planting Date 2, April 24, 2026:**

Botanical Name	Common Name	Quantity
Quercus bicolor	Swamp white oak	<b>13</b>
Ulmus americana Princeton	Princeton Elm	<b>22</b>
<b>Total:</b>		<b>35 Trees</b>

**It is anticipated that trees to be delivered shall range in size from a minimum of 2"-2 ½" caliper.**

