

Watershed Alliance of York (WAY) Request for Proposals (RFP) DCNR Questions & Answers

Q: When do you anticipate planting to begin for this contract?

A: We're anticipating probably not until the fall of 2027, by the time it takes to develop the work plan for DCNR and outreach to landowners.

Q: Are the Land Owners already lined up for this project or will the contractor be responsible for finding the LO's and outreach?

A: Landowner outreach will be a joint responsibility of WAY and the contractor. WAY has several leads on potential planting locations; however, no landowners have signed a Landowner Agreement committing them to a planting at this time.

Q: If the LO are already signed up, how many locations are there to achieve the 25ac?

A: Since no landowners have committed to a planting at this time, the number of properties needed to achieve the approximately 25 acres of planting is unknown.

Q: If the contract is to be finalized in October, when is the project implementation and planting expected to start (Fall 2026 or Spring 2027)?

A: We anticipate that planting will not occur until Fall 2027, based on the time needed to develop and submit the project work plan to DCNR and conduct landowner outreach and coordination.

Q: What is the size spec for the plant material? Are they expected to be Bare Root or Containerized?

A: Small, approximately 1- to 3-year-old, containerized trees and shrubs are preferred. If bare-root stock is utilized, contractors should plan for a greater number of stems per acre.

Q: Is there a shelter height spec for the trees and shrubs?

A: 4-to-5-foot shelters are preferred.

Q: What is the density or spacings of the plantings?

A: Planting density should be approximately 150–200 stems per acre, depending on the size of the planting stock. A 70/30 split of trees to shrubs, respectively, is recommended but not required. A minimum of three different tree species should be included in each planting.

Q: Is the establishment period 1 year after planting or until June 30, 2029?

A: The establishment period is considered to be one year following the planting. June 30, 2029, remains the overall project completion and funding deadline.

Q: If survival drops below the 85% before the end of the establishment period, is replanting required, or does replanting occur once before the end of the warranty?

A: Replanting will be required if survival drops below 85% during the establishment period.

Q: Where are the costs for planting plan development and all other reporting costs to be placed on the cost proposal?

A: These costs may be included in the labor and/or mobilization price breakdown.

Q: Is the control of invasive vegetation on the site/s to be included with the quote?

A: Yes. Vegetation control should be included as part of the contractor's scope of work. Associated costs may be included in the labor, mobilization, and/or maintenance price breakdowns in the proposal.

Q: The RFP states to control competing vegetation as directed but how do we quote this if we don't know the direction? This could be chemical application or mechanical based on the LO's direction.

A: Contractors should assume an average cost for vegetation control when developing their proposal.

Q: If the planting is on public land, is the contractor responsible for the signage? If so, what are the size and material specifications for this sign?

A: WAY will provide and/or be responsible for any signage required for plantings occurring on public lands.

Q: Lastly, the grant agreement link is not opening for me. Is there another way for me to read this document?

A: Please use [this link](#) to view the grant agreement.

Q: There does not seem to be any established areas for buffer installations, how are we to apply the scope and values to those unknowns? i.e. site preparation/control of existing competing invasive vegetation, site access, without understanding current/existing conditions?

A: Since specific planting locations and existing site conditions have not yet been established, contractors should develop their proposals based on reasonable average costs and typical site conditions for riparian forest buffer installations. WAY has several leads on potential planting locations, but no landowners have committed to a planting at this time. Site-specific conditions will be evaluated and coordinated with the contractor as planting locations are identified.

Q: Will any areas that can be planted be provided prior to bidding?

A: No specific planting areas are currently committed or available for inclusion with the bid documents. WAY has several leads on potential planting locations, but no Landowner Agreements have been executed at this time. The contractor will work jointly with WAY on landowner outreach and identification of suitable planting locations.

Q: How will the above relate to the work plan & schedule?

A: The work plan and schedule will be developed following contract award and will account for landowner outreach, identification and verification of suitable planting locations, site coordination, and development and approval of planting plans. WAY anticipates that planting will not occur until Fall 2027 to allow sufficient time for development of the DCNR work plan and landowner outreach and coordination.

Q: For the planting plans are do we need to layout individual plant locations or will a hatching of the installation area(s) be acceptable?

A: Planting plans should identify the planting areas and provide sufficient details to document the proposed planting approach. Individual plant locations are not required; hatching or other delineation of the

installation areas will be acceptable, provided the plans adequately identify the planting limits, planting details, species, quantities, and proposed density/spacing.

Q: Will one mowing and (2) spot treatments/ year for shelters be sufficient for the period until funding expires June 30, 2029?

A: The specific frequency and methods of vegetation control may vary based on site conditions, but this assumed average of one mowing and two spot treatments will be sufficient.

Q: Are there any wage rates associated w/ this work?

A: WAY is currently confirming with the grant funder whether Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Rates apply to this project. We will provide a definitive response as soon as that information is available. In the meantime, for proposal purposes, contractors are encouraged to provide cost estimates both with and without Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Rates included so that the pricing impacts can be evaluated.

Q: Will the pre-construction meetings and verifying of planting location (layout) be able to be handled at the same time?

A: Yes. Where practical, the pre-construction meeting and verification of planting locations/layout may be coordinated and conducted during the same site visit.

Q: Is there a real estate instrument that you intend to use to protect the trees and planted areas long term or just the Landowner agreement?

A: At this time, the Landowner Agreement is the only instrument that will be used to protect the trees and planted areas. The agreement will provide for protection of the plantings for a period of at least 25 years.

Q: Would it be possible to share the landowner agreement in advance?

A: A template of the Landowner Agreement can be found [here](#).

Q: Is there an expectation for compensating landowners for removing land from production?

A: No. There is no landowner compensation associated with this project. The grant funding cannot be provided directly to landowners for removing land from production.

Q: Would our proposal be strengthened by already having the 25 acres of landowners and planting area or at least a portion of it?

A: A proposal would be strengthened by having some or all of the 25 acres already identified. However, the project timeline includes time for landowner outreach and site identification, so having all 25 acres identified at the time of proposal submission is not required.

Q: How long is the warranty/establishment period? Is there a distinction between these two terms?

A: The establishment period is considered to be one year following the planting. June 30, 2029, remains the overall project completion and funding deadline.

Q: The buffers need to be installed by June 30, 2029, why is the potential engagement so long? Does this include the establishment period?

A: The grant period allows time for landowner outreach and site identification, as well as the one-year establishment period following planting. All project activities must be completed by the June 30, 2029, project completion and funding deadline.

Q: Given the short timeline for the planting of installations (a few days), would it be possible to remove the bonding requirement to simply pay the contractor once the planting has been completed? This simply increases cost and does not reduce the risk of project completion.

A: WAY is open to considering an alternative to the bonding requirement and will discuss this option with the contractor selected to complete the work.

Q: Can we exceed the 25 acres?

A: The grant provides a fixed amount of funding. If a contractor can establish more than 25 acres within the fixed grant amount while meeting all project requirements, that would be viewed favorably by the grant funders.

Q: Will multiple contractors be awarded or just one?

A: One contract will be awarded for the work outlined in the RFP.

Q: Will DNR supply the landowners for this project through outreach?

A: Landowner outreach will be a joint responsibility of WAY and the contractor. WAY has several leads on potential planting locations; however, no landowners have signed a Landowner Agreement committing them to a planting at this time.

Q: There is ambiguity as to certain elements such as controlling competing vegetation as well as erosion and sediment control. For example, there is a large cost difference between removing every invasive, vs simply controlling invasives that would threaten canopy closure. Additionally, there are a wide variety of erosion control measures that could be outside the scope of engagement such as live staking, or grading/matting, etc. Would it be possible to clarify any potential scope increases beyond buffer establishment through tree planting.

A: Contractors should include reasonable and typical costs for vegetation management and erosion and sediment control in their proposals. Proposals should account for the site conditions and the measures reasonably necessary to establish and maintain the planted buffers.

Q: Tree stock specifics (bare root / tubeling / 1 gallon)? We are experiencing good outcomes with bare root plantings, but would be happy to scope alternatives.

A: Small, approximately 1- to 3-year-old, containerized trees and shrubs are preferred. If bare-root stock is utilized, contractors should plan for a greater number of stems per acre.

Q: Can you specify your desired herbivore protection measures? Typically, this consists of 5-foot tree tubes, is there anything else you would like to see?

A: 4-to-5-foot shelters are preferred.

Q: Is the 85% survival rate the benchmark at the end of the establishment period? This high of a survival rate will very likely necessitate additional plantings in future years.

A: Replanting will be required if survival drops below 85% during the establishment period (which is considered one year following the planting).

Q: Would you like the planting plan to be provided by a Landscape Architect, which can sometimes include a wetland delineation or would a more simple selection of native trees consistent with site wet areas and

surrounding species considerations suffice?

A: A planting plan prepared by a Landscape Architect is not required. Planting plans should identify the proposed planting areas and provide sufficient detail to document the proposed planting approach. Individual plant locations are not required; hatching or other delineation of the installation areas is acceptable, provided the plans adequately identify the planting limits, planting details, species, quantities, and proposed density/spacing.

Last Updated: 10/6/26