

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR
GROUNDS CARE
SERVICES**

**NORWICH FREE ACADEMY
305 BROADWAY
NORWICH, CT 06360**

March 2021

NORWICH FREE ACADEMY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

SUMMARY SHEET

Services Required:

The contractor will provide all labor, materials and equipment needed to assume the duties typically performed by landscape contractors. Specific responsibilities include: management, training, supervision of workers and tasks relating to grounds care and upkeep, including but not limited to spring and fall cleanup, lawn mowing and string trimming, mulching of beds, fertilization and pest control, event set up and take down, and other support services that might be required from time to time and are typically done by a land care contractor.

Proposal Due Date: May 21, 2021 by 3 p.m.

**Sole Contact and Location
For Proposal Delivery:**

**Richard Freeman, Dir. Finance & Human Resource
Norwich Free Academy
305 Broadway
Norwich, CT 06360**

**Sole Contact for
Information Regarding
This Proposal:**

**Alicia Madsen, Facilities Manager
Norwich Free Academy
305 Broadway
Norwich, CT 06360**

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I. **DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK**

A. **THE OWNER AND THE SCOPE OF THE WORK**

The Owner is the owner of a school complex referred to as Norwich Free Academy, consisting of the buildings known as Levanto, Allis, Latham, Shattuck, Cranston, Norton/Alumni Gym, Atrium, Slater Museum, Converse, Tirrell, and Bradlaw/Frank Center located at 305 Broadway, Norwich, CT.

There is also a building with offices and classrooms, and a garage, located at 90 Sachem Street, Norwich, CT., as well as tracts of land on Carroll Avenue.

The Owner wishes to retain the Contractor for the purposes of maintaining the campus grounds, as per the specifications in **Exhibit A**, which is attached hereto and made part hereof.

B. **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

1. There will be no additional charges for call backs. Adequate material is available for interested parties to calculate extra hour requirements and should be included as part of your lump sum proposal.
2. The attached grounds care schedule (Exhibit A) is intended to establish minimum requirements. You are free to create your own schedule which must be a part of your proposal and prove how you will maintain or exceed our current level of services.
3. We believe our net grounds area to be maintained to be approximately 14 acres on the main campus and 3 acres on the Sachem Campus. You will assume the responsibility to verify all job requirements in the field.
4. All staff will be employees of the contractor.
5. Employees of the contractor will be in company uniform and wear an ID badge.
6. Company holidays will be coordinated with the school calendar.
7. Site is to be inspected twice monthly by an off-site supervisor; a monthly summary of inspections and a corrective action written report will be submitted to the Facilities Office monthly.
8. You must supply evidence of a minimum of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) Comprehensive Liability coverage per incident, applied to this site only and a Blanket Employee Fidelity Bond of a minimum of \$100,000.00.
9. All new employees must complete a fingerprinting process and background check.
10. The Owner reserves the right to request the removal of any of the contractor's employees from assignment to its facilities.

11. No proposal shall be accepted, nor contract awarded, to any Contractor whose performance on any previous contract has been determined to be unsatisfactory. The Norwich Free Academy reserves the right to be the sole judge in this decision.

12. The Norwich Free Academy may award a one (1) year contract, or a one (1) year contract with an option to renew for 1 year, depending on which length of contract it feels to be in the best interest of The Norwich Free Academy. The Contractor shall provide pricing for each of these alternatives.

13. The Norwich Free Academy reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals and, further, reserves the right to waive any proposal or formalities when it appears to be in its best interest to do so.

14. The Norwich Free Academy may make such investigation as it deems necessary to determine the liability of the vendor to perform the work.

15. The vendor shall furnish all information and data for this purpose as The Norwich Free Academy may request.

16. Awarding of a contract shall only be to one (1) vendor. The contract for grounds care services shall not be divisible between campuses and vendors.

17. Until a contract has been awarded, no vendor can claim any contract rights by virtue of the proposal alone. Awarding of the contract means actual notice to the vendor that the contract has been awarded.

C. Form of Contract and Order of Priority

1. The proposed form of contract further details the Contractor's services and is attached hereto as Exhibit B. The contract is intended to identify the services that the Owner believes are needed in order to successfully perform the services. If you believe that other work is necessary, or that suggested work is not necessary, please explain this in your proposal.

2. If there is a conflict between or among the Contracts, this Request for Proposals, and the Contractor's Proposal, then the order of priority in resolving the conflict shall be the Contract, this Request for Proposals, and then the Contractor's Proposal.

II. SELECTION PROCESS

Respondents' proposals will be evaluated against the specifications as presented in this Request for Proposals. A respondent may or may not be eliminated from consideration for failure to comply completely with one or more of the requirements, depending on the nature of the requirements. Proposals submitted after the final date for submitting proposals may be returned without review.

The Contractor will be selected using the following process:

- A. All prospective respondents shall obtain a copy of this Request for Proposals. Copies may be obtained from Richard Freeman, Director of Finance & Human Resources, 305 Broadway, Norwich, CT 06360, and are also posted on the website.
- B. Prospective respondents shall commence the preparation of their proposals following a mandatory walk through on May 13th at 1:30 p.m.. Proposal amounts shall be clearly indicated on the form, in ink or typewritten, in both words and figures.
- C. Respondents shall submit their proposals (3 copies) to Richard Freeman, Director of Finance & Human Resources, 305 Broadway, Norwich, CT 06360, by no later than 3:00 pm on May 21st, 2021. All proposals must be submitted in sealed envelopes, bearing on the outside the name of the proposal which is being submitted, "Contracted Grounds Care Services". Electronic submissions are also acceptable by the same date and time.
- D. Upon the request of the Owner, each respondent that submits a proposal may be required to give oral presentations regarding its proposal. Candidates will be notified of the date and time for the oral presentations.
- E. After the oral presentations (if required) the Owner will make its final selection and notify all candidates of its decision.

III. **INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CONTRACTOR**

A. **EXPERIENCE OF CONTRACTOR**

1. **List of Past Jobs**

List jobs in which you have been involved during the past five years which are similar in scope to this job. The following information is requested on each job: (Please use the sheet attached as Exhibit C as the form for providing this information.)

- a. Job name and address.
- b. Year job commenced, and if applicable, ended.
- c. Description of services provided, including number of buildings serviced, square footage, and scope of service.
- d. For each year of the job list staffing, hourly rates, and annual fees charged for the job.

- e. For each year of the job list name(s) and titles(s) of your firm's employee(s) who worked on the job, including site supervisor(s).
- f. Owner reference (name, position and telephone number).

2. **Past Litigation & Arbitration**

List and describe any litigation or arbitration or dispute resolution process in which your company or any of its principals have been involved during the past five years.

B. PROPOSED SERVICES FOR PROJECT

1. **Scope of Proposed Services**

Describe the scope of your services and detail how those services would be provided, including:

- a. A detailed grounds care schedule covering all spaces that meets or exceeds the requirements that are detailed in **Exhibit A**.
- b. An organizational chart that shows proposed staffing and supervision, including the names of all employees who are expected to work on this job, including the site supervisor, and a proposed salary schedule for all employees.
- c. An operating statement showing projected costs, overhead and profit.
- d. A supervisor **MUST** be on site at all times for grounds care staff. At oral presentation provide background qualifications of possible site manager.
- e. A description of your training program including environmental training and all training deemed necessary by Norwich Free Academy and the State of Connecticut.
- e. Respondents shall provide copies of all Safety Data Sheets for products used in land care duties.
- f. An inventory of equipment and materials to be used on site. All equipment must be in safe working condition and properly maintained by contractor.

C. PROPOSED COMPENSATION

Please set forth, as a lump sum, your fee for the services to be provided.

D. APPENDIX

Please attach as an appendix any supplemental information you believe is appropriate.

E. PROPOSAL FORMAT

The proposal should not exceed a maximum of 12 pages in length.

IV. CONDITIONS OF PROPOSAL AND SELECTION

The selection of a Contractor to serve the needs of the Owner is an important and complex task. The Owner recognizes that many people and businesses likely can provide the services which would adequately meet its needs. The Owner will exercise both objective and subjective criteria in the selection process. This Request for Proposals is intended to provide interested parties with uniform information concerning the requirements for submitting Project proposals. In responding to this Request for proposals, proposal requirements and content format indicated herein must be adhered to. Failure to respond to all of the information requested may result in the disqualification of a proposal.

The submission of a proposal will be construed to mean (1) that the respondent is fully informed as to the extent and character of the Owner's requirements and (2) that the respondent represents that it is willing and able to furnish the services requested in a satisfactory manner and in complete compliance with the job specifications.

Once submitted, all proposals become the property of the Owner. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all proposals. Proposals must be firm and may not be withdrawn for 90 days after submission, or until the Owner awards the contract for grounds care services, whichever comes first. The Owner shall not be liable for any costs incurred by respondents in preparing or submitting proposals.

The Owner reserves the right to accept any item or group of items offered in any proposal unless the respondent qualifies its proposal by specific limitation. The Owner reserves the right to select a respondent who is not the lowest priced respondent as it deems in its best interest. It is to be noted by contractors that an important consideration in the award evaluation process will be the number of personnel and the number of hours (for said personnel) the Contractor proposes to utilize in the pursuit of the work scope, and the decision of The Norwich Free Academy as to adequacy of personnel numbers and/or personnel hours will be considered final and not subject to recourse by the Contractor.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any proposal, in whole or in part, and to waive technical defects, qualifications, irregularities, and omissions, if, in its sole judgment, the best interests of the Owner will be served by so doing. Each proposal received within the required time frame will be evaluated individually by the Owner.

The Owner reserves the right to negotiate with any respondent regarding changes to the original proposal which may be deemed to be in the best interests of the Owner. In the event that such successful respondent fails to execute a contract within 30 days after notification of award by the Owner, the Owner may cancel its action and reconsider other proposals or solicit new proposals.

The Owner shall consider the successful respondent to be the sole point of contact with regard to all contractual matters, including payment for performance of services by the Contractor, its agents, and its employees. The Contractor shall not be allowed to assign the contract nor delegate any responsibilities or duties to any third party without prior written consent of the Owner.

If it becomes necessary to revise any part of this Request for Proposals or otherwise provide additional information to the respondents, the Owner will issue an addendum to this original Request for Proposals to all respondents who are on record with The Norwich Free Academy as having requested from it one or more copies of this Request for Proposals.

The submission of a proposal shall serve as conclusive evidence that the vendor has satisfied himself as to all requirements outlined in the proposed specifications and to all condition serving to control the execution of any contract which may ensue.

All vendors are to visit and examine sites and discuss work scope with the Facilities Manager and to familiarize themselves with the areas involved and the conditions, under which the work is to be performed. Failure to do so will not relieve the successful contractor of the obligation to furnish all labor, material, and equipment necessary to complete the work in accordance with a contract documents.

By submission of this proposal, each vendor, and each person signing on behalf of a vendor, certifies under penalty of perjury that, to the best of his/her knowledge and belief, the prices in this proposal have been arrived at independently, without collusion, communication, or agreement with any other vendor or competitor and, further, that the prices which have been quoted in this proposal have not been knowingly disclosed by the vendor prior to opening, directly, or indirectly, to any other vendor or competitor.

Should a prospective vendor desire clarification or interpretation of any item in the specifications, such request will be made in writing, to the Director of Finance & Human Resources who will supply a response in writing. Such inquiry and response will be provided to all prospective contractors. The Norwich Free Academy shall not be responsible for any alleged oral instructions or contract interpretations given to vendors. Oral questions may be asked at the informational meeting, but oral responses given shall not be binding unless confirmed in the form of written addenda to the specifications which, if issued, will be mailed to all prospective contractors.

EXHIBIT A

PROPOSED GROUNDS CARE SCHEDULE

1. LAWN MOWING, STRING TRIMMING AND CLEANING OFF SIDEWALKS, WALKWAYS, AND PARKING AREAS WEEKLY, OR AS REQUIRED FROM JULY 1ST THROUGH DECEMBER 15TH, 2021, AND APRIL 1ST THROUGH JUNE 30TH, 2022.
2. MULCHING OF ALL BEDS WITH HEMLOCK PREMIUM MULCH
3. EDGING OF ALL BEDS AND WALKWAYS ONCE PER SEASON.
4. SPRING CLEANUP OF LEAVES AND DEBRIS ON ALL LAWN AREAS, INCLUDING PROPERTIES OWNED BY NFA ON CARROLL AVENUE
5. FERTILIZATION AND PEST CONTROL FOR LAWN AREAS. FOUR FERTILIZATIONS WITH WEED CONTROL AND GRUB CONTROL.
6. MAINTAINING ALL SHRUBS DURING THE SEASON, INCLUDING PRUNING AND TRIMMING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROPER HORTICULTURAL STANDARDS, TO INCLUDE TREES UNDER 16 FEET.
7. SEASONAL PLANTINGS IN SPRING AND FALL
8. LABOR TO SET UP FOR GRADUATION.
9. FALL CLEAN UP OF ALL DEBRIS ON LAWNS AND PLANTING AREAS, INCLUDING PROPERTIES OWNED BY NFA ON CARROLL AVENUE. .
10. LABOR TO MAINTAIN WEED CONTROL IN ALL BEDS.
11. SLICE SEEDING OF THE PRACTICE FIELD WITH PERENNIAL RYE GRASS TWO TIMES PER SEASON TO MAINTAIN A TURF COVER.

PROPOSED FORM OF CONTRACT

I. Agreement

This Contract is made and entered into this _____ day of _____, _____ by and between The Norwich Free Academy (hereinafter referred to as "Owner" and _____ (hereinafter referred to as "Contractor").

A. WHEREAS, Owner is the owner of a complex referred to as The Norwich Free Academy consisting of 14 acres located at the main campus at 305 Broadway, 3 acres at the Sachem Street campus located at 90 Sachem Street, and 3 parcels located on Carroll Avenue in Norwich, and whereas Owner wishes to retain the Contractor for the purposes of maintaining the grounds, as per specifications in the Owner's Request for Proposals and the Owner's Proposal, which are incorporated into this contract by reference, and made a part hereof. NOW, therefore in consideration of the mutual promises and agreements of each part to the other herein contained, it is mutually agreed as follows:

B. Contractor shall act as an independent contractor insofar as the performance of grounds care and related services hereunder is concerned. To that end, Contractor shall employ and direct such persons as it requires to perform said grounds care work and related services, shall exercise full and complete authority over its personnel, shall comply with all other Federal, State, County and Municipal laws, shall make all reports and remit all withholdings and other deductions from compensation paid to personnel as may be required by any Federal, State, County or Municipal laws, ordinances, rules or regulations.

II. Purpose

The contract is entered into for express purpose of the Contractor providing grounds care services for Owner, located at 305 Broad, 90 Sachem Street, and three parcels on Carroll Avenue, Norwich, CT 06360 in accordance with Contractor's proposal, attached hereto.

III. Term

It is agreed that the Contract will commence on July 1, 2021 and continue in effect until June 30, 2022 (**with an option for the Owner to renew for 1 additional year**), unless otherwise earlier terminated as provided herein.

IV. Termination

A. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, the Owner reserves the right to terminate this Agreement if Contractor fails to comply with the work requirements of the Agreement. The

owner shall notify Contractor in writing of the specific conditions of noncompliance, and Contractor shall have fifteen (15) days within which to take necessary corrective action. The parties agree to review the corrective steps taken by contractor pursuant to such notice. If corrective actions is satisfactory to the Owner, then notice shall be withdrawn. If the Owner, after review, determines that effective remedial action has not been taken, the Owner may terminate the Agreement at the end of an additional fifteen (15) day period. Each instance of noncompliance shall be treated separately with the required notice, and period for corrective action being extended to Contractor.

- B.** If the Contractor is adjudged bankrupt, or if the Contractor makes a general assignment for the benefit of creditors, or if a receiver is appointed on account of his insolvency, or if the Contractor defaults or abandons the work, the Owner may, immediately make good such deficiencies and may deduct the cost thereof from the payment then or thereafter due the Contractor, or at the Owner's option, may terminate the Contractor and purchase at the greater of the fair market value or remaining unamortized cost, all materials and equipment on the premises owned by the Contractor and may finish the work by whatever method it may deem expedient, and if the expense of finishing the work exceeds any unpaid balance of the Contract Sum, the Contractor shall pay the difference to the Owner.
- C.** Force Majeure. Any delays of failure by Contractor in the performance of this Contract shall be excused if such delay or failure is beyond the control of, and is not the fault or negligence of Contractor including but not limited to, decrees or restraint of government, acts of God (fire, flood, windstorm, etc.), explosion, civil disturbances (riots, war, sabotage, etc.), and any other cause beyond the reasonable control of Contractor, provided that prompt notice of such delay is given to the Owner.

V. INDEMNITY

Contractor shall indemnify and save harmless the Owner, and shall defend the Owner with counsel reasonably approved by the Owner at Contractor's sole expense, against any and all liability, claim or loss arising out of or attributable to any misconduct, omission, neglect or default of Contractor, its agents, employees or subcontractors.

VI. RULES OF CONDUCT

- A.** In the event any of Contractor's personnel, employees, agents, etc. is apprehended for theft, possession of weapons, illegal drugs or alcohol while working in or about the Owner's facilities, said individual (s) shall be removed from the premises immediately.
- B.** At any time during the term of this Contract, the Owner shall have the exclusive right to request removal of a Contractor's employee. Upon such notice from Owner, the Contractor will see to the removal of the employee.

- C. The Contractor agrees that prior to commencement of this Contract, the Contractor will notify all of their respective personnel and subcontractors regarding the rules of conduct relating to Owner's facility, said rules to be provided by Owner.

VII. GENERAL TERMS AND REQUIREMENTS

A. **Warranty**

All materials supplied by Contractor shall be first quality and warranted in accordance with the individual manufacturer's warranty and any defects in the supplies provided shall be immediately corrected by the Contractor without cost to Owner.

B. **Insurance**

Contractor will furnish to Owner, naming Owner as additional insured, Certificates of Insurance evidencing:

1. Worker's Compensation and Employee's liability covering statutory requirements.
2. Comprehensive Liability with limits of at least \$5,000,000.00 per incident, applied to this site only.
3. Blanket Employee Fidelity Bond of at least \$100,000.00.

C. **Scope of Work**

Contractor has had an opportunity to inspect all of the grounds to be maintained under this Agreement, and is satisfied that its proposal adequately addresses the grounds care requirements as set forth in Owners Request for Proposals, dated April 2019, which is incorporated into this Agreement by reference hereto. Contractor agrees to provide grounds care services for Owner's properties in accordance with the terms of the Owners Request for Proposals, and its proposal dated _____ which are incorporated into this contract by reference, as modified by this contract. If there is a conflict between or among _____ this Contract, the Request for Proposals, and the Contractor's Proposal, then the order of priority in resolving the conflict shall be this Contract, the Request for Proposals, and then the Contractor's Proposal.

D. **Compensation**

Contractor will be paid in twelve (12) equal payments. Invoices will be submitted each month. The invoices will be paid within thirty (30) days of receipt. Owner reserves the right to view and adjust all of the Contractor's books and records regarding this Contract.

E. **Contractor Obligations**

Contractor will:

1. Provide all grounds care supplies and other supplies customarily required for performance..
2. Report security problems and instances to Facilities Manager, and to security personnel immediately upon discovery.
3. Report weekly to Facilities Manager, or in her absence the Facilities Team Leader, regarding general status and any particular problems or events.

4. Will instruct all its employees and/or agents to abide by all safety rules and regulations which may be promulgated from time to time as they pertain to its operation.
5. Contractor will supply/utilize products that are in compliance with federal, municipal, and local government safety standards.
6. Maintain all personnel records, which shall include the name of each employee assigned to any of the facilities, the beginning date of employment status, place and date of birth, current address, social security number and any changes in employment status.
7. Provide uniforms and ID badge for its entire staff, paid for by Contractor. Contractor's personnel shall be neat and clean in appearance at all times.
8. Coordinate employees' holidays with Owner's holiday schedule.
9. Provide a Quality Control Plan that identifies how they ensure the quality of the work performed meets the requirements.
10. The Off Site Supervisor will inspect the facilities twice monthly. A monthly summary of inspections and corrective action will be submitted to Facilities Manager monthly.

Subcontracting, Assignment and Delegation

The Contractor shall not delegate or subcontract its duties, or assign its rights, under this contract.

GOVERNING LAWS

- A. This contract has been entered into and shall be governed in accordance with the laws of the State of Connecticut.
- B. If any term or provision of this contract is prohibited or made unenforceable by any law, regulation or ordinance, such term or provision will have no force and effect to the extent prohibited or made unenforceable, but shall not invalidate or terminate any other provision of this contract.

IX. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

Both parties agree that this written Contract is the total agreement between the parties and that no other document, subsequent modification, nor oral agreements exist other than the terms, references, specifications, and rates stated herein. Any modification/amendment to this Contract shall be reduced to writing, signed by both parties, and attached hereto.

X. NOTICES

All notices or communications required herein or which either party desires to give to the other shall be in writing and either delivered personally or sent by registered or certified mail, postage pre-paid, return receipt requested, and addressed as follows:

If to Owner:
Alicia Madsen, Facilities Manager
The Norwich Free Academy
305 Broadway
Norwich, CT 06360

If to Contractor:

XI. CHARGE FOR SERVICES

- A. Year 1: \$ _____/year (Payable monthly at \$ _____ per month).
- B. Year 2: \$ _____/year (Payable monthly at \$ _____ per month).

Major projects will be done during School shutdowns as part of the Agreement.
Norwich Free Academy special function events and callbacks are included in the Agreement.

Events that are not Norwich Free Academy events are not included in the agreement.

XII. CHARGES FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES (ANNUAL)

- A. Hourly rate for site worker \$ _____
- B. Hourly rate for site supervisor \$ _____

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, NORWICH FREE ACADEMY and _____, have caused this instrument to be executed by their officers or agents duly authorized this ____ day of _____.

NORWICH FREE ACADEMY

By: _____, duly authorized

Contractor

By: _____, duly authorized

