Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Forest Planting Contractor Bid
Spring 2024: Chester County, Pennsylvania

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is seeking bids from forest planting contractors to establish new forest on one large site totaling 282.38 acres in Chester County, Pennsylvania during the spring 2024 planting season. Services sought include site preparation, invasive plant control, material procurement, planting, annual maintenance, replanting services, and shelter removal on portions of those acres. Services sought entail:

- Pre-planting mowing on 282.38 acres
- Invasive plant control with systemic herbicides in 25’ wide strip along all woodline planting areas, approximately 360 acres
- Planting 71,712 bare-root seedlings during spring 2024 planting season on 260.77 acres
  - Installation of non-perforated 5’ deer shelters on 62,554 planted stems
  - Installation of biodegradable 5’ deer shelters on 9,158 planted stems
- Post-planting annual maintenance
  - Two mows and two sprays of 3’ radius herbicide rings on 282.38 acres from 2024-2026
- Post-planting replanting of dead trees and shrubs from 2024-2026
  - Replanting dead trees marked by Alliance staff on 282.38 acres
- Removal of 62,554 non-biodegradable 5’ deer shelters after tree establishment

Scope of Work

The contractor shall be responsible for providing all equipment, material and supplies to complete the tree planting projects and maintenance according to the planting specifications & contractor’s responsibilities listed below. The contractor will conduct pre-planting preparation entailing mowing on 282.38 acres and applying herbicide to invasive plants along all woodline planting areas, totaling approximately 360 acres. The contractor shall scalp away the turf at each tree seeding planting location, hand plant (dibble bar or hoedad only) approximately 71,712 bare-root tree seedlings, install approximately 71,712 five-foot (5’) total tree shelters, with 1”x1” white oak stakes, reversible ties, and netting on approximately 260.77 acres between April 1, 2024 and May 15, 2024. Annual maintenance will consist of mowing between trees and spraying systemic herbicide around each tree shelter twice each growing season, and replanting marked tree mortality once annually from 2024-2026. The contractor will remove and dispose of the 62,554 non-biodegradable 5’ deer shelters after tree establishment. The site is a new State Park in Chester County, Pennsylvania and the contractor will coordinate with both Alliance and PA DCNR staff to complete the project.

Minimum Qualifications of a Bidder

1. The Bidder will be a reputable contractor with a minimum of five (5) years of experience in planting bare-root tree seedlings, installing tree shelters with stakes & bird nets and possess current insurance and pesticide applicators license.
2. The Bidder may be asked to provide three references that can verify qualifications above and copies of current insurance and license. A Bidder that does not meet the minimum qualifications will be rejected.

**Planting Specifications and Contractor’s Responsibilities**

1. The contractor will mow each site within one month of the planting, if deemed necessary by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (Alliance).
2. The contractor will provide all labor, planting stock, materials, and equipment to fulfill all aspects of the scope of work as outlined above. Species and quantities of tree seedlings to be planted are included in the planting plans provided by the Alliance. The contractor agrees to follow the planting specifications provided in the tree planting plan for each property unless otherwise directed and approved by Alliance personnel.
3. The contractor shall scalp away turf at 5” x 5” at the spot of each tree seedling.
4. All tree seedlings will be hand planted (dibble bar or hoedad only) at the spacing grid specified in the tree planting plan for the site, as prepared by the Alliance, using accepted industry standards, methods, and equipment.
5. All seedlings when transported and/or stored on a planting site will always be protected with reflective seedling tarps or other appropriate means to prevent overheating and drying out of the seedlings. There will be no root pruning of the seedlings unless approved by the Alliance.
6. The contractor will dip all tree seedling roots in a water retention polymer such as Terra-Sorb, Soil Moist, or similar product, with approval of the Alliance, prior to planting. The contractor will provide the Terra-Sorb, Soil Moist, or similar product.
7. The contractor agrees to begin planting at a date mutually acceptable to both parties and to complete the planting projects by no later than May 15, 2024. The planting shall not be done when excess water is standing on the site, or when the ground is frozen or extremely dry.
8. The contractor will plant seedlings at the depth the seedlings were grown, which is to be the root collar. Planting holes will be properly closed to ensure that all air pockets are removed.
9. The contractor will plant each tree seedling in such a manner that "J" and "U" roots will not occur, and each tree seedling will be firmed with mineral soil packed in and around the roots so the seedling cannot be pulled out of the ground by light tugs.
10. The contractor will provide 71,712 seedlings (according to the requested species selection and quantities) 71,712 five-foot (5') tree shelters (including plastic non-perforated and biodegradable) and 1" x 1" x 5' white oak stakes, reversible fastening ties, and bird mesh nettings.
11. The contractor will install the tree shelters around each designated tree in a manner that prevents each seedling from being constricted by the shelter fastening ties. The straight edge of the tree shelters must be installed 2-5 centimeters into the soil. The flared edge is the top end of the tree shelter, on which the bird netting is placed. All tree shelter fastening ties will be pulled tightly and firmly against each tree shelter stake. Bird nets will be installed on each tree shelter in a manner to prevent bird entry into the shelter and far enough to keep the nets from blowing off in the wind.
12. The contractor will install each tree shelter stake in a straight and upright manner and to a minimum depth in the soil of ten to twelve inches (10"-12"). The top of each installed stake will be no greater than three inches (3") above the top fastening tie of the shelter when it is
tightened. All stakes will be placed on the upwind side of the tree shelters to reduce leaning in heavy winds
13. The contractor will properly install all tree shelters with stakes and bird netting on each tree seedling on the same day that each seedling is planted.
14. The contractor will repair, replace, or reimburse for damage to any property beyond ordinary wear and tear in the performance of the contract.
15. All work performed will be certified by the Alliance as to acceptability and adherence to planting plans and standards before the Alliance will compensate the contractor for any work performed.
16. The final number of planting sites, seedlings, tree shelters, stakes and nets may change prior to the commencement of this contract. The Alliance will notify the contractor of all changes as they occur. Any additions or subtractions to the list of planting sites will be adjusted according to per unit prices in the bid provided.

**Maintenance Specifications and Contractor's Responsibilities**

1. The contractor will complete 2 annual maintenance visits during the 2024, 2025, and 2026 growing seasons. The first visit shall take place during May-June and the second visit shall take place during September.
2. At maintenance visits, all seedlings will receive a 3' diameter systemic herbicide spray treatment around each tree shelter.
3. The site will also be mowed at each maintenance visit. Mowing will be done in strips a minimum of 5' wide on either side of the planted rows.
4. Dead and dying trees will be replanted in the spring or fall of the year at the contractor’s discretion. Trees that need to be replanted will be marked by the Alliance. Total reprints needed at each site will be tallied and communicated to the contractor by Alliance staff.
5. All non-biodegradable (62,554) deer shelters will be removed and disposed of after tree establishment, at a date and season mutually agreed upon by the contractor and Alliance staff but likely in 2027 or beyond.

**Site Details**
The site is current crop and hay fields at the new Big Elk Creek State Park in Chester County, Pennsylvania. The park is new and has minimal infrastructure; a suitable address is 1000 Chesterville Rd, Lincoln University, PA 19352. Access points for the fields to be planted will be facilitated by staff from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.
RETURN BID SHEET Electronically to: rlauver@allianceforthebay.org. All questions about this bid package should be made directly to Rebecca Lauver through email or by phone at 717-823-7076.

Bid Sheet - Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Spring ‘24 Forest Planting Contractor Bid
Return Bid Sheet By Sunday, August 20, 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Price per unit/acre</th>
<th>Total Bid Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide mowing services on 282.38 acres to prep for planting</td>
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<td>Herbicide control of invasive plants in 25’ wide string along all woodlines of planting areas, approximately 360 acres total</td>
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<td>Hand-plant 71,712 bareroot tree seedlings in accordance to the planting plan specifications</td>
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<td>Provide all materials for and install 62,554 non-perforated plastic tree shelters (5’) with white oak stakes (5’), reversible ties, and bird netting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide all materials for and install 9,158 biodegradable tree shelters (5’) with white oak stakes (5’), reversible ties, and bird netting</td>
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<td>Provide 71,712 seedlings in accordance with the provided planting plans</td>
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<td>Prove annual maintenance (2 mowings and sprayings) on 282.38 acres for three (3) growing seasons after planting.</td>
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<td>Provide replanting services on 282.38 acres for three (3) growing seasons after planting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remove all (62,554) plastic tree shelters after tree establishment</td>
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TOTAL PROJECT BID PRICE

Company Name:  
Address:  
Phone:  
Email:  
Signature:  
Date:  
Name Printed: