Massachusetts Technology Collaborative
(Solicitation No. 2027-GA-02)
Request for Proposals: Ecologically Sensitive Landcare Services

Questions and Answers

November 13, 2026

	Question	Answer
1.	Mowing Zone acreage and current site conditions: Please provide the measured mowable area of Zones 1 and 2 and, if available, the area of planting beds. Does Attachment D reflect the anticipated 2027 site configuration, including any demolition, restoration or reconfiguration of turf or turf beds? If not, will an updated plan be provided?	MassTech does not have measured acreage or square footage of Zone 1, Zone 2, or the planting beds. The Campus is a 36-acfe parcel. Respondents should base their pricing on Attachment D and their own observations at the site visit. Attachment D shows the tuff and planting beds maintained today. Three vacant buildings on the Campus are being demolished under a separate contract scheduled to finish by the end of 2026. Restored areas from that project are not part of the base scope. If MassTech adds maintained tuff of planting beds during the contract term, the scope and price will be adjusted by written amendment using the fates and unit prices in the Bid Form. MassTech does not plan to issue an updated site plan before responses are due.
2.	Removal of existing mulch in 2027: What volume of existing mulch must be removed? Does the requirement apply to all mulched areas or only designated beds? May removed mulch go to the on-site compost area? Should the related costs be included in the 2027 Mulching lump sum?	The removal requirement applies only to the 2027 season. It covers all existing plant beds and mulched areas that will receive new mulch under Section 2.2.1. MassTech has not measured the existing mulch. Respondents should assume a volume roughly equal to the yearly application of about 35 cubic yards, adjusted for their own site-visit observations. Removed mulch may be taken to the on-site compost area designated by MassTech; off-site hauling is not required. All labor, transport, and disposal costs for removal must be included in the 2027 Mulching lump-sum price.
3.	Relationship between Lump-sum prices and material pricing:	Each lump-sum task price must include all labor, materials, and equipment needed to complete that task's defined annual scope (see RFP Section 2.1). The Section 3 materials

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	Should the costs of materials required by the defined annual scope be included in the lump-sum task prices, with Section 3 used only for unit pricing or authorized changes? Or are Section 3 amounts payable in addition to the lump sums?	prices are unit prices. MassTech will use them to price added of changed work it authorizes in writing, and will review them for reasonableness during evaluation. They are not payable in addition to the lump-sum prices. That is why the Bid Form does not add TOTAL MATERIALS to the TOTAL LUMP SUM BID.
4.	Soil amendment products, baseline work and substitutions: Which products and application cycles should bidders assume in base prices? Should respondents add or substitute product lines lines in Attachment C? If soil tests lead MassTech to omit, change, or replace a treatment, will scope and price be adjusted by Prior written authorization?	Base prices for each contract year should assume the products, rates, and timing in RFP Sections 2.2.1 and 2.2.3: • **Spring (early to mid April):** organic fertilizer at 1 lb per 1,000 sq ft and Humic at 5 lb per 1,000 sq ft. • **Summer (late June to mid July):** organic fertilizer at 1 lb per 1,000 sq ft and Charge S3 at 15 lb per 1,000 sq ft. • **Fall:** organic fertilizer at 1 lb per1,000 sq ft and lime at 10 lb per 1,000 sq ft. Respondents should amend or add rows in Attachment C, Section 3 so that it lists these specified products, as the Bid Form allows. The yearly soil test is included at no additional cost. If the results lead MassTech to omit, change, or replace a treatment, the scope and price will be adjusted only by MassTech's PRIOR WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION.
5.	Optional core aeration versus fall amendments and overseeding: Should bidders include the Zone 1 and Zone 2 aeration prices in each annual lump sum even when aeration is not offered? Which bid lines should include aeration and overseeding so they are not priced twice?	Yes. Include the fixed-fee prices on the Core Aeration Zone 1 and Core Aeration Zone 2 lines in each annual lump sum. Aeration is performed only with MassTech's approval. If MassTech orders less aeration than the fixed price covers, or none, MassTech will receive a credit for the difference, as stated in Section 2.2.2 and the Bid Form footnote. Price both core aeration and overseeding on the two Core Aeration lines. The Fall Application of Soil Amendments line should cover only the fall fertilizer and lime application, so

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		that aeration and overseeding are not priced twice.
6.	Mowing visit counts, additional cuts and ongoing maintenance: Should base prices include exactly 18 Zone 1 and 8 Zone 2 mowings? How will additional mowings be authorized and paid, and where should per-visit pricing go? May biweekly litter removal, weeding, edging, and pest monitoring be done during visits?	Yes. Base prices must include exactly 18 Zone 1 mowings and 8 Zone 2 mowings per season. The 10–13-day and 14–21-day intervals are guidance. Additional mowings require MassTech's prior written approval. They will be paid at a per-visit price equal to the zone's annual mowing price divided by its number of mowings, unless the respondent lists a different per-visit price. Respondents may add an "Additional mowing, per visit (Zone 1 / Zone 2)" row in Attachment C, Section 2. Biweekly litter removal, weeding, edging, and pest monitoring may be done during mowing visits, provided the required service frequencies are met.
7.	Low-emission equipment compliance: Will commercial battery-electric mowers qualify as "equivalent"? Are other low-emission commercial gasoline machines without catalytic exhaust acceptable? What documentation must respondents provide?	Yes, commercial battery-electric mowing equipment qualifies as equivalent. MassTech will consider other current low-emission commercial gasoline machines without catalytic exhaust case by case, based on the documentation provided. In the proposed approach, respondents should list the mowing equipment they intend to use, with make, model, engine or power type, and any EPA or CARB emission certification. MassTech may inspect equipment during the contract term as stated in Section 2.2.2.
8.	Spring deadwood allowance and bucket truck hours: Does "eight man-hours" mean eight total combined labor hours, and what bucket-truck time is included? Is removal and disposal of woody debris included? Would work beyond the allowance be paid at the submitted hourly rates?	"Eight man-hours" means eight total labor hours combined across all crew members. The bucket truck is included for as long as that eight-hour allowance of work takes. Removal of the resulting woody debris is part of the basic service: it may be chipped and placed at the on-site compost area, or hauled off site at the contractor's cost. Tree work beyond the allowance requires MassTech's prior written approval. It will be paid at the arborist, labor and bucket truck rates submitted in Attachment C, Section 2.
9.	Fall cleanup baseline and additional mobilizations: How many fall-cleanup visits should respondents assume, and areall turf areas, beds, parking lots, roadways, and walkways within the baseline? How will visits beyond the baseline be authorized and priced?	The Fall Cleanup Lump Sum is for completing the fall cleanup described in Section 2.2.3, however many visits that takes. Respondents should set their own number of visits based on the site visit and their experience with leaf drop on comparable sites. The baseline covers all maintained turf areas, planting beds, parking lots, roadways

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		and walkways shown on Attachment D. Additional visits needed to complete this scope are not paid separately. If MassTech requests work outside of this scope, it will authorize the work in writing in advance and pay for it at the rates in Attachment C, Section 2.