



City of Tacoma

Questions and Answers

TREE REMOVAL AND PRUNING

RFB Specification No. **ES23-0280F**

All interested parties had the opportunity to submit questions in writing by email to Stan Rowden, Senior Buyer by April 18, 2024. The answers to the questions received are provided below and posted to the City's website at www.TacomaPurchasing.org. Navigate to [Current Contracting Opportunities / Public Works and Improvements Solicitations](#), and then click [Questions and Answers](#) for this Specification. This information IS NOT considered an addendum. Respondents should consider this information when submitting their proposals.

Question 1:

Will the City of Tacoma accept NAA or other qualified arborist certifications or just ISA?

Answer 1:

We've established the ISA Arborist credential as the benchmark for qualification. If an applicant can demonstrate that an alternative qualification can meet or exceed the requirements to obtain an ISA Arborist credential, the application will be considered.

Question 2:

How does the City plan on administering the work to more than one contractor? What will their process be?

Answer 2:

While unlikely, should more than one contractor be awarded, there would be a primary awardee, but a second contractor might be retained for overflow if the need exceeds the capacity of the primary contractor to execute.

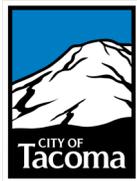
Question 3:

Stumps and large structural roots shall be fully ground out to a depth of eight (8) inches, leaving no wood and no woody surface roots. Stumps or holes that will pose an immediate and considerable hazard to pedestrians or vehicles shall be adequately barricaded with appropriate warning devices. All excavated stumping holes must be filled the day they are excavated. No excavated stumping holes shall be left open after the workday is complete. In some instances, a replacement tree will need to be planted in the location where an existing mature tree will be removed under this contract. In this case, stumps and large structural roots shall be removed to a depth not less than twelve (12) inches and at a radius that is conducive to the replacement tree being planted and able to successfully establish.-

Is your 8 inch requirement below sidewalk grade?

Answer 3:

Yes, in instances where the ground grade is the same as the sidewalk grade. In all other instances please refer to TMC 9.20.300 which states: "Any remaining roots or stumps of street trees removed pursuant to a permit issued under this chapter shall be cut out at least eight inches below the surface of the ground, unless the removal of such will have a negative impact on erosion, slope stability, or natural areas on which they are located or the permit provides



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otherwise. All large woody material from removed or pruned street trees including the trunk, stump, branches, and large roots, shall be removed from improved right-of-way sites so as to not cause impairments to safe passage.”

Question 4:

In the case of over-sized stumps that have non woody material present (curbs, concrete, brick, etc.) that would impede in the ability to perform the stump grinding would you require the contractor to excavate out this material in order to get to grade?

Answer 4:

TMC 9.20.300 states: “Any remaining roots or stumps of street trees removed pursuant to a permit issued under this chapter shall be cut out at least eight inches below the surface of the ground, unless the removal of such will have a negative impact on erosion, slope stability, or natural areas on which they are located or the permit provides otherwise. All large woody material from removed or pruned street trees including the trunk, stump, branches, and large roots, shall be removed from improved right-of-way sites so as to not cause impairments to safe passage.”

Stump removal requires removal of all material that would “cause impairments to safe passage” of the right-of-way.

Question 5:

What kind of fill is required to fill the hole? Stump grinding chips? Dirt?

Answer 5:

Because any trees being removed will later have to be replaced, soil is required for fill. The City can provide TAGRO at no additional cost, but it will be up to the contractor to fill in the hole.

Question 6:

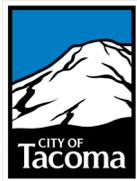
No Parking Signage- It is the responsibility of the Contractor(s) to coordinate with the City representative to arrange the posting of no parking signage when needed to complete pruning or removal work. The contractor shall provide the City of Tacoma representative not less than 2 business days’ notice prior to the start of tree work to coordinate the placement of this signage.-

By Coordinating with the City does this mean the City will provide the signage, placement of signage, towing services if vehicle's are present in the work zone and traffic control services when needed?

Answer 6:

The City will provide the no parking signage and place it at the work site prior to the day of work. If vehicles are parked in proximity to a tree that is to be worked on when crews arrive, contact the Urban Forestry liaison at the City to coordinate next steps. It is not our practice to tow vehicles who impair our ability to perform tree work, but we will try to contact the vehicle owner to get the vehicle moved or to reschedule the work.

It is the responsibility of the contractor to meet the requirements of the [City of Tacoma Traffic Control Handbook](#).



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Question 7:

Who will be in charge of administering the contract?

Are they ISA Certified?

How many years of experience do they have in administering public works contracts of similar scope and complexity?

Do they have any on-site experience in the field?

If so what was there position and how many years did they work on-site?

Answer 7:

The contract administrator will be a City of Tacoma employee that is an ISA arborist with on-site experience and involved in running these types of contracts with similar scope and complexity for four years.

Question 8:

Open Space Area-

Should we encounter homeless camps will the City provide hazmat cleanup of work zone prior to crews arrival?

Answer 8:

Any extraneous circumstances that may be encountered on a job site that would potentially endanger crews or members of the public will be discussed to the satisfaction of both parties in the Task Authorization Form before a job is authorized.

Typically the sites will have been visited beforehand to scope the work by either City staff or contractor or both. If encampments or debris are noted at that time – the City can in some instances schedule cleanup crews to address prior to the start of tree work. However, as the nature of encampments are transient and unpredictable, it is hard to provide the complete assurance that an area that was once clear of encampments or debris will remain clear of debris and/or encampments. That being said the City will perform our due diligence to make sure that the area is safe and clean prior to scheduled tree work. The City does have a cleanup contractor but they are not on-call at a moment's notice – it is possible that work could have to be rescheduled in order to accommodate unanticipated cleanup or encampment removal.

Question 9:

Mobilization /Trip charge –

Issues that would prohibit work to be performed due to parking, encampments, protesters, etc., I see under Personnel and Equipment Costs you have a mobilization fee,

will the City pay mobilization fees for Equipment and Personnel that is not able to perform there work due to these events?



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Answer 9:

Within reason; if a crew mobilizes for a job and encounters an insurmountable obstacle to completing the work that can't be worked out in a reasonable time, the mobilization fee can be invoiced once the work is eventually completed.

Question 10:

Tree and Stump Removal-

The diameter class size only goes to >36" DBH , most of the mature street trees that are in decline are over 36" DBH

how does the City plan on addressing pricing for trees larger than 36" DBH?

Answer 10:

This represents the largest class of removal. Please provide an adequate quote to cover removal of trees 36 inches and greater.