



**1.1 DEFINITIONS**

**Addenda:** A written change to a solicitation.

**Contract:** The agreement to perform the services set forth in this document signed by both parties with any addenda and other attachments specifically incorporated.

**Contractor:** The vendor to which award has been made.

**County:** Shall refer to Lake County, Florida.

**Modification:** A written change to a contract.

**Proposal:** Shall refer to any offer(s) submitted in response to a Request for Proposal.

**Proposer:** Shall refer to anyone submitting an offer in response to a Request for Proposal.

**Request for Proposal (RFP):** Shall mean this solicitation documentation, including any and all addenda. An RFP involves evaluation of proposals, and award may be made on a best value basis with price, technical, and other factors considered.

**Solicitation:** The written document requesting either bids or proposals from the marketplace.

**Vendor:** a general reference to any entity responding to this solicitation or performing under any resulting contract.

The County has established for purposes of this Invitation to Bid (ITB) that the words “shall”, “must”, or “will” are equivalent in this ITB and indicate a mandatory requirement or condition, the material deviation from which shall not be waived by the County. A deviation is material if, in the County’s sole discretion, the deficient response is not in substantial accord with this ITB’s mandatory requirements. The words “should” or “may” are equivalent in this ITB and indicate very desirable conditions, or requirements but are permissive in nature.

**1.2 INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSERS****A Proposer Qualification**

It is the policy of the County to encourage full and open competition among all available qualified vendors. All vendors regularly engaged in the type of work specified in the solicitation are encouraged to submit proposals. Vendors may enroll with the County to be included on a mailing list for selected categories of goods and services. To be recommended for award the County requires that vendors provide evidence of compliance with the requirements below upon request:

1. Disclosure of Employment.
2. Disclosure of Ownership.
3. Drug-Free Workplace.
4. W-9 and 8109 Forms – The vendor must furnish these forms as required by the Internal Revenue Service.
5. Social Security Number – The vendor must provide a copy of the primary owner’s social security card if the social security number is being used in lieu of the Federal Identification Number (F.E.I.N.).
6. Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.).
7. Conflict of Interest.
8. Debarment Disclosure Affidavit.
9. Nondiscrimination.
10. Family Leave.
11. Antitrust Laws – By acceptance of any contract, the vendor agrees to comply with all antitrust laws of the United States and the State of Florida.

**B Public Entity Crimes**

Pursuant to Section 287.133(2)(a) of the Florida Statutes, a person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction for a public entity crime may not submit a bid on a contract to provide any goods or services to a public entity, may not submit a bid on a contract with a public entity for the construction or repair of a public building or public work, may not submit bids on leases of real property to a public entity, may not be awarded or perform work as a contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under a contract with any public entity, and may not transact business with any public entity in excess of the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017 of the Florida Statutes, for CATEGORY TWO for a period of 36 months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list.

**C. Request for Additional Information**

1. Any communication or inquiries, except for clarification of process or procedure already contained in the solicitation, are to be made in writing to the attention of the procurement representative identified in the solicitation no later than five (5) working days prior to the proposal opening date. Such inquiries or request for information shall be submitted to the procurement representative in writing and shall contain the requester’s name, address, and telephone number. If transmitted by facsimile, the request should also include a cover sheet with the bidder’s facsimile number.
2. The Office of Procurement Services may issue an addendum in response to any inquiry received, prior to proposal closing, which changes, adds to, or clarifies the terms, provisions, or requirements of the solicitation. The proposer should not rely on any representation, statement or explanation whether written or verbal, other than those made in this solicitation document or in any addenda issued. Where there appears to be a conflict between this solicitation and any addenda, the last addendum issued shall prevail. It is the proposer’s responsibility to ensure receipt of all addenda, and any accompanying documentation. The proposer is required to submit with its proposal a signed “Acknowledgment of Addenda” form, when any addenda have been issued. Failure to acknowledge each addendum may prevent the proposal from being considered for award.

**D. Contents of Solicitation and Proposers’ Responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of the proposer to become thoroughly familiar with the requirements, terms, and conditions of this solicitation. Pleas of ignorance of these matters by the proposer of conditions that exist or may exist will not be accepted as a basis for varying the requirements of the County, or the compensation to be paid to the proposer.

**E. Restricted Discussions**

From the date of issuance of this solicitation until final County action, vendors should not discuss the solicitation or any part thereof with any employee, agent, or any other representative of the County except as expressly authorized by the designated procurement representative. The only communications that shall be considered pertinent to this solicitation are appropriately signed written documents from the vendor to the designated procurement representative and any relevant written document promulgated by the designated procurement representative.

**F. Change or Withdrawal of Proposals**

1. Changes to Proposal - Prior to the scheduled proposal closing, a proposer may change its proposal by submitting a new proposal specified in the solicitation with a letter on the firm’s letterhead, signed by an authorized agent stating that the new submittal replaces the original submittal. The new submittal shall contain the letter and all information as required for submitting the original proposal.
2. Withdrawal of Proposal – A proposal shall be irrevocable unless the proposal is withdrawn as provided herein. A proposal may be withdrawn, either physically or by written notice, at any time prior to the proposal closing date. If withdrawn by written notice, that notice must be addressed to, and received by, the designated procurement representative prior to the bid opening date and time. A proposal may also be withdrawn ninety (90) days after the proposal has been opened and prior to award, by submitting a letter to the designated procurement representative identified on the front cover of this solicitation. The withdrawal letter must be on company letterhead and signed by an authorized agent of the proposer.

**G. Conflicts within the Solicitation**

Where there appears to be a conflict between the General Terms and Conditions, Special Conditions, the Technical Specifications, the Pricing Section, or any addendum issued, the order of precedence shall be: the last addendum issued, the Proposal Price Section, the Technical Specifications, the Special Conditions, and then the General Terms and Conditions. It is incumbent upon the

vendor to identify such conflicts to the designated procurement representative prior to the proposal closing date.

#### H. Prompt Payment Terms

1. It is the policy of the County that payment for all purchases by County agencies shall be made in a timely manner and that interest payments will be made on late payments in accordance with Part VII, Chapter 218, Florida Statutes, known as the Florida Prompt Payment Act.
2. The proposer may offer cash discounts for prompt payments; however, such discounts will not be considered in determining the lowest price during proposal evaluation. Proposers are requested to provide prompt payment terms in the space provided on the signature page of the solicitation.

#### 1.3 PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS

- A. The Proposal Pricing Section of this solicitation defines requirements of items to be purchased, and must be completed and submitted with the proposal. Use of any other form or alteration of the form may result in the rejection of the bid.
- B. The proposal submitted must be legible. Bidders shall use typewriter, computer or ink. All changes must be crossed out and initialed in ink. Failure to comply with these requirements may cause the bid to be rejected.
- C. An authorized agent of the proposers firm must sign the proposal. **FAILURE TO SIGN THE PROPOSAL MAY BE CAUSED TO REJECT THE PROPOSAL.**
- D. The proposer may submit alternate proposal(s) for the same solicitation provided that such offer is allowable under the terms and conditions. The alternate proposal must meet or exceed the minimum requirements and be submitted as a separate proposal marked "Alternate Proposal".
- E. When there is a discrepancy between the unit prices and any extended prices, the unit prices will prevail.

#### 1.4 CANCELLATION OF SOLICITATION

The County reserves the right to cancel, in whole or in part, any Request for Proposal when it is in the best interest of the County.

#### 1.5 AWARD

- A. The contract resulting from this solicitation may be awarded to the responsible proposer which submits a proposal determined to provide the best value to the County with price, technical, and other applicable factors considered. The County reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive irregularities or technicalities and to re-advertise for all or any part of this solicitation as deemed in its best interest. The County shall be the sole judge of its best interest.
- B. When there are multiple line items in a solicitation, the County reserves the right to award on an individual item basis, any combination of items, total low bid or in whichever manner deemed in the best interest of the County. This provision specifically supersedes any method of award criteria stated in the solicitation when such action is clearly necessary to protect the best interests of the County.
- C. The County reserves the right to reject any and all proposals if it is determined that prices are excessive or determined to be unreasonable, or it is otherwise determined to be in the County's best interest to do so.
- D. Award of this solicitation will only be made to firms that satisfy all necessary legal requirements to do business with the County. The County may conduct a pre-award inspection of the proposer's site or hold a pre-award qualification hearing to determine if the proposer is capable of performing the requirements of this solicitation.
- E. The proposer's performance as a prime contractor or subcontractor on previous County contracts shall be taken into account in evaluating the responsibility of a proposer that submitted a proposal under this solicitation.
- F. The Director of Procurement Services will decide all tie proposals with initial preference being given to the entity

employing the most personnel residing within the County.

- G. Award of the contract resulting from this solicitation may be predicated on compliance with and submittal of all required documents as stipulated in the solicitation.

#### 1.6 CONTRACT EXTENSION

- A. The County reserves the unilateral right to extend a contract for up to ninety (90) calendar days beyond the current contract period. In such event, the County will notify the vendor(s) in writing of such extensions.
- B. This contract may be extended beyond the initial ninety (90) day extension upon mutual agreement between the County and the vendor(s).
- C. Exercise of the above options requires the prior approval of the County's Director of Procurement Services.

#### 1.7 WARRANTY

All warranties express and implied, shall be made available to the County for goods and services covered by this solicitation. All goods furnished shall be fully guaranteed by the vendor against factory defects and workmanship. At no expense to the County, the vendor shall correct any and all apparent and latent defects that may occur within the manufacturer's standard warranty period. The special conditions of the solicitation may supersede the manufacturer's standard warranty.

#### 1.8 ESTIMATED QUANTITIES

Estimated quantities or dollars are for proposer's guidance only. No guarantee is expressed or implied as to quantities or dollars that will be used during the contract period. The County is not obligated to place any order for a given amount subsequent to the award of this solicitation. Estimates are based on the County's actual needs and/or usage during a previous contract period. The County may use these estimates to determine the proposer selected for award. Estimated quantities do not contemplate or include possible additional quantities that may be ordered by other government, quasi-governmental or non-profit entities utilizing this contract. In no event shall be County be liable for payments in excess of the amount due for quantities of goods or services actually ordered.

#### 1.9 NON-EXCLUSIVITY

It is the intent of the County to enter into an agreement that will satisfy its needs as described within this solicitation. However, the County reserves the right as deemed in its best interest to perform, or cause to be performed, the work and services, or any portion thereof, herein described in any manner it sees fit. In no case will the County be liable for billings in excess of the quantity of goods or services actually provided under this contract.

#### 1.10 CONTINUATION OF WORK

Any work that commences prior to and will extend beyond the expiration date of the current contract period shall, unless terminated by mutual written agreement between the County and the vendor, continue until completion at the same prices, terms and conditions.

#### 1.11 PROTEST OF AWARD

A vendor wishing to protest any award decision resulting from this solicitation shall do as set forth in the County's Purchasing Procedure Manual. It is incumbent upon the vendor to be aware of the posting of any associated award recommendation. Any protest received after the actual contract award date may be rejected.

#### 1.12 RULES, REGULATIONS AND LICENSES

The vendor shall comply with all laws and regulations applicable to provide the goods and/or services specified in this solicitation. The vendor shall be familiar with all federal, state and local laws that may in affect the goods and/or services offered.

**1.13 SUBCONTRACTING**

Unless otherwise specified in this solicitation, the vendor shall not subcontract any portion of the work without the prior written consent of the County. The ability to subcontract may be further limited by the Special Conditions. Subcontracting without the prior consent of the County may result in termination of the contract for default.

**1.14 ASSIGNMENT**

The vendor shall not assign or transfer any contract resulting from this solicitation, including any rights, title or interest therein, or its power to execute such contract to any person, company or corporation without the prior written consent of the County.

**1.15 DELIVERY**

Unless otherwise specified in the solicitation, prices quoted shall be F.O.B. Destination. Freight shall be included in the bid price.

**1.16 RESPONSIBILITY AS EMPLOYER**

The employee(s) of the vendor shall be considered to be at all times its employee(s), and not an employee(s) or agent(s) of the County or any of its departments. The contractor shall provide employee(s) capable of performing the work as required. The County may require the contractor to remove any employee it deems unacceptable. All employees of the contractor shall wear proper identification.

**1.17 INDEMNIFICATION**

The vendor shall indemnify and hold harmless the County and its officers, employees, agents and instrumentalities from any and all liability, losses or damages, including attorney's fees and costs of defense, which the County or its officers, employees, agents or instrumentalities may incur as a result of claims, demands, suits, causes of actions or proceedings of any kind or nature arising out of, relating to or resulting from the performance of the agreement by the vendor or its employees, agents, servants, partners, principals or subcontractors. The vendor shall pay all claims and losses in connection therewith, and shall investigate and defend all claims, suits or actions of any kind or nature in the name of the County, where applicable, including appellate proceedings, and shall pay all costs, judgments, and attorney's fees which may be incurred thereon. The vendor expressly understands and agrees that any insurance protection required by this Agreement or otherwise provided by the vendor shall in no way limit the responsibility to indemnify, keep and save harmless and defend the County or its officers, employees, agents and instrumentalities as herein provided.

**1.18 COLLUSION**

Where two (2) or more related parties, as defined herein, each submit a proposal for the same contract, such proposals shall be presumed to be collusive. The foregoing presumption may be rebutted by the presentation of evidence as to the extent of ownership, control and management of such related parties in preparation and submittal of such proposals. Related parties shall mean proposer or the principals thereof which have a direct or indirect ownership interest in another proposer for the same contract or in which a parent company or the principals thereof of one proposer have a direct or indirect ownership interest in another proposer for the same contract. Furthermore, any prior understanding, agreement, or connection between two (2) or more corporations, firms, or persons submitting a proposal for the same materials, supplies, services, or equipment shall also be presumed to be collusive. Proposals found to be collusive shall be rejected. Proposers which have been found to have engaged in collusion may be considered non-responsible, and may be suspended or debarred, and any contract resulting from collusive bidding may be terminated for default.

**1.19 MODIFICATION OF CONTRACT**

Any contract resulting from this solicitation may be modified by

mutual consent of duly authorized parties, in writing through the issuance of a modification to the contract and/or purchase order as appropriate. This presumes the modification itself is in compliance with all applicable County procedures.

**1.20 TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE**

The County, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to terminate this contract upon thirty (30) days written notice. Upon receipt of such notice, the vendor shall not incur any additional costs under this contract. The County shall be liable only for reasonable costs incurred by the vendor prior to notice of termination. The County shall be the sole judge of "reasonable costs."

**1.21 TERMINATION DUE TO UNAVAILABILITY OF FUNDING IN SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEARS**

When funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available to support continuation of performance in a subsequent fiscal year, the contract shall be cancelled and the vendor shall be reimbursed for the reasonable value of any non-recurring costs incurred amortized in the price of the supplies or services/tasks delivered under the contract.

**1.22 TERMINATION FOR DEFAULT**

The County reserves the right to terminate this contract, in part or in whole, or place the vendor on probation in the event the vendor fails to perform in accordance with the terms and conditions stated herein. The County further reserves the right to suspend or debar the vendor in accordance with the appropriate County ordinances, resolutions and/or administrative orders. The vendor will be notified by letter of the County's intent to terminate. In the event of termination for default, the County may procure the required goods and/or services from any source and use any method deemed in its best interest. All re-procurement cost shall be borne by the vendor.

**1.23 FRAUD AND MISREPRESENTATION**

Any individual, corporation or other entity that attempts to meet its contractual obligations with the County through fraud, misrepresentation or material misstatement, may be debarred for up to five (5) years. The County as a further sanction may terminate or cancel any other contracts with such individual, corporation or entity. Such individual or entity shall be responsible for all direct or indirect costs associated with termination or cancellation, including attorney's fees.

**1.24 ACCESS TO RECORDS**

The County reserves the right to require the vendor to submit to an audit by any auditor of the County's choosing. The Contractor shall provide access to all of its records, which relate directly or indirectly to this Agreement at its place of business during regular business hours. The vendor shall retain all records pertaining to this Agreement and upon request make them available to the County for three (3) years following expiration of the Agreement. The vendor agrees to provide such assistance as may be necessary to facilitate the review or audit by the County to ensure compliance with applicable accounting and financial standards.

**1.25 PROPRIETARY/CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

Proposers are hereby notified that all information submitted as part of, or in support of proposal submittal will be available for public inspection after the proposal closing date in compliance with Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes; the "Public Record Law." The proposer shall not submit any information in response to this solicitation, which the proposer considers to be a trade secret, proprietary or confidential. The submission of any information to the County in connection with this solicitation shall be deemed conclusively to be a waiver of any trade secret or other protection, which would otherwise be available to the proposer unless such information is exempt or confidential under the Public Records Act.

**1.26 CONTRACTING WITH COUNTY EMPLOYEES**

Any County employee or member of his or her immediate family seeking to contract with the County shall seek a conflict of interest opinion from the procurement representative designated herein prior to submittal of a response or application of any type to contract with the County. The affected employee shall disclose the employee's assigned function within the County and interest or the interest of his or her immediate family in the proposed contract and the nature of the intended contract.

**1.27 INCURRED EXPENSES**

This RFP does not commit the County to make an award nor shall the County be responsible for any cost or expense which may be incurred by any proposer in preparing and submitting a proposal, or any cost or expense incurred by any proposer prior to the execution of a purchase order or contract agreement. By submitting a proposal, the proposer, and also agrees that the County bears no responsibility for any costs associated with the preparation of the proposal and/or any administrative or judicial proceedings resulting from this solicitation process.

**1.28 COUNTY IS TAX-EXEMPT**

The County is generally exempt from Federal Excise Taxes and all State of Florida sales and use taxes. Do not include any tax on any item or service. The County will sign an exemption certificate if submitted by the contractor.

Contractors doing business with the County are not exempt from paying sales tax to their suppliers for materials to fulfill contractual obligations with the County, nor shall any contractor be authorized to use any of the County's Tax Exemptions in securing such materials.

In the event the project is declared a sales tax recovery project by the County, the following procedure shall apply:

- (a) The County representative shall make a recommendation to the Division of Procurement Services regarding the materials to be purchased;
- (b) When those materials are purchased by the County, all purchase orders shall be issued directly from Procurement Services;
- (c) The County shall take title to those materials directly from the manufacturer/supplier and shall bear the risk of loss or damage to the materials which are delivered directly from the manufacturer/supplier;
- (d) The County shall be invoiced directly for the materials from the manufacturer/supplier and shall pay the invoices directly to the manufacturer/supplier, presenting its sales tax exemption certificate at the time of payment.

The cost of any materials purchased through the sales tax recovery program shall be deducted from the contract amount and the vendor shall no longer be responsible for providing those materials. A written change order shall be executed.

**1.29 GOVERNING LAWS**

The interpretation, effect, and validity of any contract(s) resulting from this RFP shall be governed by the laws and regulations of the State of Florida, and Lake County, Florida. Venue of any court action shall be in Lake County, Florida. In the event that a suit is brought for the enforcement of any term of the contract, or any right arising there from, the parties expressly waive their respective rights to have such action tried by jury trial and hereby consent to the use of non-jury trial for the adjudication of such suit.

**1.30 STATE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

Any corporation submitting a proposal in response to this RFP shall either be registered or have applied for registration with the Florida Department of State in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 607, Florida Statutes. A copy of the registration/application may be required prior to award of a contract. Any partnership submitting a proposal in response to this RFP shall have complied with the applicable provisions of Chapter 620, Florida Statutes. For additional information on these requirements,

please contact the Florida Secretary of State's Office, Division of Corporations, 800.755.5111 (<http://www.dos.state.fl.us>).

**1.31 PRIME CONTRACTOR**

The vendor awarded the contract shall act as the prime contractor for all required items and services and shall assume full responsibility for the procurement and maintenance of such items or services. The vendor shall be considered the sole point of contact with regard to all stipulations, including payment of all charges and meeting all requirements of this RFP. All subcontractors will be subject to advance review by the County in regards to competency and security concerns. After the award of the contract no change in subcontractors will be made without the consent of the County. The vendor shall be responsible for all insurance, permits, licenses, and related matters for any and all sub-contractors. Even if the subcontractor is self-insured, the County may require the contractor to provide any insurance certificates required by the work to be performed.

**1.32 FORCE MAJEURE**

The parties will exercise every reasonable effort to meet their respective obligations hereunder, but shall not be liable for delays resulting from force majeure or other causes beyond their reasonable control, including, but not limited to, compliance with any Government law or regulation, acts of nature, acts or omissions of the other party, Government acts or omissions, fires, strikes, national disasters, wars, riots, transportation problems and/or any other cause whatsoever beyond the reasonable control of the parties. Any such cause will extend the performance of the delayed obligation to the extent of the delay so incurred.

**1.33 OTHER AGENCIES**

With the consent of the vendor, other agencies may make purchases in accordance with the contract. Such purchases shall be governed by the same terms and conditions as stated herein with the exception of the change in agency name.

**1.34 NO CLAIM FOR DAMAGES**

No claim for damages or any claim other than for an extension of time shall be made or asserted against the County because of any delays. No interruption, interference, inefficiency, suspension, or delay in the commencement or progress of the Work shall relieve the vendor of duty to perform, or give rise to any right to damages or additional compensation from the County. The vendor's sole remedy shall be the right to seek an extension to the contract time. However, this provision shall not preclude recovery of damages by the vendor for hindrances or delays due solely to fraud, bad faith, or active interference on the part of the County.

**1.35 TRUTH IN NEGOTIATION CERTIFICATE**

For all lump-sum or cost-plus fixed fee agreements exceeding \$150,000, the firm awarded the agreement must execute a truth in negotiation certificate stating that the wage rates and other factual unit costs are accurate, complete and current, at the time of contracting. Any agreement requiring this certificate shall contain a provision that the original agreement price and any additions shall be adjusted to exclude any significant sums by which he owner determines the agreement price was increased due to inaccurate, incomplete, or non-current wage rates and other factual unit costs. All such agreement adjustments shall be made within one (1) year following the end of the contract. Execution of this Agreement constitutes execution of the Truth in Negotiation Certificate.

**Section 2.1: Purpose**

The purpose of this project is to hire a licensed Tree Harvester to purchase remove trees, from various sites. Sand Pine at Pine Forest Park, Slash Pine at Lake Idamere and Laurel Oaks at Ferndale Preserve.

**Section 2.2: Designated Procurement Representative**

Questions concerning any portion of this solicitation shall be directed in writing [fax and e-mail accepted] to the below named individual who shall be the official point of contact for this solicitation. Questions should be submitted before the pre-bid/ proposal meeting and at least seven (7) days before the closing date.

Donna C. Thielhart, CPPB, Contracting Officer  
Lake County BCC  
Office of Procurement Services  
315 W. Main Street, Room 416  
PO BOX 7800  
Tavares, FL 32778-7800

Phone : 352.343.9525  
Fax : 352.343.9473,  
E-mail: dthielhart@lakecountyfl.gov

No answers given in response to questions submitted shall be binding upon this solicitation unless released in writing as an addendum to the solicitation by the Lake County Department of Procurement Services.

**Section 2.3: Method of Award**

Each proposal shall be judged on an overall basis as being Acceptable or Non-Acceptable. Lake County reserves the right to negotiate any and all elements of any proposal received and request additional technical information is necessary to complete the evaluation. Award will be made to the vendor which submits the overall proposal that is judged to provide the best value to the County. Proposals will be evaluated based upon the following criteria:

1. Price – The highest price paid to the County
2. Reports from direct and indirect references;
3. Responsiveness and completeness of the written proposal to these instructions with regard to Scope of Services and qualifications of the firm;
4. Ability to complete the objectives within the proposed time frame;
5. Financial resources to perform the service;
6. Proposals to be evaluated and selection made on the basis of expertise;

**Section 2.4: Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference / Site Visits**

**A mandatory pre-proposal conference and site visit will be held at Lake Idamere Park on August 14, 2008 at 9:00 A.M. A second site visit at Pine Forest Park and a third site visit at Ferndale Park immediately following. Bidders are encouraged to attend the pre-proposal and site visits to the parks.**

**Section 2.5: Term of Contract -**

This contract shall be completed Forty (40) days from Notice to Proceed.

**Section 2.6: Insurance**

Each vendor shall include in its solicitation response package proof of insurance capabilities, including, but not limited to, the following requirements: [This does not mean that the vendor must have the coverage prior to submittal, but, that the coverage must be purchased and in place prior to a purchase order or contract being executed by the County.]

A certificate of insurance indicating that the awarded vendor has coverage in accordance with the requirements of this section shall be furnished by the vendor to the Contracting Officer within five (5) working days of such request and before any work begins.

The vendor shall provide and maintain at all times during the term of any contract, without cost or expense to the County, policies of insurance insuring the vendor against any and all claims, demands or causes of action whatsoever, for injuries received or damage to property relating to the performance of duties, services and/or obligations of the vendor under the terms and provisions of the contract.

Such policies of insurance shall insure the vendor in accordance with the following minimum limits:

General Liability insurance on forms no more restrictive than the latest edition of the Commercial General Liability policy (CG 00 01 or CG 00 02) of the Insurance Services Office or equivalent without restrictive endorsements, with the following minimum limits and coverage:

Each Occurrence/General Aggregate	\$500,000
Products-Completed Operations	\$500,000
Personal & Adv. Injury	\$500,000
Fire Damage	\$50,000
Medical Expense	\$5,000
Contractual Liability	\$300,000

Automobile liability insurance, including owned, non-owned, and hired autos with the following minimum limits and coverage:

Combined Single Limit	\$300,000
or	
Bodily Injury (per person)	\$100,000 (per accident)

Property Damage

\$100,000

Workers' compensation insurance based on proper reporting of classification codes and payroll amounts in accordance with Chapter 440, Florida Statute(s), and/or any other applicable law requiring workers' compensation (Federal, maritime, etc). If not required by law to maintain workers compensation insurance, the vendor must provide a notarized statement that if he or she is injured, he or she will not hold the County responsible for any payment or compensation.

Certificate(s) of Insurance

Lake County, a Political Subdivision of the State of Florida, and the Board of County Commissioners, shall be named as additional insured as their interest may appear on the general liability policy.

Certificate(s) of insurance shall provide for a minimum of thirty (30) days prior written notice to the County of any change or cancellation of the required insurance.

Certificate(s) of insurance shall identify the contract number in the Description of Operations section of the Certificate.

Certificate holder shall be:

LAKE COUNTY, A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE OF  
FLORIDA, AND THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.  
P.O. BOX 7800  
TAVARES, FL 32778-7800

The vendor shall be responsible for subcontractors and their insurance.

All deductibles or self-insured retention shall appear on the certificate(s) and shall be subject to approval by the County. At the option of the County, the insurer shall reduce or eliminate such deductible or self-insured retention; or the vendor shall be required to procure a bond guaranteeing payment of losses and related claims expenses.

**Occupational, Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) LOGGING REGULATIONS. Conduct of operation on this timber sale is subject to inspection for compliance with the logging operations regulations at 29 CFR 1910.266 by OSHA.**

All insurance companies must be authorized to transact business in the State of Florida.

The County shall be exempt from, and in no way liable for, any sums of money, which may represent a deductible in any insurance policy. The payment of such deductible shall be the sole responsibility of the vendor and/or subcontractor providing such insurance.

Failure to obtain and maintain such insurance as set out above will be considered a breach of

contract and may result in termination of the contract for default.

Neither approval by the County of any insurance supplied by the vendor, nor a failure to disapprove that insurance, shall relieve the vendor of full responsibility of liability, damages, and accidents as set forth herein.

**Section 2.7: Bonding**

**Not required for this proposal**

**Section 2.8: Completion of Work From Date of Notice to Proceed**

The vendor shall state in its offer the number of calendar days from the date of the Notice to Proceed, not to exceed forty (40) days, in which it will guarantee to complete the service. Time for completion may be considered a factor in determining the vendor to whom award will be made, if so stipulated in provision 2.3 entitled “Method of Award”.

All work shall be performed in accordance with good commercial practice. The work schedule and completion dates shall be adhered to by the vendor(s); except in such cases where the completion date will be delayed due to acts of God, strikes, or other causes beyond the control of the vendor. In these cases, the vendor shall notify the County of the delays in advance of the original completion date so that a revised completion date can be appropriately considered by the County.

Should the vendor(s) to whom the contract(s) is awarded fail to complete the work within the number of days as stated in its offer, or the “not-to-exceed” timeframe cited above, it is hereby agreed and understood that the County reserves the authority to cancel the contract with the vendor and to secure the services of another vendor to complete the work. If the County exercises this authority, the County shall be responsible for reimbursing the vendor for work which was completed and found acceptable to the County in accordance with the contract specifications. The County may, at its option, demand payment from the vendor, through an invoice or credit memo, for any additional costs over and beyond the original contract price which were incurred by the County as a result of having to secure the services of another vendor. If the incumbent vendor fails to honor this invoice or credit memo, the County may terminate the contract for default.

**Section 2.9: Acceptance of Services**

The services rendered under the contract will not be deemed complete, until such service(s) is (are) accepted by the County and shall be in compliance with the terms herein, fully in accord with the specifications and of the highest quality.

The vendor shall promptly correct all apparent and latent deficiencies and/or defects in work, and/or any work that fails to conform to the contract documents regardless of project completion status. All corrections shall be made within seven (7) calendar days after such rejected defects, deficiencies, and/or non-conformances are verbally reported to the vendor by the County's

project administrator, who may confirm all such verbal reports in writing. The vendor shall bear all costs of correcting such rejected work. If the vendor fails to correct the work within the period specified, the County may, at its discretion, notify the vendor, in writing, that the vendor is subject to contractual default provisions if the corrections are not completed to the satisfaction of the County within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the notice. If the vendor fails to correct the work within the period specified in the notice, the County shall place the vendor in default, obtain the services of another vendor to correct the deficiencies, and charge the incumbent vendor for these costs; either through a deduction from the final payment owed to the vendor or through invoicing. If the vendor fails to honor this invoice or credit memo, the County may terminate the contract for default.

### **Section 2.11: Completion and Submission of Solicitation Response**

#### **Section 2.11.1 Delivery of Response**

Unless a package is delivered by the vendor in person, all incoming mail from the U.S. Postal Service and any package delivered by a third party delivery organization (Fed-Ex, UPS, DHL, private courier, etc) will be opened for security and contamination inspection by the Lake County Clerk of the Circuit Court Mail Receiving Center in an off-site secure controlled facility prior to delivery to any Lake County Government facility, which includes the Lake County Department of Procurement Services.

To be considered for award, a bid or proposal must be received and accepted in the Procurement Services Office prior to the date and time established within the solicitation. Allow sufficient time for transportation and inspection.

Each package shall be clearly marked with the applicable solicitation number and title. Ensure that your bid or proposal is securely sealed in an opaque envelope/ package to provide confidentiality of the bid or proposal prior to the solicitation closing.

If you plan to submit your bid or proposal **IN PERSON**, please bring it to:

LAKE COUNTY PROCUREMENT SERVICES  
315 W. MAIN STREET  
4TH FLOOR, ROOM 416  
TAVARES, FLORIDA

If you submit your bid or proposal by the **UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE, (USPS)** please mail it to:

LAKE COUNTY PROCUREMENT SERVICES  
PO BOX 7800  
TAVARES, FL 32778-7800

If you submit your bid or proposal by a **THIRD PARTY CARRIER** such as Fed-Ex, UPS, or a private courier, please send it to:

LAKE COUNTY PROCUREMENT SERVICES  
MAIL RECEIVING CENTER  
418 W. ALFRED STREET  
TAVARES, FL 32778

Facsimile (fax) or electronic submissions (e-mail) will not be accepted.

### **Section 2.12.1 Preparation of Solicitation Response**

The original proposal and three (3) complete copies of the proposal submitted by the vendor shall be sealed and delivered to the Office of Procurement Services no later than the official closing date and time. Any proposal received after this time will not be considered and will be returned unopened to the submitter. The County is not liable or responsible for any costs incurred by any vendor in responding to this RFP including, without limitation, costs for product and/or service demonstrations if requested. When you submit your proposal, you are making a binding offer to the County.

#### **A. Economy of Presentation**

Each proposal shall be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of the proposer's capabilities to satisfy the conditions and requirements of this RFP. Fancy bindings, colored displays, and promotional material are not desired. Emphasis in each proposal must be on completeness and clarity of content. The County emphasizes that the proposer should concentrate on accuracy, completeness, and clarity of content.

#### **B. Proposal Guidelines**

To facilitate analysis of its proposal, the proposer shall prepare its proposal in accordance with the instructions outlined in this section. If the proposal deviates from these instructions, such proposal may, in the County's sole discretion, be rejected.

Page Size and Format - Page size shall be 8.5 x 11 inches, not including foldouts. Pages shall be single-spaced. The text size shall be 11 point or larger. Use at least one (1) inch margins on the top and bottom and three-quarter (3/4) inch side margins. Pages shall be numbered sequentially by section.

Legible tables, charts, graphs and figures shall be used wherever practical to depict organizations, systems and layouts, implementation schedules, plans, etc. These displays shall be uncomplicated, legible and shall not exceed eleven (11) by seventeen (17) inches in size. Foldout pages shall fold entirely within the section, and may only be used for large tables, charts, graphs, diagrams, and schematics.

Binding and Labeling - All Sections of the proposal should be identified by section tabs, A cover sheet should be bound in each separate proposal copy, clearly marked as to RFP title, solicitation number, copy number, and the proposer's name.

#### **C. Proposal Sections:**

Proposals shall be organized into the following major sections.

1. Complete and return the entire RFP to include:
  - a. Price Sheet
  - b. Acknowledgement of Addenda
  - c. All required certifications and signatures
  - d. Bidder Profile Form (Attach resumes for key personnel)
  - e. Similar Projects Form (Complete the form attached and make copies as needed to reference similar work effort performed by the consultant)
  - f. Copy of Florida License permitting tree harvesting
2. Provide either a completed Accord form or a signed letter from your insurance agency on its letterhead stating that you have or can get the required insurance.
3. Provide information on the nature, magnitude, and outcome of all litigation and proceedings for the previous three (3) years where a court or administrative agency has ruled for or against you or your organization in any matter related to you or your organization's professional activities.
4. Provide a list of any proposed sub-contractors or joint venture arrangements that may be used on the project.
5. Provide a technical narrative detailing the vendor's overall qualifications, experience, ability, and technical approach to perform the required services.
6. Provide any other information that will provide insight to the County about the qualifications, fitness and abilities of the proposer. This information should be succinct.

**Section 2.13: License, Permits and Fees**

The vendor shall obtain and pay for all licenses, permits and inspection fees required for this project; and shall comply with all laws, ordinances, regulations and building code requirements applicable to the work contemplated herein. Damages, penalties and or fines imposed on the County or the vendor for failure to obtain required licenses, permits or fines shall be borne by the vendor. The vendor must include his license with the response to the proposal.

**Section 2.14: Key Contractor Personnel**

In submitting a proposal, the Proposer is representing that each person listed or referenced in the proposal shall be available to perform the services described for the Lake County Board of County Commissioners, barring illness, accident, or other unforeseeable events of a similar nature in which case the Proposer must be able to promptly provide a qualified replacement. In the event the Proposer wishes to substitute personnel, the proposer shall propose a person with equal or higher qualifications and each replacement person is subject to prior written County approval. In the event the requested substitute person is not satisfactory to the County and the

matter cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the County, the County reserves the right to cancel the contract for cause.

**Section 2.15: Labor, Materials, and Equipment Shall be Supplied by the Vendor**

Unless otherwise stated in this solicitation the proposer shall furnish all labor, material and equipment necessary for satisfactory contract performance. When not specifically identified in the technical specifications, such materials and equipment shall be of a suitable type and grade for the purpose. All material, workmanship, and equipment shall be subject to the inspection and approval of the County's Project Manager.

**SCOPE OF SERVICES****Ferndale Preserve: County Road 455, Ferndale, Florida  
(Laurel Oaks)**

Trees will be cut to ground level

**Pine Forest Park: 32520 State Road 44, Deland, Florida, 32720  
(Sand Pines)**

Trees will be cut to ground level

**Lake Idamere:12334 CR 448, Tavares, Florida 32778  
(Slash Pines)**

Trees will be cut to ground level

1. All trees used for timber shall be removed promptly after cutting. Trees shall be cut and hauled away from the three parks, no later than forty days after the Notice to Proceed.
2. At the time of completion of the tree harvesting, **payment shall be made to Lake County in the form of a cashier's check. The check shall be received no later than fifteen days after the tree harvesting. A separate check for each park is requested by the County.**
3. Access to the property is available for trucks, tractors, backhoes, or any other equipment required for this type of operation. This will be discussed at the site meeting.
4. Single staging areas will denote the area of trees to be removed. Trees will staked by the County prior to the site visit. This will be defined at the site visit. Conceptual drawings for each park are attached to this RFP for clarification.

**RFP TITLE: TREE HARVESTING**

**By Signing This Proposal the Proposer Attests and Certifies That:**

- It satisfies all legal requirements (as an entity) to do business with the County.
- The undersigned vendor acknowledges that award of a contract may be contingent upon a determination by the County that the vendor has the capacity and capability to successfully perform the contract.
- The proposer hereby certifies that it understands all requirements of this solicitation, and that the undersigned individual is duly authorized to execute this proposal document and any contract(s) and/or other transactions required by award of this solicitation.

**Additional Certifications Requiring Completion:**

**Purchasing Agreements with Other Government Agencies**

This section is optional and will not affect contract award. If Lake County awarded you the proposed contract, would you sell under the same terms and conditions, for the same price, to other governmental agencies in the State of Florida? Each governmental agency desiring to accept to utilize this contract shall be responsible for its own purchases and shall be liable only for materials or services ordered and received by it.  Yes  No (Check one)

**Certification Regarding Felony Conviction**

Has any officer, director, or executive of the bidding entity been convicted of a felony during the past ten (10) years?  Yes  No (Check one)

**Conflict of Interest Disclosure Certification**

Except as listed below, no employee, officer, or agent of the firm has any conflicts of interest, real or apparent, due to ownership, other clients, contracts, or interests associated with this project; and, this bid is made without prior understanding, agreement, or connection with any corporation, firm, or person submitting a proposal for the same services, and is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud.

**PRICE SHEET**

The undersigned, having carefully examined the Bidding Requirements, Agreement, Conditions of the Agreement, Drawings to locate the property and all subsequent Addenda, visited the site, and being familiar with all conditions and requirements of the Work, to cut and remove all trees as described at the site visit and hereby agrees to furnish all necessary materials, equipment, machinery, labor and service to complete TREE HARVESTING and to pay Lake County for tree cutting for Pine Forest Park, Lake Idamere and Ferndale Preserve under RFP#08-0254.

Ferndale Park:

(Words) \_\_\_\_\_

(Figures) \_\_\_\_\_

Pine Forest Park:

(Words) \_\_\_\_\_

(Figures) \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Idamere Park:

(Words) \_\_\_\_\_

(Figures) \_\_\_\_\_

Not to exceed removal of trees forty (40) days from Notice to Proceed

If earlier, days to complete: \_\_\_\_\_ days

The bidder hereby certifies that he has visited and fully investigated the site, reviewed and familiarizing himself with all Addenda, reviewed and familiarized himself with all Construction Documents including Drawings, Specifications and the Contract for Construction, and this bid is based upon the requirements of all noted items and conditions observed.

Addenda have been received as follows:

No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Bidder:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street/Post Office Box:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone No:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contractor's Florida License No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fein No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE ATTACHED**

**Attachment 1: Bidder Profile Form**

**Attachment 2: Similar Projects Form**

**Attachment 3: Conceptual Maps Lake Idamere, Pine Forest Park and Ferndale Park**

**BIDDER PROFILE FORM**

<p>1. Bidder Name &amp; Address:</p>	<p>1d. Licensed to do business in the State of Florida?          _____ Yes _____ No</p>
<p>1a. FEIN #          _____</p>	<p>1e. Name, Title &amp; Telephone Number of Principal to Contact</p>
<p>1b. Year Firm was established _____</p> <p>1c. Are you a "Not for Profit" 501(c)(3) organization?          Yes _____ No _____</p> <p>If you answered yes, please provide proof.</p>	<p>1f. Address of office to perform work, if different from Item 1</p>
<p>2. Please list the key personnel that your firm will commit to the County project and attach a copy of each key person's resume.</p>	
<p>3. The foregoing is a statement of facts.</p> <p>Signature: _____ Date: _____</p> <p>_____ (Typed or Printed Name) _____ (Title)</p>	

