



Request for Proposals

Meadow Restoration at Fort Slocum Park in Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC

Issued by:
Rock Creek Conservancy
7200 Wisconsin Ave Ste. 500
Bethesda, MD 20814

Release date: 7/16/2026

Proposals due: 8/21/2026



A. PROPOSAL REQUESTED

Rock Creek Conservancy (the Conservancy) is soliciting proposals to provide management, labor, tools, equipment, repair parts, supplies and any other items needed for a meadow restoration at Fort Slocum Park. The meadow restoration will include a site survey/assessment; invasive plant management; woody debris management; site preparation and the procurement and installation of native grassland plants and associated materials, and the mowing and watering of plantings. Proposals may be submitted for individual components of this project or the full scope of services requested.

B. PROJECT BACKGROUND

In the 1970s, the National Park Service (NPS) established several meadows throughout Rock Creek Park (ROCR) in an effort to expand the habitat types available to wildlife in the park. These meadow habitats are the first stage of forest succession, and need to be maintained in order to prevent them developing into woodlands. Due to reduced park capacity, NPS has not been able to maintain the upkeep of these meadow habitats, meaning many have become, at best, early successional forest, or at worst, scrublands of invasive plants. At Fort Slocum Park, former meadows have become impenetrable areas dense with thorny *Rubus* shrubs wrapped in invasive porcelainberry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*), mile-a-minute (*Persicaria perfoliata*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), and others.

The dispersal and abundance of non-native, invasive plants has significantly threatened the integrity of native species and their habitat in Rock Creek Park. Due to the highly fragmented nature of Rock Creek Park's 99 administrative units, the park's more than 72 miles of park boundaries are exposed to urban developments, including more than 1,000 adjacent properties (a mix of homes, businesses, and embassies), many of which cultivate non-native horticultural plant communities that thrive in the temperate climate of the deciduous forests of the park. These invasive plants outcompete native plants, reducing the availability of native habitat and hindering natural forest regeneration.

C. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Meadow Restoration project goals are:

- Increase pollinator habitat
- Manage invasive species
- Removing woody debris



To meet these goals, the following techniques will be used:

- Managing and/or eradicating terrestrial invasive plants
- Seeding and planting with native grassland species
- Removal/chipping of tree debris
- High-height mowing to establish grassland ecosystems

C.1 Estimated Project Timeline

Project Review and Award Date: 8/28/2026

Year 1 (2026): Site survey, woody debris management, invasive plant management , seeding, mowing

Year 2 (2027): invasive plant management, restoration planting, watering, mowing

Year 3 (2028): Watering, mowing

Year 4 (2029): Watering, mowing

Deadline for Project Completion: 10/1/2030



C.2 Project site



Fort Slocum Park

The work site is a select area within Fort Slocum Park, a ~20 acre park in Northwest DC, Managed by Rock Creek Park, Washington DC, which is a National Park Service unit. It is located near the intersection of Kansas Avenue NW and Madison Avenue NW. The meadow area is divided into two parcels, a 0.32 acre parcel near the southwest corner of the park, and a 0.7 acre parcel along the east side of the park (see above, in white).



C.3 Budget

The budget for all contracted services relating to this project is **\$15,000 - \$20,000**, which have been awarded to the Conservancy.

Funds allocated for this project must be spent in their entirety by **10/1/2030**.

D. SCOPE OF WORK AND DELIVERABLES

The contractor will conduct a meadow restoration at Fort Slocum Park and is expected to provide the labor, tools, equipment, supplies and any other items needed to complete the scope of work. The scope of work will include the following tasks and deliverables:

D1. Site Survey/Assessment and Work Plan

The contractor will conduct a site survey/assessment in conjunction with the Conservancy and NPS in order to record the existing conditions of the site and develop a work plan for the project. This includes a plant survey of the site that records the native and non-native plant species found at the site, including percentages of populations for each species. The contractor will create a work plan for the project based on the initial site survey/assessment that details the methods and equipment required for achieving the onsite goals of invasive plant management, woody debris management, site preparation and meadow planting, mowing, and watering. The work plan should result in a clear understanding of the time requirement for each task, as well as a detailed schedule for their accomplishment. Work plans will be subject to approval by the Conservancy and NPS.

D2. Woody Debris Management

The contractor will conduct woody debris management to help clear the site and prepare it for planting. This includes bucking with a chainsaw, and physically removing and/or chipping debris. Final placement of wood chips will be determined by the Conservancy and NPS.

D3. Invasive plant management

The contractor will conduct invasive plant management of a variety of terrestrial invasive forbs, grasses, woody vines and shrubs treated through chemical, mechanical, and manual methods.

This contract will consist of all work necessary for the treatment and in some cases disposal of invasive plants within the specified project site described above. It will include providing all necessary traffic control, labor, materials, and equipment required to complete this

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task. The contractor will chemically and manually treat the designated species and scatter vegetation on site or remove and dispose of, as indicated.

It is the contractor's responsibility to have all utilities located prior to beginning any work and coordinate with utility companies to move them as necessary. The contractor shall take special care during the course of this operation to avoid damage to the existing roadway surface, sidewalks, curbs, mowed turfgrass, and forest vegetation. The contractor, without additional cost to the Conservancy, will seed grass in the mowed areas outside of the meadow area if the contractor's activities or vehicles destroy the existing turfgrass. Seeding must result in successful grass growth through the following season. No plastic mesh is allowed to be placed to hold the grass down, but coconut coir and fabric can be allowed. The contractor shall avoid placing heavy equipment on sidewalks and curbs that will cause damage to these structures. Any damage caused by the contractor operations shall be repaired at their expense.

All methods for invasive plant management, both manual and chemical, must be tracked and reported to the Conservancy. All invasive plant management methods are subject to Conservancy and NPS approval, and must meet the following specifications:

D3.1 Treatment periods and scheduling

Foliar herbicide applications of triclopyr and/or glyphosate- based herbicides will be best applied twice in September of year 1 of the project (2026), with a minimum of 3 weeks in between treatments of the same area. Follow up treatments in later years may consist of a single visit.

For the purposes of preparing a proposal, please include the potential dates over which treatments can be completed across the site; once an agreement has been awarded, the contractor should be prepared to schedule treatment dates (including rain dates) for each upcoming calendar year by the end of the preceding calendar year.

D3.2 Target species & methods for removal

For most woody species, the contractor may elect to use cut-stump or foliar herbicide methods (or hand pull small seedlings causing minimal soil disturbance) depending on which methods will be most cost effective while preventing off-target application onto native vegetation. Foliar applications will be limited during April, while spring ephemeral wildflowers are blooming. Herbicide applied in the cut-stump method must be sprayed into fresh stumps within 2 hours of cutting. The physical removal of woody species may be necessary to ensure a clear area for mowing. The contractor is responsible for removing other invasive biomass generated if the debris contains fruits/seeds.



Table 2. Invasive plants at each restoration site and preferred method and treatment period. Note that treatment period includes the widest potential range; for example, many species can be treated both with a foliar spray or cut-stump, with a wider range of potential dates for cut-stump treatment due to environmental conditions; the longest potential treatment window is listed, which may include early and late periods where foliar methods would not be advisable.

Species	Common Name	Form	Method	Treatment period
<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Multiflora Rose	Shrub	Cut-stump and foliar	March-November
<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	Japanese Stiltgrass	Grass	Foliar and/or hand pulling	July-August
<i>Persicaria perfoliata</i>	Mile-a-Minute	Herbaceous vine	Foliar spray and/or hand pulling, bagging and disposal of debris if fruiting	July-August
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese Honeysuckle	Woody vine	Foliar, cut-stump, and/or hand pulling	March-November
<i>Hedera helix</i>	English Ivy	Woody vine	Cut-stump and hand pulling	March-November
<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Roundleaf Bittersweet	Woody vine	Foliar, cut-stump, and/or hand pulling	March-November
<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>	Porcelainberry	Woody vine	Foliar, cut-stump, and/or hand pulling	April-October

D3.3 Herbicide selection and recordkeeping

The contractor must follow herbicide label guidelines and restrictions. A pesticide application report must be completed on-site and filed to the Conservancy weekly, and upon request by the Conservancy, including: the quantity of each type of herbicide applied, species treated, area treated, applicator name(s), and license numbers.



Herbicides approved for use:

PA#	Herbicide
62719-37	Garlon 3A
62719-527	Garlon 4 Ultra
62719-324	Rodeo
62719-176	Pathfinder
432-1549	Escort XP
62719-519	Milestone
241-416	Pendulum AquaCap
62719-687	Vastlan
521-343	Roundup Custom
228-365	Aquaneat
241-416-10404	Pre-M AquaCap

D3.4 Desired outcomes

The desired outcome of treatment is a reduction to <5% total ground cover by invasive plants in the restoration area.

Native plants are desirable for protection. Field crew members should be adequately trained in the identification of the diversity of species included in the scope of this project, as well as their native-lookalikes.

The perception of herbicide use on public lands is mixed, and often controversial. It is important that the work be carried out with a high degree of professionalism, safety, and attention to detail in order to gain community support for this restoration project.

Fort Slocum is a Civil War historic site, and may contain archeological and cultural resources that could become damaged with heavy soil disturbance. As such, all activities, including the use of equipment or manual methods for uprooting, shall not disturb the soil to any



depth beyond 4 inches. This may be adjusted if archaeological surveys are completed at the site.

D4. Mowing

The contractor will conduct specialized mowing operations with the goal of establishing a meadow. Initial mowing, during the 2026 season, will primarily aid in the management of invasive plants, while mowing in following years will help to establish a grassland ecosystem on the site. Grassland management mowing will occur once annually, in early spring (ideally March), from year 2 until the end of the project. Mower blades should be set at 10-12 inches above the soil to preserve wildlife habitat and native grassland species.

D5. Planting

The contractor will develop a planting plan and plant list in coordination with the Conservancy and NPS. Plants expected in this project are expected to be grassland plants native to the mid-atlantic region, ideally of ecotypes native to the Washington, DC area. Plants will primarily be introduced to the site via seeding, expected to be supported by plugs, and some containerized plants (if approval is made for soil disturbance greater than 4 inches). Proposals should be prepared to provide any containerized plants with a 1 year warranty.

- This contract will consist of all work necessary for procurement, transportation, installation with water and replacement under a 1 year warranty for any containerized plants installed within Fort Slocum Park. It will include providing all necessary traffic control, labor, materials, and equipment required to complete this task. The contractor will chemically and manually treat the designated species and scatter vegetation on site or remove and dispose of, as indicated.
- It is the contractor's responsibility to have all utilities located prior to beginning any work and coordinate with utility companies to move them as necessary. The contractor shall take special care during the course of this operation to avoid damage to the existing roadway surface, sidewalks, curbs, mowed turfgrass, and forest vegetation. The contractor without additional cost to the Conservancy will seed grass in the mowed areas outside of the forest if the contractor's activities or vehicles destroy the existing turfgrass. Seeding must result in successful grass growth through the following season. No plastic mesh is allowed to be placed to hold the grass down, but coconut coir and fabric can be allowed. The contractor shall avoid placing heavy equipment on sidewalks and curbs that will cause damage to these structures. Any damage caused by the contractor's operations shall be repaired at their expense. The contractor must carry out all work according to the following specifications.



D5.1 Warranty

Planting proposals and budgets should include a 1 year warranty for the replacement of plant installations, to cover a one-time replacement including the costs of installation for plants that fail within 1 year of the day of their planting.

D5.2 Desired outcomes

Mortality is expected, but use of best practices in the installation, watering, and protection of plant material should allow for restoration of the native tree and understory habitat in areas planted.

D6. Watering

The contractor will water the plantings at least twice a summer for three years after the planting. This contract will consist of all work necessary for watering of plantings. It will include providing all necessary traffic control, labor, materials, and equipment required to complete this task.

It is the contractor's responsibility to have all utilities located prior to beginning any work and coordinate with utility companies to move them as necessary. The contractor shall take special care during the course of this operation to avoid damage to the existing roadway surface, sidewalks, curbs, mowed turfgrass, and forest vegetation. The contractor without additional cost to the Conservancy will seed grass in the mowed areas outside of the forest if the contractor's activities or vehicles destroy the existing turfgrass. Seeding must result in successful grass growth through the following season. No plastic mesh is allowed to be placed to hold the grass down, but coconut coir and fabric can be allowed. The contractor shall avoid placing heavy equipment on sidewalks and curbs that will cause damage to these structures. Any damage caused by the contractor's operations shall be repaired at their expense. contractor must carry out all work according to the following specifications. If proposing watering services, please include a day rate and approximate area and number of stems (if possible) that can be watered per site.

D6.1 Desired outcomes

Sites identified to receive watering should receive a minimum of 1" of water if rain is not adequate for watering. Watering should be distributed throughout the 1 acre of meadow area, not simply on larger plantings.



E. CONTRACTOR REQUIREMENTS

E1. Protection of Government Property:

The contractor shall assume full liability and responsibility for any loss or damage to Government or Conservancy property caused by the contractor's operations and shall assume full responsibility for any and all damages or claims for damage for injury to persons, property or equipment which might result from any service performed under this contract. The contractor shall be responsible for the repair or replacement of all damaged government property caused by the contractor's operations.

E2. Permits and responsibilities:

- A. The contractor shall, without additional expense to the Conservancy, be responsible for obtaining and renewing all necessary licenses and permits necessary to complete the provided services. All crew members must be certified to apply herbicides in the District of Columbia and be on-site at all times. The company must possess an applicator's license in the District of Columbia. The crew leader must hold a DC Pesticide Applicator License. Crew members must be certified technicians in DC. Documentation must be provided with bid.
- B. The contractor shall be responsible for all damages to persons or property that occur as a result of the contractor's negligence and shall take proper safety and health precautions to protect the work, the workers, the public and the property of others.
- C. The contractor shall be responsible for all materials delivered and work performed until completion and acceptance of the entire work.
- D. The contractor shall be responsible for all equipment used, including herbicides and their storage and proper transportation, and have emergency protocols in place for spills or malfunctions.
- E. The contractor shall be responsible for the identification of plants at field sites in order to achieve successful treatment of invasive species and minimal injury to native vegetation.

E3. On site supervisor:

- A. As a minimum, the contractor must provide one on-site supervisor to direct all contract personnel and maintenance operations.
- B. The on-site supervisor shall be fluent in the English language to effectively communicate with the contractor's employees and/or subcontractors as well as the Conservancy, as well as potential questions from the public and National Park Service staff.
- C. If the on-site supervisor is not on site or absent due to illness or other reasons, the contractor shall provide an alternate supervisor to be on site managing and directing all contract personnel



and maintenance operations. The alternate supervisor shall have similar job qualifications to those required for the on-site supervisor.

- D. The onsite supervisor shall be available for phone calls during all working hours.

E4. Conduct:

The contractor's employees shall at all time while on the job site, whether on or off duty, conduct themselves in a professional, orderly and safe manner. Rudeness, fighting, being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs or bringing and/or consuming alcohol and/or drugs, gambling, soliciting, stealing, and any immoral or otherwise undesirable conduct shall not be permitted on the job site and shall result in immediate and permanent removal from the job site of any employee engaging in such conduct from work.

E5. Site maintenance

- A. The contractor shall maintain the work site in a safe, neat and orderly manner. All supplies and equipment on the project site shall be stored to preclude any damage.
- B. All mud, dirt, debris, foreign objects or spills of any kind from the contractor's operations shall be cleaned up daily or as requested by the Conservancy.
- C. All contractor generated refuse and waste shall be hauled from the work site daily.
- D. This refuse and waste material shall be hauled in trucks with tight fitting covers to prevent spillage on roadways.
- E. It shall be the contractor's responsibility to take whatever measures are necessary to assure the protection of the Government assets and to perform the work so as to cause minimal disruption of ongoing activities near occupied areas. This includes the protection of grassy areas, both in and out of the worksite, which must be re-seeded in the case of damage, and damage should be reduced by maintaining a single driving route over grassy areas. The use of protection to prevent damage to curbs when entering or exiting the park is required.
- F. The contractor assumes the risk and responsibility for the loss or damage to the Government furnished property.

E6. Environmental concerns and safety standards

- A. The contractor and each of his employees must work in compliance with all applicable OSHA, Federal, state and local safety laws and regulations.
- B. The contractor shall provide and ensure that all personnel at the work site use the proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required by OSHA.
- C. The contractor shall take all necessary precautions for safety of, and shall provide reasonable protection to prevent damage, injury or loss to persons, properties, equipment and vehicles.



- D. In the event of an emergency the contractor should first call 911 and then immediately call the United States Park Police Communications 24 hour dispatch emergency number: 202-610-7500. The communications dispatcher will notify USPP unit officers and DC EMS. After calling 911 and USPP, the contractor should contact the Conservancy, who will contact NPS.
- E. Damage caused by the contractor to any properties shall be repaired or replaced to the satisfaction of the Government at the expense of the contractor. The Government, at its sole direction, may elect to repair or replace the damaged property, and deduct such costs from monies due the contractor.
- F. The contractor shall not leave any tools, parts and/or supplies unattended in the public area at any time while performing work at Rock Creek Park. The contractor should ensure all materials, especially chemicals, are retrieved at the end of the working day.

E7. Vehicle operations

contractor personnel operating motor vehicles used in performance of this contract shall have a valid state operator's license and shall operate all motor vehicles in accordance with policies and procedures established by the park. The contractor's vehicles shall have an identification tag clearly visible while on site which includes the business license number for pesticide application.

E8. Quality assurance

When the contractor considers work acceptable to the Conservancy and complete, the contractor shall inform the Conservancy that the work is complete and ready for inspection. The Conservancy will inspect the site for invasive species abundance by species prior to the start of work, immediately following the treatment phase, and after one month to allow for herbicide uptake. In the event that the work is not acceptable, the contractor shall record a list of items noted by the Conservancy to be corrected. A subsequent inspection may take place in order to review the corrected items.

E9. Business hours

The contractor will be required to work between 6:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Work on Federal Holidays or weekends is prohibited unless approved in writing by the Conservancy. Once underway, the contractor will be required to execute the work of each activity in a single continuous period (ie., three days of planting at one location should be completed across consecutive days or within the same week (weather permitting), unless the



nature of the work is more suited to a different schedule (such as a period in between herbicide applications to retreat plants/areas that need additional follow up.)

E10. Insurance

Throughout the life of the awarded Contract(s), the selected contractor will maintain and provide evidence of the below insurance requirements. The contractor's inability to provide this documentation will result in the proposal being rejected.

- General Liability Insurance with a combined limit of not less than \$2,000,000 aggregate.
- Automobile Liability Insurance with a combined limit of not less than \$1,000,000 aggregate.
- Pollution Liability Insurance with a combined limit of not less than \$1,000,000 aggregate.

F. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Proposals may be submitted for all, a single, or multiple services requested in this RFP (site survey/assessment, invasive plant management, woody debris management and removal, planting installation, mowing, and watering). Proposals will be evaluated based on the content requested below, and contract(s) will be awarded based on the following:

- Cost/rates
- Completion: selections will favor proposals that can complete all, or most, of the scope of work detailed in this RFP
- Capacity: An award consisting of multiple activities must be made in good faith that the contracting firm has the resources necessary to complete all of the activities proposed. Changes in capacity and ability to complete all activities should be communicated to the Conservancy if they arise so that multiple contractors can be engaged if necessary.
- Professional qualifications: level of education and training by field staff and positive references for similar projects

Include in your proposal all of the following, to be addressed in a straightforward and concise manner:

1. Description of organization, summary of qualifications and experience by crew members and supervisors, and pesticide application, ISA, or other certifications held by personnel as required by the scope of work. Include DC pesticide application permits for crew leaders and technicians.
2. Description of activities proposed: describe which activities (invasive plant treatment, hazard tree removal, planting, and watering) are included in your proposal. Specify activities by site,



including acres treated for invasive plant treatment and numbers of trees. If your proposal is for the full suite of activities included in this RFP, please clearly state this.

3. Description of the equipment: herbicide products, formulations, and tools for their application; plants (size, species/ecotype and nursery sources); vehicles; additional equipment and methods for their safe use to meet the objectives of this project.
4. Availability to complete all activities being proposed, including estimated dates for each activity at each site.
5. Budget: include day rate with crew size for proposed activities. Stratify by site if site conditions affect projected rates at each.
6. Contact information of three references for similar projects.
7. Certificate of Insurance.

This RFP is not a contract or commitment and the Conservancy is not responsible for any expenses that may be incurred during the preparation of a proposal or responding to it. Selected contractors will be paid on a reimbursement basis. Proposals should be emailed to Ryan McIntyre at rmcintyre@rockcreekconservancy.org by **8/21/2026**

F1. Proposal Timeline

RFP Released: 7/16/2026

Proposal Due Date: 8/21/2026

Project Review and Award Date: 8/28/2026

Deadline for Project Completion: 10/1/2030, unless otherwise stated in scopes of work and [budget](#).

G. CONTACT

Any questions about the RFP may be submitted in writing by email to Ryan McIntyre at rmcintyre@rockcreekconservancy.org, or email to coordinate a phone call. All questions must be submitted no later than **8/21/2026**. The Conservancy will respond to each question in writing or by phone. Questions submitted after the above deadline may not be answered.