

August 21, 2026

POLK COUNTY, A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

ADDENDUM # 3

BID # 26-349, Pond Mowing and Maintenance - Road & Drainage

This addendum is issued to clarify, add to, revise and/or delete items of the Bid Document for this work. This Addendum is a part of the Bid Document and acknowledgment of its receipt shall be noted on the Addendum.

Contained within this addendum: questions and answers received, and Revised Bid Sheet added to FTP Site.

FTP Site Instructions:

To obtain a copy of the **Revised Bid Sheet** please go the following FTP site: <https://ftp3.polk-county.net>, you will be prompted for a User ID and Password. The User ID is *procurevendor* and the password is *solicitation*. After you have logged in to the FTP site, double click on the file folder "**Bid 26-349, Pond Mowing and Maintenance – R&D.zip**", select "Open" or "Save As" to download the Bid Sheet. If you need assistance accessing this website due to ADA or any other reason, please email Divina Arroyo at divinaarroyo@polkfl.gov.

Respectfully,

Divina Arroyo

Divina Arroyo

Procurement Analyst

Procurement Division

This Addendum sheet should be signed and submitted with your bid submittal. This is the only acknowledgment required.

Signature

Printed Name:

Title:

Company:

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- Q1: The Bid Sheet states that the acreage listed for each location “is the total for that location including any bodies of water.” For each of the 175 locations, please provide the County’s breakdown of that acreage between (a) mowable upland acreage and (b) open-water or wet-bottom acreage to be treated with aquatic herbicide.
- A1: Interested vendors should visit all locations to assess the mowing areas. Project areas are estimates and should be verified by the Vendor.
- Q2: Seventy-two (72) of the 175 locations — approximately 114.6 acres, or 34% of the total bid acreage — contain no herbicide or spray language in the Site Specific Projects narrative. For each of those locations, please confirm whether aquatic herbicide treatment is (a) required, (b) required only when the pond bottom is unreachable by weed eater, or (c) not part of the scope because the pond bottom is excluded from the maintained area.
- A2: Some ponds are planted ponds, others are usually dry and don’t require herbicide.
- Q3: Forty-nine (49) locations carry no “normally wet” or “normally dry” designation in the narrative. Please state the water status of each of those locations: normally wet, normally dry, or seasonally variable.
- A3: 1,3, 13-23, 144-146,156,161-163,165,166, 168-176 are normally wet
2,16,22,25,153-155,157-160,164,167 are normally dry
- Q4: The following locations are described as “normally wet” but contain no herbicide or spray language: items 24, 38, 39, 40, 41, 96, 106, 116 and 133. A wet pond bottom cannot be mowed or weed-eaten. Please clarify whether aquatic herbicide treatment is required at these locations, or whether the pond bottom is excluded from the maintained area.
- A4: These areas can be sprayed.
- Q5: Of the eight (8) services per year shown on the Bid Sheet, how many does the County expect to include an aquatic herbicide application, as distinct from mowing and trimming only? If this varies by location, please provide the County’s expected number of herbicide events per location per year.
- A5: Mowing will be done on a monthly basis, from April through November, unless otherwise directed by the County Project Manager. December through March is on a as needed basis, depending on the weather. Aquatic herbicide should be sprayed on a monthly basis, unless otherwise directed by the County Project Manager.

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- Q6: Technical Specifications state that December through March is on an as-needed basis. Are as-needed services performed in that window paid as additional services at the same unit price, or are they expected to be absorbed within the eight (8) services shown on the Bid Sheet?
- A6: Yes, “as-needed services” are paid additionally at the bid sheet price.
- Q7: Please confirm that the unit price is intended to be fully inclusive of mowing, trimming, fence-line herbicide, aquatic herbicide application and product, debris removal and hauling, with landfill disposal fees the only separately reimbursed cost, reimbursed at cost against scale tickets.
- A7: Yes.
- Q8: For the current contract (Bid 23-423), please provide the per-location record of services performed for the most recent twenty-four (24) months — specifically the weekly site lists required under Technical Specifications, Inspection item 3, together with the monthly invoices — or, in lieu of the underlying records, a per-location count of mowing visits and herbicide applications performed in FY 2024/2025 and FY 2025/2026. To the extent these are public records, this request is made under Chapter 119, Florida Statutes.
- A8: Each location is serviced 8 times a year, any herbicide applications that were made are included in the unit pricing. The records for herbicide applications are held by the applicator.
- Q9: Please provide the aquatic pesticide application records for the current contract for the most recent twenty-four (24) months — date, location, product, EPA registration number, application rate and acres treated — as maintained under the Category 5A commercial applicator recordkeeping requirements of Chapter 487, Florida Statutes, and Rule 5E-9, Florida Administrative Code.
- A9: These records are held by the applicator and not the County.
- Q10: Items 155 through 175 do not appear in the Bid 23-423 Site Specific Projects list — twenty-one (21) locations totaling approximately 74.3 acres, or 22% of the acreage in this solicitation. For each, please state (a) whether it has been maintained under the current contract or by others, (b) the date it was last mowed and last treated, and (c) whether the County will pay separately for an initial reclamation or knock-down cut where a location is not in maintenance condition.
- A10: 155-175 were added to bid by an addendum, if one time clean-up is required, that will be paid separately.

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- Q11: For items 11, 15, 90, 108 and 151, the Bid Sheet acreage appears to exceed the area actually maintained. Item 15 (Woodland Avenue) is listed at 9.37 acres but the scope reads “mow only the tree at the pond”; item 11 (38th Street) is listed at 8.74 acres with the instruction “DO NOT MOW NORTH END OF PROPERTY”; items 90 and 151 include mitigation areas the County states are not maintained; and item 108 states that residents typically mow the area. Please confirm the net maintained acreage for each.
- A11: Varies in mowing, due to weather conditions. Woodland Ave is to mow top of banks to water edge. 38th st, do not mow North end, no mowing of Mitigation areas.
- Q12: Will the County release the overhead maps for all locations with the addendum, rather than to the awarded vendor only as was the case under Bid 23-423? Without maps, bidders are measuring different footprints against the same locked acreage.
- A12: No. Overhead maps will be provided to the awarded vendors.
- Q13: Will the County post the Bid 23-423 bid tabulation to the FTP site for this solicitation, as it did in Bid 23-423 Addendum #1 for the preceding contract?
- A13: See Exhibit A under Addendum #1.
- Q14: Please confirm which party holds the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission aquatic plant management permit required to control aquatic plants in waters of the state under Section 369.20, Florida Statutes, and Rule 68F-20, Florida Administrative Code, and whether the vendor is expected to obtain it for these locations.
- A14: Any permits required to perform the work related to this bid would be the responsibility of the bidder.
- Q15: Please confirm whether coverage under the Florida Department of Environmental Protection NPDES generic permit for pesticide discharges to waters, Rule 62-621.300(9), Florida Administrative Code, is required for this work, and which party is the permittee of record.
- A15: No. These are ponds that Polk County owns and the County has an NPDES Permit that covers these stormwater facilities.

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- Q16: Qualifications item 2 permits the Category 5A Aquatic Pest Control license to be held by the vendor or a subcontractor. Will the County require (a) that the Category 5A license be held by the prime vendor, and (b) that each applicator performing treatment on site be a licensed applicator or work under the direct on-site supervision of one, with copies of all licenses submitted with the bid?
- A16: a) No b) No. Vendor or Vendor's Subcontractors must hold a current Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Pesticide Certification Office Commercial Applicator Category 5A Aquatic Pest Control License under the vendor's or subcontractor's name.
- Q17: Qualifications item 4 requires the assigned supervisor to have two (2) consecutive years of commercial grounds maintenance experience. Given that a majority of the locations carry aquatic herbicide scope, will the County require that experience — and the three references required under Qualifications item 5 — to be in stormwater pond and aquatic vegetation management specifically, with aquatic acreage stated?
- A17: No.
- Q18: Please identify any aquatic-labeled herbicides the County requires or prohibits and confirm the vendor's obligations with respect to label-mandated post-treatment water use restrictions — irrigation, livestock and potable well setbacks — at locations abutting residential property, nurseries and agricultural operations (for example items 87, 100 and 116).
- A18: The bidder would be responsible for making this determination.
- Q19: Please provide the County's inventory of aquatic vegetation species present at each location, including any Class I or Class II prohibited species such as hydrilla, water hyacinth, water lettuce, torpedograss, alligatorweed or primrose willow. In addition, will the vendor be required to follow an equipment wash-down and decontamination protocol between waterbodies to prevent the transport of prohibited species propagules between County locations?
- A19: No inventory exists. The County would expect the vendor to perform this work in accordance with their Standard Operation Procedures to address this item.

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- Q20: What is the required protocol for protected wildlife encountered during the work — alligators, wading bird nesting subject to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and gopher tortoise burrows on pond berms under Rule 68A-27, Florida Administrative Code — and which party bears the cost of a resulting work stoppage or relocation?
- A20: The County expects the vendor to not disturb any wildlife and use common sense when encountering such wildlife. If work stoppage or relocation is required, please contact the County's representative.
- Q21: Where dense vegetation is to be treated in a wet pond, does the County require a staged treatment approach to manage dissolved oxygen and the risk of fish kill, and which party is responsible if a fish kill or odor complaint results from a properly labeled application?
- A21: No. Please notify the County's representative if a fish kill or odor complaint is received.
- Q22: Are these ponds permitted stormwater facilities under Southwest Florida Water Management District Environmental Resource Permits, and are there permit conditions or recertification requirements — littoral plantings, side-slope integrity, control structure elevations — that constrain mowing or herbicide treatment? Does the vendor carry any reporting obligation in support of the County's in-house pond recertification program?
- A22: Vendor is not required to pond recertification.
- Q23: Does the County require Contractors Pollution Liability insurance for chemical application under this contract? The Insurance Requirements specify Commercial General Liability, Comprehensive Automobile Liability and Workers' Compensation only, and standard commercial general liability forms contain a pollution exclusion.
- A23: No.
- Q24: Does the County require or prefer low-ground-pressure or amphibious equipment — such as a Truxor, Marsh Master or equivalent — for wet-bottom ponds and soft or steep banks? Further, will the County require bidders to submit an equipment list with the bid, identifying make, model, quantity, ground pressure, spray vessels, tank capacity and crew composition, in support of the "ability, capacity, equipment and skill" criterion in General Information item 2?
- A24: The vendor is responsible for any damage to the stormwater facility caused by their equipment. The vendor is responsible for determining the appropriate equipment needed to perform the work required in the bid.

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- Q25: Technical Specifications state that “a small boat may be required to reach center of ponds.” Please confirm whether boat- or airboat-mounted application with a calibrated pump is required, at which locations, and whether vessel registration and marine liability coverage must be evidenced.
- A25: Not required.
- Q26: Several locations specify hand mowing, weed-eater-only slopes, steep banks or soft sand — including items 46, 65, 105 and 147, with item 46 requiring push mowing if rutting occurs. Please identify all locations designated hand-mow or weed-eater only, as production rates and therefore unit prices differ materially from tractor mowing.
- A26: Those listed locations that specify methods are based on experience from previous contracts. It is up to the vendor to determine the proper method and equipment to perform this work.
- Q27: Please state the typical standing water depth and sediment or muck depth at the wet locations and confirm that the County will not draw down ponds for maintenance. Item 19 (Lake Thomas) is described as having a concrete bottom and item 82 as a flood plain site — please confirm the maintenance method intended for each.
- A27: Ponds will not be draw ponds down, Lake Thomas is a spray only pond, channels, swales, and retention structures clear of debris, sediment, and excess vegetation to preserve water storage capacity.
- Q28: Please confirm the gate and lock arrangements for the fenced locations, including whether the County issues keys or the vendor supplies locks, and provide access instructions for locations reached through private property — item 67 through a salvage yard, item 100 through a nursery main gate, and item 116 located in Hillsborough County.
- A28: County supplies combo locks.
- Q29: Thirty (30) locations include a ditch, swale, drainage easement or right-of-way component within the per-location acreage — back-of-curb to back-of-swale at items 112 through 114, sidewalk-to-fence at items 119 and 120, and approximately 1,200 feet of open roadway ditch at item 42, among others. Please confirm the exact right-of-way limits to be maintained at each and whether herbicide is required within the conveyance.
- A29: Maps will be provided.

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Q30: For roadside locations on CR 54, US 27, US 17/92, Recker Highway, Kathleen Road and Thornhill Road, does the County require an approved maintenance-of-traffic plan and FDOT-qualified work zone personnel and devices? Is maintenance of traffic included in the unit price or separately payable?

A30: No MOT is required. Work vehicles should be able to be located far enough from the road to not require MOT.

Q31: Where a homeowners association or adjacent residents mow a portion of a location (items 108 and 130), please confirm the division of responsibility, and which party is liable if the third party damages a control structure or pond bank.

A31: Any questions regarding this issue should be directed by the awarded vendor to the County's representative.

Q32: Technical Specifications require inspection of sprayed areas within five (5) days and re-spraying if the herbicide did not work. Please confirm that re-treatment and the associated re-inspection trip are included in the unit price with no additional payment.

A32: Yes.

Q33: Is there a liquidated damages provision in this solicitation? Safety Requirements item 1.2 states that the "liquidated damages provision will remain in full force and effect," but no such provision appears elsewhere in the bid package.

A33: There are no liquidated damages in this solicitation.

Q34: Please confirm that no bid bond or performance bond is required. Special Conditions is silent on bonding, and General Information item 18 provides that a bond, if required, would be called out in the Special Conditions.

A34: No bid bond or performance bond required.

Q35: Given a period of performance running through July 31, 2029, please confirm that the CPI-U adjustment described in General Information item 20 is available annually after the first twelve (12) months, and state whether increases in herbicide and fuel costs are considered outside of the CPI mechanism.

A35: See Revision #2 below. No other increases will be permitted.

Q36: Special Conditions item 10 provides that the County may employ other vendors or self-perform the work. Please provide the County's estimated annual quantity or dollar volume expected to be ordered under this bid and confirm whether any of the 175 locations are currently self-performed by County forces.

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- A36: The annual usage for the immediate prior term was approximately \$515,000.00. Prospective vendors are cautioned the County does not guarantee any amount of usage for any annual bid.
- Q37: Please confirm that the debris removal and disposal requirements at the North Central Landfill include tires, appliances and encampment or biohazard debris where encountered — item 128 specifically notes trash from neighboring apartments — and that any special handling fees are reimbursed at cost alongside standard tipping fees.
- A37: No.

REVISIONS:

1. Site Specific Projects, item #26 through #31, Page 39 have been removed from the Technical Specifications. These ponds have been annexed into the City of Bartow. A revised Bid Sheet has been posted on the ftp site. See instructions on Page 1 of this addendum to access the ftp site.
2. **DELETE IN ITS ENTIRETY:**

General Conditions, Item #20:

Price Increase: The Procurement Director reserves the right to increase/decrease price after the bid has been in place for a minimum of 12-months, when it is in the best interest of the County. Increases/decreases will be determined by the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) unless otherwise stated in the Special Conditions.

Replace with:

Price Increase: The Procurement Director reserves the right to increase/decrease price after the bid has been in place for a minimum of 12-months, and each preceding 12-month period, when it is in the best interest of the County. Increases/decreases will be determined by the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) unless otherwise stated in the Special Conditions.