

## **Nathaniel Neely Riparian Buffer Project**

### **Questions and Answers**

**Summary:** On Thursday, July 17th, 2025, Chesapeake Conservancy and ClearWater Conservancy hosted an optional pre-bid site showing for interested contractors at 459 Steele Hollow Road, Julian, PA 16844. This site showing is related to Chesapeake Conservancy's open "Request for Proposal" (RFP) for the Neely Riparian Buffer Project. This document addresses the questions and concerns discussed during the site showing.

**The RFP has been amended to reflect changes and clarifications. Please see the amended RFP dated July 23, 2025 on Chesapeake Conservancy's website at <https://www.chesapeakeconservancy.org/about-us/work-with-us/request-for-proposals>. The amended RFP will be posted by 4:00PM EDT on July 23, 2025.**

**Bidders should read the entire Questions and Answers document and the amended RFP in its entirety when preparing their proposal. Amendments to the RFP are notated in red, bold, italicized font.**

The deadline for submitting proposals has been extended to **August 6, 2025 at 4:00 PM EDT**.

RFP results and notification of award will be distributed no later than **August 14, 2025**.

#### **Question #1: Where can contractors access the site?**

**Answer:** Contractors can access the site via the gravel driveway located along the southern border of the property off of Steele Hollow Road. This provides direct access to the buffer site. Contractors can also utilize the mowed path located within the project area to move equipment and materials. If contractors need to park, they should park off to the side of the driveway or in the meadow area as the driveway is shared and neighbors will need to access their home.

#### **Question #2: Is invasive control included as a service in the RFP for 2026 and 2027? Where should contractors include the price for invasive control on the Contractor Response Form?**

**Answer:** Invasive control is included in the post planting establishment services for 2026 and 2027 and it is also included in the site preparation for 2025. Contractors should include the cost for the initial invasive control that is to be performed in 2025 in the site preparation price line. Contractors should include the cost for the follow up invasive

control that is to be performed in 2026 and 2027 in the post planting establishment price lines.

This is important because the site preparation and implementation will be paid to the contractor via a contract with Chesapeake Conservancy and the post planting establishment will be paid to the contractor via a contract with ClearWater Conservancy.

**Question #3: What should the contractors do with the woody invasive debris and/or standing dead stems?**

**Answer:** ClearWater Conservancy will discuss this with the landowner to determine their preference. Potential options are to chip/mulch, haul to a nearby burn pile on the property (for the landowner to burn) or haul off site. Bidders should consider that any of these options are possible when figuring their quote.

**Question #4: Is invasive control to be performed throughout the entire project area or only on the western side of the stream?**

**Answer:** Invasive control is to be performed throughout the entire project area as indicated on the map in the RFP.

**Question #5: What specific invasive species are to be controlled by the contractor as part of this RFP?**

**Answer:** Specific species to be controlled include all woody invasives, Japanese knotweed, thistle, teasle, Oriental bittersweet, purple loosestrife, wild parsnip, poison hemlock, mugwort and reed canary grass. Japanese stiltgrass is present on the site, however, it is not a target species except as incidental control of other species.

**Question #6: After 3 years how do you define success of invasive treatment?**

**Answer:** The target is to obtain 90% control of all invasive plant species listed in Question #5 by the end of 2027.

**Question #7: Blueberries have very specific soil requirements to be successful. Who is going to be responsible for amending the soil and will the contractors be required to guarantee the blueberry plantings?**

**Answer:** The landowner will be responsible for amending the soil. Contractors will not be required to guarantee the blueberry plantings.

**Question #8: Do all trees and shrubs in the orchard area get fenced?**

**Answer:** All trees and shrubs in the orchard area are to have deer protection installed per the following specifications in the RFP: Shrubs will be planted in clumps of 4-8 with

perimeter fencing (cribs) installed 48” - 60” high to deter deer browse around all shrubs in the orchard. Mesh removeable deer guards, 48” - 60” tall, will be installed around all trees in the orchard.

**Question #9: Will the property and project boundaries be marked prior to the contractor beginning work?**

**Answer:** ClearWater Conservancy will work with the landowner to delineate the property boundaries to the best of their ability to ensure that no work is completed on a neighboring property. ClearWater Conservancy will flag the project boundaries where needed.

**Additional Items of Note:**

1. The size of the herbicide spots to be sprayed around the planted trees/shrubs is reduced from 6FT x 6FT to **3FT x 3FT**.
2. A small pocket of wetland in the 5.1 acre field will not be planted. There will be no tree/shrub planting in this area. The area is approximately 0.1 acres in size. This area will be flagged by ClearWater Conservancy prior to work beginning.
3. The selected contractor shall, to the greatest extent possible, avoid damage to the existing native vegetation (including native herbaceous vegetation) during all phases of this project except where necessary to perform the services in the RFP. In particular, care shall be taken to avoid damaging native sedges as well as native trees and shrubs during the site preparation and post planting establishment. There are a number of sedges and small native tree and shrub species in the forested area that should be protected to the greatest extent possible.