THE CITY OF ROCKFORD ILLINOIS, USA

Carrie Eklund
Central Services Manager
Finance Department

INVITATION TO BID
CITY-WIDE WEED ABATEMENT
BID NO.: 314-CD-018

3/4//14

Name of Bidding Firm: _____

Address _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Bid Opening Time and Date 11:00 a.m., Local Time, Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Bids will be accepted until the specified opening time and date. Any bidder attempting to deliver after the opening time and date will be refused.

Bid Deposit/Bid Bond:	**NO**
Prevailing Wage	**NO**
Performance Bond:	**NO**

PLEASE MARK THE RETURN SEALED ENVELOPE:

1. Bid Opening Date and Time
2. Title of Job
3. Bid Number

RETURN BIDS TO:

City of Rockford
Central Services Manager
425 East State Street, 4th Floor
Rockford, Illinois 61104
Telephone: (815) 987-5560

BIDS SUBMITTED BY FASCSIMILE OR E-MAIL WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

BID RESULTS:

Bid results may be obtained by telephone at (815) 987-5560, by fax at (800) 380-7174, or at www.rockfordil.gov

CITY OF ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS—BIDDING GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. Pricing. The bidder shall insert price for all bid items and all other information requested in these specifications. The price shall be the *full, delivered cost* to the City of Rockford with no additions.

2. Total versus "Per Item" Awards. The City generally awards contracts based on a lump sum basis to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder. However, the City may choose to award on a per item basis. Therefore, each bidder must submit pricing for each item indicated on the bid forms. Bidders must clearly indicate which items are bid and which are not.

3. Delivery of Merchandise. Delivery terms will always be Freight On Board (FOB)–Destination. The City of Rockford accepts no responsibility for the condition of any merchandise purchased prior to acceptance by City Personnel. Failure to comply with this requirement may constitute rejection of the bid.

4. Acceptance of Merchandise at Delivery. The City of Rockford reserves the right to refuse acceptance of delivered merchandise that differs substantially from the specifications in this invitation to bid or as otherwise permitted by Illinois law.

5. Prompt Payment Act. The City of Rockford intends to comply with the governmental prompt payment act. The awarded vendor will be paid upon submission of invoices to: City of Rockford Accounts Payable, 425 East State Street, Rockford, IL 61104.

6. W-9 Request for Taxpayer Identification Number. Prior to issuance of a purchase order, the successful bidder will be required to supply the City of Rockford with a federal W-9 Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification. Failure to comply with this requirement will be considered a violation of contract terms, for which the City may bar the vendor from bidding for a period of up to three years.

7. Legal Compliance. The vendor awarded this contract will comply with all Federal, State, County, and City laws, ordinances, rules and regulations, which in any manner affect the product or service placed for bid herein. Lack of knowledge on the part of the awarded vendor of applicable law will in no way be cause for release of this obligation. If the City becomes aware of violation of any laws, ordinances, rules and regulations on the part of the awarded vendor, it reserves the right to reject any bid, cancel any contract, and pursue any other legal remedies deemed necessary.

8. Legal Requirements. This contract sets forth the entire final agreement between the City of Rockford and the bidder and shall govern the respective duties and obligations of the parties. The validity of this contract, and any disputes arising from the contract, shall be governed by the laws of the State of Illinois. Any litigation under this agreement shall be resolved in the trial courts of Winnebago County, State of Illinois. Should a provision of this contract be declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of the contract.

9. Safety. Prevention of accidents at any project is the sole responsibility of the awarded vendor and its subcontractors, agents, and employees. The awarded vendor, its subcontractors, agents, and employees shall be fully and solely responsible for the safety of this project. The awarded vendor shall retain exclusive and direct control over the acts or omissions of its subcontractors, agents and employees, and any other persons performing portions of the work and not directly employed by the awarded vendor.

10. Criminal Background Check. When necessary for the protection of citizens and/or City staff, the City may require an awarded vendor to conduct a criminal background check on all of its personnel who will have direct contact with City facilities or residents/businesses served under this contract. Personnel are defined as representatives, agents, employees, subcontractors, or anyone else who will be utilized to fulfill obligations under this contract. Criminal background checks, at a minimum, shall consist of a county level felony and misdemeanor check for each county in which the personnel resided in the last 10 years. The awarded vendor shall notify the City of any of its personnel who have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor prior to commencing any work under this contract. At the City's discretion, personnel with any felony or misdemeanor convictions which raise a concern about the safety of building, property, or City staff/resident's personal security, or is otherwise job related (as determined by the City) shall not perform work under this contract. Once given notice that a background check(s) will be required, it must be completed within 14 calendar days so as to not delay work to be completed.

11. Control of the Work. With respect to the awarded vendor's own work, the City shall not have contractual, operational, and/or supervisory control over and/or charge of the work and shall not be responsible for construction means, methods, techniques, sequences, procedures, and programs in connection with the awarded vendor's work, since these are solely the vendor's responsibility under the agreement. The City shall not be responsible for the awarded vendor's failure to carry out the work in accordance with the agreement's terms and conditions. The City shall not have control over and/or charge of acts or omissions of the awarded vendor, its subcontractors, and/or their agents or employees, or any other person performing portions of the work not directly employed by the awarded vendor. The awarded vendor shall be considered to be an "independent contractor" pursuant to Illinois law.

12. Bid Bond. When required on the cover sheet, a bid bond for not less than 5 percent of the bid amount must accompany all bids as a guarantee that if the bid is accepted, the bidder will execute and file the proper contract. A bank cashier's check, bank draft, or certified check equal to the amount specified is acceptable in lieu of a bid bond. Bid bonds of the two lowest firms will be retained until the contract is awarded.

13. Performance Bond. When required by the specifications herein, the awarded vendor shall furnish a performance bond equal to the amount of the contract, acceptable to the City, within 14 calendar days after notification of contract award. Failure to furnish the required bond within the time specified may be cause for rejection of the bid and any bid deposit may be retained by the City as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.

14. Taxes. No charge will be allowed for taxes from which the City of Rockford, Illinois is exempt. The City of Rockford, Illinois is not liable for the Illinois Retailers' Occupation Tax, the Service Occupation Tax or the Service Use Tax. The City is exempt from the Federal Excise and Transportation Tax.

15. Withdrawal of Bids. Firms may withdraw or cancel their bids at any time prior to the advertised invitation to bid opening. After the opening time, no bid shall be withdrawn or cancelled. All bids shall be firm and valid for a period of sixty (60) calendar days. If a bidder to whom a contract is awarded refuses to accept the award, the City may, at its discretion, suspend the bidder for a period of time up to three (3) years.

16. Subcontracting. The bidder shall provide information for all subcontractors, leased operators/equipment, and suppliers and all other information requested in the Subcontractor and Supplier Detail Forms attached. Requests for deviations from the completed detail forms submitted must be made in writing, and reviewed and approved by the City's Diversity Procurement Officer and the Central Services Manager or designee. The awarded vendor may not subcontract any portion of the contract after award without written consent of the City of Rockford

Central Services Manager. When subcontractors are used, the awarded vendor is required to pay subcontractors promptly after completion of work. Delay of payment is prohibited.

17. Termination of Contract. The City of Rockford reserves the right to terminate the contract in its entirety or in portions, upon written notice to the awarded vendor, if the Rockford City Council does not appropriate sufficient funds to complete the contract or in the event of default by the awarded vendor. Default is defined as failure of the awarded vendor to perform any of the provisions of this contract or failure to make sufficient progress so as to endanger performance of this contract in accordance with its terms. In the event of default, the City may purchase the product(s) and/or service(s) from other sources and hold the defaulting company responsible for any excess costs occasioned thereby. The City may require payment of liquidated damages for non-performance. Should default be due to failure to perform or because of a request for a price increase, the City reserves the right to remove the firm from the City's bidder list for a period of up to three years.

18. Late Bids and Proposals. Regardless of cause, late bids and proposals will not be accepted and will automatically be disqualified from further consideration. It shall be solely the vendor's risk to ensure delivery at the designated office by the designated time. Late bids and proposals will not be opened and may be returned to the awarded vendor at their request and expense.

19. EEO Forms. Each firm shall be required to submit with its bid information all EEO forms included in the invitation to bid package. Any bid which fails to include the properly completed compliance items will not be read and will not be considered. All subcontractors shall also be required to comply with the same EEO forms as the firm.

20. Restrictive or Ambiguous Specifications. It is the responsibility of the bidding firm to review the invitation to bid specifications and to notify the Central Services Manager if the specifications are formulated in a manner that would unnecessarily restrict competition. Any such protest or question regarding the specifications or invitation to bid procedures must be received by the Central Services Division not less than seventy-two hours prior to the time set for the opening. In the event a contract term is not defined within the contract document, the term will be given its ordinary dictionary definition.

21. Bid Protest. Firms wishing to protest bids or awards shall notify the Central Services Manager in writing within 7 days after the invitation to bid opening. The notification should include the bid number, the name of the firm protesting, and the reason why the firm is protesting the bid. The Central Services Manager will respond to the protest within seven (7) calendar days. A successful protest may result in the reversal of a previously awarded contract.

22. Disputes. In case of disputes as to whether or not an item or service quoted or delivered meets specifications, the decision of the Central Services Manager, or authorized representative shall be final and binding to all parties. The Central Services Manager has the right to waive technicalities as they see fit. The Central Services Manager may request a written recommendation from the head of the department using the equipment or service being procured.

23. Exceptions. Any deviations from these specifications shall be noted and submitted with the bid. Failure to address deviations from specifications may result in bid rejection.

24. Acceptance/Rejection of Bids. The City of Rockford reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or proposals at any time, for any reason, including but not limited to the Rockford City Council not appropriating

sufficient funds to purchase equipment or complete the contract. The City may make awards in any manner deemed in the best interest of the City.

25. Prevailing Wage. When indicated on the cover page of this document, this contract calls for the construction of a "public work," within the meaning of the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act, 820 ILCS 130/.01 *et seq.* ("the Act"). The Act requires awarded vendors and subcontractors to pay laborers, workers, and mechanics performing services on public works projects no less than the "prevailing rate of wages" (hourly cash wages plus fringe benefits) in the county where the work is performed. When required, awarded vendors are responsible for paying current prevailing wage rates, as posted on the Illinois Department of Labor's website at: http://www.state.il.us/agency/idol/rates/rates.HTM. It is the awarded vendor's responsibility to verify current wage rates, as they are updated monthly. All awarded vendors and subcontractors rendering services under this contract must comply with all requirements of the Act, including but not limited to, all wage, notice, and record keeping duties.

26. Certified Payroll. All Certified Payroll reports required to be submitted under the Prevailing Wage Act, 820 ILCS 130, must be submitted monthly via the City's current Certified Payroll reporting system. No paper copies or non-conforming Certified Payroll reports will be accepted. The City reserves the right to withhold payment due to the awarded vendor until the vendor displays compliance with this provision.

27. Substance Abuse Prevention. When required by Illinois State Statutes, awarded vendors must have in place and file with the City a written program for prevention of substance abuse among its employees. This program must include pre-hire, random, reasonable suspicion, and post-accident drug and alcohol testing, as required by the Substance Abuse Prevention on Public Works Projects Act.

28. Apprenticeship Requirement. For construction contracts over $50,000, awarded vendors must participate in apprenticeship and training programs approved and registered with the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training for all Trades that will be in the awarded vendor's (or his subcontractor's) employment, with each worker receiving the required apprenticeship/training appropriate to his trade. Owners or work performed by owners is not exempt from the apprenticeship and training requirement.

29. Indemnification. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the awarded vendor shall indemnify and hold harmless the City, its officers, representatives, elected and appointed officials, agents, and employees from and against all claims, damages, losses and expenses, including but not limited to attorney's fees, arising out of or resulting from the awarded vendor's performance of work under this agreement, and indemnifies and agrees to defend and hold harmless the City against any and all losses, claims, damages, and expenses arising from the work performed hereunder of the erection, construction, placement, or operation of any scaffold, hoist, crane, stay, ladder, support, or other mechanical contrivance in connection with such work including but not limited to losses, claims, damages, and expenses arising pursuant to claims asserted against the City pursuant to theories premised upon section 414 of the Restatement (Second) of Torts and section 343 of the Restatement (Second) of Torts.

This indemnification agreement shall not be limited in any way by any limitations on the amount or type of damages, compensation, or benefits payable by or for the awarded vendor under Worker's Compensation Acts, disability benefit acts, or other employee benefit acts, and serves as an express agreement to waive the protection of Kotecki v. Cyclops Welding Corp., 146 Ill.2d 155, 585 N.E.2d 1023 (1991) in Illinois.

Further, the awarded vendor agrees that it is solely responsible for compliance with all safety laws applicable to the work performed hereunder, including but not limited to the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 and

the Construction Safety Act of 1960 and all standards and regulations which have been or shall be promulgated by the agencies which administer the Acts.

Under no circumstances shall the awarded vendor, its subcontractors, agents, and employees be required to indemnify the City for its own negligence.

30. Officers. Each bidder affirms, by submission of a response to this bid or request for proposals, that no officer of the City of Rockford, Illinois, is directly or indirectly interested in the proposal for any reason of personal gain.

31. Non-Waiver. The failure by the City to require performance of any provision shall not affect the City's right to require performance at any time thereafter, nor shall a waiver of any breach or default of this contract constitute a waiver of any subsequent breach or default or a waiver of the provision itself.

32. Professional Services Selection Act. The City of Rockford intends to comply with 50 ILCS 510/5 governing the selection of professional services. Any reference in these terms and conditions to supplying pricing or price as a determining factor in selection do not apply for services covered by said act.

33. The City of Rockford reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals and to waive technicalities in submitted bids.

BID REQUIREMENTS FOR
EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

All bidders seeking to do business with the City of Rockford are **REQUIRED** to submit with any formal, sealed bid all of the following documents and information, attached herewith, completed and signed:

1. Equal Employment Opportunity Affirmative Action Plan Statement of Policy.

2. The Statement of Non-Compliance and Certificate of Non-Segregated Facilities.

3. The Contractor or Vendor Workforce Data Form listing all current employees, by classification, directly employed by the bidder. All categories of information requested must be supplied.
   Note: The number of employees must be entered under each category (no check marks)

   Below are the Federal definitions of the following racial groups accepted as minorities by the City of Rockford:
   Black: A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa, not of Hispanic origin.
   Hispanic: A person of Spanish or Portuguese culture with origins in Mexico, South or Central America, or the Caribbean Islands, regardless of race.
   Asian: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands. This area includes for example, China, Japan, Korea, the Philippine Republic and Samoa.
   American Indian or Alaskan Native: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America.

4. Your State of Illinois Pre-Qualification Certification Number, issued by the Illinois Department of Human Rights for the Illinois Department of Human Rights Act, must provide expiration date entered in the place provided therefore.

5. Certificate of Non-Barred Bidding

6. All executed Subcontractor/Leased Operator and Supplier forms.

If you have not obtained your State of Illinois Pre-Qualification Number (item #4), by signing these documents you agree to make application for this number within 30 days from the date of bid opening.

ANY BID WHICH FAILS TO INCLUDE THE CITY OF ROCKFORD EEO PAGES 2, 4, 5, 6, AND 7, COMPLETED AND SIGNED WITH YOUR SEALED BID WILL NOT BE READ AND WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED – NO EXCEPTIONS.

Falsification of any required Equal Employment Opportunity or Affirmative Action information on the part of the bidder could result in rejection of the bid submitted or in the case where a contract has already been awarded, in the cancellation of said contract.

Any questions pertaining to E.E.O. requirements should be addressed to Ron Moore, Diversity Procurement Officer, Legal Department, 425 East State Street, Rockford, Illinois 61104, Phone: (815) 987-5622 or ron.moore@rockfordil.gov

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN
STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the policy of this company, _____ to provide equal employment opportunity without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, handicap, age or sex through a program of positive action affecting all employees. In this program, our company carries out the requirements of Federal Executive orders 11246 and 11375, Civil Rights Act of 1964, Equal Employment Act of 1972, and all other applicable laws, and indicates its active support of the principle of equal opportunity in employment.

At present, _____ % of our work force are minorities and _____ % of our work force are females, and we will attempt to utilize minorities and females through a positive, continuing program in all jobs for which we contract in the future. Our company will utilize referrals from the City of Rockford's Diversity Procurement Officer for use of minorities and females regarding any future job vacancies.

It is also our intent to make efforts to purchase supplies or equipment from small business concerns located in the City of Rockford or counties of Winnebago or Boone and owned in substantial part (at least 51 per cent) by minorities or females.

_____ is the official who will be responsible for implementing this policy statement.

_____ will be designated as the Equal Opportunity Officer in our company, responsible for submission of all required equal employment opportunity documents.

In addition, _____ is hereby authorized to sign payroll as well as this company's officers. (NOTE: If only officers will be authorized to sign payrolls, please fill in "No One" in this space.)

STATEMENT OF NONCOMPLIANCE

If the equal employment opportunity hearing committee determines that a contractor, subcontractor/leased operator of equipment or bidder is not in compliance with this chapter, (also known as Chapter 11, Article III the City of Rockford Equal Opportunity Employment Ordinance), the hearing committee shall issue and serve upon such person a written statement of noncompliance setting forth the manner in which it finds such person has violated this chapter, and imposing and/or requiring appropriate sanctions, including, but not limited to any and/or all of the following:

a. Denying, suspending or revoking qualifications, or declaring the contractor or subcontractor irresponsible and ineligible for future contracts or subcontracts until such time as the contractor or subcontractor shall demonstrate to the equal employment opportunity hearing committee that it is in compliance;

b. Withholding or delaying payment on the contractor or;

c. Suspending, avoiding or canceling contract work.

CERTIFICATION OF NON-SEGREGATED FACILITIES

The bidder certifies that he/she does not maintain or provide for his/her employees any segregated facilities at any of his/her establishments, and that he/she does not permit his/her employees to perform their services at any location, under his/her control, where segregated facilities are maintained. The bidder agrees that a breach of this certification will be a violation of the Equal Opportunity clause in any contract resulting from acceptance of this bid.

The bidder agrees that (except where he/she has obtained identical certification from proposed subcontractors/leased operators of equipment for specific time periods) he/she will obtain identical certification from proposed subcontractors/leased operators of equipment from the provisions of the Equal Opportunity clause, and that he/she will retain such certification in his/her files.

CONTRACTOR OR VENDOR WORKFORCE DATA FORM

BIDDERS NAME:

NUMBER OF ALL EMPLOYEES MUST BE ENTERED FOR EACH CATEGORY ---
(No Check Marks Or Bid Will Not Be Accepted)

	MALES					FEMALES				
ALL JOB CLASSIFICATIONS	**W**	**B**	**H**	**A**	**I**	**W**	**B**	**H**	**A**	**I**

W - WHITE B - BLACK H – HISPANIC A - ASIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER I - AMERICAN INDIAN

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS CERTIFICATION

Our Illinois Department of Human Rights Number is:

Must Provide Expiration Date:

CERTIFICATE OF NON-BARRED BIDDING

The undersigned certifies that it is not barred from bidding on this contract as a result of a conviction for the violation of State laws prohibiting bid rigging or bid rotating. The undersigned also certifies that current or prospective employees, contractors, and subcontractors/leased operators of equipment are not listed as Excluded Individuals/Entities with the US Government, as maintained by the US General Services Administration.

By signing below, the firm agrees that all information provided in the previous pages is accurate, and that if the firm below does not currently have a Department of Human Rights number they will apply for one within thirty days with the State of Illinois.

Authorized Signature

Title

Firm

Our firm is a:

Minority Business Enterprise _____ City-Certified? Yes ____ No ____

Women Business Enterprise _____ City Certified? Yes ____ No ____

Neither _____

(Revised 12/21/09)

Subcontractor/Leased Operator of Equipment Detail Form
City of Rockford

Firms submitting bids must supply information on Subcontractors/Leased Operators of Equipment selected for work on the project specified. It is required that Subcontractors/Leased Operators of Equipment listed below will be utilized for actual construction should the firm be awarded a contract. Any deviations from the list below require notice in writing and approval by the Diversity Procurement Officer, Central Services Manager, or their designee. This form may be duplicated if additional space is necessary, **all pages must be signed, and submitted.**

Subcontractor/Leased Operator Information Please provide business name and address, and a contact person.	**Type of Work Supplied** Describe the work the subcontractor/leased operator will perform for this contract.	**MBE/WBE Business?**	**Dollar Amount**	**Subcontract Percent of Bid Total**
Name _____ *Address* _____ *City, State* _____ *Contact* _____	_____	Y ☐ N ☐	$ _____	_____ %
Name _____ *Address* _____ *City, State* _____ *Contact* _____	_____	Y ☐ N ☐	$ _____	_____ %
Name _____ *Address* _____ *City, State* _____ *Contact* _____	_____	Y ☐ N ☐	$ _____	_____ %
Name _____ *Address* _____ *City, State* _____ *Contact* _____	_____	Y ☐ N ☐	$ _____	_____ %
Name _____ *Address* _____ *City, State* _____ *Contact* _____	_____	Y ☐ N ☐	$ _____	_____ %
Name _____ *Address* _____ *City, State* _____ *Contact* _____	_____	Y ☐ N ☐	$ _____	_____ %

The bidder intends to Subcontract/Lease Operators of Equipment for _____% of the total contract with MBE/WBE firms.

_____ _____ _____
Signed Title Date

Supplier Detail Form
City of Rockford

Firms submitting bids must supply information on suppliers selected for the project specified. It is required that suppliers listed below will be utilized during construction should the firm be awarded a contract. Any deviations from the list below require notice in writing and approval by the Diversity Procurement Officer, Central Services Manager, or their designee. This form may be duplicated if additional space is necessary, **all pages must be signed, and submitted.**

Supplier Information Please provide business name and address, and a contact person.	**Type of Product Supplied** Describe the product the supplier w provide for this contract.	**MBE/WBE Business?**	**Dollar Amount of Supply Contract**	**Supplier Percent of Bid Total**
Name _____ *Address* _____ *City, State* _____ *Contact* _____	_____	Y ☐ N ☐	$ _____	_____ %
Name _____ *Address* _____ *City, State* _____ *Contact* _____	_____	Y ☐ N ☐	$ _____	_____ %
Name _____ *Address* _____ *City, State* _____ *Contact* _____	_____	Y ☐ N ☐	$ _____	_____ %
Name _____ *Address* _____ *City, State* _____ *Contact* _____	_____	Y ☐ N ☐	$ _____	_____ %
Name _____ *Address* _____ *City, State* _____ *Contact* _____	_____	Y ☐ N ☐	$ _____	_____ %
Name _____ *Address* _____ *City, State* _____ *Contact* _____	_____	Y ☐ N ☐	$ _____	_____ %

The bidder intends to procure _____% of the total contract from MBE/WBE firms.

_____ _____ _____
Signed Title Date

Form **W-9**
(Rev. August 2013)
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification

Give Form to the requester. Do not send to the IRS.

Print or type
See **Specific Instructions** on page 2.

Name (as shown on your income tax return)

Business name/disregarded entity name, if different from above

Check appropriate box for federal tax classification:
☐ Individual/sole proprietor ☐ C Corporation ☐ S Corporation ☐ Partnership ☐ Trust/estate

☐ Limited liability company. Enter the tax classification (C=C corporation, S=S corporation, P=partnership) ▶

☐ Other (see instructions) ▶

Exemptions (see instructions):
Exempt payee code (if any)
Exemption from FATCA reporting code (if any)

Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.)

Requester's name and address (optional)
City of Rockford
425 East State Street
Rockford IL 61104

City, state, and ZIP code

List account number(s) here (optional)

Part I Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on the "Name" line to avoid backup withholding. For individuals, this is your social security number (SSN). However, for a resident alien, sole proprietor, or disregarded entity, see the Part I instructions on page 3. For other entities, it is your employer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a number, see *How to get a TIN* on page 3.

Note. If the account is in more than one name, see the chart on page 4 for guidelines on whose number to enter.

Social security number
☐☐☐ – ☐☐ – ☐☐☐☐

Employer identification number
☐☐ – ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Part II Certification

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

1. The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me), and
2. I am not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding, and
3. I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below), and
4. The FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reporting is correct.

Certification instructions. You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. See the instructions on page 3.

Sign Here **Signature of U.S. person ▶** **Date ▶**

General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

Future developments. The IRS has created a page on IRS.gov for information about Form W-9, at *www.irs.gov/w9*. Information about any future developments affecting Form W-9 (such as legislation enacted after we release it) will be posted on that page.

Purpose of Form

A person who is required to file an information return with the IRS must obtain your correct taxpayer identification number (TIN) to report, for example, income paid to you, payments made to you in settlement of payment card and third party network transactions, real estate transactions, mortgage interest you paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, or contributions you made to an IRA.

Use Form W-9 only if you are a U.S. person (including a resident alien), to provide your correct TIN to the person requesting it (the requester) and, when applicable, to:

1. Certify that the TIN you are giving is correct (or you are waiting for a number to be issued),
2. Certify that you are not subject to backup withholding, or
3. Claim exemption from backup withholding if you are a U.S. exempt payee. If applicable, you are also certifying that as a U.S. person, your allocable share of any partnership income from a U.S. trade or business is not subject to the withholding tax on foreign partners' share of effectively connected income, and
4. Certify that FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that you are exempt from the FATCA reporting, is correct.

Note. If you are a U.S. person and a requester gives you a form other than Form W-9 to request your TIN, you must use the requester's form if it is substantially similar to this Form W-9.

Definition of a U.S. person. For federal tax purposes, you are considered a U.S. person if you are:

- An individual who is a U.S. citizen or U.S. resident alien,
- A partnership, corporation, company, or association created or organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States,
- An estate (other than a foreign estate), or
- A domestic trust (as defined in Regulations section 301.7701-7).

Special rules for partnerships. Partnerships that conduct a trade or business in the United States are generally required to pay a withholding tax under section 1446 on any foreign partners' share of effectively connected taxable income from such business. Further, in certain cases where a Form W-9 has not been received, the rules under section 1446 require a partnership to presume that a partner is a foreign person, and pay the section 1446 withholding tax. Therefore, if you are a U.S. person that is a partner in a partnership conducting a trade or business in the United States, provide Form W-9 to the partnership to establish your U.S. status and avoid section 1446 withholding on your share of partnership income.

In the cases below, the following person must give Form W-9 to the partnership for purposes of establishing its U.S. status and avoiding withholding on its allocable share of net income from the partnership conducting a trade or business in the United States:

- In the case of a disregarded entity with a U.S. owner, the U.S. owner of the disregarded entity and not the entity,
- In the case of a grantor trust with a U.S. grantor or other U.S. owner, generally, the U.S. grantor or other U.S. owner of the grantor trust and not the trust, and
- In the case of a U.S. trust (other than a grantor trust), the U.S. trust (other than a grantor trust) and not the beneficiaries of the trust.

Foreign person. If you are a foreign person or the U.S. branch of a foreign bank that has elected to be treated as a U.S. person, do not use Form W-9. Instead, use the appropriate Form W-8 or Form 8233 (see Publication 515, Withholding of Tax on Nonresident Aliens and Foreign Entities).

Nonresident alien who becomes a resident alien. Generally, only a nonresident alien individual may use the terms of a tax treaty to reduce or eliminate U.S. tax on certain types of income. However, most tax treaties contain a provision known as a "saving clause." Exceptions specified in the saving clause may permit an exemption from tax to continue for certain types of income even after the payee has otherwise become a U.S. resident alien for tax purposes.

If you are a U.S. resident alien who is relying on an exception contained in the saving clause of a tax treaty to claim an exemption from U.S. tax on certain types of income, you must attach a statement to Form W-9 that specifies the following five items:

1. The treaty country. Generally, this must be the same treaty under which you claimed exemption from tax as a nonresident alien.
2. The treaty article addressing the income.
3. The article number (or location) in the tax treaty that contains the saving clause and its exceptions.
4. The type and amount of income that qualifies for the exemption from tax.
5. Sufficient facts to justify the exemption from tax under the terms of the treaty article.

Example. Article 20 of the U.S.-China income tax treaty allows an exemption from tax for scholarship income received by a Chinese student temporarily present in the United States. Under U.S. law, this student will become a resident alien for tax purposes if his or her stay in the United States exceeds 5 calendar years. However, paragraph 2 of the first Protocol to the U.S.-China treaty (dated April 30, 1984) allows the provisions of Article 20 to continue to apply even after the Chinese student becomes a resident alien of the United States. A Chinese student who qualifies for this exception (under paragraph 2 of the first protocol) and is relying on this exception to claim an exemption from tax on his or her scholarship or fellowship income would attach to Form W-9 a statement that includes the information described above to support that exemption.

If you are a nonresident alien or a foreign entity, give the requester the appropriate completed Form W-8 or Form 8233.

What is backup withholding? Persons making certain payments to you must under certain conditions withhold and pay to the IRS a percentage of such payments. This is called "backup withholding." Payments that may be subject to backup withholding include interest, tax-exempt interest, dividends, broker and barter exchange transactions, rents, royalties, nonemployee pay, payments made in settlement of payment card and third party network transactions, and certain payments from fishing boat operators. Real estate transactions are not subject to backup withholding.

You will not be subject to backup withholding on payments you receive if you give the requester your correct TIN, make the proper certifications, and report all your taxable interest and dividends on your tax return.

Payments you receive will be subject to backup withholding if:

1. You do not furnish your TIN to the requester,
2. You do not certify your TIN when required (see the Part II instructions on page 3 for details),
3. The IRS tells the requester that you furnished an incorrect TIN,
4. The IRS tells you that you are subject to backup withholding because you did not report all your interest and dividends on your tax return (for reportable interest and dividends only), or
5. You do not certify to the requester that you are not subject to backup withholding under 4 above (for reportable interest and dividend accounts opened after 1983 only).

Certain payees and payments are exempt from backup withholding. See *Exempt payee code* on page 3 and the separate Instructions for the Requester of Form W-9 for more information.

Also see *Special rules for partnerships* on page 1.

What is FATCA reporting? The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) requires a participating foreign financial institution to report all United States account holders that are specified United States persons. Certain payees are exempt from FATCA reporting. See *Exemption from FATCA reporting code* on page 3 and the Instructions for the Requester of Form W-9 for more information.

Updating Your Information

You must provide updated information to any person to whom you claimed to be an exempt payee if you are no longer an exempt payee and anticipate receiving reportable payments in the future from this person. For example, you may need to provide updated information if you are a C corporation that elects to be an S corporation, or if you no longer are tax exempt. In addition, you must furnish a new Form W-9 if the name or TIN changes for the account, for example, if the grantor of a grantor trust dies.

Penalties

Failure to furnish TIN. If you fail to furnish your correct TIN to a requester, you are subject to a penalty of $50 for each such failure unless your failure is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect.

Civil penalty for false information with respect to withholding. If you make a false statement with no reasonable basis that results in no backup withholding, you are subject to a $500 penalty.

Criminal penalty for falsifying information. Willfully falsifying certifications or affirmations may subject you to criminal penalties including fines and/or imprisonment.

Misuse of TINs. If the requester discloses or uses TINs in violation of federal law, the requester may be subject to civil and criminal penalties.

Specific Instructions

Name

If you are an individual, you must generally enter the name shown on your income tax return. However, if you have changed your last name, for instance, due to marriage without informing the Social Security Administration of the name change, enter your first name, the last name shown on your social security card, and your new last name.

If the account is in joint names, list first, and then circle, the name of the person or entity whose number you entered in Part I of the form.

Sole proprietor. Enter your individual name as shown on your income tax return on the "Name" line. You may enter your business, trade, or "doing business as (DBA)" name on the "Business name/disregarded entity name" line.

Partnership, C Corporation, or S Corporation. Enter the entity's name on the "Name" line and any business, trade, or "doing business as (DBA) name" on the "Business name/disregarded entity name" line.

Disregarded entity. For U.S. federal tax purposes, an entity that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner is treated as a "disregarded entity." See Regulation section 301.7701-2(c)(2)(iii). Enter the owner's name on the "Name" line. The name of the entity entered on the "Name" line should never be a disregarded entity. The name on the "Name" line must be the name shown on the income tax return on which the income should be reported. For example, if a foreign LLC that is treated as a disregarded entity for U.S. federal tax purposes has a single owner that is a U.S. person, the U.S. owner's name is required to be provided on the "Name" line. If the direct owner of the entity is also a disregarded entity, enter the first owner that is not disregarded for federal tax purposes. Enter the disregarded entity's name on the "Business name/disregarded entity name" line. If the owner of the disregarded entity is a foreign person, the owner must complete an appropriate Form W-8 instead of a Form W-9. This is the case even if the foreign person has a U.S. TIN.

Note. Check the appropriate box for the U.S. federal tax classification of the person whose name is entered on the "Name" line (Individual/sole proprietor, Partnership, C Corporation, S Corporation, Trust/estate).

Limited Liability Company (LLC). If the person identified on the "Name" line is an LLC, check the "Limited liability company" box only and enter the appropriate code for the U.S. federal tax classification in the space provided. If you are an LLC that is treated as a partnership for U.S. federal tax purposes, enter "P" for partnership. If you are an LLC that has filed a Form 8832 or a Form 2553 to be taxed as a corporation, enter "C" for C corporation or "S" for S corporation, as appropriate. If you are an LLC that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner under Regulation section 301.7701-3 (except for employment and excise tax), do not check the LLC box unless the owner of the LLC (required to be identified on the "Name" line) is another LLC that is not disregarded for U.S. federal tax purposes. If the LLC is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner, enter the appropriate tax classification of the owner identified on the "Name" line.

Other entities. Enter your business name as shown on required U.S. federal tax documents on the "Name" line. This name should match the name shown on the charter or other legal document creating the entity. You may enter any business, trade, or DBA name on the "Business name/disregarded entity name" line.

Exemptions

If you are exempt from backup withholding and/or FATCA reporting, enter in the *Exemptions* box, any code(s) that may apply to you. See *Exempt payee code* and *Exemption from FATCA reporting code* on page 3.

Exempt payee code. Generally, individuals (including sole proprietors) are not exempt from backup withholding. Corporations are exempt from backup withholding for certain payments, such as interest and dividends. Corporations are not exempt from backup withholding for payments made in settlement of payment card or third party network transactions.

Note. If you are exempt from backup withholding, you should still complete this form to avoid possible erroneous backup withholding.

The following codes identify payees that are exempt from backup withholding:

1—An organization exempt from tax under section 501(a), any IRA, or a custodial account under section 403(b)(7) if the account satisfies the requirements of section 401(f)(2)

2—The United States or any of its agencies or instrumentalities

3—A state, the District of Columbia, a possession of the United States, or any of their political subdivisions or instrumentalities

4—A foreign government or any of its political subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities

5—A corporation

6—A dealer in securities or commodities required to register in the United States, the District of Columbia, or a possession of the United States

7—A futures commission merchant registered with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission

8—A real estate investment trust

9—An entity registered at all times during the tax year under the Investment Company Act of 1940

10—A common trust fund operated by a bank under section 584(a)

11—A financial institution

12—A middleman known in the investment community as a nominee or custodian

13—A trust exempt from tax under section 664 or described in section 4947

The following chart shows types of payments that may be exempt from backup withholding. The chart applies to the exempt payees listed above, 1 through 13.

IF the payment is for . . .	THEN the payment is exempt for . . .
Interest and dividend payments	All exempt payees except for 7
Broker transactions	Exempt payees 1 through 4 and 6 through 11 and all C corporations. S corporations must not enter an exempt payee code because they are exempt only for sales of noncovered securities acquired prior to 2012.
Barter exchange transactions and patronage dividends	Exempt payees 1 through 4
Payments over $600 required to be reported and direct sales over $5,000[1]	Generally, exempt payees 1 through 5[2]
Payments made in settlement of payment card or third party network transactions	Exempt payees 1 through 4

[1] See Form 1099-MISC, Miscellaneous Income, and its instructions.

[2] However, the following payments made to a corporation and reportable on Form 1099-MISC are not exempt from backup withholding: medical and health care payments, attorneys' fees, gross proceeds paid to an attorney, and payments for services paid by a federal executive agency.

Exemption from FATCA reporting code. The following codes identify payees that are exempt from reporting under FATCA. These codes apply to persons submitting this form for accounts maintained outside of the United States by certain foreign financial institutions. Therefore, if you are only submitting this form for an account you hold in the United States, you may leave this field blank. Consult with the person requesting this form if you are uncertain if the financial institution is subject to these requirements.

A—An organization exempt from tax under section 501(a) or any individual retirement plan as defined in section 7701(a)(37)

B—The United States or any of its agencies or instrumentalities

C—A state, the District of Columbia, a possession of the United States, or any of their political subdivisions or instrumentalities

D—A corporation the stock of which is regularly traded on one or more established securities markets, as described in Reg. section 1.1472-1(c)(1)(i)

E—A corporation that is a member of the same expanded affiliated group as a corporation described in Reg. section 1.1472-1(c)(1)(i)

F—A dealer in securities, commodities, or derivative financial instruments (including notional principal contracts, futures, forwards, and options) that is registered as such under the laws of the United States or any state

G—A real estate investment trust

H—A regulated investment company as defined in section 851 or an entity registered at all times during the tax year under the Investment Company Act of 1940

I—A common trust fund as defined in section 584(a)

J—A bank as defined in section 581

K—A broker

L—A trust exempt from tax under section 664 or described in section 4947(a)(1)

M—A tax exempt trust under a section 403(b) plan or section 457(g) plan

Part I. Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. If you are a resident alien and you do not have and are not eligible to get an SSN, your TIN is your IRS individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN). Enter it in the social security number box. If you do not have an ITIN, see *How to get a TIN* below.

If you are a sole proprietor and you have an EIN, you may enter either your SSN or EIN. However, the IRS prefers that you use your SSN.

If you are a single-member LLC that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner (see *Limited Liability Company (LLC)* on page 2), enter the owner's SSN (or EIN, if the owner has one). Do not enter the disregarded entity's EIN. If the LLC is classified as a corporation or partnership, enter the entity's EIN.

Note. See the chart on page 4 for further clarification of name and TIN combinations.

How to get a TIN. If you do not have a TIN, apply for one immediately. To apply for an SSN, get Form SS-5, Application for a Social Security Card, from your local Social Security Administration office or get this form online at *www.ssa.gov*. You may also get this form by calling 1-800-772-1213. Use Form W-7, Application for IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, to apply for an ITIN, or Form SS-4, Application for Employer Identification Number, to apply for an EIN. You can apply for an EIN online by accessing the IRS website at *www.irs.gov/businesses* and clicking on Employer Identification Number (EIN) under Starting a Business. You can get Forms W-7 and SS-4 from the IRS by visiting IRS.gov or by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

If you are asked to complete Form W-9 but do not have a TIN, apply for a TIN and write "Applied For" in the space for the TIN, sign and date the form, and give it to the requester. For interest and dividend payments, and certain payments made with respect to readily tradable instruments, generally you will have 60 days to get a TIN and give it to the requester before you are subject to backup withholding on payments. The 60-day rule does not apply to other types of payments. You will be subject to backup withholding on all such payments until you provide your TIN to the requester.

Note. Entering "Applied For" means that you have already applied for a TIN or that you intend to apply for one soon.

Caution: *A disregarded U.S. entity that has a foreign owner must use the appropriate Form W-8.*

Part II. Certification

To establish to the withholding agent that you are a U.S. person, or resident alien, sign Form W-9. You may be requested to sign by the withholding agent even if items 1, 4, or 5 below indicate otherwise.

For a joint account, only the person whose TIN is shown in Part I should sign (when required). In the case of a disregarded entity, the person identified on the "Name" line must sign. Exempt payees, see *Exempt payee code* earlier.

Signature requirements. Complete the certification as indicated in items 1 through 5 below.

1. Interest, dividend, and barter exchange accounts opened before 1984 and broker accounts considered active during 1983. You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification.

2. Interest, dividend, broker, and barter exchange accounts opened after 1983 and broker accounts considered inactive during 1983. You must sign the certification or backup withholding will apply. If you are subject to backup withholding and you are merely providing your correct TIN to the requester, you must cross out item 2 in the certification before signing the form.

3. Real estate transactions. You must sign the certification. You may cross out item 2 of the certification.

4. Other payments. You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification unless you have been notified that you have previously given an incorrect TIN. "Other payments" include payments made in the course of the requester's trade or business for rents, royalties, goods (other than bills for merchandise), medical and health care services (including payments to corporations), payments to a nonemployee for services, payments made in settlement of payment card and third party network transactions, payments to certain fishing boat crew members and fishermen, and gross proceeds paid to attorneys (including payments to corporations).

5. Mortgage interest paid by you, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, qualified tuition program payments (under section 529), IRA, Coverdell ESA, Archer MSA or HSA contributions or distributions, and pension distributions. You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification.

What Name and Number To Give the Requester

For this type of account:	Give name and SSN of:
1. Individual	The individual
2. Two or more individuals (joint account)	The actual owner of the account or, if combined funds, the first individual on the account [1]
3. Custodian account of a minor (Uniform Gift to Minors Act)	The minor [2]
4. a. The usual revocable savings trust (grantor is also trustee)	The grantor-trustee [1]
b. So-called trust account that is not a legal or valid trust under state law	The actual owner [1]
5. Sole proprietorship or disregarded entity owned by an individual	The owner [3]
6. Grantor trust filing under Optional Form 1099 Filing Method 1 (see Regulation section 1.671-4(b)(2)(i)(A))	The grantor*
For this type of account:	**Give name and EIN of:**
7. Disregarded entity not owned by an individual	The owner
8. A valid trust, estate, or pension trust	Legal entity [4]
9. Corporation or LLC electing corporate status on Form 8832 or Form 2553	The corporation
10. Association, club, religious, charitable, educational, or other tax-exempt organization	The organization
11. Partnership or multi-member LLC	The partnership
12. A broker or registered nominee	The broker or nominee
13. Account with the Department of Agriculture in the name of a public entity (such as a state or local government, school district, or prison) that receives agricultural program payments	The public entity
14. Grantor trust filing under the Form 1041 Filing Method or the Optional Form 1099 Filing Method 2 (see Regulation section 1.671-4(b)(2)(i)(B))	The trust

[1] List first and circle the name of the person whose number you furnish. If only one person on a joint account has an SSN, that person's number must be furnished.

[2] Circle the minor's name and furnish the minor's SSN.

[3] You must show your individual name and you may also enter your business or "DBA" name on the "Business name/disregarded entity" name line. You may use either your SSN or EIN (if you have one), but the IRS encourages you to use your SSN.

[4] List first and circle the name of the trust, estate, or pension trust. (Do not furnish the TIN of the personal representative or trustee unless the legal entity itself is not designated in the account title.) Also see *Special rules for partnerships* on page 1.

***Note.** Grantor also must provide a Form W-9 to trustee of trust.

Note. If no name is circled when more than one name is listed, the number will be considered to be that of the first name listed.

Secure Your Tax Records from Identity Theft

Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal information such as your name, social security number (SSN), or other identifying information, without your permission, to commit fraud or other crimes. An identity thief may use your SSN to get a job or may file a tax return using your SSN to receive a refund.

To reduce your risk:

- Protect your SSN,
- Ensure your employer is protecting your SSN, and
- Be careful when choosing a tax preparer.

If your tax records are affected by identity theft and you receive a notice from the IRS, respond right away to the name and phone number printed on the IRS notice or letter.

If your tax records are not currently affected by identity theft but you think you are at risk due to a lost or stolen purse or wallet, questionable credit card activity or credit report, contact the IRS Identity Theft Hotline at 1-800-908-4490 or submit Form 14039.

For more information, see Publication 4535, Identity Theft Prevention and Victim Assistance.

Victims of identity theft who are experiencing economic harm or a system problem, or are seeking help in resolving tax problems that have not been resolved through normal channels, may be eligible for Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) assistance. You can reach TAS by calling the TAS toll-free case intake line at 1-877-777-4778 or TTY/TDD 1-800-829-4059.

Protect yourself from suspicious emails or phishing schemes. Phishing is the creation and use of email and websites designed to mimic legitimate business emails and websites. The most common act is sending an email to a user falsely claiming to be an established legitimate enterprise in an attempt to scam the user into surrendering private information that will be used for identity theft.

The IRS does not initiate contacts with taxpayers via emails. Also, the IRS does not request personal detailed information through email or ask taxpayers for the PIN numbers, passwords, or similar secret access information for their credit card, bank, or other financial accounts.

If you receive an unsolicited email claiming to be from the IRS, forward this message to *phishing@irs.gov*. You may also report misuse of the IRS name, logo, or other IRS property to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1-800-366-4484. You can forward suspicious emails to the Federal Trade Commission at: *spam@uce.gov* or contact them at *www.ftc.gov/idtheft* or 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338).

Visit IRS.gov to learn more about identity theft and how to reduce your risk.

Privacy Act Notice

Section 6109 of the Internal Revenue Code requires you to provide your correct TIN to persons (including federal agencies) who are required to file information returns with the IRS to report interest, dividends, or certain other income paid to you; mortgage interest you paid; the acquisition or abandonment of secured property; the cancellation of debt; or contributions you made to an IRA, Archer MSA, or HSA. The person collecting this form uses the information on the form to file information returns with the IRS, reporting the above information. Routine uses of this information include giving it to the Department of Justice for civil and criminal litigation and to cities, states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. commonwealths and possessions for use in administering their laws. The information also may be disclosed to other countries under a treaty, to federal and state agencies to enforce civil and criminal laws, or to federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism. You must provide your TIN whether or not you are required to file a tax return. Under section 3406, payers must generally withhold a percentage of taxable interest, dividend, and certain other payments to a payee who does not give a TIN to the payer. Certain penalties may also apply for providing false or fraudulent information.

City-wide Weed Abatement
Bid No.: 314-CD-018

1.0 General Scope

1.1 The City of Rockford is seeking bids from qualified vendors to perform contract work which consists of all labor, materials, equipment, and supplies necessary to perform weed abatement. The following specifications describe the work to be completed, what is required of the successful vendor, and any other information needed for a vendor to submit a responsible bid.

1.2 Examination of the Requirements. Vendors shall carefully examine the requirements for the project. To eliminate misconceptions, verify dimensions, elevation, working conditions, equipment needed, transportation and storage facilities. Vendors shall give due consideration to same in preparing their proposals as no exceptions will be considered after awarding the contract, nor will the vendor be entitled to any extra compensation for his/her failure to verify their ability to fulfill the requirements in the contract and the City of Rockford Weeds Ordinance 302.4.

2.0 Standards and Regulations

2.1 License. Vendors shall secure all permits and licenses that may be required by federal, state or local laws. All costs for any and all permits and licenses shall be included in the bid, as no additional cost to the City will be allowed for such items at a later date.

2.2 Ordinances. Vendors shall observe all ordinances in the performance of this contract including the City of Rockford's Noise Ordinance which prohibits the operation of ground maintenance equipment between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. within 600 feet of any building used for residential or hospital purposes.

***302.4 Weeds**. All premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from weeds or plant growth in excess of 10 inches (254 mm). All noxious weeds shall be prohibited. Weeds shall be defined as all grasses, annual plants, and vegetation, overgrowth, and underbrush other than trees or shrubs provided; however, this term shall not include cultivated crops, flowers and gardens. Enforcement of this provision shall be as provided in this Code, in Article I., Chapter 13, City of Rockford Code of Ordinances, and the provisions of Illinois Compiled Statutes, Chapter 65, Section 5/11-20-7. The city may pursue any or all of the remedies provided above in enforcement of this provision. When, overgrowth of weeds or plants endangers the public health and safety or when there is actual or potential danger in the proximity of dwellings and/or the public right-of-way, the code official shall cause the cutting of such weeds or plants, either through an available public agency or by contract or arrangement with private persons, and the cost of such cutting shall be charged against the real estate upon which the weeds or plants are located.*

3.0 General Requirements

3.1 Vendor Qualifications. No contract shall be awarded except to responsible vendors capable of providing the service described. Before being considered for the award, vendors will be required to show evidence of the necessary experience, facilities, **equipment**, ability, and financial resources to perform the work in a satisfactory manner and within the time constraints stipulated. The City of Rockford shall make the final determination as to the vendor's ability to provide the desired services.

3.2 Experience. Only vendors with past experience with similar work as specified herein shall be considered for this project. **All vendors who submit bids shall include documentation indicating past experience, type and quantity of relevant equipment owned, and references to receive full consideration for contract award.**

3.3 Basis of Award. The City will award this contract to the lowest responsive and responsible vendors that are able to meet the requirements and criteria set forth in this document. A "responsive vendor" is able to provide a product or service that conforms in all material respects to the specifications detailed in this document. A

"responsible vendor" is a corporation, company, or person who has the ability in all respects to provide the product or service desired at the highest possible standards of quality. The City of Rockford may award the contract based on line item categories, by division or as a whole, whichever best serves the interest of the City. The City of Rockford reserves the right to amend the list of vendors/ contractors after the initial bid to contract is awarded.

3.4 Contract Non-Performance. It is understood that if, in the opinion of the designated City of Rockford representative, it is apparent that the vendor is not able to meet the requirements of these specifications, then the designated City of Rockford representative, in conjunction with the Central Services Manager, may reduce or terminate the contract with two weeks written notice, whichever is in the best interest of the City of Rockford. Every effort will be made to assist the vendor making a good faith effort to meet the obligations of the contract. However, nothing in this section shall undermine the City's ability to take action on poor performance or default of contract as described above.

3.5 Vendor Contact. The vendor agrees to provide the City with a phone number(s) and an email address at which the vendor can be reached during work hours (Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) and further agrees to return calls, messages, and emails left by the City **within 24 hours.**

3.6 Invoicing. All contractor invoices must be emailed to the City of Rockford Code Enforcement office within 10 business days of work completion in order to receive payment.

3.7 Insurance Requirements. Upon execution of the contract, and prior to the vendor commencing any work or services with regard to the project, the vendor shall carry commercial general liability insurance, umbrella liability insurance, and automobile liability insurance on ISO form CG 00 01 10 01 (or a substitute form providing equivalent coverage) and the vendor shall provide the City with a Certificate of Insurance and Additional Insured Endorsement on ISO form CG 20 10 11 85 (or substitute form providing equivalent coverage) or on the combination of ISO forms CG 20 10 10 01 and CG 20 37 10 01 (or substitute forms providing equivalent coverage) naming the City as Additional Insured there under. Additional insured coverage shall apply as primary insurance and be noncontributory with respect to any other insurance afforded to the City. All coverage shall be placed with an insurance company duly admitted in the State of Illinois and shall be reasonably acceptable to the City. All vendor insurance carriers must maintain an A.M. Best rating of "A-"or better. Coverage shall be afforded to the additional insured whether or not a claim is in litigation.
The insurance coverage required above shall be of sufficient type, scope and duration to ensure coverage for the City for liability related to any manifestation date within the applicable statutes of limitation and/or repose which pertain to any work performed by or on behalf of the City in relation to the contract. The following insurance requirements shall apply to the successful vendor for the duration of the contract unless explicitly waived by the Central Services Manager:

3.7.1 Commercial General Liability. The coverage available to the City, as Additional Insured, shall not be less than $1 million each occurrence, $1 million general aggregate (subject to a per project general aggregate provision applicable to the project), $1 million products/completed operations aggregate and $1 million personal and advertising injury limits. Such insurance shall cover liability arising from premises, operations, independent vendors, products-completed operations, personal and advertising injury, and liability assumed under an insured contract (including the tort liability of another assumed in a business contract).

3.7.2 Umbrella Liability. The coverage available to the City, as Additional Insured, shall not be less than $1 million each occurrence, $1 million generate aggregate. Such insurance shall cover liability arising from premises, operations, independent vendors, products-completed operations, personal and advertising injury, and liability assumed under an insured contract (including the tort liability of another assumed in a business contract).

3.7.3 Automobile Coverage. The coverage available to the City, as Additional Insured, shall include comprehensive automobile bodily injury and property damage liability coverage for a minimum amount of $1 million each occurrence, $1 million general aggregate.

3.7.4 Workers Compensation. Vendor shall maintain during the life of this contract statutory workmen's compensation and employer's liability insurance for all his employees engaged in work on the job site.

3.7.5 Insurance Certificates. Each Certificate of insurance shall provide that the insurer must give the City at least 30 days' prior written notice of cancellation and termination of the City's coverage thereunder. Not less than two weeks prior to the expiration, cancellation or termination of any such policy, the vendor shall supply the City with a new and replacement Certificate of Insurance and Additional Insured endorsement as proof of renewal of said original policy. Said new and replacement endorsements shall be similarly endorsed in favor of the City as set forth above.

3.8 Term of Contract. Vendor shall provide Weed Abatement services from date of award until December 31, 2014. Upon mutual consent, the City and the vendor may agree to extend the contract for four (4) additional one-year terms.

3.9 Liquidated Damages. The Vendor is responsible to remove trash and debris prior to each mowing occurrence as outlined in paragraph 5.2. If the Vendor fails to effectively remove trash and debris based on the observance of the designated City of Rockford representative or his designee, the City will notify the vendor of default *(see section 4.2.4)*. The cost incurred to remedy the nuisance by the City may be deducted from any payments due to the Vendor from the City.

3.10 Contact. Questions regarding the contract shall be directed to Xavier Whitford, Financial Analyst at (815) 967-6938.

3.11 Bid form. The bid form attached consists of a number of sections. A price is requested from the vendor for each mowing occurrence at each site. At the bottom of each bid form is a total for all sites included in each group. In the blank provided, please add the cost of mowing each site included in the group for each occurrence to get a total per occurrence charge for each group. Vendors may bid on any or all sites and groups unless otherwise noted in division award section. The award will be made on whatever combination the City deems most advantageous. The City of Rockford reserves the right to amend the regulations of Section 302.4 of the Property Maintenance Code and the enforcement of said ordinance without affect to the bid to contract.

4.0 Vendor Performance

The vendor agrees to perform its obligations demonstrating quality workmanship and completion of all work in a timely manner.

4.1 Abatement. The City will notify the vendor when mowing services are needed at any site, and the vendor shall complete such maintenance within a maximum of 5 business days from issuance of cut order, unless an alternate time allotment is mutually agreed upon due to extenuating circumstances.

4.2 Weeds. Trimming of weeds and plants growing from sidewalk cracks, along curb lines, on fence line or roadway edges, so as to detract from the appearance of the site, are the responsibility of the vendor.

4.3 Final Appearance. To present a neat, clean appearance the vendor shall after each mowing occurrence clear grass clippings and other debris from sidewalks, driveways, curb side of street and paved areas. Vendors should avoid making contact with trees, shrubs, and ornamentals by mowers or string-trimmers.

4.4 Assignment of work. Work is assigned via cut orders which will be emailed to the Contractor from the Code Enforcement Division. New cut orders will not be issued if any outstanding cut orders have exceeded the time limit for proper notification and verification, *unless a previously approved extension has been granted due to weather or extenuating circumstances*.

4.5 Verification of Cut Orders. It is the vendors' responsibility to email this information to the designated email address provided by Code Enforcement for assigned cut orders within 24 hours of completion. *Vendors must specify cut order # and site address completed.* Completed cut orders that have not been emailed to be verified

within 24 hours of the time allotted will be re-assigned to the next approved contractor to be completed. The originally assigned vendor that was assigned the cut order assumes any costs incurred as a result of this failure to appropriately notify staff. *The City of Rockford reserves the right to make changes or alterations to the email address to be utilized for reporting.*

4.6 Work Acceptance. The City of Rockford will designate a representative who will be responsible for responding to all questions that may arise as to the quality and acceptability of work performed under the contract. If, in the opinion of the designated City of Rockford representative, performance is unsatisfactory, the City shall notify the vendor of the areas of concern via email. **The vendor will have three (3) calendar days from the date of notification to correct any specific instances of unsatisfactory performance.** Corrective measures required by the City of the vendor to meet performance standards will be completed at **no additional charge** to the City.

4.7 Additional Charges and Invoices. Extremely tall grass and weeds, and the abatement of same, is the expressed purpose of this contract. Tall growth alone does not constitute justification to add to the awarded bid amount. The totality of the situation, including, but not limited to, height of growth, volume of debris, lot terrain, water saturation, etc., will be considered prior to issuance of cut orders by City of Rockford designated staff. It is the sole responsibility of the vendor to present and maintain any and all documentation *(i.e. digital photos, copies of all related paperwork, and recorded dates/times of activities related to invoicing)* related to requests for additional compensation when work is considered more than normal and customary. As a rule, these conditions will be noted on cut-orders along with appropriate charges.

4.8 Equipment Issues. It is the responsibility of the vendor to immediately notify the City of any mechanical failures or any other circumstance that may delay or prevent the vendor from completing the work as scheduled.

4.9 Equipment/safety. The vendor shall remove equipment at the completion of the workday. The City of Rockford does not assume any responsibility, at any time, for the protection of or loss of equipment or supplies either at the work site or elsewhere.

5.0 On-Site Requirements

5.1 Removal of yard waste. In the event that mulching is not possible due to the length of grass/ weeds at time of mowing, all yard waste must be removed from the property, and properly disposed of by the contractor or a designee of the contractor.

5.2 On-site preparation work. Prior to each mowing occurrence, the vendor shall pick clean the entire site, removing all litter, trash, branches, glass, and debris. Paper, cups and other litter must not be mowed so as to detract from the sites' appearance. "Minimal" cleanup is defined as the amount of debris that would fill two (2) forty-gallon trash bags. Any cleanup beyond this amount must be referred to a Zone Coordinator or other City of Rockford designee for on-site inspection and verification for possible additional charges.

5.3 String-Trimming. Final trimming around permanent objects such as trees, posts, shrubs, fences, guard rails, buildings, and signs will be accomplished with suitable mechanical equipment at the same cutting height as the rest of the turf.

5.4 Labor, Tools, and Equipment. The vendor agrees to furnish all necessary labor, tools and equipment in connection with the grounds maintenance of the specified locations.

5.5 Equipment. Mowing equipment can include riding mowers, walk behind mowers, nylon line trimmers and hand clipping, where necessary. Mowing equipment shall be kept in good, safe operating condition with sharp blades so that the grass is cut properly and in such a condition that oil and gasoline are not leaked.

5.6 Fueling and Oiling. Spilled gasoline and oil kills grass. Mowers will not be fueled and oiled in grass areas. They should be moved to paved areas for this function.

5.7 Scheduling. The vendor will perform the work in accordance with the schedule provided or the instructions received from the City representative. Per Ordinance the work may be performed between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. and on any day or days of the week in accordance with the City's noise ordinance (see Section 2.3). If special circumstances require different hours the vendor shall seek approval for such a change from the City.

City-wide Weed Abatement
Bid No.: 314-CD-018

We bid as follows on a per cut basis:

PARCEL TYPE	SIZE	COST PER CUT
Weed abatement: to include mowing, string trimming, and minimal clean up		
Parcel w/o home	¼ acre or less	$ _____
Parcel w/home	¼ acre or less	$ _____
Parcel w/o home	Between ¼ and 1 acre	$ _____
Parcel w/home	Between ¼ and 1 acre	$ _____
Parcel w/o home	Between 1 and 2 acres	$ _____
Parcel w/home	Between 1 and 2 acres	$ _____
Large parcels	Greater than 2 acres	$ _____
	(Cost per acre actually cut)	_____

Difficult terrain of any size and property cleans will be assessed and bid on a case by case basis.

_____
Person, Firm or Corporation

_____
Authorized Signature and Title