



NOTICE TO POTENTIAL PROPONENTS
Property Available for Urban Agriculture Opportunities

Please review the attached document and submit your Expression of Interest to the address noted below by the closing deadline of 4:00 pm (local time) on November 28th, 2013.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)
Contract #WMD13-04

For:
Establishing and Operating
The Living City Farm, Kortright Center for Conservation, 9550 Pine Valley Drive, City of Vaughan

Ms. Sonia Dhir
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
5 Shoreham Drive
Toronto, Ontario
M3N 1S4

Email: sdhir@trca.on.ca
T: 416-661-6600, ext. 5291

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Establishing and Operating
The Living City Farm, Kortright Center for Conservation, 9550 Pine Valley Drive, City of Vaughan

OPPORTUNITY

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) is inviting individuals and organizations to submit an Expression of Interest to establish and operate an urban farm on TRCA land located at the Kortright Centre for Conservation, 9550 Pine Valley Drive, City of Vaughan. TRCA will contact only those proponents that will be invited to submit a full proposal.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

TRCA's general goals and objectives for sustainable urban agriculture at the Kortright Centre are as follows:

- Establish a permanent urban agricultural enterprise that can provide local food for functions and day use visitors. TRCA is a potential purchaser for produce grown on-site.
- Provide opportunities for community economic development by creating jobs and meaningful work for the local community.
- Reduce the volume of agricultural imports by providing locally-grown, raised and sold food; thus, reducing food miles and greenhouse gas emissions related to food transportation and, in turn, helping to reduce the impacts of climate change.
- Provide a space for celebrating the cultural diversity of communities by growing a diverse range of crops.
- Promote social equity and food security in communities by providing opportunities for increased accessibility to fresh, healthy foods.
- Partner with organizations to pilot and implement sustainable agricultural practices and programs which include Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) and Ecological Goods and Services (EG&S).
- Partner with TRCA, individuals and organizations to develop innovative educational programming focused on themes of sustainable urban agriculture including agricultural BMPs, sustainable farming practices, food security, food sources and food costs.
- Communicate and market local food as an integral part of sustainable communities.

BACKGROUND

1. Kortright Center for Conservation: The Living City Farm

The Kortright Centre for Conservation is Ontario's premiere environmental and renewable energy education and demonstration centre. Situated 10 minutes north of Toronto, in 325 hectares of pristine woodlands, Kortright Centre combines a natural oasis with some of the most leading edge sustainable education programs and events in Canada. The centre hosts 135,000 visitors annually and offers over 50 environmental education programs for schools, 30 sustainable technology workshops for the public, trades and professionals, and special functions such as weddings and business meetings. On-site food production could cater to these functions in partnership with TRCA Food Services personnel.

Since 1982, the Kortright Centre has been a centre of excellence in the field of sustainable technology. The sustainable technology education programs are anchored around The Power Trip Trail, a 1.6 kilometre trail which links a variety of demonstrations on renewable energy, energy efficiency, waste water treatment and sustainable building design. The Center has steadily been evolving its programs to embrace all of the elements that constitute a sustainable city region. TRCA considers local agriculture an important part of sustainable communities and wants to showcase it as part of the Centre's programming.

The Kortright Centre works with individuals and communities to accelerate the adoption of sustainable technologies and practices by providing educational programs, demonstrations and partnerships:

- to instill an awareness and appreciation of the natural world;
- to develop an understanding of the relationships between healthy ecological systems and our lifestyles;
- to demonstrate practical, relevant and leading edge sustainable technologies and practices;
- to motivate and support individuals, organizations, government and business to adopt sustainable options and actions; and
- to develop leaders, champions, projects and programs in the community that accelerates the transformation of the Toronto region into the most sustainable community in the world.

Assets for Lease:

The agricultural lease consists of approximately 2.8 hectares of productive king clay loam farmland, including a small heritage orchard, new 9 metre by 30 metre (approximate) greenhouse, as well as four animal cages which were once used for rehabilitating wild animals.

TRCA will work with the successful proponent to have a functioning irrigation system in place as part of finalizing the lease agreement, and the proponent occupying the property



9m x 30m Greenhouse



Animal Cage



Farm Land



Animal Cage

AGRICULTURE TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The following are general terms and conditions that apply to all farm leases on TRCA land. Please note that additional conditions will be added to suit the particular undertaking.

Examples of the terms and conditions to be discussed with the farm tenant as part of finalizing a lease agreement are as follows. This is not a complete list.

- Leases up to five years are permitted. Longer term leases are negotiable and are subject to approval by the Province of Ontario.
- Land and buildings are leased “as is” without any representations or warranties by TRCA as to use or condition.
- Sources of water and irrigation options.
- General liability insurance with TRCA named as an additional insured on the tenant’s Certificate of Insurance, and property damage insurance with provisions for rebuilding in the event of damage and destruction is required. Contents insurance is also required.
- Fair market rental rates for the buildings and land.
- Property maintenance standards.
- Tenant-landlord responsibilities.
- Beneficial Management Practices, as determined through the farm’s Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan (EFP), to be followed by the tenant.
- Toronto and Region Conservation maintains the right to review and approve all property uses to ensure they are in keeping with TRCA’s objectives and they do not negatively impact TRCA’s adjacent holdings, building standards, facilities and programs.
- All proposed land uses are to be in accordance with TRCA’s approved management plans.
- All agricultural use is subject to the provisions of the Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended, and the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, and any other applicable federal, provincial and municipal policy or legislation.

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City of Vaughan

Name of Proponent/Organization:

Contact Name:

Position:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Fax Number:

Email:

Website (if applicable):

Registered Charitable Organization Yes/No: Charitable Number if Applicable:

Not-for-Profit Organization: Yes/No

For Profit Business: Yes/No

Your Proposal: Briefly describe in approximately 500 words

The Proponent/Organization

- History of Your Company or Organization (if applicable)
- Specific Experience in Urban Agriculture

Your Proposal to TRCA

- Description of your proposed opportunity/project and how your farm business will align with the goals and objectives of TRCA.
- Name of partners, their role and contributions
- Anticipated farm development timeframe
- Proponents/partners resources (funding, materials/supplies and equipment)

Your Expectations of TRCA

Validity of Proposal

- The qualifications submission shall remain valid and open for acceptance by TRCA for a period of ninety (90) calendar days, following the due date for receipt of Expression of Interest. TRCA reserves the right to refuse any or all submissions and terminate the Request for Expression of Interest process at any time.

Submission of Proposal

- Please mail a paper copy or email an electronic copy of your Expression of Interest, clearly identified as to contents, contract number and addressed to:

Contract WMD#13-04
Ms. Sonia Dhir, Project Manager
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
5 Shoreham Drive
Toronto, ON
M3N 1S4

Tel: (416)661-6600, extension 5291
Fax: (416)667-6278
E-mail: sdhir@trca.on.ca
CC: Lia Lappano at llappano@trca.on.ca

Individuals and organizations interested in visiting the farm property may do so by contacting Ms. Sonia Dhir to arrange a visit.

Submissions in response to this Expression of Interest **MUST** be received at 5 Shoreham Drive, Toronto, Ontario, M3N 1S4 **NOT LATER THAN 4:00 pm LOCAL TIME, NOVEMBER 28TH, 2013**. Submissions received after the above due date and time will not be considered.

PLEASE NOTE:

Nothing herein shall be construed so as to oblige TRCA to select any proposal and TRCA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals that TRCA, in its absolute discretion, considers it advisable to reject.

The information contained herein is offered for assistance; however, TRCA assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of same and nothing herein shall be construed as a representation, warranty or guarantee by TRCA.

All information contained in this document and submitted to the TRCA as part of this Expression of Interest is collected by authority of the Conservation Authorities Act and will be considered public information for the purposes of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.