

## Minimum Contractor Qualifications

The City of Albany, Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission, and Federal and State agencies have all suggested that the City of Albany have rigorous and strict definition(s) for soliciting or sole sourcing the professional services, contracting, oversight, and monitoring work efforts necessary to successfully undertake the restoration plan proffered with the landfill expansion application. The following are the minimum requirements of a restoration contractor and the on-staff, full time ecological support, documented below, that is required for this project. The restoration contractor will have a key role in working with permitting agencies and the technical management and restoration team to present restoration progress and results.

1. Contractor has certified senior ecologists, registered with the Ecological Society of America who have > 20 years of field experience in restoration in oak-pine and prairie communities and is formally a part of the contracting company, not a subcontractor.
2. At least one such full time, on staff certified senior ecologist who has been on staff with the restoration contracting firm for a minimum of 10 years is required and must be documented as a qualification.
3. The staff certified ecologist shall be directly assigned to this project to provide oversight, daily direction on an as needed basis, to work with the restoration contracting crew foreman and be available for daily interaction remotely or in person with project implementation status, daily decisions, etc.
4. The restoration contracting firm and senior ecologists must be recognized leaders nationally in the restoration of sand barrens, oak-pine savanna, and wetlands and must be recognized in the restoration literature through at least 5 publications in peer reviewed journals and conferences on this subject matter.
5. The restoration contracting firm and senior ecologist must have a documented, long established relationship in design and implementation of other similar restoration projects with The Nature Conservancy.
6. The senior ecologist must have a well documented, exemplary speaking presence and must be respected, clear and practical in performing the following:
  - articulating restoration progress,
  - organizing and participating in meetings with the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission and technical restoration team, and
  - communicating progress and decisions to the public, including groups that might oppose the landfill expansion.

The senior ecologist must have experience working with and presenting to the Pine Bush Commission and working with the Pine Bush Staff

7. The restoration contractor must have at least 20 years of documented involvement is successfully restoring prairie, savanna, oak-pine barren communities of a similar nature as the Albany Pine Bush preserve.
8. The restoration contractor must have at least 20 years of documented experience and direct responsibility for harvesting, propagation and amplifying the quantity of seed for locally derived native genetic resources for hundreds of native forbs, grasses, sedges, and moss as found in pine-oak savanna, native prairie grasslands, wetlands (sedge meadows, bogs, vernal ponds, etc) and riparian and forested floodplain and restoration experience in glacial outwash sand plains similar to the Albany Pine Bush Preserve.
9. The company ecologists, engineers, land planners, and contractor crews must have on-site experience specifically within the Albany Pine Bush Preserve in working with the plant and animal communities' present, researching restoration, studying hydrology, and in the measurement of the conditions of reference natural areas in the Pine Bush Preserve.
10. The restoration contractor must be positioned and must demonstrate success in at least 5 similar projects, to offer the long term reliable services and have demonstrated success in similar scaled and complexity projects.
11. The restoration contractor must provide evidence of the successful completion or on-going experience on at least 5 similar restorations of similar complexity and with similar permitting requirements with other non-profit organizations and working with the same federal and state agencies involved in review and formal approval of this restoration at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve.
12. The restoration contractor must demonstrate similar successful experience in restoring land with state and federal endangered plant and animal species, and in successfully working with federal and state agencies to achieve success in address these special status species during the process.
13. The City of Albany will not accept any substitute qualifications or credentials that do not meet the above minimum requirements. In addition, the City may impose greater requirements above these minimums as requested by State and Federal Agencies, the Albany Pine Bush Commission and staff. Under no conditions can the City reduce the minimum requirements sought and that must be met by the restoration contractor.

14. The restoration contractor must demonstrate they can meet the project's rigorous bonding requirements, timelines for execution of the restoration, reporting requirements, needs for on-site daily contractor foreman and oversight, and demonstrate the on-time and on-budget delivery of a minimum of 5 other complex restoration projects for which performance was required by state and federal permits.