



Alexander County Partnership for Children
PO Box 1661
1565 NC Hwy 90 West
Taylorsville, NC 28681
Phone (828)632-3799

Request for Proposal – Landscaping for Outdoor Learning Environment

Purpose:

To create a naturalized Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE) with landscaping for use with programming at the Alexander County Partnership for Children.

Background:

Alexander County Partnership for Children is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization. Our mission is to build the capacity of families and the community to prepare children for success in school and in life. For more information about the agency and our priorities, visit <https://www.alexanderchildren.org/>.

Today's children and families face limited opportunities to connect with the natural world. Improving outdoor early childhood environments can be a preventive health intervention. Research shows many benefits of OLEs including increased physical activity, improved eyesight, reduced risk of asthma and allergies, reduced stress, increased positive behavior, reduced ADD symptoms, and supporting multiple developmental domains.

The outdoor environment provides a special stage for action and stimulates play, learning, and physical activity. The outdoors also helps children grow up closely connected to nature. Children learn by exploration, by being challenged, and by taking risks in a safe environment where they are protected from injury. The physical surroundings can engage children's sense of inquiry, stimulate their imaginations, invite exploration, communicate a sense of belonging and cultural identity, and support their developing competencies. Today, outdoor play is especially important to counteract sedentary lifestyles and obesity. Recognition of the importance of the outdoor environment in child development is growing.

The creation of a model naturalized Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE) will allow ACPC to offer important programming in an outdoor space for family support, events and trainings. This will be a model of how playgrounds can be transformed into places for holistic child development supporting physical activity and healthy eating, outdoor learning, social-emotional development, and mental health of young children birth to age 5 in Alexander County.

www.alexanderchildren.org



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Outdoor Learning Environment Landscape Scope of Work:

Prepare the ground, amend the soil, and plant perennials, shrubs, and trees as indicated in the landscape design plans by Leaf Song Landscapes*. Apply double ground hardwood mulch in planting areas. Install river rock between the fence and the parking lot including soil separation fabric.

*Note: Plants can be substituted if needed according to local conditions, availability, or suitability. A rationale for substitution must be given.

Timeline:

- All work must be completed before April 25, 2025.

Submission requirements:

- Detailed proposal outlining your services
- Breakdown of costs
- Indicate estimated timeline including start and finish dates.
- Include your company name, address, phone number and email address.

Submission Deadline:

Please submit your proposals by March 26, 2025 at 5:00pm.

Contact for Questions and Request for Site Visit:

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OLE Planting Plans

https://alexanderchildren.org/assets/pdf/ACPC_Planting_2023_01_05.pdf

OLE Plant List

https://alexanderchildren.org/assets/pdf/Plant%20List_2025_02_21.pdf