

RFP For Agricultural Lease(s) at 540 Prospect Street in Seekonk, MA

RFP announcement: 10 April 2018
Open property visit: 15 April 2018
Proposals due: 25 April 2018

Calling all farmers!

This is a request for proposals to farm the land known as 540 Prospect Street in Seekonk, MA. This property is about 20 minutes from downtown Providence by car, and is not easily accessible by public transportation. A map of the parcel with approximate boundaries of the land available for farming should be included in the attachments if you receive this request by e-mail. There are no restrictions on what types of individuals and institutions can make a proposal to farm this land.

The entire parcel is about 3.5 acres in size, but 1 acre of this is yard and driveway around the home located on the property, leaving about 2.5 acres of field area for gardens and buffer strips. The homeowner lives in the residence on site, and will remain there, so you are looking at a situation where the property owner will be working closely with you on the aesthetics of your operations.

There is a dug well on the property that may be accessible for irrigation. Municipal water service, and electrical service are not currently set up to serve the farm, but service could be established, as it is available at the curb.

Interested farmers are welcome to visit the property during an open house on Sunday, April 15th from 1-3 pm. If you are not able to visit during the open house, you can contact Sebastian Interlandi at Southside Community Land Trust via e-mail at sebastian@southsideclt.org to make alternate arrangements to see the property.

To make a proposal, please return the following information by 5 pm, April 25th via e-mail to sebastian@southsideclt.org:

1. A map detailing the section of the property you wish to lease. This can include a portion of the field, or the whole field. A plot plan that includes enough information to determine what the mature operation would look like from the street and surrounding properties would be ideal.
2. A description of the crops you wish to grow, and the farming methods you plan to utilize. Please be as detailed as possible. Include specific amendments like types of fertilizers, composts, etc. as well as how you intend to deal with soil health and conservation. Proposals that specifically plan organic practices and chemical free agriculture will be given top priority for use of the land.
3. A description of the facilities you wish to construct including sheds, farm stands, utility distribution including irrigation, and any greenhouses, or other growing structures planned for the project.

4. Proposed terms of leasing. The time frame, financial terms, plans for liability insurance, and any specific requirements should be spelled out here. For example, do you want a 1-year term, or a 5-year term? How much per month per acre are you willing to rent the land for? Typical lease rates are around \$100/acre/month in the area, but this depends on the levels of effort of the farmer and landowner in making improvements to the property going forward. Feel free to be creative in your proposed terms. Do you want to offer a CSA share to the landowner as part of your compensation for use of the land? What else might you consider agreeing to in turn for the rights to use the space?
5. Please also include information on the agricultural and business experience of the principal applicant(s) and a brief description of business plans for the operation. Do you plan to have on site sales, and what might that look like?
6. Include e-mail, phone and mail contact information for the applicant. **Entire proposals should not exceed 5 pages.** Pdf format for the application is preferred, but an MSWord file is OK too.



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