



NOFA/Mass
Northeast Organic Farming Association
Massachusetts Chapter

Growing a Healthier Future for Massachusetts

NOFA/ Massachusetts

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April 1, 2025

Thomas C. Anderson, Executive Secretary
Commission for Conservation of Soil, Water & Related Resources
Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge St., 10th
Boston, MA 02114
Via email to: thomas.anderson@mass.gov

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Healthy Soils Action Plan Challenge Grant - Contract # CT-HSOILSIMPENVC126FY25
Activities Summary February 2025 – April 2025

Progress on Deliverables and Objectives

Objective 1: Development of Educational Content for Homeowners and Landscapers by developing the curriculum for six education vents (two webinars, four in-person) to help homeowners and land care professionals integrate Healthy Soils Action Plan-identified healthy soil practices, including soil organic carbon testing, tree planting, amendments, and best management practices, into their routine activities.

The following activities have been completed in support of this objective:

- Rubén Parrilla, Education & Soil Tech Program Director; Hannah McDonald, Education Events Manager; and Najee Quashie, Interim Communications Director & Project Manager, coordinated with Kristie Kapp from Resilient Roots to continue the event planning process.
- Rubén Parrilla and Najee Quashie coordinated with Jeremy Pelletier and Monique Bosch from CT NOFA on NOFA/Mass' proposed learning objectives and how CT NOFA could help provide materials for NOFA/Mass' Land Care Teaching activities.
- Najee Quashie finalized the budget and coordinated with Rubén Parrilla and Hannah McDonald on project financials.

Objective 2: Educate Homeowners and Landscapers on Healthy Soil Practices by delivering six educational events (two webinars and four in-person events) with content geared to homeowners and Landscape professionals and recordings made available on the NOFA/Mass YouTube channel.

The following activities have been completed in support of this objective:

- Hannah McDonald has set up the dates with Barnstable and is reviewing deliverables with Kristie. Coordinating with Weston Nurseries to select dates to narrow down topics we want to focus on. Ruben has learning modules and objectives and will put the content together in a slideshow format. Events will start in July.

Northeast Organic Farming Association/Massachusetts Chapter, Inc.

Through education and advocacy NOFA/Mass promotes organic agriculture to expand the production and availability of nutritious food from living soil for the health of individuals, communities and the planet.

Objective 3: Create Sustainable Support for Homeowners and Landscapers Beyond the Project Duration through materials promoting NOFA/Mass educational events geared towards homeowners and land care professionals, which can be shared with the general public through local and regional media, website resource development, integration of healthy soils topics for land care professionals into upcoming NOFA conferences.

The following activities have been completed in support of this objective:

- No activities were directly performed to fulfill this objective during this reporting period.

Implementation Schedule Progress

- Soil technical services staff (Technical Services Director, Soil Technical Assistant, Soil Health Technical Coordinator) review the existing curriculum and identify key components for adaptation.
- Literature review on land care-based recommendations for soil health and tree/shrub installations.
- Synthesize existing organic land care (OLC) content from CT-NOFA.

Financial/Budget Update

State Funding Expenditures and Invoiced Funding:

Expense Category	Total State Budget	Expenses This Period	Total State Expenses (Project Duration)
Personnel	\$26,883.56	\$4,233.73	\$4,233.73
Fringe	\$2,688.36	\$423.37	\$423.37
Travel	\$1,358	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	\$10,870.08	\$0.00	\$0.00
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<i>\$41,800.00</i>	<i>\$4,657.11</i>	<i>\$4,657.11</i>

Reimbursed Funding:

- No reimbursement funding has occurred during this period.

Matching Funding:

Expense Category	Total Match Budget	Match This Period	Total Match (Project Duration)
Personnel	\$8,636.87	\$1,287.61	\$1,287.61
Fringe	\$863.69	\$128.76	\$128.76
Travel	\$1,358.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<i>\$10,800.36</i>	<i>\$1,416.37</i>	<i>\$1,416.37</i>
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Outreach Update

- Nothing to report.

Unexpected Project Changes or Surprises

- Nothing to report.