

COMMUNITY FOREST STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

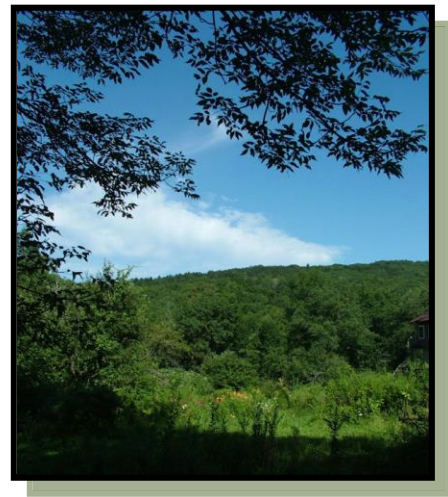
The *Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program* is now offering grants to assist municipalities in implementing their Forest Stewardship Plan. The grant pays for 75% of the project, with a required 25% match from the municipality. They are reimbursement grants. The grants are available to municipalities that have town forest, open space, or water supply land **currently enrolled** in the Forest Stewardship Program. Municipalities can apply even if they have received funds in previous years.

The purpose of this grant is to assist communities in putting forest stewardship into practice and to help connect the local citizens to their forest and the benefits these forests provide—including a *local* source of wood products, clean water, biodiversity, and wildlife habitat.

Funding for Community Forest Stewardship Grant Program is made possible through DCR's *Working Forest Initiative*.

What is the *Forest Stewardship Program*?

The Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program provides technical assistance and financial incentives that enable landowners and municipalities to translate philosophy into practice. The Forest Stewardship Program is designed to reach people like you who care about your land and want to insure that future generations of people, plants, and wildlife can thrive there together, in balance.



The Forest Stewardship Program is one component of the *Working Forest Initiative*, which seeks to reduce the loss of forests to development, by increasing understanding of healthy forest ecosystems and promoting sound management practices.

Grant Application Process

This grant will be offered on an ongoing basis as funding permits, and our goal is to fund larger projects in the future. The award amount is based on available funds, applicants, and other variables.

Application

Proposals are accepted on a First-Come, first-served (FCFS) basis.

Who Can Apply?

Municipalities that have open space (e.g., town forest, water supply land) currently enrolled in the Forest Stewardship Program.

Exclusions:

The Forest Stewardship Program does not make grants to individuals, nor does it support annual giving campaigns, deficit reduction, scholarships, fellowships, loans or travel.

What Can We Apply for Under the Community Forest Stewardship Grant Program?

This grant program seeks to fund projects which will result in sustained improvements in local capacity for excellent forest management in the following key areas:

- **Local Wood:** We seek to raise awareness of local wood products to demonstrate the beauty and utility of our native tree species, increase sustainable forest management and support forest based businesses.
- **Implementation** of a Forest Stewardship Management Plan: We seek to fund implementation of plans that guide the strategic management of municipal forest resources at the community level including local use of wood products, habitat restoration or forest management activities.
- The **Outreach Component** of the Forest Stewardship Management Plan may also be eligible. We seek to fund projects that “put into practice” the outreach component of your stewardship plan.

Examples of Projects Completed With the Community Forest Stewardship Grant Program

- ✓ **Invasive Species Removal and Control**
- ✓ **Pollinator Habitat Creation**
- ✓ **Tree and Shrub Planting**
- ✓ **Wildlife Habitat Improvement & Restoration**
- ✓ **Boundary Identification & Boundary Marking**
- ✓ **Interpretive Trail Development**

How will grant applications be evaluated and selected?

Each application received will be evaluated on a FCFS basis. The Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program Coordinator will evaluate application & determine eligibility.

Prerequisites:

1. A current Forest Stewardship Management Plan must be on file for the property
2. The proposed project must support the activities, objectives and ideals laid out in the Forest Stewardship Management Plan and its associated Community Outreach Plan.

What exactly is a “75-25 matching” reimbursement grant?

Every dollar requested by the applicant must be matched by \$0.25 with other non-federal funds or in-kind services. In other words, 25% of the project’s total cost must be covered by the applicant. Matching funds or services may be either cash or “in-kind” and may come from donations, labor, or equipment. Matching funds for this grant may not be used as a match for any other federal cost-share grant project.

How Much Can We Apply for under Community Forest Stewardship Grant Program?

Grant awards range from \$1,000 to \$20,000. Applicants should apply for the amount of funds that their projects require. Remember all grants must be matched 75-25 by local funds or in-kind service.

What Qualifies as Match?

The grantee must finance 100% of the cost of the project, which can include: local funds or services, in-kind labor/contributions, materials, and equipment. We will not reimburse the grantee for any more than seventy-five percent of the eligible expenditures, up to the grant amount. You may use current reasonable rates (i.e., value of a professional consultant's time based upon his/her standards hourly rate of pay) when estimating the value of volunteer time or services.

Award Process

Applications will be accepted FCFS basis. All funding for the **COMMUNITY FOREST STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM** is based on the State Fiscal Year (July 1 to June 30). Grant awards will not be made until Fiscal Year funding has been secured (expectation is July or August of the same calendar year). No work can commence and no funds will be provided until the applicant receives an award notification.

Work and financial reporting documents must be completed and received by DCR on June 30 of the following calendar year. No extensions are possible.

Project Time Frame

Projects may commence upon receipt of an award letter. All projects must be started and completed within the same fiscal year. No exceptions. No extensions.

Distribution of Funds

Funds will be disbursed within six weeks after the project is completed and all supporting documented expenses have been filed and verified with the DCR. Should funds not be utilized as approved, those funds may be transferred to another applicant.

To receive your matching grant funds, you must provide the DCR with copies of paid invoices, canceled checks by June 30. You will be reimbursed at 75% of what you paid, not to exceed grant amount. (**ABSOLUTELY NO EXTENSIONS**).

Final Reporting

Recipients of the Community Forest Stewardship Grant will need to complete a **Final Grant Report** no later than two (2) months after requesting distribution of funds/completing grant activities. The **Final Grant Report** will help us assess the effectiveness of this grant program.

Have Questions?

Contact: Michael Downey, Forest Stewardship Program Coordinator

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It's Your Community How Will Your Forest Play a Role?

