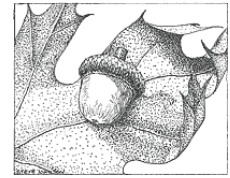


COMMUNITY WOODLAND GRANT



Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Since 2011, the Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program has offered municipalities a 75-25 matching reimbursement grant. This grant is available for all municipal land enrolled in the Forest Stewardship Program, including town forests, open spaces, and water supply areas. The COMMUNITY WOODLAND GRANT also supports landscape stewardship planning, community engagement, and outreach.

Program Objectives

The grant aims to assist communities in implementing & demonstrating forest stewardship practices, connecting local citizens to their forests, and highlighting the benefits these forests provide, including a local source of wood products, clean water, biodiversity, and wildlife habitat.



Funding Source

The Community Woodland Grant Program is made possible through DCR's *ForestsWork*, previously known as the *Working Forest Initiative*.

Forest Stewardship Program Overview

The Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program provides technical assistance and financial incentives to enable landowners and municipalities to practice sustainable forest management. This program is part of the *Working Forest Initiative*, which aims to reduce forest loss to development by promoting healthy forest ecosystems and sound management practices and decisions.

Grant Application Process

The grant is offered on an ongoing basis as funding permits. The award amount is based on available funds, applicants, and other variables. Proposals are accepted on a First-Come, First-Served (FCFS) basis.



COMMUNITY WOODLAND GRANT

ELIGIBILITY

Who Can Apply?

Municipalities with open space currently enrolled in the Forest Stewardship Program are eligible.

Eligible Projects

The Community Woodland Grant seeks to fund projects that result in sustained improvements in local capacity for excellent forest management, community outreach, and education. These include:



- **Implementation of a Forest Stewardship Plan:** Funding the strategic management of municipal forest resources, including local use of wood products, habitat restoration, or forest management activities.
- **Outreach Component of the Forest Stewardship Plan:** Funding projects that put into practice the outreach component of the stewardship plan.
- **Landscape Stewardship Planning** represents a holistic approach to forest conservation that transcends property boundaries, uniting multiple landowners to collectively address shared concerns and opportunities within the community. This approach involves collaborative efforts aimed at achieving social, economic, and environmental goals embraced by stakeholders through active community and landowner engagement. A Landscape Stewardship Plan is a vital component of a broader landscape stewardship project, specifically designed to tackle landscape-level concerns across all ownerships. The Landscape Stewardship Plan offers not just a strategic "roadmap" but also a structured methodology for identifying priorities and effectively allocating resources. This strategic approach will empower your community to better assess its capacity and establish a solid foundation for future financial support.

AWARD

Evaluation and Selection

Applications are evaluated on a First-Come, First-Served basis (FCFS). Prerequisites include a current Forest Stewardship Plan on file at DCR for the property and the proposed project must support the activities, objectives, and ideals laid out in the Forest Stewardship Plan. Applicants proposing Landscape Stewardship Planning and/or Outreach and Education activities must contact Mike Downey before submitting a grant application.

Exclusions

The program does not make grants to individuals and does not support annual giving campaigns, deficit reduction, scholarships, fellowships, loans, or travel.



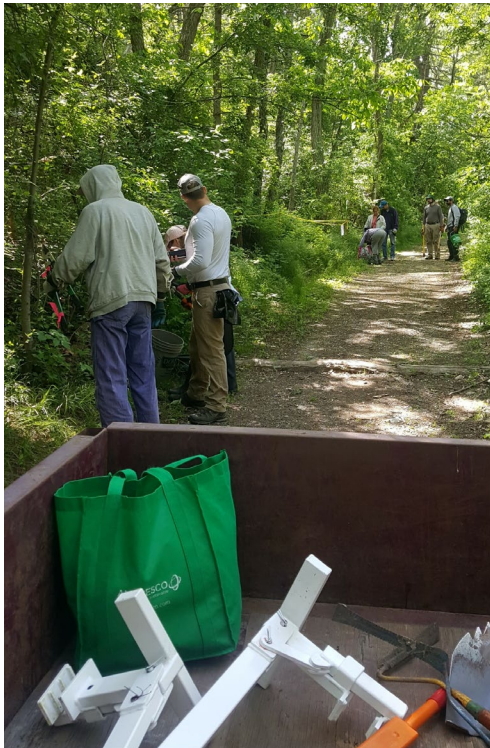
COMMUNITY WOODLAND GRANT

Award Process and Timeline

Applications are accepted on an FCFS basis. Grant awards are contingent on eligibility, date of application submission, and availability of funds. Please allow up to ten (10) business days for the application review process.

Project Implementation and Reporting

Projects must be started and completed within the same fiscal year. Funds will be disbursed within six weeks after project completion and receipt of supporting documentation. Recipients must complete a Community Woodland Final Grant Report within two months of fund distribution.



Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is a "75-25 matching" reimbursement grant?**
 - Every dollar requested must be matched by \$0.25 with other non-federal, or in-kind services.
2. **How much can we apply for?**
 - Grant awards range from \$1,000 to \$40,000.
3. **What qualifies as a match?**
 - The grantee must finance 100% of the project, including local funds, in-kind labor/contributions, materials, and equipment.
 - DCR will not reimburse the grantee for any more than seventy-five percent (75%) of the eligible expenditures, up to the grant amount. You may use current reasonable rates when estimating the value of volunteer time or services.
 - This is a reimbursement grant.

Contact Information

For further inquiries, please contact Mike Downey, Forest Stewardship Program Coordinator:

- Phone: 413-212-3039 (cell)
- Email: michael.downey@mass.gov
- mass.gov/dcr/service-forestry

**EMPOWER YOUR COMMUNITY AND
DISCOVER THE IMPACT YOUR
COMMUNITY FORESTS CAN MAKE!**

