

FY27 MASSWILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

RFP ID # DFW-2027-001

Questions and Answers

(Updated 6/3/2026)

Q:

I know you do not fund "large equipment" purchases. Would the grant cover hand tools, such as clippers, shovels, etc. Also, we need small rechargeable hedge trimmers. Other equipment we'd like to fund would be a hand pulling utility cart.

A:

Yes, small tools would be an eligible expense under the grant, as long as they are being purchased and used for the project itself.

Q:

My yard has an easement which allows access to protected wildlife lands. I maintain the easement which is in my yard by keeping the grass mowed and trees trimmed ect. I have some dead trees and some overgrown trees that need to be cut. Is this something I can put in for a grant or no?

A:

This is a wildlife habitat improvement program. It does not cover general landscaping or recreational access costs.

Q:

- a) Is there a standard application format or template that successful applicants generally follow beyond the published application materials?
- b) Are there examples of previously funded projects that you would be willing to share that could help me better understand the level of detail and supporting documentation expected?

- c) Does MassWildlife encourage applicants to discuss project concepts with staff prior to submitting an application?
- d) Are habitat enhancement projects involving wetlands, forest management, pollinator habitat, invasive species removal, and early successional habitat creation generally viewed favorably under the program?
- e) How important are partnerships with foresters, wildlife biologists, NRCS, conservation districts, or other technical professionals during the review process?
- f) Are projects that leverage multiple funding sources (MassWildlife, NRCS, Chapter 61 forestry programs, etc.) viewed more competitively?
- g) What are the most common reasons otherwise eligible applications fail to receive funding?
- h) Is there a preferred range for grant requests, or are projects requesting larger awards viewed differently than smaller habitat improvement projects?
- i) Would a project focused on improving wildlife habitat within a wetland/upland transition area and enhancing the ecological function of an existing forested property align well with the objectives of the program?

A:

Thanks for reaching out and for your interest in our habitat grant program. All of the information about the grant program can be found on our website, including the RFP, eligible project types, scoring criteria, and links to previously awarded projects: [MassWildlife Habitat Management Grant Program | Mass.gov](#). Applications must be submitted via the form on the Grant Management System: [Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs Grants Management System](#).

Before you start exploring this, I do want to bring to your attention that the program is only open to private landowners of protected lands. Private property is considered conserved if it is protected by a Conservation Restriction or Easement, an Agricultural Protection Restriction, enrolled in Chapter 61 or 61A/B, or owned in fee by a non-profit organization whose primary mission is the conservation of land. It is unclear from your email whether your property is in conservation – if not, unfortunately, you would not be eligible to apply.

