

**Land Acquisition for Forest Reserves Grant**  
**Information Session Q & A**  
October 22, 2025

**Are there any minimal size requirements for a project to be considered eligible? How big does a parcel need to be to rank competitively?**

*There is no minimum size for eligibility, however larger acreage projects will score higher. Therefore, to be competitive, a small project will need to have an outsized impact in terms of the projects habitat values, contributions to water supply protection, passive recreation or other benefits to score competitively.*

**Is a Town-owned parcel that is held for general municipal purposes (not protected under Article 97) eligible for grant funding?**

*Yes. General municipal lands, that are not protected under Article 97 would be eligible for grant funding if the Town is prepared to convey a CR on the lands and/or convey care and control of the forest to the Conservation Commission.*

**Are there any significant differences in the grant program from last year?**

*Yes, an appraisal **must** be submitted with the application this year, and all final projects acquired by a land trust or other conservation non-profit will need to be permanently protected by a Conservation Restriction on or before the June 30, 2027 deadline for completed projects.*

**Will hunting be allowed, can you further define the activities that would or would not be allowed within a Forest Reserve? For example, would cutting or changes to the forest for Box turtle habitat be consistent with the designation?**

*Hunting is allowable under the grant, subject to local and/or state restrictions or management. A forest reserve restricts deliberate human intervention, unless land managers are confronted with a specific, unacceptable risk to human safety or forest health. A forest where management envisions changes to forest structure to promote habitat may not be well-suited to the forest reserve designation.*

**Would a forest that has been harvested in the past be eligible?**

*Yes. Past forest harvest doesn't preclude consideration of a forest for the grant. The current condition, however, will be considered, and depending upon the type of harvest practices in the past may or may not demonstrate the resilience and other attributes emphasized in the grant evaluation. This grant is seeking to protect resilient forests that will mature over time without active management or significant human intervention.*