



Community Forest Stewardship Implementation Grant

The Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program is now offering Community Forest Stewardship Implementation Grants. These are 50-50 matching reimbursement grants offered to municipalities that have town forest, conservation or water supply land currently enrolled in the Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program.

The purpose of these grants is to aid 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 Implementation Grants is made possible through DCR's *Working Forest Initiative*, in cooperation with the Massachusetts Woodlands Institute.



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 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 MA 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

The initial round of funding in state Fiscal Year 2011 was a pilot project, and our goal for subsequent fiscal years is to assist as many qualified projects as our funds allow. 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 due yearly by APRIL 15.

Who Can Apply?

Municipalities that have town forest, conservation or water supply land currently enrolled in the Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program.

Exclusions:

The Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program does not make grants to individuals, nor does it support annual giving campaigns, deficit reduction, scholarships, fellowships, loans or travel. In order to support as many worthwhile communities as possible, the MA Forest Stewardship Program strongly discourages communities that have received monies under this grant from submitting requests in consecutive years.

What Can We Apply for under a Community Forest Stewardship Implementation Grant?

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.

How will grants be evaluated and selected?

The Working Forest Initiative Committee will score and rank the applications based on their relative strengths. The Committee will make recommendations on applications to the DCR Director of Service Forestry Program and the Forest Stewardship Program Coordinator, who will then make final determinations.

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.

The criteria for rating proposals include:

(Incomplete applications will not be considered)

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| 1. Application is complete, detailed and clearly presented | 15 points |
| 2. Proposal will result in sustained improvements in local capacity for excellent forestry management in one or more of the key areas identified above | 30 points |
| 3. Project involves diverse members of the community in planning and implementation | 15 points |
| 4. Budget and Timeline are reasonable, accurate and clearly presented | 15 points |
| 5. Applicant has not been previously funded through this matching grant program | 25 points |

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

Grant awards range from \$1,000 to \$15,000. Applicants should apply for the amount of funds that their projects require. Remember all grants must be matched 50-50 by local funds or in-kind contributions.

What Qualifies as Match?

The grant applicant must match the grant amount requested, dollar for dollar, with other non-state funds or services. 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 fifty 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 until close of business on **April 15** (deadline for application submission). Applications will be reviewed by The Working Forest Initiative Committee. Experts on specific subjects such as marketing or timber harvesting will be included as needed.

April 15 Applications: Grant awards will be announced by July 1 and work may commence immediately upon receipt. 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 the award letter. All projects must be started and completed within the same state 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 50% of what you paid, not to exceed grant amount (*Absolutely No Extensions*).

Final Reporting

Recipients of the Community Forest Stewardship Implementation Grant will need to complete a Final Grant Report no later than two (2) months after submitting all documented expenses to DCR. Final Reporting will help us assess the effectiveness of this matching grant program.

Have Questions?

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*It's Your Community
How Will Your Forests Play A Role?*

Massachusetts
Woodlands Institute

Community Forest Stewardship Implementation Grant is funded by
DCR's *Working Forest Initiative* and administered
by the Massachusetts Woodlands Institute

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