

Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2)

Community and Watershed Forestry Grant

Applying for Lawn Conversion

Lawn Conversion

The PA DCNR supports the effective implementation of lawn conversion projects across Pennsylvania to reduce the environmental impacts associated with mowing, including to improve water quality within local waterways and watersheds. The Lawn Conversion grant opportunity provides funding to promote and facilitate the conversion of presently maintained lawn to actively managed upland forest (300-ft or further away from a waterbody) or perennial native meadow.

- Projects may be implemented on public or private lands
- A 25-year landowner agreement is required on projects planted on private land
- Implemented acres must be tracked and reported in PracticeKeeper (*DCNR assistance is available*)
- Land being converted to upland forest or meadow must be presently mowed and maintained as a lawn
- Funds can be sub-granted. The same specifications listed within this document apply to all sub-grantees

Funding Priorities

This grant seeks applications that implement projects, especially when building technical capacity, creating demonstration sites, ensuring diverse and equitable access to forests and meadows, and addressing funding gaps.

- Proposals that plant multiple individual forest or meadow projects, especially
- Proposals that address funding gaps by creating innovative mini-grant funding programs
- Proposals that provide education to the public and local leaders
- Proposals that provide technical training to project implementers, designers, and coordinators
- Projects that address social justice and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Projects that build or add to existing capacity of local partners, resources, and communities
- Sites that are publicly accessible
- Sites that are used for demonstration, training and/or education

Lawn

An area of maintained exotic grasses making up a yard on a residential, commercial, school, or other property and is presently maintained at 8" high or shorter.



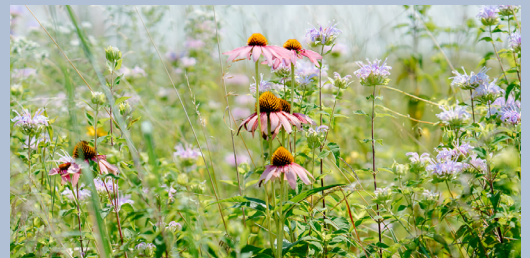
Forest

A plant community characterized by mature trees and shrubs, where the canopy is mostly closed. After establishment, mowing should cease to allow the forest to regenerate.



Meadow

A plant community dominated by native wildflowers and grasses. These continuous, diverse plantings are maintained over time with periodic mowing, fire, or other disturbances.



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Eligible Activities

Discuss your specific grant proposal with your Regional Watershed Forestry Specialist, BRC Regional Advisor, and/or your local DCNR service forester to ensure eligibility of your project activities.

- Purchase of planting materials: trees and shrubs, meadow seed, straw, carrier for seeding, tree protection materials, etc.
- Site preparation, planting, and post-planting establishment activities: related labor, herbicide applications, organic site prep and establishment activities, specialized equipment rental, etc.
- Public education and outreach: developing education material, printing resources, engaging landowners etc.
- Staff time related to lawn conversion programs and projects: outreach, education, project planning, coordinating or completing implementation activities, other technical assistance activities, etc.
- Contracting of appropriate landscape professionals to complete site prep, planting, and/or post-planting establishment activities
- Hosting lawn conversion workshops and trainings targeted at private landscape professionals, project coordinators and designers, conservation professionals, etc.
- Post-planting establishment activities (up to 20% of the full proposal budget) necessary to ensure the long-term survival of upland forests or meadows planted within the past 5 years.



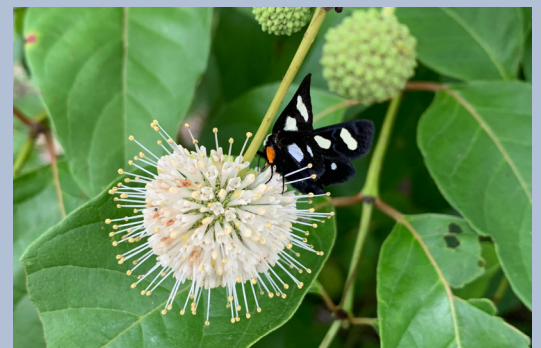
Eligible Land Use

Lawn Conversion funding may only be used to convert presently mowed and maintained lawn to forest or meadow (see page 1 for definitions).

Land uses *ineligible* to receive Lawn Conversion funding include, but are not limited to:

- Agricultural land
- Fallow land
- Unmowed or “let go” lawn
- Abandoned mineland
- Natural areas
- Project areas with high invasive plant pressure

If you are unsure if your project is eligible for funding, please contact DCNR to discuss.



Questions?

Contact Kelsey Mummert, Lawn Conversion Program Coordinator (c-kmummert@pa.gov), Vallie Edenbo, Rivers Program Specialist (vedenbo@pa.gov), or your Regional BRC Advisor



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AND NATURAL RESOURCES