

Stewardship Demonstration Areas in Massachusetts

Demonstration Areas Showcase Sound Stewardship Practices

The Challenge

The Forest Stewardship Program strives to develop in landowners the desire and initiative to develop and implement forest stewardship plans. Active forest management can increase biodiversity, reduce stagnation, and address forest health concerns. Facilitating understanding among landowners and the general public on the pros and cons of active forest management is an important stewardship objective.

The Solution

Through a grant provided by the Northeastern Area, the Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program and The Trustees of Reservations—the oldest land trust in America—are working to create four stewardship demonstration areas in Massachusetts. Each demonstration area will focus on a different theme:

- *Turkey Hill* in Hingham, south of Boston—creation of early successional habitats
- *Long Hill* in Essex, north of Boston—control of invasive plants
- *Notchview* in western Massachusetts—enhancement of forest recreation opportunities
- *Swift River* in north central Massachusetts—multiple forest objectives, including timber stand improvement, maintenance of rare plant communities and species, and protection of historical resources.

The demonstration areas are located on lands owned by the Trustees of Reservations, an ideal partner in this venture. The Trustees own and care for 79 reservations in Massachusetts, totaling over 20,000 acres. The demonstration areas represent a range of management opportunities landowners can employ to achieve their stewardship goals.

Stewardship demonstration areas enable landowners to see on-the-ground results of active management techniques.



Members of the Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program, The Trustees of Reservations, and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management celebrate the establishment of the Long Hill Stewardship Demonstration Area in Essex, Massachusetts, which highlights techniques to control invasive plants.

Resulting Benefits

Stewardship demonstration areas accomplish the following:

- Provide a quality resource education experience to the general public and landowners in Massachusetts
- Increase awareness of the role that forests play in the production of clean water, wood, wildlife, and biodiversity
- Provide an example to inspire other landowners and organizations to develop stewardship plans and to actively manage their resources.

Sharing Success

- The establishment of stewardship demonstration areas is a cornerstone from which to share successes with forest landowners and the general public.
- The Trustees of Reservations is developing brochures and other media to inform its membership, supporters, and visitors about the demonstration sites and the themes they highlight.



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