

Application For Registration of a School or Community Forest

Form 2400-05 Rev 1 05

State of Wisconsin - Department of Natural Resources

Applicant

Name of Applicant (school district or municipality)

Is the property legally in control of the applicant?

Yes No

Contact Person

Address

Telephone Number

E-mail

Date of resolution dedicating property as a school or community forest (please attach copy of minutes)

Property Description

Name of Property

County in which property is located

Legal Description

Total Acreage

Wooded Acreage

Date of most recent forest management plan for this property

Is there an education plan for the property (school forests only)?

Yes No

Do you intend to actively and sustainably manage the forest?

Yes No

Do you intend to use the property to provide education on sustainable forestry (school forests only)?

Yes No

The undersigned hereby apply for registration of their school or community forest with the Department of Natural Resources.

Signature of Applicant (municipal or school district administrator)

Title

Date signed

DNR FORESTER'S REPORT - DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE - DNR USE ONLY

Acceptance Recommended? Yes No

Supplemental Information:

Signature of DNR Forester

Date

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY – DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

Final Determination: Approved Not Approved

Date Forest Management Plan was Approved

Date Registration Approved by the Division of Forestry

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY FORESTS

This is an abridged version of Chapter 15 of the DNR Private Lands Handbook. For complete description of the school forest program, see that document.

The School and Community Forest Law, section 28.20, Wis. Stats., enacted in 1947, allows schools, villages, cities, and towns to own land and practice forestry. There are over 400 properties registered under the program.

What is the Purpose?

The original intent of the law was to demonstrate the economic advantages of managing timber and to allow municipalities to receive an income from these lands. Over the years, forestry and forestry education have changed. Lands entered under the law provide an excellent opportunity to demonstrate sustainable forestry and to teach about land stewardship.

Who Is Eligible To Apply?

Any city, village, town or school district who has legal control of forested property.

What Are the Benefits?

Upon registration with the Department, the school or municipality is eligible (1) for free trees and seed from the state forest nurseries, (2) for technical assistance from Department foresters for carrying out tree planting and forest management plans, (3) to apply for Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) school forest grants, and (4) to receive assistance from the Wisconsin School Forest Education Specialist.

Note: Free trees and seeds from the state nurseries and eligibility for WEEB grants are contingent upon meeting the forest management and education plan guidelines.

Entry Criteria

1. Property must be owned or under legal control (e.g., lease, easement) of a municipality or school district.
2. The school board or governing body of the municipality must adopt a resolution to dedicate a parcel as a school or community forest.
3. Wisconsin statutes do not establish a minimum acreage or productivity requirement for school or community forests. However, the property should contain at least one acre of forest.
4. The municipality or school district must indicate intent to actively manage the forest, where applicable.
5. School districts must indicate intent to provide sustainable forestry education as a component of their education programs.
6. A management plan or property description must be completed and approved. (Conditional acceptance can be granted prior to completion of a management plan based on forester recommendations.)

Application Procedures

1. Owner (or an authorized property representative) completes an application form, attaches minutes of meeting dedicating property as school or community forest, and submits it to the local DNR forester.
2. DNR forester visits site to ensure property meets criteria
3. DNR forester completes recommendation sections of the application.
4. DNR forester sends applications meeting criteria to Wisconsin School Forest Education Specialist.
5. If land does not meet criteria, forester sends letter of explanation to the property representative and to the Wisconsin School Forest Education Specialist indicating why it may not be registered.
6. School Forest Ed. Specialist conditionally approves acceptance based on forester recommendations.

Upon conditional approval, both a management plan and an education plan, where applicable, will be completed. If possible, these plans should be developed together and should be interrelated.

Forest Management Plan Procedure

1. A management plan must be completed and approved within one year of acceptance. Note: any individual, group, or organization can be involved in developing the plan. If a Department forester does not develop the plan, it will be submitted to a Department forester for review.

Education Plan Procedure

1. School district or municipality (if using property for education purposes) develops an education plan utilizing guidelines supplied by the Wisconsin School Forest Education Specialist.
2. School district or municipality sends the completed education plan to the Wisconsin School Forest Education Specialist.

Assistance

For more information or assistance in completing your application, forest management plan, or education plan, please contact at the Wisconsin School Forest Education Specialist at 715-346-2633 or Gretchen.Marshall@uwsp.edu, visit the LEAF School Forest website at www.uwsp.edu/cnr/leaf/Schoolforests/index.aspx, or contact your local DNR forester.

The statewide school forest program is a partnership between DNR-Division of Forestry and the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education at UW-Stevens Point.