

IMPLEMENTING FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLANS IN URBANIZING AREAS – OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESOURCE PROFESSIONALS

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Completing a forest stewardship plan is the beginning and not the end of a sound management strategy for small forested ownerships. In urbanizing areas with small forest parcel sizes (for example, 13 acre average in CT), it is often difficult to find technical help to implement the plan. A grant to the CT Forest Stewardship Program provided by the USDA Forest Service State & Private Forestry is funding an effort to train individuals to properly perform selected non-commercial forest management and improvement practices. Examples of these practices include: wildlife habitat enhancement, ecological inventories, invasive exotic removal, and other practices for which there is not an immediate commercial or economic return. In urbanizing areas, few, if any, properly equipped and experienced firms and individuals are educated to the potential business opportunities presented by these issues, nor are they properly trained to perform the tasks specifically associated with forest land improvement and habitat enhancement practices.