



Course overview and schedule

Minnesota Woodland Steward: Hardwood Hills

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Term: Spring 2025
Registration: z.umn.edu/MWSP
Course site: z.umn.edu/MWSP-16



Apply here: z.umn.edu/MWSHH

If you own property with woodlands, steward woodlands, or are looking to buy wooded property and want to learn more about woodland management, the Minnesota Woodland Steward program can help you become a successful woodland steward. This comprehensive program teaches family forest owners and forest caretakers the ins and outs of forest health, timber harvesting, management for recreation and wildlife, estate planning, tax incentive programs and more.

The program uses a hybrid course design. Each unit is presented as an online, self-paced module with readings, exercises and a group discussion board. Semi-regular Zoom meetings give learners a chance to ask questions of instructors and contribute to group learning by sharing their own experiences. Participants also attend three in-person field sessions throughout the course.

Learning objectives

The Minnesota Woodland Steward course covers a comprehensive range of woodland topics. At the end of this course, you'll be able to:

- Consider the different reasons and ways to manage the woods you care about, and prioritize your goals for the land.
- Identify common native trees and invasive plants.
- Select appropriate trees for your woodland and know how to plant them.
- Map your property and conduct a woodland inventory.
- Meet and talk with local natural resources professionals.
- Discuss the financial considerations of land ownership (including tax incentives and estate planning) with your family and financial advisors.
- Develop specific actions that will provide a path to leaving the land in a better condition for future generations.
- Serve as a mentor to other private woodland owners and stewards.

Education to fit your schedule

We are committed to providing quality education in a way that works for you. This course offers flexibility by offering content both online and in person. What does this look like?

- **1 - 2 hours of self-paced reading and assignments each week.** Fourteen self-paced online modules are offered through the course website. Modules contain pre-recorded videos, exercises, and group discussions on woodland stewardship topics.
- **Online meetings on Zoom.** Three online meet-ups over Zoom will give you direct access to Extension and local forestry experts as they present on different topics related to the health of your woodland. Ask them your questions, and share your own knowledge and experience with your peers.
- **In-person field tours.** Three in-person field tours will give you a chance to see a number of woodland stewardship projects. Instructors will guide your visit and answer your questions, and you will have an opportunity to meet with and learn from natural resource professionals and fellow woodland owners.

Course expectations

What you can expect from us:

- An expert-led, research-based educational program.
- Instructor feedback to your questions and concerns within 48 hours.
- New options, new ideas, and specific actions that will provide a path to leaving your land in a better condition for future generations.

What we expect from you:

- Completion of the online course modules.
- Participation in course discussion boards and Zoom meetings.
- Attendance at the in-person field tours as you are able.

Course schedule

Date	Topic	Description
Mon Feb 24	From Passion to Action	Developing goals and plans for your woodland.
Wed Feb 26	Zoom meet-up ONLINE, 6:00 to 7:15 p.m.	Introduction to the course; the importance of management plans.
Mon Mar 3	Your Woods: Past, Present, and Future	Research the history of your land and ponder future challenges.
Mon Mar 10	Mapping Your Woods	Explore online tools available to better know your land.
Mon Mar 17	Identifying Trees	Understand the diverse characteristics of your land.
Mon Mar 24	Impacts to Tree Regeneration and Health	Learn how to regenerate and protect trees for the future.
Mon Mar 31	Silviculture	The art and science of managing woodlands for desired outcomes.
Fri Apr 4	Field tour IN-PERSON, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.	Saint John's Abbey Arboretum
Mon Apr 7	Timber Harvesting	Learn how to work with professionals to harvest timber on your land.
Wed Apr 9	Zoom meet-up ONLINE, 6:00 to 7:15 p.m.	Promoting resilient family woodlands Speaker: Anna Stockstad
Mon Apr 14	Woodlands and Wildlife	The complex interactions of wildlife with woodlands and forest management.
Mon Apr 21	Non-timber Forest Products	Sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products on your land.
Mon Apr 28	How Many Trees are in Your Woods?	Conduct a woodland inventory and determine how much carbon you have.
Mon May 5	Invasive Species in Your Woods	Learn how to identify, monitor, and manage common invasive species.
Fri May 9	Field tour IN-PERSON, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.	Location TBD
Mon May 12	Soils in Your Woods	Understand the importance of protecting soil health in your woodland.
Mon May 19	Your Woodland's Future	How to work with professionals and transition your land.
Wed May 21	Zoom meet-up ONLINE, 6:00 to 7:15 p.m.	Reporting invasive species Speaker: Angie Gupta
Mon May 26	Financial and Legal Aspects of Woodland Ownership	The importance of recordkeeping and available tax incentive programs.
Fri May 30	Field tour IN-PERSON, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.	Location TBD