

Frequently asked questions

Minnesota Woodland Steward program - Hardwood Hills 2025

Do I have to own land in the Hardwood Hills region to take the course?

Thanks to funding from St. John's University, registration costs are waived (\$0) for woodland owners in the Hardwood Hills region ([see a map here](#)). Hardwood Hills landowners are given priority during the first three weeks of registration (October 9 - October 30).

After October 30, landowners outside the Hardwood Hills region are welcome to register for the course using the normal sliding scale pricing (\$295 standard rate, \$150 scholarship rate, \$0 Tribal member rate, or \$395 supporter rate). Hardwood Hills landowners will still be able to access the waived registration rate.


I own 2 acres of woodland. Is this course right for me?

There is no acreage minimum to enroll in this course. However, much of the course content will be less relevant for small-acreage landowners (less than 10 acres), such as timber harvesting, finding a logger, and tax incentive programs.

A different program that may be of interest is the [Tree Care Advocate program](#), hosted by our colleagues at the UMN Urban Forestry Outreach and Research lab. This program may be a better fit for people who are stewarding a couple acres of woodland.

Where do the field tours take place? And how accessible are the field tours?

All three field tours will take place in the Hardwood Hills region on Fridays from 1-4pm. The field tours will take place entirely outdoors and in the woods. We will be spending the



majority of the time standing and walking slowly. Depending on the site, the terrain may be uneven and restrooms may not be available. We will cancel the tour in the event of thunderstorms, extreme heat, or other severe weather, but will still host the tour in the event of rain. Water and snacks will be provided at each field tour.

UMN Extension Forestry is committed to making our programs as accessible as possible. Prior to each field tour, the instructor will send out an anonymous form to submit any accessibility-related information. We also encourage you to bring a foldable camp chair, trekking poles, or other tools to use during field tours as needed.

Is participation required at the field tours and Zoom meet-ups?

Participation is not required, but participation is encouraged at the field tours and Zoom meet-ups. The field tours are the best opportunity to meet other participants and to connect with local service providers who can help you implement stewardship actions on your woodland. We will hear from speakers about a variety of topics at the Zoom meet-ups, including financial assistance programs and invasive species.

Can I complete this course at my own pace?

Yes - this course is designed to be as flexible as possible in order to fit into your schedule. The course consists of 14 online modules, and one module will open per week. You can work through each module at your own pace. You will still have access to the course content after the course officially ends, but the course instructor will not be monitoring the course after the end date.

I want to take this course with a family member(s). How do I register?

If participating as a family, only one member from each family needs to register, and you will gain one account to access Canvas.



I have more questions. Who do I reach out to?

Please reach out to the course instructor with additional questions: Anna Stockstad, stock523@umn.edu, 218-726-6466 (voice only)