

Massachusetts Agroforestry Access Project: Demonstration Network

Pilot Cohort (2027-2028)

The MAAP Demonstration Network will help Massachusetts put agroforestry on the map with a supported network of farms and organizations that are implementing diverse agroforestry practices at multiple scales in different contexts. MAAP recognizes agroforestry as a social movement that works as both ecological restoration and community regeneration.

The pilot cohort of the MAAP Demonstration Network (3-5 participants) will receive targeted financial and technical assistance from the **Woodlands Connect Initiative** to design, install, develop, and/or manage an agroforestry project(s) on their site. The pilot will run for two years from **January 2027-December 2028**. Participants will receive:

- ☐ Annual stipend of \$1500 for active participation in group sessions over two (2) years.
- ☐ Peer-to-peer support to develop project concepts and learn about diverse, innovative, and afro-indigenous land management techniques.
- ☐ Paid technical assistance from experienced agroforestry practitioners to design and implement your project.
- ☐ Preliminary upfront funding to cover the costs of project installation/implementation, including trees, tree protection, fencing, soil amendments, special equipment, and labor. Participants will be supported to access additional funding resources if needed.

As a public demonstration site, cohort participants will engage in peer-to-peer education goals and advance public awareness of and access to information about ecologically and culturally appropriate agroforestry practices in Massachusetts. Participants will be expected to:

- Design and install (or further develop) an agroforestry project on-site
- Travel to other demonstration sites and attend in-person workshops/retreats 2-3x per year. Financial means will not be a barrier to participate in these events.
- Attend regular zoom calls to check in with pilot organizers, share project ideas and designs, learn, and collaborate with other participants
- Host 1-2 on-site events/workshops during the pilot to build community with fellow private and underserved landowners (additional funding is available to support associated event costs)
- Provide evidence of project progress and completion with a final digital product (article, photo journal, video, zine, etc.) that can be shared with the general public
- Remain a resource in the agroforestry community to assist with other projects and provide occasional updates on project successes/lessons learned

Ideal pilot participants will have the following qualifications and capacity:

- ★ A publicly-accessible land-based demonstration site (can range in size/scale)
- ★ Experience hosting public events (i.e. with accessible bathrooms, parking, insurance, etc.)
- ★ A passion for agroforestry education and implementation that aligns with the existing goals and values of the site/farm/organization/project
- ★ Capacity to commit time to engage in pilot learning goals and follow through on project implementation and on-going tree management and care.
- ★ Existing connections to and relationships with underserved landowners and communities

Selection Process

Your site will be a “best fit” for the pilot cohort if you meet all or most of the following parameters:

- Capacity within your staff/organization to develop and implement a land-based project.
- Demonstrated alignment with your farm/organization's existing mission and projects; this should not be new initiative or an addition to an already full schedule of projects and programs. Or, if it is a new endeavor, demonstrate strong capacity to launch and sustain the work.
- Strong existing relationships/partnerships within the community you live/serve.
- A geographic location central, nearby, or otherwise accessible to underserved landowners
- Space and infrastructure to host public events for 50-100 people
- Willingness to engage in an open collaborative learning process with other participants, develop relationships, and take ownership of the (first) cohort experience by providing honest and constructive feedback and direction to the Steering Committee.

If you are interesting in moving forward, you will be asked to share information about your site and project idea with the Steering Committee and answer the following questions: (*If you would prefer to share verbal responses instead of submitting written answers, please request to schedule a call with us on your application.)

1. Describe your proposed agroforestry project and its primary goals.
2. Describe any related work already underway at the site.
3. Describe the major anticipated expenses, materials, or resources needed to implement your project.
4. Describe the long-term impact you hope this project will have on your site, organization, community, or other landowners, and explain your relationship to the communities you hope to serve.

Your answers will be reviewed by the Committee in September and selected participants will be notified by the end of October. The pilot will launch in January 2027.