

Community Forest Stewardship Project (Phase 1): Reference Guide

Phase 1 Goal: Complete a Forest Stewardship Plan that will provide the database for ongoing grant funding for improved engineering and maintenance of Town Roads using nature-based solutions to control storm water runoff and invasive species proliferation.

Phase 1 Objectives:

1. Mapping town-owned property and roadways, and public land (TNC, BNRC, DCR).
2. Implementing community engagement and participation.

Opportunities for Participation:

1. Learn about the Stewardship Project at <https://mountwashington-ma.gov/departments/conservation-commission/community-forest-stewardship/>
2. Participate in Community Forest Stewardship public meeting and training sessions.
3. Provide feedback to the Town's Stewardship Committee about your questions and concerns regarding the Project.
4. Learn to use the Crowdsourcing Mapping tool to record and submit your observations of Points of Interest and Concern (go to <https://mountwashington-ma.gov/departments/conservation-commission/community-forest-stewardship/> and click the [Mount Washington Crowdsourcing Map](#) link under "Citizen Scientist").
5. Your time is valuable: Volunteer time spent on any participation activity can be credited toward the Town's Grant Match. You may charge \$39.19 an hour. Please submit your time sheet to Loes at the Town Hall Office. See timesheet instructions at <https://mountwashington-ma.gov/departments/conservation-commission/community-forest-stewardship/#449-450-time-sheets>.
6. When you go for a walk, take your cell phone, or make a note about the following **Points of Interest and Concern** along the roads, in public forest, streams and wetlands (or on your own property):

Natural Feature of Special Value (to you)

Examples to look for:

- View of Mt. Everett or surrounding hills
- Glade of trees that you enjoy
- Meadow that you enjoy
- Vernal pool(s)
- Streams and environs
- Grotto of rock and water
- Rock outcropping(s)

Great Tree(s)

Examples to look for:

- Pre-settlement tree(s)
- Surviving Chestnut, Ash and Beech
- Pitch Pine (on ridges)
- Any tree that is important to you

Vulnerable Infrastructure

Threatened by wind, rain, snow, erosion, fire or drought

Examples to look for:

Natural infrastructure:

- Forest: blow downs, hanging limbs, dead stands (fire hazard)
- Wetlands: pollution from stormwater runoff from roads
- Streams: pollution from stormwater runoff from roads
- Understory Native vegetation: overtaken by invasive species

Manmade infrastructure:

- Roads: erosion (see below), sinking roadbed, fire hazard from invasive thatch
- Private water wells: running dry in summer months
- Culverts: see below
- Cemeteries: invasive populations, tree hazards, fire danger from invasive thatch
- Parks: invasive populations, fire hazard from invasive thatch
- Hwy Dept facilities: invasive populations, fire hazard from invasive thatch
- Transfer Station facilities: invasive populations, fire hazard from invasive thatch
- Residential housing: invasive populations, fire hazard from invasive thatch, tree hazards from blow downs.
- Town Hall: tree hazards from blow-downs
- Church: invasive populations, fire hazards from invasive thatch
- Power poles & electrical, internet and phone wires: tree hazards, fire hazards.

Invasive Species Outbreak

Find information to identify plants in MA Guide Book or on Town Website at

<https://mountwashington-ma.gov/departments/conservation-commission/now-is-the-time-invasives-info/>

Examples to look for:

- Trees: Norway Maple, Black Locust
- Shrubs: Japanese Barberry, Winged Euonymus, Multiflora Rose
- Vines: Asian Bittersweet
- Herbs (visible in May or June): Goutweed, Garlic Mustard, Wild Chervil, Purple loosestrife, Forget-Me-Not, Japanese Knotweed, Coltsfoot
- Grasses and Sedges: Japanese Stilt-grass, Phragmites

Erosion Issue

Examples to look for:

- Dirt Roads: muddy, rutted, impassible, flooded, washouts, washboard, potholes
- Culverts: washouts, collapsing, clogged-up, discharging sedimentary runoff.
- Hillsides: erosion, excessive storm runoff
- Private Driveways: stormwater runoff onto public roads
- Road Shoulders: bare earth with no native plant ground cover, overtaken with invasives species

Un-Mapped Trail

I have a Private Forest Stewardship Plan on my property

Recently Logged Forest Plot

Other Point of Interest of Concern

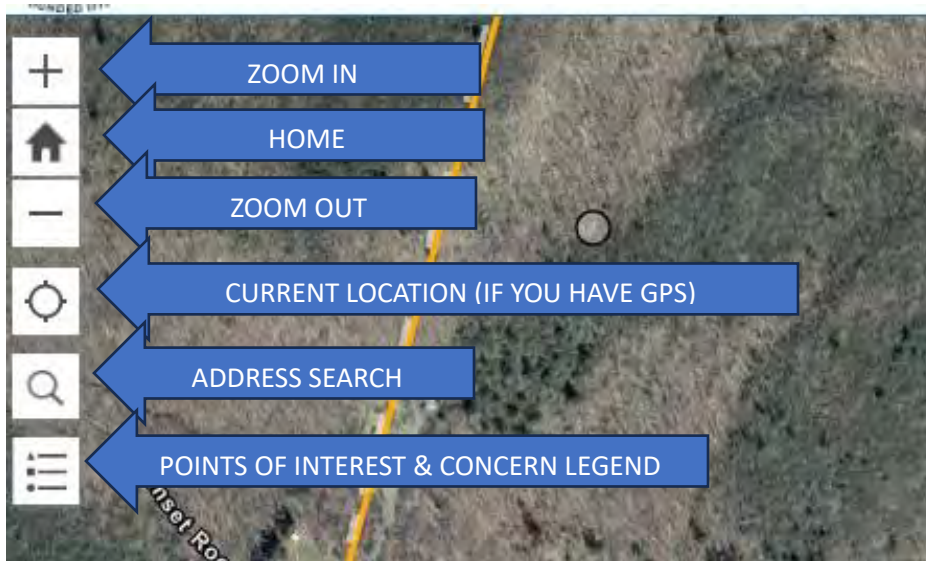
The following *Crowdsorce Map User Guide* provides step-by-step instructions on how to use the Map tools to record and submit your observations about Points of Interest and Concerns:

Crowdsource Mapping Tool 5 Step User Guide

Use the Crowdsource map on your cellphone or home computer.

Step 1: Go to <https://mountwashington-ma.gov/departments/conservation-commission/community-forest-stewardship/> and click the link [Mount Washington Crowdsource Map](#).

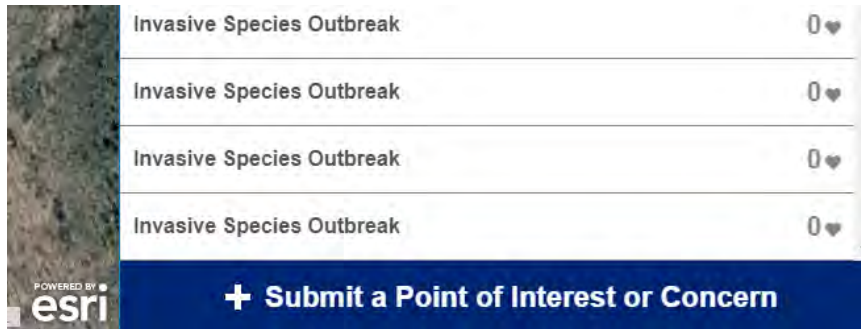
Introduction to Map Menu:



Step 2: When you find something you want to submit, use the + icon to zoom-in on the map until you find your observation location.



Step 3: Click-on the “Submit a Point of Interest or Concern” banner in the bottom right corner of your screen.



Step 4: From the Legend Drop Down click-on the icon that represents your observation and then move your cursor to the map and click-on the location of your observation. You will deposit a small gray dot on the map. Go to the Details window on the right side of you screen and select the point of interest or concern from the drop-down menu that matches your selected icon. Make a comment, upload a photo and additional location information (if available to you). Click-on “Report It.” Your observation has now been submitted for review and verification.



Step 5: You are now ready to be a Citizen Scientist! Congratulations!

Questions? Concerns? Contact your Stewardship Committee representative or the Town Hall Office.