

## Forest Management Plans Guidelines

The Easement Committee establishes the following guidelines for Forest Management Plans on properties under contract and under easement:

1. When required by the conservation easement, a landowner must have a Forest Management Plan approved by WAC.
2. Forest Management Plans may include any and all of the following use areas : Agricultural Conservation Easement Areas (ACEA), Forestry Conservation Easement Areas (FCEA), Resource Protection Areas (RPA), Acceptable Development Areas (ADA).
3. While Forest Management Plans may make specific management recommendations for properties, and the Deed of Conservation Easement requires both a Forest Management Plan and a Forest Harvest Plan prior to a landowner commencing a commercial timber harvest, timber harvests conducted in accordance with a Forest Harvest Plan may not always follow the specific management recommendations of a Forest Management Plan.
4. The content of a Forest Management Plan accomplishes the following:
  - A. Provide easement landowners with the basic information regarding their property so they can make informed forest stewardship decisions.
  - B. Provide a tool for communicating stewardship expectations between the landowner, WAC and forestry professionals.
  - C. Provide the basic property attributes that are necessary for WAC to effectively steward its easements.
  - D. Ensures water quality is protected through sound and sustainable forest management and stewardship and balances water quality protection with the needs of the landowner to promote working landscapes.
5. The cost of developing a Forest Management Plan is the sole responsibility of the easement landowner. The easement landowner can apply for Forest Management Plan funding from the WAC Forestry Program to off-set the cost of plan development.
6. The review and approval of Forest Management Plans for WAC easement properties will be done by WAC Forestry Program staff in accordance with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection's *Water Quality Guidelines for Timber Harvesting* referred to in the WAC Deed of Conservation Easement clause pertaining to Forest Management or successor documents such as the *WAC Watershed*

*Forestry Program Handbook* (the “Handbook”) and its subsequent revisions. Any successor documents such as the WAC Forestry Handbook must be adopted by the WAC easement Committee (EC) via formal motion. If the WAC Forestry Handbook is adopted as the successor document, a Forest Management Plan’s content shall follow specifications listed in Section 14, sections A through W of the Handbook, titled, “Watershed Forest Management Plan Specifications.”

7. All Forest Management Plans for WAC easement properties must meet the minimum standards for Watershed Forest Management Plans set forth in the WAC Forestry Handbook. If a Forest Management Plan does not meet the minimum standards for Forest Management Plans as defined in the Handbook, Forestry Program will not approve the plan and the Easement Program Manager will send a letter to the landowner notifying them that their Forest Management Plan is not to program standards.
8. A copy of the completed Forest Management Plan shall be filed in the Easement Program stewardship files of respective properties once approved by the Forestry staff and Easement Program Manager.

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