

## Kettle & Upper St. Croix Watershed Woodland Stewardship Plan Cost Share Program

If you own forested property in the Kettle & Upper St. Croix Watershed, you may be eligible for partial or full reimbursement on the cost of a woodland stewardship plan. Some forest land in the watershed plays an important role in protecting lakes, streams, and groundwater. Our goal is to keep these forests healthy so that they can continue to protect water quality for years to come.

**A woodland stewardship plan uses the knowledge and experience of a professional forester to help you accomplish the goals and objectives of your forest.**



If your forest is identified as having the most benefits for clean water, you are eligible for reimbursement on the cost of a plan up to the current DNR cost-share rate. By accepting these funds, you are agreeing to enroll your land in the [Sustainable Forests Incentives Act](#) program within the first year after receiving your plan. This program pays an incentive annual payment to you if you agree to keep wooded areas undeveloped for a set number of years. You are also

agreeing to implement one project within the first five years identified during the planning process.

**How the program works:**

1. Contact your local SWCD forestry staff (contact info below). If your forest is in a priority area, you will be eligible to be reimbursed for the full cost of a woodland stewardship plan, up to the current MN DNR cost share rate.
2. If eligible, local SWCD forestry staff will help you fill out a contract. You can choose to work with a SWCD Forester or any MN DNR approved plan writer.
3. The contract will be approved by local SWCD staff. No work can start on the plan until the contract is approved.
4. Once the contract is approved, you can get started on your plan. Work with your forester to schedule time to walk in the woods and learn more about your forest.
5. Once the plan is complete, it will be sent to the MN DNR for their final approval.
6. The last step is to submit a copy of your receipt and approved plan to your local SWCD.
7. The SWCD board will approve reimbursement of the full cost of the plan up to the MN DNR cost share rate at their next board meeting. A check will be sent to you after the meeting.
8. The current DNR cost-share rate for stewardship plans is \$300 + \$10/acre (when contract is signed, stewardship plan rate will stay static whether or not rates change after contract is signed).