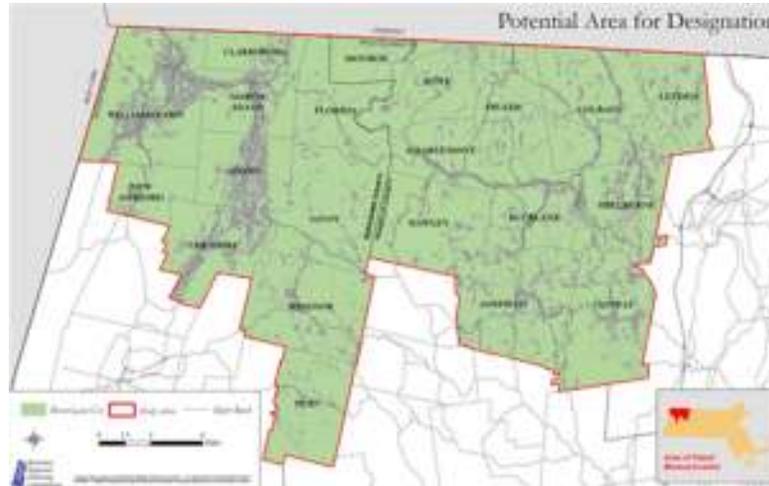


Why Do We Need the MTWP?

The region encompassing Western Franklin and Northern Berkshire Counties is 82% forested.

Our forests play a globally important ecological role but face threats from fragmentation and development.

The towns located here are also among the most economically challenged in the State.



The Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership is a unique, homegrown effort to both conserve our forests and enhance the region's rural land-based economy.

ELIGIBLE TOWNS

Berkshire County

Adams	New Ashford	Williamstown
Cheshire	North Adams	Windsor
Clarksburg	Peru	
Florida	Savoy	

Franklin County

Ashfield	Conway	Monroe
Buckland	Hawley	Rowe
Charlemont	Heath	Shelburne
Colrain	Leyden	

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Berkshire Natural Resources Council
Deerfield River Watershed Association
Franklin Land Trust
Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Assoc.
Hoosic River Watershed Association
Lever, Inc.
Massachusetts Forest Alliance
Society of American Foresters, MA Chapter

LOCAL PLANNING AGENCIES

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
Franklin Regional Council of Governments

STATE & FEDERAL AGENCIES

MA Energy & Environmental Affairs
US Forest Service Liaison

Representatives from the above municipalities and organizations have participated in approximately 60 public meetings to craft the goals and objectives for this rural conservation and economic development program.

The Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership

www.MohawkTrailWoodlandsPartnership.org

Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership

Mission

Support rural economic development and forest conservation to preserve the quality of life in Western Franklin and Northern Berkshire Counties.

What Will the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Do?

Goal 1: Conserve forest land in private ownership to protect the region's rural character and enhance the role forests play in providing clean water and air, flood control, carbon sequestration and habitat protection.

- ▲ Purchase development rights (conservation restrictions) from willing landowners which helps people to continue owning and caring for their land instead of selling it for development;
- ▲ Provide technical assistance to landowners to improve forest management, wildlife habitat, climate change resilience, and to address invasive pests and plants;
- ▲ Increase research on sustainable forestry practices, and marketing and use of local forest-based products.



Goal 2: Increase economic development by nurturing natural resource, outdoor recreation, and tourism-based businesses and expanding employment.

- ▲ Support research and development of new innovative wood products;
- ▲ Build a multipurpose Forest Center where locals and visitors can learn about the many benefits that forests provide and showcase local wood products;
- ▲ Strengthen the marketing of the Mohawk Trail Region;
- ▲ Improve tourism infrastructure and provide technical assistance to support outdoor recreation businesses.

Goal 3: Improve the fiscal stability of municipalities.

- ▲ Provide funding to participating towns for municipal services related to outdoor recreation and tourism.

Who is Involved?

- ▲ 21 Towns
- ▲ State & Local Nonprofits
- ▲ FRCOG & BRPC

For the past several years, a group of 21 towns, state and local nonprofit organizations, planners from Franklin and Berkshire Counties (FRCOG and BRPC) have been working cooperatively with the MA Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs, and the US Forest Service through a liaison to develop goals and objectives of the Partnership.

For the MTWP to proceed, authorizing legislation must be passed in our State legislature, which would establish a governing body, its purposes, and an investment trust fund. No MTWP funding shall be used for a pellet or woodchip plant.

Each municipality can vote to opt in if they would like to join the MTWP after legislation passes.