



VHCB Vermont
Farm & Forest
Viability Program

Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Forestland Transfer Program

Program Summary

Since 2016, the Farm and Forest Viability Program has been working with community partners to provide in-depth forestland transfer planning for forestland owners in Vermont. This program aims to prevent forest fragmentation by guiding landowners through transfer planning that keeps forestland intact.

Eligibility

- ✓ Own forestland at least 50 acres in size or that demonstrates significant or unique community or ecological assets. Vermont residency is NOT a requirement for eligibility.
- ✓ Be willing to commit significant time to this process, and must be committed to fully participating within the established program model.
- ✓ Have goals for Forestland Transfer that align with the program's intention of keeping forestland intact.

Service Providers

Viability Forestland Transfer Program services are delivered by professional advisors at service provider organizations located throughout the state. Participating organizations include:

***Environmental Mediation Center
Redstart Natural Resource Management
RJ Turner Co.***

***Vermont Coverts: Woodlands for Wildlife*
Vermont Natural Resources Council*
Vermont Woodlands Association****

Services

Participating landowners are matched with a lead advisor(s), who serves as a guide through the transfer planning process. Landowners will receive 20-100 hours of coaching/support. The lead advisor will:

- ✓ Provide information & guidance on transferring ownership of forestland, with particular focus on the legal, financial & family dynamic involved
- ✓ Clarify options for families
- ✓ Convene meetings
- ✓ Act as a neutral party to family discussions
- ✓ Facilitate organization of relevant legal and technical documents and information
- ✓ Connect families with subject-area specialists, prepare them for taking best advantage of those services, and organize/facilitate specialist meetings if necessary
- ✓ Encourage forward movement of the transfer planning process

*Select partner organizations will also be delivering transfer planning workshops and events throughout 2023-2025. Reach out to VHCB or these partners for more details.

For more information, please contact Mark Raishart, Program Specialist:

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www.vhcb.org/forestland