
VILLAGE ECOLOGICAL COST-SHARE PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Village of Riverwoods has created several unique Ecological Cost-share Programs to assist residents with various aspects of managing and enhancing the Village's natural areas. The Program process was updated in early 2016 to be easily accessible and implemented. A second update was completed and went into effect on March 21, 2017. The process starts with a consultation from the Village Ecologist to discuss how a property can be improved using the Village's Ecological Cost Share Programs. The Village Ecologist then creates a personalized report for the property owner with a map that explains how to implement each eligible Program and how to get reimbursed from the Village.

Here are some answers to the most frequently asked questions about these programs:

1. What are the various Ecological Cost-share Programs the Village offers?

ANSWER:

The Village of Riverwoods offers the following programs as a cost share up to a maximum amount:

- Ecological Consultation (40/60 (Village) cost share; cost to resident is \$75)
- Canopy & Subcanopy Tree Thinning (50/50 cost share up to \$4,000)
- Invasive Shrub Removal Program (50/50 cost share up to \$4,000)
- Garlic Mustard Removal Program (50/50 cost share up to \$2,000)
- Native Tree & Shrub Planting Program (50/50 cost share up to \$2,000)
- Rain Gardens (50/50 cost share up to \$4,000)
- Prescribed Burning (50/50 cost share up to \$2,000)
- Native Seeding & Planting (50/50 cost share up to \$2,000)

2. Who is eligible to participate?

ANSWER:

All Village residents, businesses, & associations are eligible to participate in the Ecological Cost-Share Program.

3. If I participate in one program can I participate in others?

ANSWER:

This will depend on the assessment provided by the Village Ecologist during the Ecologist Consultation which is required prior to being approved for participation in all Village Cost-share Programs with exception of the Annual Plant Sale. You can participate in any program approved by the Village Ecologist. The intent of these programs is to assist residents with the initial work of getting invasive species under control, getting native species established, etc., and the Village would like as many residents to be able to participate as possible. In some cases, a program can be applied for in multiple fiscal years.

4. How are the funds distributed?

ANSWER:

The program requirements are authorized by "An Ordinance Providing for Ecological Cost-Share Programs in the Village of Riverwoods" and are subject to such ordinance, as from time to time amended. The Village Board determines the amount of cost-share funds available each year for the programs, and the funds are available to residents on a first-come, first-served basis. The most recent update was approved/made on March 21, 2017.

5. When do I receive the cost-share funds?

ANSWER:

Before you receive the cost-share reimbursement, you must pay all contractors and provide the Village with copies of all paid invoices and the Village Ecologist must review and approve all completed work. Once the Village has received copies of the paid invoices and the completed work has been reviewed and approved by the Village Ecologist, the reimbursement request is forwarded to the Village Board for approval with other payables. Payables are reviewed by the Village Board at the last meeting of every month. Reimbursement for each program varies but can generally be expected in one to three months following the approval of work by the Village Ecologist.

6. How do I find a contractor?

ANSWER:

The Village has a sample list of contractors available if you need some ideas. In some cases, your landscaper may be able to perform the work. Other projects require the use of an Ecological restoration specialist. Please review the specific requirements of each program.

7. Where can I find native trees, shrubs, plants, and seed on the approved lists?

ANSWER:

Many nurseries in the area sell native trees and shrubs from the Riverwoods approved lists. Native seed and plant plugs can be obtained from Native Plant Nurseries. A sample list of nurseries is available from the Village.

8. Can I plant trees other than what is on the planting list?

ANSWER:

In order to be eligible to participate in the Cost-Share Program, you must plant only those species on the approved planting lists and as approved by the Village Ecologist. The approved trees and shrubs have been selected because they are native species suited to the woodland ecology of the Village.

9. Why does the Invasive Shrub Removal Program require one re-sprout treatment?

ANSWER:

Invasive shrubs tend to re-sprout from the base of the plant after being cut down and herbicided. A second herbicide treatment to re-sprouts helps increase mortality.

10. Which of these programs is an approval issued for?

ANSWER:

If you are participating in the Cost-Share Programs you receive a general “Ecological Restoration Permit” once your application is approved. This permit specifies which type of work you will be doing, i.e. garlic mustard removal, invasive shrub removal, canopy & subcanopy tree thinning, etc. Note: All other tree and shrub removal work not associated with a Cost-Share Program requires a “Tree Removal Permit”, i.e. removals associated with dead, diseased, or dying trees, good ecological practices or construction

11. The Garlic Mustard Removal program is a two-year program. Do I have to do the work for two consecutive years?

ANSWER:

Yes. Participation in the Garlic Mustard Removal Program requires the work to be performed in consecutive years. Garlic mustard plants grow in two stages. The first-year plants are small and only grow a few inches above ground. The second-year plants are 2-3 feet tall and produce flowers and seeds. The purpose of participation for two consecutive years is to remove as many of the second-year plants as possible to get the problem under control.

For answers to any other questions about the Village cost-share programs that are not addressed above, call the Village Hall at 847-945-3990.