

New App Puts Forestry Info into Landowners' Hands

The Challenge:

Many forest landowners have questions about managing their woodlots, and like the rest of us, they want answers available to them 24 hours a day. In order to provide technical assistance to an increasingly tech-savvy group of landowners and communities, an effort was made across New England to develop and make use of more automated, web-based information tools.

The Solution:

The [North East State Foresters Association](#) developed a free app called *About My Woods* to help forest landowners and others better manage their woods. The app works on Android and Apple smartphones and tablets, and can be downloaded from the Google Play Store or the iPhone App Store, respectively. The U.S. Forest Service provided \$119,000 in funding through a grant to develop the app.

Resulting Benefits:

About My Woods provides an automated, convenient way for landowners and others to seek out forestry-related information on the web 24/7. All users need are a smartphone or tablet and access to the Internet. The app features location map services to help landowners and others identify flora and fauna found in their vicinity. The free service provides a wealth of local information about invasive plants and insects, soils, wildflowers, ferns, mushrooms, shrubs, trees, wildlife, and more. The *About My Woods* app can also help users find local State forestry educators, landowner organizations, Tree Farm committees, and land trusts that are active in the region.



About My Woods is a free app that helps landowners get more information about and manage their woods. It is available for download on both Android and Apple devices. (U.S. Forest Service graphic)

Sharing Success:

This app was originally developed for landowners in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. It was later expanded to include applicable information for Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and even Kansas residents. More States are being added, and this handy app has been downloaded more than 10,000 times to date.

"The About My Woods app answers a host of questions for property owners and those interested about their immediate surroundings right while they are in the woods at their very moment of interest," said Connecticut State Forester Chris Martin. *"From tree and wildflower identification, geo-located mapping services, to where to go for more forest and wildlife information, the About My Woods app literally places this information from your pocket to your fingertips with a tap on your mobile device. It could not be more convenient for folks wanting immediate answers to their woodland questions."*

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This convenient app is packed with useful information to help landowners better manage their woods.



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