

BECOME A SKILLED STEWARD OF THE LAND.

Learn to transform degraded landscapes into healthy, biodiverse, resilient habitats through ecological learning and hands-on land stewardship.



THE LAND STEWARD TRAINING PROGRAM

at the Horn Farm Center is designed to inspire the next generation of land stewards, equipping students with skills that the world needs to restore broken ecosystems, rebuild lost habitat, mitigate climate change, and reawaken our sense of place in nature.





PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Bringing together deep ecological literacy and hands-on practice in restorative earthwork, the Land Steward Training Program (LSTP) inspires **versatile, compassionate, and activated caretakers** of impaired natural landscapes in the Mid-Atlantic bioregion.

The LSTP entails dynamic studies in **ecology, land-shaping, habitat restoration, and ways of enacting reciprocity with the natural world**. The essential knowledge and practical skill-set gathered through this course can be leveraged in a variety of contexts, including home-scale lawn and woodland revival, professional conservation and land stewardship work, furthering academic studies, environmental activism, and recovering ways of living that are rooted in nature.



Who Takes the LSTP?

- 🐾 **Homeowners and land stewardship volunteers** exploring yard, field, and woodland restoration.
- 🐾 **Career beginners, pivoters, and gap year students** seeking a transformative immersion and/or applicable experience for entering the environmental workforce.
- 🐾 **Non-traditional learners and environmental advocates** interested in naturalism and deepening their sense of place in nature.
- 🐾 **Parents and environmental educators** studying land-based skills and knowledge to practice and share with future generations.

PROGRAM COVERAGE

FIRST FOUR WEEKS:

Ecological Core Classroom Curriculum

Sundays, 2/11-3/3, 8am-4pm

Held in conjunction with the [Ecological Gardener Training Program](#), this blended curriculum covers essential ecological foundations for regenerative land practices. Students are given the opportunity to explore new lenses for seeing and interacting with natural systems.

Topics:

- 🍃 Earth's natural history.
- 🍃 Basic ecology and natural cycles.
- 🍃 Historical land uses and misuses.
- 🍃 Frameworks for ecological stewardship.
- 🍃 Field and forest movement mechanics.



TWELVE WEEKS: Hands-On Training

Tuesdays, 3/5-5/21 8am-4pm w/ two hike days

Training sessions at the Horn Farm covering topics in disturbance-based forest management and agroforestry, including ...

Observation | Assessment

- 🍃 Soil & Hydrological Health.
- 🍃 Woodland & Wetland Dynamics.
- 🍃 Ecological Indicators.

Site Prep | Fortification

- 🍃 Hand Tool Use & Maintenance.
- 🍃 Low-Tech, Place-Sourced Interventions.
- 🍃 Ecological Analogues & Biomimicry.

Bolstering | Stewardship:

- 🍃 Approaches for Reviving Wild Spaces.
- 🍃 Natural Movement for Bodily Resilience.

ENGAGEMENT AND OUTCOMES

Through 128 hours of classroom and hands-on learning, LSTP trainees will ...

- 🍃 **(Re)kindle** a meaningful, action-based connection with the natural world.
- 🍃 **Gain knowledge** in regional ecological systems, plant identification, and animal impacts in shaping landscapes.
- 🍃 **Experience** rebuilding ecosystem services and resiliency in a range of natural spaces and circumstances.
- 🍃 **Engage** in demanding, strenuous outdoor work essential for addressing ecological health.
- 🍃 **Build confidence** in making ecological management decisions at home and in the community.
- 🍃 **Enrich** learning through an independently-guided research project with a culminating paper or presentation.
- 🍃 **Take home** a naturalist tool kit outfitted with a note/sketch book, plant ID magnifying lens, and multitool.

I:I2

Instructor : Student
ratio



I have always been passionate about the beauty around me, but since taking the LSTP, I have found a new relationship with nature. I have a greater connection, awareness and focus due to better knowledge of how things work in the big picture.

🍃 **Kathy, 2023 LSTP Trainee**



Additional perks include ...

- 🍃 At least **two educational hiking trips** to ecologically significant local destinations.
- 🍃 Two **overlapping sessions** with the Ecological Gardener Training Program.
- 🍃 **Natural movement** and wind-down sessions.
- 🍃 Optional **shared lunch** with EGTP trainees.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Sundays, 2/11 to 3/3, then Tuesdays, 3/5 to 5/21

WEEKS I-4

2/11, 2/18
2/25, 3/3

Ecological Core Curriculum

**Class location dependent on the [Horn Farm's farmhouse reconstruction](#) progress. Classes will either take place at the Horn Farm Center or a nearby location that will be communicated before the program begins.*

8 hours each class (8am-4pm)

WEEKS 5-16

Hands-On Training

**Classes will be held at the Horn Farm Center and regional natural public spaces.*

8 hours each class (8am-4pm)

3/5

3/12

3/19

3/26

4/2

4/9

4/16

4/23

4/30

5/7

5/14

5/21

Observation, Assessment, & Intro to Biomimicry

- 🌿 Educational hiking trip.
- 🌿 Hand tool orientation.
- 🌿 *Example topics:* plant ID, trail scouting/building, coppicing/live staking.

Field Experience: Woodlands & Wetlands

- 🌿 One overlap session with the Ecological Gardener Training Program.
- 🌿 *Example topics:* land shaping, erosion mitigation, agroforestry, mini-forests.

Field Experience + Final Projects

- 🌿 One overlap session with the EGTP.
- 🌿 Culminating educational hiking trip.
- 🌿 Research project presentations.
- 🌿 *Example topics:* vernal ponds, bridge-building, wetland plantings.



Whether partaking in didactic learning or hands-on application I have gained so much knowledge as well as a confidence within the landscape. Every class is so rewarding--it has been such a privilege to participate!

🌿 **Kelly, 2023 LSTP Trainee**

Transportation for all classes, including off-site field trips, is the responsibility of the student.

APPLICATION AND FEES

To Apply:

Head to <https://hornfarmcenter.org/land-steward-training/> and submit an application. After applying, you will receive an email from the instructors to schedule an **informal get-to-know-you meeting** to discuss your interests, goals, and needs.

Program Cost: \$1425

\$89/week for 16 weeks covering instructor hours and program supplies.

Early-Bird Discount: ~~\$1425~~ \$1325

For applications received before 5PM EST on November 30th, 2023



Physical Activity Note

Before applying, be advised that this program combines classroom learning with hands-on labor in the field. We almost exclusively use human energy to localize our footprint, so **work sessions can be physically demanding**. Active participation in strenuous activities is not required, but they are a critical companion to the learning experience as we turn regenerative concepts into actions. See the FAQ section of the LSTP webpage for more details on what you can expect during work sessions.

Scholarships:

**2024 scholarships available thanks to the Peterman Family Foundation.*

Limited financial assistance is available to reduce program costs for eligible trainees. *Check out the program web page and application for more information about scholarships and how to apply.*

Questions? Reach us at education@hornfarmcenter.org



2023 & 2022 LSTP cohorts!



The Land Steward Training Program is the most important educational experience I've ever had in my life. In our current time and society we urgently need individuals, teachers, and people who want to protect and save our native environments. There can be no better starting place to begin your journey into stewarding the land and being a support for the Earth than taking the LSTP at the Horn Farm Center.

🌱 Vince, 2023 LSTP Trainee

