

Sample Timelines for Habitat Projects at Schools

General Guidelines

- If writing a Chesapeake Bay Trust grant remember: the students can write it, you can submit it at any time if you are asking for \$5000 or less, and you should submit it at least 8 to 10 weeks before you want the money.
- Field trips to local waterways can help solidify the "Meaningful Bay Experience Connection"
- Ideally start the forest or meadow project process about 6 to 12 months before you would like to plant and the wetland project process about 2 years before you would like to plant.
- Allow your site to dictate the project. If you have the right soils, make a wetland Or if you have a stand of trees, expand them into a forest.
- The sooner you start talking to nurseries the more likely you are to get the plants and trees you want.
- Be Flexible! We make our plans so we can eventually change our plans.

Additional tips for Meadows:

- Ideally it takes about a year to establish a meadow. In order for the meadow to be successful you have to kill whatever species of grasses are currently in the area.
- It will never look like the highway median plantings because we encourage natives only.
- Meadows are a transition habitat. In a natural setting they eventually become a forest. Consider if you want to keep it a meadow (more maintenance) or allow it to transition into a forest (less maintenance), or some combination of the two.

Additional tips for Forests:

- Plant trees when the transition will be the least traumatic for them. Look for mild weather: usually March, April, October, November, and December.
- You will have some mortality. Plant densely and monitor closely in the first year or so to try to reduce mortality.
- Maintenance for a forest project can sometimes be as simple as: don't mow, put up a nice sign and monitor for invasive vines. But it can be more complex, everything depends on existing vegetation and existing herbivores.

For more information or for general inquiries please contact:

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