

TABLE 4: COMPARING THE CHAPTER 61 PROGRAMS

Program Characteristics	Chapter 61 FORESTRY	Chapter 61A AGRICULTURE	Chapter 61B OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION
Land Use	Forest management	Agriculture, including forest management	Passive or recreational use (forest management optional)
Administration	Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Service Forestry Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Board of Assessors DCR Service Forestry Program if managing forestland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Board of Assessors DCR Service Forestry Program if managing forestland
Minimum acreage	10 acres	5 acres	5 acres
Tax Reduction	Based on market value of forest products land is capable of producing, set annually by Farm Land Advisory Committee	Based on market value of farm products land is capable of producing, set annually by Farm Land Advisory Committee	75% reduction of assessed value
Requirements	10-year Forest Management Plan approved by the State Service Forester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate at least \$500 in annual sales of agricultural products, including forest products. If managing forestland, 10-year Forest Management Plan approved by the State Service Forester 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land mostly natural, wild, or open, or used for an approved recreational use. If managing forestland, 10-year Forest Management Plan approved by the State Service Forester
Posting (excluding public access)	Posting allowed	Posting allowed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posting allowed under “natural, wild, or open” category Posting may be allowed under the Recreation category for organizations with paying members
Renewal Timeframe	Reapply every 10 years by September 30 with new 10-year Forest Management Plan	Reapply annually by October 1	Reapply annually by October 1
Forest Management	Required	Required for enrolled productive forestland	Optional
10-Year Forest Management Plan	Required	Required only if landowner manages forestland	Required only if landowner manages forestland