

TABLE 4: COMPARING THE CHAPTER 61 PROGRAMS

Program Characteristics	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Chapter 61</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">FORESTRY</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Chapter 61A</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">AGRICULTURE</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Chapter 61B</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION</p>
<b>Land Use</b>	Forest management	Agriculture, including forest management	Passive or recreational use (forest management optional)
<b>Administration</b>	Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Service Forestry Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town Board of Assessors</li> <li>• DCR Service Forestry Program if managing forestland</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town Board of Assessors</li> <li>• DCR Service Forestry Program if managing forestland</li> </ul>
<b>Minimum acreage</b>	10 acres	5 acres	5 acres
<b>Tax Reduction</b>	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
<b>Requirements</b>	10-year Forest Management Plan approved by the State Service Forester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate at least \$500 in annual sales of agricultural products, including forest products.</li> <li>• If managing forestland, 10-year Forest Management Plan approved by the State Service Forester</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land mostly natural, wild, or open, or used for an approved recreational use.</li> <li>• If managing forestland, 10-year Forest Management Plan approved by the State Service Forester</li> </ul>
<b>Posting (excluding public access)</b>	Posting allowed	Posting allowed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Posting allowed under “natural, wild, or open” category</li> <li>• Posting may be allowed under the Recreation category for organizations with paying members</li> </ul>
<b>Renewal Timeframe</b>	Reapply <b>every 10 years</b> by September 30 with new 10-year Forest Management Plan	Reapply <b>annually</b> by October 1	Reapply <b>annually</b> by October 1
<b>Forest Management</b>	Required	Required for enrolled productive forestland	Optional
<b>10-Year Forest Management Plan</b>	Required	Required only if landowner manages forestland	Required only if landowner manages forestland