



Massachusetts Forest Resource Fact Sheet 2025

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Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

| Program | FY 2024 Final |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Cooperative Fire Protection | \$1,011,167 |
| Cooperative Forestry | \$837,288 |
| Forest Health Management | \$72,829 |
| Forest Legacy and Community Forestry | \$0 |
| Total | \$1,921,284 |

NOTE: This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.

Key Issues

- Increase resistance and resilience of trees and forests to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.
- Manage forest ecosystem health and biodiversity.
- Support and enhance forest economy.
- Maintain and increase urban tree canopy.
- Enhance the connection between forests and people.
- Increase land base of conserved forests (keep forests as forests).
- Advocate for a legal and institutional framework pertinent to the conservation and management of trees and forests.
- Maintain and enhance soil, water, and air resources.
- Support the role and use of prescribed fire in the landscape.
- Cultivate and support partnerships with forestry and conservation stakeholders.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

| Selected Facts | Value | FY 2024 Accomplishments | Value |
|---|-----------|--|-----------|
| Population | 7,029,917 | Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance | 4,426 |
| Acres of Forest Land | 2,984,347 | Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans | 24,500 |
| Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land | 1,316,407 | Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans | 7,541 |
| Number of NIPF Landowners | 23,046 | Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted | 0 |
| Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection | 0 | State Fire Communities Assisted | 189 |
| Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection | 3,200,000 | Coop Forest Health Acres Protected | 1,490 |
| Number of Rural Fire Departments | 220 | Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions | 237 |
| Cities and Towns | 351 | Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance | 216 |
| Forest Based Employment | 20,647 | Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance | 5,851,955 |
| Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank) | 6 | Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance | 20,419 |
| State Forestry Budget (All Sources) | 3,750,000 | | |

Program Highlights

Community Forests and Open Space

The Town of Holland established the 159-acre Stevens Brook Sichel Community Forest with the help of the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program. Using \$158,000 in program funds, the town acquired the property to protect the forest along Stevens Brook and continue recreational opportunities on the trails. Located at the edge of town center, the property is easily accessed for public use and will offer outdoor education opportunities for the nearby elementary school.

Cooperative Fire Protection

Volunteer Fire Capacity funding was provided to 50 volunteer fire departments. The state used State Fire Capacity funding to treat 2,457 acres. State fire Capacity funding contributed to training 650 firefighters. A Wildfire Risk Reduction grant for \$300,000 allowed the state to expand their prescribed fire program through training and hazardous fuels treatments.

Economic Action

In 2024, five Massachusetts projects received over \$1.4 million in Forest Markets grant funding, including Wood Innovations and Temporary Bridge Crossings Funding and Wood Education Resource Center. Project work includes engineering and design for

using mass timber for senior housing, small sawmill expansion, firewood production improvements, emission standards, and temporary bridge crossings.

Forest Legacy

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and its partners permanently conserved two tracts that are part of the Nashua Wild and Scenic Rivers and Forests and the Emerald Forest Borderlands Forest Legacy Program (FLP) projects, respectively. Using \$750,000 of FLP funds between the two tracts, the Town of Southbridge purchased a 166-acre conservation easement in southern Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game acquired a 71-acre property in northern Massachusetts, for a total of 237 acres of newly conserved forestland in the state.

Forest Stewardship

The Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program reported 285 new or revised stewardship plans for 24,500 acres, of which 7,541 acres were in Important Forest Areas per the State's Strategic Forest Action Plan. A total of 2,980 landowners took part in educational programs and 1,446 landowners received technical assistance.

LaSR: Accelerating Implementation of Climate Resilient Forest Management Practices in Massachusetts: \$297,992. Mass Audubon, is increasing the pace of forest stewardship climate plan adoption and practice implementation through climate-smart practice demonstrations, practice manuals, and decision tools, and by providing forest resiliency education to landowners, foresters, loggers, conservation practitioners, and policymakers.

Rivers Run Through It: Restoring Floodplain Forest and Riparian Buffers in the Northwest Massachusetts Town Centers and River Junctions: \$60,000. The New England Forestry Foundation, Inc. (NEFF), will continue to implement ecosystem restoration priorities with the Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts, a new model of grassroots, State, and Federal stewardship of a forested landscape focused on conservation and natural resource-based development to support a sustainable rural economy. Riparian restoration and community planting of more than 150 trees will take place within Forest Service priority areas; trees and shrubs have already been planted in Conway's South River Meadow, at a Berkshire Housing Authority property and bike path in Williamstown, at Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School's field near a stream and culvert, and along the Deerfield River at Hawlemont Elementary School in Charlemont.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts does not operate a State nursery. Through the Forest Stewardship program and National Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetics Resource program, Massachusetts receives financial assistance to support nursery, genetics, and seed programs.

Landscape Scale Restoration

Grantee: Franklin County Community Development Corporation

Federal Investment: \$296,000

Project: Expanding Climate-Smart and Bird-Friendly Forestry to Produce Wood for Local Rural Communities

Summary: This project will pilot incentives to establish a local wood supply chain in the Woodlands Partnership region of the State of Massachusetts, a rural, forested, and low-income region and a priority landscape in their State Forest Action Plan. An assessment of barriers to keeping wood local will guide incentives to establish local supply chains, encourage climate and habitat forestry, support a regional wood bank and expand education to consumers and communities about the benefits and these new local wood products.

Grantee: National Association of Conservation Districts

Federal Investment: \$585,824 (Multi-State Project)

Project: Northeast Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forests and Water

Summary: The Northeast-Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forests and Water is an interagency, multi-partner collaboration that advances restoration of priority forest landscapes and protects water from West Virginia to Maine. This project will facilitate continued collaboration among the diverse array of partners in states across the northeast and mid-Atlantic, will foster shared learning, and support forested watershed restoration activities.

Urban and Community Forestry

In 2024, the Massachusetts Urban and Community Forestry Program held tree planting trainings for municipal staff, tree board members, and contractors associated with all Urban and Community Forestry Challenge grant recipients whose proposal includes any aspect and amount of tree planting. The Urban and Community Forestry Program staff continues to work on developing urban forestry factsheets, and this year the program added an additional one, the Urban Tree Siting Guide, to the total of 16 factsheets. In 2024, in honor of Arbor Day, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Urban and Community Forestry staff invited students from across the Commonwealth to participate in our annual Arbor Day Poster Contest. The goal of the program is to increase students' understanding of their relationship with the urban forest and the trees around them.



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