



Maryland Forest Resource Fact Sheet 2025

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Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2024 Final
Cooperative Fire Protection	\$788,325
Cooperative Forestry	\$1,203,458
Forest Health Management	\$448,000
Forest Legacy and Community Forestry	\$0
Total	\$2,439,783

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

Key Issues

- Grow forests, habitats, markets, and jobs.
- Manage forest health and fire.
- Provide clean water.
- Create healthy, livable communities with trees and forests.
- Respond to climate change.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2024 Accomplishments	Value
Population	6,177,224	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	1,454
Acres of Forest Land	2,448,338	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	11,925
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	1,451,469	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	3,689
Number of NIPF Landowners	31,274	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	50
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	124
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	3,200,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	30,300
Number of Rural Fire Departments	371	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	157	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	512
Forest Based Employment	13,135	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	5,098,418
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	4	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	46,000
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	9,500,000		

Program Highlights

Chesapeake Bay Watershed

The Chesapeake Shared Stewardship Agreement is being implemented and will help Maryland meet its mandated water quality improvement goals for the Chesapeake Bay through watershed forestry. The Maryland Forest Service led in the restoration of 492 acres of riparian forest buffers, 520 acres of upland tree planting on agricultural lands, and 2,130 acres of urban tree planting in the most recent reporting cycle, approved in 2024. Other significant watershed forestry activities in 2024 included co-chairing the Chesapeake Bay Program's Forestry Workgroup, continuing large-scale tree planting efforts through the state's 5 Million Trees Initiative and the Healthy Forests Healthy Waters program, leading a forest buffer partners team, and implementing Maryland's Riparian Forest Buffer Action Strategy.

Cooperative Fire Protection

Maryland trained 250 firefighters through the Volunteer and State Fire Capacity programs and funded treatment on 2,700 acres. Grants were provided to 35 volunteer fire departments to support wildland fire response. Maryland was awarded a \$300,000 Wildfire Risk Reduction grant to mitigate risk in wildland urban interface areas. Maryland acquired \$1,685,295 in property from the Department of Defense Firefighter Property Program and \$69,772 in Federal Excess Personal Property to support wildland fire suppression.

Economic Action

In 2024, three Maryland projects received \$800,000 for the Forest Markets' Wood Innovations Funding. These projects include efforts such as developing nail laminated timber panel systems for use in affordable housing, engineering designs for a campus-wide wood energy system for a state university and provide useful resources for landowners and loggers alike for carbon storage

and forest management.

Forest Stewardship

Maryland Forest Service provided technical services to nearly 1,000 landowners during 2024. Responding to industry concerns regarding implementation of best management practices, the Maryland Forest Service is providing technical reviews on 90% of harvest sites involving 22,000 acres of active harvesting. New March Strategies conducted a formal risk assessment of Maryland's forestry practices and supply chain behaviors across eight sustainability evaluation areas, finding low or negligible risk that wood originating in Maryland's forests is associated with a direct adverse sustainability impact. Maryland continued to implement the 5 Million Trees program with the goal of planting 5 million trees above baseline by 2030.

The Maryland Forest Service operates one State nursery, John Ayton State Tree Nursery, located in Preston. Through the Forest Stewardship program and National Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetics Resource program, the State receives financial assistance to support nursery, genetics, and seed programs. Funds helped to support staffing at their state nursery.

Landscape Scale Restoration

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

Maryland Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry program provides urban forestry assistance to 6,177,224 citizens in 518 census designated places in Maryland. Maryland is poised to increase tree canopy coverage in urban areas through revised legislation, a new Community Forestry Catalyst Fund grant program, and the 5-Million Trees Initiative. Maryland's Forest Conservation Act was revised to require stream buffers, set State policy to increase tree canopy coverage measured every four years, and to prioritize and map forests in urban areas which are most important to wildlife, mitigating air pollution, and reduce the heat island effect. The Community Forestry Catalyst Fund offers grant funding to community organizations in underserved areas to enable them to increase capacity and remove barriers to tree planting. The 5-Million Trees initiative specifies that 500,000 trees are to be planted in urban, underserved areas by 2032. These initiatives will enable Maryland to increase its urban tree canopy in the upcoming years.



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