



# State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

## New Jersey 2020



### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

| Program                                      | FY 2019 Final      |
|--|--------------------|
| Community Forestry and Open Space            | \$0                |
| Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management | \$71,856           |
| Forest Legacy                                | \$0                |
| Forest Stewardship                           | \$89,080           |
| Landscape Scale Restoration                  | \$300,000          |
| State Fire Assistance                        | \$565,199          |
| Urban and Community Forestry                 | \$456,800          |
| Volunteer Fire Assistance                    | \$238,754          |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>\$1,721,689</b> |

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

State, private, and other non-Federal forests make up 92 percent of the 176 million acres of forests across the 20 states of the Northeast and Midwest. The U.S. Forest Service and state forestry agencies collaborate with other partners on shared stewardship goals, which also support each State Forest Action Plan. The State and Private Forestry programs promote the health, resilience, and productivity of trees and forests across all ownerships for the benefit of people and wildlife; establish and manage urban and community forests; empower private landowners with information and technical assistance to sustainably manage their forests; and protect critically important rural forests and watersheds.

### Program Goals

- Conserve and manage working forest landscapes for multiple values and uses.
- Protect forests from threats.
- Enhance public benefits from trees and forests.

### Key Issues

- Identify and conserve high priority forest ecosystems and landscapes.
- Actively and sustainably manage forests.
- Restore fire-adapted lands and reduce risk of wildfire impacts.
- Identify, manage, and reduce threats to forest and ecosystem health.
- Protect and enhance water quality and quantity.
- Improve air quality and conserve energy.
- Assist communities in planning for and reducing forest health risks.
- Maintain and enhance the economic benefits and values of trees and forests.
- Protect, conserve, and enhance wildlife and fish habitat.
- Connect people to trees and forests, and engage them in environmental stewardship activities.
- Manage trees and forests to mitigate and adapt to global climate change.

## Forest Facts and Accomplishments

| <b>Selected Facts</b>                             | <b>Value</b> | <b>FY 2019 Accomplishments</b>   | <b>Value</b> |
|---|--------------|--|--------------|
| Population  | 8,791,894    | Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance                             | 22,238       |
| Acres of Forest Land                              | 1,981,515    | Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans                             | 11,517       |
| Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land        | 1,322,000    | Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans | 2,810        |
| Number of NIPF Landowners                         | 122,000      | Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted  | 100          |
| Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection | 0            | State Fire Communities Assisted  | 265          |
| Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection | 3,250,000    | Coop Forest Health Acres Protected   | 0            |
| Number of Rural Fire Departments                  | 353          | Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions   | 0            |
| Cities and Towns                                  | 324          | Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance                               | 406          |
| Forest Based Employment                           | 24,283       | Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance          | 7,657,413    |
| Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)             | 7            | Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance  | 11,109       |
| State Forestry Budget (All Sources)               | 6,363,938    |  |              |

## Program Highlights

### **Cooperative Fire Protection**

New Jersey was awarded one competitive State Fire Assistance grant to develop a Community Assistance Tool to define, map, and assess Communities at Risk. The project would also treat hazardous fuels in the volatile New Jersey Pine Barrens. The Spring Hill Fire in March 2019 grew to more than 10,000 acres in the New Jersey Pine Barrens and is the most recent example of this area's wildfire risk. New Jersey acquired \$1,965,286 in property from the Department of Defense Fire Fighter Program and \$34,789 in property from the Federal Excess Personal Property program. The property is used to support the state's and volunteer fire departments' wildland fire programs and was utilized heavily in the suppression of the 2019 Spring Hill Fire.

### **Forest Health Protection**

The spotted lanternfly continued to be a major new invasive insect problem and was found in five new counties in 2019. Eight counties have established spotted lanternfly populations, including Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Mercer, Salem, Somerset, and Warren Counties. Emerald ash borer, first found in New Jersey in 2014, has now been found in 15 counties across the state. Pesticide treatments to high-value trees and releases of emerald ash borer biocontrol agents are ongoing.

### **Forest Stewardship**

The New Jersey Stewardship Program reported 215 new or revised forest stewardship plans covering 13,286 acres, of which 3,279 acres were in Important Forest Areas per New Jersey's Strategic Forest Action Plan. In collaboration with other forestry-related partners, 21,518 landowners were provided forestry technical assistance and 720 landowners participated in education programs. In New Jersey, shortleaf pine is at the most northern and eastern limits of its range. New Jersey is a partner in the Shortleaf Pine Initiative comprising 22 states, Federal forestry and wildlife organizations, and other partners. The Division of Parks and Forestry has launched initiatives to establish or enhance shortleaf pine in Wharton and Brendan T. Byrne State Forests in the Pinelands. The division hopes to expand the total acreage of shortleaf pines on state and private lands by 30,000 acres during the next 10 years.

### **Urban and Community Forestry**

New Jersey's Urban and Community Forestry program continued to evolve, wrapping up over 30 grants leveraging \$70,559 of Federal funding with \$139,414 of state and local investment. The grants ranged from \$3,000 to \$30,000 for projects including urban and community forest management plan development, tree inventory, canopy assessment, ash surveys, and tree planting. Volunteers contributed

over 11,000 hours of service to urban and community forestry in the state, gaining knowledge and skills to support their local programs and services as shade tree board representatives to advise and carry out urban and community forestry activities in their hometowns.

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## Contact Information



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