State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet
New York 2024

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2023 Estimate
Community Forestry and Open Space	$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	$256,769
Forest Legacy	$96,000
Forest Stewardship	$287,271
Landscape Scale Restoration	$324,316
State Fire Assistance	$1,468,907
Urban and Community Forestry	$1,521,265
Volunteer Fire Assistance	$976,622
Total	**$4,931,150**

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, Private, and Tribal 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

- Keep New York's forests as forests.
- Keep New York's forests healthy.
- Ensure forests benefit humans and all living creatures.
- Appreciate, support, and protect New York's forests.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value
Population	20,201,249
Acres of Forest Land	18,622,212
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	11,818,798
Number of NIPF Landowners	200,714
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	23,132,960
Number of Rural Fire Departments	1,741
Cities and Towns	1,520
Forest Based Employment	46,958
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	5
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	18,000,000

FY 2023 Accomplishments	Value
Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	1,414
Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	13,146
Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	5,049
Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	635
State Fire Communities Assisted	1,075
Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	1,577
Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	148
Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	13,420,224
Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	55,376

Program Highlights

Chesapeake Bay Watershed

The Chesapeake Shared Stewardship Agreement is being implemented and will help New York meet its mandated water quality improvement goals for the Chesapeake Bay through watershed forestry. New York's Department of Environmental Conservation participated in the reporting and restoration of 226 acres of riparian forest buffers and 4 acres of upland tree. Other significant watershed forestry activities in 2023 included working with partners at the Upper Susquehanna Coalition to plant trees through programs such as Trees for Tributaries, continue the Buffer Stewards Program to evaluate and establish riparian forest buffers, and implement New York's new Riparian Forest Buffer Action Strategy.

Community Forestry and Open Space

Two tracts were protected through purchase to create the 395-acre Valentino Family Community Forest with $276,000 in funding from the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program. The Rensselaer Plateau Alliance will manage the property and the multiple benefits the forest provides. Forests on the Rensselaer Plateau are highly valued because of the distinctive ecology and geology, relatively high elevations, cool climate, and acidic soils that support plants, forests, and wetlands more like northern forest regions than the surrounding local area.

Cooperative Fire Protection

Volunteer Fire Assistance funding supported 635 departments. Approximately 6,250 firefighters received training through Volunteer and State Fire Assistance funding. A Sub-Geographic Operating plan was developed between the USDA Forest Service, New York, and the Fire Department of New York City to assist in all-hazard and wildfire incidents across the country.

Economic Action

In 2023, one $300,000 Wood Innovations grant was awarded to a New York paper mill to utilize more low-quality bark in its processes.

Forest Health Protection

The statewide population of spongy moth increased in 2023, covering around 190,000 acres, mostly in the Hudson Valley. Southern pine beetle continues to cause significant pine mortality on Long Island, with increasing populations within the central Pine Barrens and the south fork of Long Island. Hemlock woolly adelgid populations remained high. In 2023, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) treated hemlocks with systemic insecticides at high-value State forests and parks to protect sensitive hemlock ecosystems and areas with high public use. Beech leaf disease continued to expand in 2023 with 12 new counties reporting the disease. First reported in New York in 2022, the elm zigzag sawfly was

detected in an additional 22 counties in 2023. DEC field crews continued to control giant hogweed and kudzu throughout the State.

Forest Stewardship

The New York Department of Environmental Conservation operates one State nursery, Colonel William F. Fox Nursery, located in Saratoga Springs. 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.

Landscape Scale Restoration

Grantee: Forest Stewards Guild
Federal investment: $236,025 (multistate project)
Project: Sustaining Ash of the Northeast Through Training, Treatment and Outreach
Summary: This project will create a regional response to EAB through educating and engaging land managers in science-based, thoughtful treatment of ash, sharing stories of hope, and encouraging actions that will sustain ash across the landscape.

Grantee: National Association of Conservation Districts
Federal investment: $600,000 (13-State project)
Project: Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forests and Water
Summary: This interagency, multi-partner collaboration advances science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes and protects water in 13 States across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. The project is also supported by the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and includes focus on protecting water supplies for underserved communities and a climate markets work group.

Grantee: Seneca Nation of Indians
Federal investment: $300,000
Project: Ode:ka': Creating Biodiversity Through Indigenous Methods of Prescribed Fire
Summary: The Seneca Nation Conservation Department will focus on forested land owned by the Seneca Nation within the Allegany Territory in the West Perimeter Parcel, which has been identified as having low biodiversity and high instances of non-native invasive species.

Grantee: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Federal investment: $284,722
Project: Continued Momentum: Eradication of New York State's Invasive Giant Hogweed in Rural and Riparian Forested Sites
Summary: This project will involve collaboration with partner agencies to build upon past momentum to survey, control, and eradicate invasive giant hogweed plants throughout the State in priority rural and riparian forests ecosystems. diversity, and limit regeneration of native trees and shrubs

Urban and Community Forestry

In April 2023, New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced the opening of $3 million in Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) grants. For many years, New York State has appropriated funds for UCF grants through its Environmental Protection Fund. In April 2022, these funds increased from $1 million per year to more than $3 million. Grants include tree inventories, community forest management plans, tree planting, and tree maintenance. In total, 75 applications worth nearly $4.5 million were submitted and awards are expected this winter. Other successes include the DEC's UCF program's development of a graphic showing the improper and proper ways to mulch trees in a fun way--using donuts! This graphic reached over 26,000 people through social media, including a very successful social media campaign on National Donut Day, and was used as a postcard-sized hand-out at the State Fair and other tabling events.

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