



# Ohio Forest Resource Fact Sheet 2025

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## Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2024 Final
Cooperative Fire Protection	\$1,362,281
Cooperative Forestry	\$866,737
Forest Health Management	\$219,618
Forest Legacy and Community Forestry	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,448,636</b>

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

## Key Issues

- Sustainable forest management on all forest lands.
- Public benefits from Ohio's forests.
- Conservation of soil and water resources.
- Conservation of biological diversity.
- Threats to forest health.
- Forest fragmentation, parcelization, and loss.

## Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2024 Accomplishments	Value
Population	11,799,448	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	8,634
Acres of Forest Land	7,809,811	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	19,942
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	5,564,951	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	7,728
Number of NIPF Landowners	120,835	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	255
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	159
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	5,822,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	20,332
Number of Rural Fire Departments	1,366	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	926	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	292
Forest Based Employment	57,969	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	6,098,703
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	5	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	43,163
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	11,472,000		

## Program Highlights

### Community Forests and Open Space

In the western Ohio community of St. Marys, the Heritage Trails Park District acquired the E.J. Mackenbach Forest, making it the first forest conserved by the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program in the State. The 44-acre property offers trails for recreational use while keeping the land forested and scenic for recreation users of the adjacent tow path trail of the historic Miami and Erie Canal on the western boundary. The canal was a major source for transportation of goods between Cincinnati on the Ohio River and Toledo on Lake Erie in the 1800's.

### Cooperative Fire Protection

Volunteer Fire Capacity funds supported 85 fire departments for wildland fire suppression training and preparedness. Ohio was awarded a Wildfire Risk Reduction grants for \$235,500 to treat hazardous fuels and conduct fire prevention programs. The State trained 225 firefighters through Cooperative Fire program funding. Ohio acquired \$46,619 in property from the Department of Defense Firefighter Property program and \$60,291 in Federal Excess Personal Property to support wildland fire suppression.

### Economic Action

In 2024, one Ohio project received \$82,000 through the Forest Markets' Community Wood Funding. Project work focus on addressing forests impacted by the Asian long horned beetle by automating sawmill processes to increase procurement of damaged logs.

### Forest Health Protection

The Asian longhorned beetle was discovered in Clermont County in 2011 and as of November 30, 2024 USDA APHIS had removed 21,894 infested trees. For beech leaf disease there were no new county findings in Ohio in 2024. The Ohio Division of Forestry continues to manage hemlock woolly adelgid and chemically treated 4,935 eastern hemlock trees across 372 acres of high-priority hemlock forest in 2023. Elm zigzag sawfly was first detected in Ohio in 2023 in Delaware and Franklin counties. In 2024, new infestations were identified in five additional counties in the northern part of the state (Ashland, Lucas, Stark, Summit, and Wayne).

### **Forest Stewardship**

The Ohio Forest Stewardship program provided over 3,000 technical assists to private woodlands owners. In addition, the Forest Stewardship Program assisted with over 225 educational outreach events for landowners and natural resources professionals, reaching over 5,000 participants in these field days, workshops, and programs. Ohio's state service foresters in the Oak Management Priority Area worked with partners to conduct six place-based programs for woodland owners, utilizing the Peers and Pros 360 method, with most events highlighting privately owned woodlands across the region and the woodland owner conducting improvement work. Through the Enhancing Lake Erie Forests through Partnership Grant, the Ohio Division of Forestry continued to work with partners including local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the American Bird Conservancy, Holden Forests and Gardens, and private consulting foresters in the region to improve assistance and education opportunities to woodland owners within the Lake Erie watershed.

Ohio is using funding to re-open their state nursery in Zanesville, renamed as Buckeye Nursery.

### **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative**

In 2024, two projects from nongovernmental organizations in Ohio received Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding through the USDA Forest Service's Forest Restoration competitive grant program. Over \$370,000 will go toward managing stormwater and overland runoff through tree planting and restoring riparian forest habitat. Collectively, the projects will plant over 10,000 trees, which will contribute to urban canopies in Cleveland and to the restoration of 25 acres of riparian forest habitat along the Ashtabula River. Urban plantings will be focused in low-canopy neighborhoods with additional needs and a high risk for stormwater runoff impacts.

### **Landscape Scale Restoration**

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Federal Investment: \$323,400

Project: Promoting Resilience, Managing Invasive Species, and Safeguarding Ecological Communities

Summary: This project will target oak-hickory forests in climate resilient landscapes where oak and hickory regeneration is suppressed by maples and non-native invasive species. It will treat invasive species and pests in riparian, oak-hickory, and hemlock forest communities. Effective stewardship practices developed and used on properties owned by The Nature Conservancy will be expanded onto new partner properties across southern Ohio.

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**

Ohio's Urban Forestry Assistance Program was awarded \$9 million dollars in IRA funds to address underserved communities and resilience within the urban environment. In 2024, nearly \$5.5 million of this funding was distributed to 36 community projects across the state. The program also advanced federal priorities of focusing assistance and outreach benefits toward underserved communities by developing outreach material, building the urban forestry program through increased staff and equipment and funding to communities that exhibited innovative programs and tree planting programs in underserved populations.



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