



Pennsylvania Forest Resource Fact Sheet 2025

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Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2024 Final
Cooperative Fire Protection	\$0
Cooperative Forestry	\$327,361
Forest Health Management	\$35,220
Forest Legacy and Community Forestry	\$0
Total	\$362,581

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

Key Issues

- Land use change.
- Forest health.
- Sustainable forest management.
- Climate change.
- Communicating natural resource values.
- Energy management and development.
- Wildland fire and public safety.
- Plant and wildlife habitat.
- Forest-related economy and jobs.
- Forest recreation.
- Water and soil.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2024 Accomplishments	Value
Population	13,002,700	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	27,522
Acres of Forest Land	16,622,803	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	9,389
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	9,622,475	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	898
Number of NIPF Landowners	179,543	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	0
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	0
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	17,000,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	534
Number of Rural Fire Departments	2,650	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	1,013	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	394
Forest Based Employment	72,173	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	6,909,999
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	2	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	51,001
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	32,990,000		

Program Highlights

Chesapeake Bay Watershed

The Chesapeake Shared Stewardship Agreement is being implemented and will help Pennsylvania meet its mandated water quality improvement goals for the Chesapeake Bay through watershed forestry. The Bureau of Forestry led the Commonwealth in the restoration of 3,423 acres of riparian forest buffers, 107 acres of upland tree planting on agricultural lands, and 129 acres of urban tree planting in the most recent reporting cycle, approved in 2024. Other significant watershed forestry activities in 2024 included hosting five regional watershed forester positions, conducting outreach and training on agroforestry practices, and continuing Pennsylvania's buffer grant program to support implementation of their Riparian Forest Buffer Action Strategy.

Community Forests and Open Space

In northwestern Pennsylvania a forested tract that had been approved for a housing subdivision is now the first Community Forest funded by the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program in the state. Located in the Town of Cambridge Springs, the Foundation for Sustainable Forests used \$233,000 in program funds to create the 98-acre Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative Community Forest. The property is easily accessible for public recreation, located on State Route 86 with ample off-

street parking and is less than 1.5 miles south of the town center.

Cooperative Fire Protection

Pennsylvania acquired \$517,411 in property from the Department of Defense Firefighter Property program to support state and volunteer fire department wildland fire programs. Hazardous fuels treatment on 500 acres was funded and 4,500 wildland firefighters were trained.

Economic Action

In 2024, six Pennsylvania projects received over \$1.5 million in Forest Markets grant funding, including Wood Innovations Funding and Wood Education Resource Center. Project work includes fiber recovery through debarking, installing new dry kilns to optimize operations, upgrade rip saw technologies, designing cross-laminated timber flooring with and without composite concrete topping, and design and testing of mass timber lighting.

Forest Health Protection

Several new invasive insects have appeared in the last decade in Pennsylvania, including the spotted lanternfly and elm zigzag sawfly and continue to slowly spread across the state. Beech leaf disease (34,862 acres) and hemlock woolly adelgid (1,122 acres) have been confirmed in all 67 counties. Pennsylvania experienced a large increase in spongy moth populations, with 595,324 acres defoliated and 222,617 acres treated by Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (double applications on 5,203 of those acres) and 123, 276 acres by Pennsylvania Game Commission. Additionally, a native defoliator, the fall cankerworm, has been causing an outbreak in southwestern Pennsylvania for a second year, leading to 49,395 acres of defoliation.

Forest Stewardship

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry (BOF) service foresters reviewed and approved 42 new or updated Forest Stewardship plans covering 9,389 acres, and assisted in the review of numerous NRCS-funded management plans. BOF staff provided technical assistance to 761 private forest landowners and attended or hosted 373 educational events across the Commonwealth. In addition, BOF staff and Forest Stewardship Program partners educated 26,761 landowners in a wide range of forestry topics. The BOF also teamed up with partners to begin a Pennsylvania-focused agroforestry peer network to serve as a broadly-accessible hub for anyone working with non-timber forest products and trees for production purposes on farm or at home.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania operates two State nurseries. Penn Nursery, in Spring Mills, is managed by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Howard Nursery, in Howard, is managed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. 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: 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

Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry served 363 communities (6,909,999 residents) through its Urban and Community Forestry partnership program. Approximately \$2,000,000 in grants was given to communities and non-government organizations to plant street trees, park trees, and urban riparian buffers and to pursue other community forestry projects (such as a large-scale bare root tree planting program) and trainings (including a successful in-person statewide Community Forestry conference). In 2024, the program interviewed two additional Chesapeake Bay Community Tree Specialists to help us better activate Tree Equity work to serve underserved communities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed while continuing the work that has made the program such a successful partnership.



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