



## Rhode Island Forest Resource Fact Sheet 2025

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### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2024 Final
Cooperative Fire Protection	\$171,457
Cooperative Forestry	\$414,012
Forest Health Management	\$83,000
Forest Legacy and Community Forestry	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$668,469</b>

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

### Key Issues

- Forest loss, fragmentation, and parcelization.
- Forest health.
- Water.
- Fire.
- Climate change.

### Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2024 Accomplishments	Value
Population	1,097,379	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	149
Acres of Forest Land	354,931	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	4,961
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	266,252	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	4,221
Number of NIPF Landowners	5,195	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	60
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	13
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	433,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	0
Number of Rural Fire Departments	70	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	89
Cities and Towns	39	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	30
Forest Based Employment	3,877	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	994,273
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	5	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	3,647
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	1,750,000		

### Program Highlights

#### Cooperative Fire Protection

Rhode Island provided 14 Volunteer Fire Capacity grants to local departments. State Fire Assistance provided training for 50 firefighters, including leadership and higher-level incident command courses, and conducted eight fire prevention education programs.

#### Forest Legacy

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management purchased conservation easements on two properties that are part of the Scituate Reservoir Watershed Forest Legacy Program (FLP) project. The acquisition of these conservation easements used \$262,500 in FLP funds and permanently protects a combined 89 acres of newly conserved forestland in western Rhode Island.

#### Forest Stewardship

The Rhode Island Forest Stewardship Program reported 52 new/revised stewardship plans for 4,961 acres – 4,221 of which are in Important Forest Areas per Rhode Island's Strategic Forest Action Plan. Rhode Island participated in the Rhode Island Fall Tree Farm Tours and Small-Scale Forestry workshops in conjunction with the Rhode Island Soil and Water Conservation districts. In 2024, 123 landowners were provided forestry technical assistance and 26 landowners participated in education programs.

The State of Rhode Island does not operate a nursery. 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**

The goal of the Rhode Island Urban & Community Forestry Program (UCF) is to support communities in the development of urban forestry programs that enhance the environmental, economic, social, and health benefits that healthy trees and forests provide. In 2024, Rhode Island UCF Program hired a new urban forest specialist who will fulfill the requirement of having a full-time volunteer/partnership coordinator. The UCF program established a new community design assistance program, in partnership with the University of Rhode Island's Department of Landscape Architecture's Regenerative Community Design Lab. The purpose of this program is to work with communities to develop conceptual plans to conserve, protect and enhance community natural resources. The Rhode Island Urban and Community Forestry Program and the Rhode Island Tree Council combined to conduct eight educational and/or instructional workshops, during the 2024 fiscal year. The Rhode Island Tree Council hosted three Tree Steward Educational Courses for 33 individuals. Finally, in FY2024, the Coordinator continued the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Energy-Saving Trees Program Initiative, a statewide homeowner tree planting program. In 2024, the Program is funded at \$125,000.00/yr. and gave away 1,000 trees to Rhode Island homeowners.



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