



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Rhode Island 2019



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2018 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$74,120
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$59,099
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$100,721
Urban and Community Forestry	\$210,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$28,028
Total	\$471,968

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

Successful implementation of the Cooperative Programs depends upon strong partnerships among state, the US Forest Service, and numerous private and government entities. Programs promote the health and productivity of forests, emphasizing timber and other forest products, wildlife, water resources, rural economies, and state-of-the-art conservation practices. The overall goal is to maintain and improve the environmental, economic, and social benefits provided by the state's urban and rural forests. These programs:

Program Goals

- Improve cost effectiveness by using partnerships to deliver programs
- Increase forest-related values by sustaining forest productivity
- Use voluntary, non-regulatory approaches

Key Issues

- Funding to support the management, health, protection and expansion of urban forest.
- The impact of development pressure and a growing rate of inter-generational transfers of forestland ownership on water quality, wildlife habitat, and availability of local forest products.
- Impacts to sustainable forest management and forest ecosystem health from exotic invasive species.
- Insufficient resources to adequately prepare for or cope with large scale damaging events including weather, wildfires, or invasive species.
- Funding to support effective public land management, environmental education, and provide sufficient outreach to forest landowners.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2018 Accomplishments	Value
Population	1,052,567	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	284
Acres of Forest Land	369,844	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	4,079
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	303,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	3,972
Number of NIPF Landowners	38,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	11
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	19
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	0
Cities and Towns	8	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	24
Forest Based Employment	3,877	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	817,293
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	5	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	3,606
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	1,750,000		

Program Highlights

Forest Health Protection

Emerald ash borer was detected for the first time in Rhode Island in July 2018. Gypsy moth, forest tent caterpillar, and winter moth were all active in 2018, with approximately 60,000 acres impacted. Oak mortality, likely due to the combination of drought conditions and defoliation followed by secondary insects, has resulted in extensive oak mortality. Southern pine beetle detection traps resulted in 92 adult beetles collected from 10 sites.

Forest Stewardship

The Rhode Island Forest Stewardship Program reported 29 new/revised stewardship plans for 4,079 acres of which 3,972 acres 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 and about 176 woodland landowners took part in educational programs throughout the year.

Urban and Community Forestry

The Rhode Island Urban and Community Forestry (RI UCF) program awarded \$30,000 in grants to 10 communities for tree planting, maintenance and urban forestry management plan development. RI UCF also received \$110,000 in State funds to continue the Energy-Saving Trees Program, which promotes planting trees to reduce energy-use in buildings. 2,000 trees were distributed. The RI Tree Council (RITC) conducted seven Tree Steward classes for 138 people. Students use their skills to conduct tree planting and care projects throughout the State; this year donating 823 volunteer hours. RITC staff also conducted eight other workshops on tree planting and care topics.

Contact Information



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