State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet
Rhode Island 2020

Investment in State’s Cooperative Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>FY 2019 Final</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Forestry and Open Space</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management</td>
<td>$73,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Legacy</td>
<td>$2,945,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Stewardship</td>
<td>$59,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Landscape Scale Restoration</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Fire Assistance</td>
<td>$169,721</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban and Community Forestry</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer Fire Assistance</td>
<td>$29,176</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$3,475,897</td>
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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 and Private 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

• Forest Resources Management: To manage State-owned forestlands in order to provide a safe environment and reduce conflicts between users while maintaining the health, vigor and sustainability of the forest resources.
• Forest Sustainability: To create, conserve, and maintain sustainable forest resources.
• Information and Education: To educate public officials and the general public to gain an understanding and appreciation of the state’s forest resources, so they might better utilize, conserve, and protect these resources for future generations.
• Forest Health: To protect and improve the health of Rhode Island’s forests.
• Commercial Forest Products: To maintain a viable forest products industry in Rhode Island.
• Water Resources: To protect and manage the state’s forestlands in support of water resource goals and objectives and the needs of Rhode Islanders for plentiful and healthy water supplies.
• Forestland Recreation and Tourism: To provide statewide recreational activities and promote tourism in forested recreation areas.
• Fragmentation: To conserve and restore Rhode Island’s forests so as to minimize forest fragmentation.
Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts | Value
---|---
Population | 1,052,567
Acres of Forest Land | 366,959
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land | 303,000
Number of NIPF Landowners | 38,000
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection | 0
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection | 433,000
Number of Rural Fire Departments | 70
Cities and Towns | 8
Forest Based Employment | 3,877
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank) | 5
State Forestry Budget (All Sources) | 1,750,000

FY 2019 Accomplishments | Value
---|---
Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance | 197
Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans | 2,808
Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans | 2,775
Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted | 11
State Fire Communities Assisted | 17
Coop Forest Health Acres Protected | 0
Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions | 0
Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance | 25
Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance | 846,062
Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance | 3,202

Program Highlights

Cooperative Fire Protection
Rhode Island was awarded one competitive State Fire Assistance grant. Rhode Island continues to see development in the western part of the state, increasing the amount of wildland urban interface. The state has experienced significant mortality from gypsy moth outbreaks in the same area. This grant will enable the Division of Forest Environment to work with public and local fire departments to educate them on the elevated wildfire risk through the Ready, Set, Go!, Firewise, and Fire Adapted Communities programs.

Forest Health Protection
Oak mortality was detected on 1,500 – 3,200 acres as a result of the recent drought and subsequent gypsy moth outbreak. Monitoring for southern pine beetle and emerald ash borer continued in 2019. A minor outbreak of orange-striped oakworm was noted in the fall.

Forest Stewardship
The Rhode Island Forest Stewardship Program reported 55 new or revised stewardship plans for 2,808 acres, of which 2,775 acres are in Important Forest Areas per the state's Strategic Forest Action Plan. Rhode Island participated in Fall Tree Farm Tours and Small-scale Forestry workshops in conjunction with the state’s Soil and Water Conservation districts. Approximately 110 woodland landowners took part in educational programs throughout the year.

Urban and Community Forestry
With a $650,000 grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and a full-time staff member provided by AmericanForests, Rhode Island's Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) has new resources to implement strategies that address climate change and public health goals. UCF continued the Energy-Saving Trees initiative, a statewide homeowner tree planting program that provides $110,000 in state funds and distributes 2,000 seedlings. UCF also awarded $30,000 to eight tree planting/maintenance and urban forestry management plan development projects. Rhode Island Tree Council (RITree) planted 107 trees in three communities through their municipal Set-Back Tree Planting program. Under the Trees Are Cool program, RITree helped to organize local tree planting projects and distributed 254 saplings. RITree and UCF conducted 14 workshops to enhance the public's knowledge and care of trees. RITree also hosted five tree steward training courses with 99 total graduates.
## Contact Information

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management</th>
<th>US Forest Service Eastern Region</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Mark Buccowich</td>
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<td>State Forester</td>
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