



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Rhode Island 2022



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2021 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$88,000
Forest Legacy	\$40,000
Forest Stewardship	\$100,000
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$277,953
Urban and Community Forestry	\$350,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$31,731
Total	\$887,684

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

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2021 Accomplishments	Value
Population	1,052,567	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	225
Acres of Forest Land	361,127	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	1,266
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	303,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	1,238
Number of NIPF Landowners	38,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	12
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	68
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	23
Forest Based Employment	3,877	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	845,780
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	5	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	2,800
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	1,750,000		

Program Highlights

Cooperative Fire Protection

After a busy 2020 wildland fire season, Rhode Island experienced a very busy spring of 2021, once again seeing over 100 fires. A fire exceeding 50 acres in Tiverton resulted in mutual aid from Massachusetts Forestry. Other highlights include rolling out the updated fire plan and launching the National Fire Danger Rating System weather station network. A statewide fire risk analysis from a previous Wildfire Risk Reduction (WRR) grant is underway, and Rhode Island also received a new WRR grant to hire a prescribed fire coordinator. The State hopes to resume prescribed burning in 2022.

Forest Health Protection

A survey for *Lymantria dispar* egg masses of 38 plots within the areas of greatest infestation in prior years yielded a single egg mass, a clear sign that the recent outbreak is over. Minor damage of the forest canopy was recorded, caused by winter moth in 2021 (96 acres defoliated; 52 acres mortality). A previously unreported native forest pest (Agromyzid fly) caused moderate defoliation (816 acres). Since 2019, the University of Rhode Island has set emerald ash borer parasitoid release sites and released nearly 41,500 parasitic wasps. Beech leaf disease has been detected throughout the State and is being monitored as a potential mortality event.

Forest Stewardship

The Rhode Island Forest Stewardship Program reported 27 new or revised stewardship plans for 1,266 acres--1,138 of which are in Important Forest Areas per the State's Strategic Forest Action Plan. The program participated in the State's fall tree farm tours and small-scale forestry workshops in conjunction with the Rhode Island Soil and Water Conservation Districts. In 2021, 82 landowners were provided forestry technical assistance and 143 landowners participated in education programs.

Landscape Scale Restoration

FY21:

"Securing Northeast Forest Carbon Program" (sponsors: CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI and VT). Grantee: North East State Foresters Association. Federal funding: \$500,719.

Urban and Community Forestry

The Rhode Island Urban and Community Forestry Program (UCF) reported that the Rhode Island Tree Council leveraged its \$55,000 grant to provide a total of \$166,070 in programming to communities for tree planting, inventories, and education/outreach programs. Rhode Island UCF supported continued promotion of the Accessible Urban Tree Inventory Program, celebrated 14 Tree City USA communities and 1 Tree Campus USA, and held 2 State Arbor Day celebrations. Rhode Island also held 9

workshops/lectures, hosted 2 tree steward educational courses, supported volunteers collecting weather data for the Growing Degree Day Project, initiated the Plant Phenology Project, and continued the Energy-Saving Trees Program with 1,000 free trees given to Rhode Island homeowners.

Contact Information



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