State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet
Rhode Island 2022

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>FY 2021 Final</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Forestry and Open Space</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management</td>
<td>$88,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Legacy</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Stewardship</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Scale Restoration</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Fire Assistance</td>
<td>$277,953</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban and Community Forestry</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Fire Assistance</td>
<td>$31,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$887,684</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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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 loss, fragmentation, and parcelization.
- Forest health.
- Water.
- Fire.
- Climate change.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments
Selected Facts | Value
--- | ---
Population | 1,052,567
 Acres of Forest Land | 361,127
 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 2021 Accomplishments | Value
--- | ---
Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance | 225
 Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans | 1,266
 Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans | 1,238
 Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted | 12
 State Fire Communities Assisted | 68
 Coop Forest Health Acres Protected | 0
 Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions | 0
 Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance | 23
 Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance | 845,780
 Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance | 2,800

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:

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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