



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Connecticut 2021



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2020 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$200,500
Forest Legacy	\$20,680
Forest Stewardship	\$100,580
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$397,765
Urban and Community Forestry	\$261,420
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$102,879
Total	\$1,083,824

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

- Maintaining forest ecosystem health and biodiversity.
- Promoting stewardship of public forests.
- Protecting private forest lands.
- Providing for forest-based recreational opportunities.
- Supporting a sustainable forest-based economy.
- Fostering public awareness and support of forests.
- Advocating and implementing effective forest planning and policy.
- Importance of ongoing forest research.
- The role of urban forestry in Connecticut.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2020 Accomplishments	Value
Population	3,574,097	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	1,178
Acres of Forest Land	1,763,460	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	10,632
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	1,383,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	6,475
Number of NIPF Landowners	108,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	35
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	223
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	2,390,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	0
Number of Rural Fire Departments	276	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	752
Cities and Towns	29	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	58
Forest Based Employment	10,050	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	1,997,454
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	6	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	4,650
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	1,627,000		

Program Highlights

Cooperative Fire Protection

Connecticut's year of drought kept fire activity at the forefront for most of the spring, summer, and fall. The State recently put into service a new Type VI engine and is working on building a Type IV engine using its unique relationship with the Department of Transportation. An online survey to fire departments to assess rural fire need received excellent response and highlighted the need for support for training, wildfire response, and access to Federal grant funding.

Forest Health Protection

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station reported considerable forest damage caused by Tropical Storm Isaias. The station continues to survey and monitors forest health issues including southern pine beetle, spotted lanternfly, beech leaf disease, and oak wilt.

Forest Legacy

The Connecticut Forest Legacy Program continued protecting important forests in northern Connecticut with the third conservation easement acquisition of the Whip-Poor-Will Woods multi-tract project. In 2020, the State acquired a conservation easement on a 752-acre tract using \$1,012,500 in Forest Legacy Program funds for this project that has already protected 188 acres. The State is continuing acquisition activities on the remaining tracts in the project.

Forest Stewardship

The Connecticut Forest Stewardship Program reported 20 new or revised forest stewardship plans, covering 10,632 acres. In 2020, 997 landowners attended education programs, and there were 181 landowner technical assists. Over \$500,000 in Environmental Quality Incentives Program dollars went to forestry-related plans and projects in the past year. New projects include "Accelerating the Pace of Woodlands Conservation in the Southern New England Heritage Forest," a three-state Regional Conservation Partnership Program that brings \$6 million (\$1.5 million to forest management plans and conservation practices and \$4.5 million to Health Forest Reserves in the area surrounding the junction of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island); and "Parcel Level Climate Adaptation," a three-state landscape scale restoration project.

Urban and Community Forestry

The Connecticut Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program provided \$60,000 in grants to four partners to conduct educational and outreach efforts. A grant to the Connecticut Tree Wardens

Association helped increase the number of qualified tree wardens and provide professional development. The Connecticut UCF Council used funds to conduct their annual urban forestry conference (online in 2020). The Council offered Community Forestry Small Grants to four organizations and municipalities to address issues related to urban forest health. The Council also supported two students to participate in the Natural Resource Conservation Academy.

Contact Information



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