



## State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Connecticut 2024



### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2023 Estimate
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$0
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$64,171
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$245,464
State Fire Assistance	\$289,840
Urban and Community Forestry	\$483,166
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$136,423
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,219,064</b>

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, Private, and Tribal 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**

<b>Selected Facts</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>FY 2023 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Value</b>
Population	3,605,944	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	2,571
Acres of Forest Land	1,753,085	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	3,468
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	731,099	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	0
Number of NIPF Landowners	17,071	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	53
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	300
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	0
Cities and Towns	179	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	61
Forest Based Employment	10,050	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	2,262,620
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	6	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	13,375
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	1,627,000		

**Program Highlights****Cooperative Fire Protection**

Connecticut supported 38 volunteer fire departments with grants and trained 500 personnel through Cooperative Fire funding assistance. Drought throughout the summer and fall increased the intensity of fires during that time. The State has actively supported national firefighting efforts with resource mobilization. State Fire Assistance funds were used for fire suppression training, equipment, supplies, and 75 fire prevention programs. A total of \$50,000 in Community Wildfire Defense Funding is being used to outreach and assist communities in developing Community Wildfire Defense Grant applications.

**Landscape Scale Restoration**

Grantee: National Association of Conservation Districts

Federal investment: \$600,000 (13-State project)

Project: Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forests and Water

Summary: This interagency, multi-partner collaboration advances science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes and protects water in 13 States across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. The project is also supported by the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and includes focus on protecting water supplies for underserved communities and a climate markets work group. Regional collaboration will drive alignment between the forest and water sectors and facilitate greater information sharing. Projects will result in measurable on-the-ground outcomes.

Grantee: Connecticut Forest and Park Association

Federal investment: \$245,464

Project: The Connecticut Master Woodland Manager Program

Summary: This program, led by Connecticut Forest and Park Association in conjunction with several partners, provides science-based learning opportunities to statewide private woodland owners in a yearlong educational program. Participants gain knowledge and skills needed to manage their woodland based on the alignment of their values with the goals in the State forest action plan. This includes education on mitigating and reducing the effects of climate change. Ten percent of the student registration will be reserved for people from environmental justice or distressed municipalities.

Grantee: South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA)

Federal investment: \$194,180

Project: A Connecticut Landscape Restoration in Core Forest Areas for an Important Bat Hibernaculum

Summary: Forest areas will be treated to improve resilience and diversity for wildlife habitat including imperiled bat species. One focus will be the 7,000-acre forest around Lake Gaillard, which hosts an

important bat hibernaculum. RWA will work with its contractors,

### ***Urban and Community Forestry***

With so much new sub-grant funding available, the Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program launched several new grant program tools to increase access to these funds. These tools include an online grant application, an eligibility tool to help communities identify which grant program is most appropriate to apply to, and biweekly office hours so that potential applicants can drop in and ask questions of program staff. At the recommendation of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), in July Connecticut passed Public Act 23-206, which calls for a 5-percent increase in tree cover by 2040 in environmental justice communities that currently have tree cover of less than 40 percent. DEEP's UCF program played a key role in developing and honing this legislation and is thrilled to see the State set goals that will help underserved communities access the benefits that urban trees can provide.

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### **Contact Information**



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