



# State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Delaware 2024



## Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2023 Estimate
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$122,000
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$137,173
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$134,786
Urban and Community Forestry	\$645,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$76,129
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,115,088</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

- Forest Health and Functionality: An adequate, healthy forestland base ensures the perpetual production of forest outputs.
- Forest Markets: Adequate and diverse forest markets are available to landowners to satisfy their forest management goals.
- Sustainable Forest Management: Delawareans must sustainably manage their rural and forest resources.
- Public Awareness and Appreciation of Forests: Delawareans must understand and appreciate the importance of forests and forest management.

## Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2023 Accomplishments	Value
Population	989,948	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	1,743
Acres of Forest Land	353,435	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	154
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	204,954	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	94
Number of NIPF Landowners	4,281	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	0
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	76
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	557,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	0
Number of Rural Fire Departments	54	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	57	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	58
Forest Based Employment	1,852	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	568,006
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	7	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	1,698
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	1,629,300		

## Program Highlights

### Chesapeake Bay Watershed

The Chesapeake Shared Stewardship Agreement is being implemented and will help Delaware meet its mandated water quality improvement goals for the Chesapeake Bay through watershed forestry. The Delaware Forest Service led the State in the restoration of 110 acres of upland tree planting and in the implementation of 613 acres of forest harvest best management practices. Other significant watershed forestry activities in 2023 included tree planting grants to Delaware communities and developing a new Forest Buffer Incentive Program to support implementation of Delaware's Riparian Forest Buffer Action Strategy.

### Cooperative Fire Protection

Delaware utilized State Fire Assistance and Volunteer Fire Assistance funds to provide grants to volunteer fire departments in preparing for wildland fire suppression responsibilities. Basic wildland firefighter training was delivered to over 215 local firefighters in cooperation with the Delaware State Fire School. The State treated 3,450 acres to reduce hazardous fuels.

### Forest Health Protection

Emerald ash borer, first confirmed in 2016, resulted in approximately 2,550 acres of new damage in the aerial survey. It is assumed all ash stands in the State are now infested. Spongy moth defoliation acreage was 1,379 acres. Egg mass surveys in these areas were low, and spring 2024 defoliation is expected to be lower, although some suppression activity on private land is expected. Reports from a park user of beech leaf disease symptoms at White Clay Creek State Park and subsequent University of Delaware plant diagnostic lab confirmation yielded New Castle County as positive in 2023. Seven beech leaf disease permanent study plots, established across the State in 2021, were remeasured in the summer of 2023, with no additional symptoms, nematodes, or signs of beech bark disease seen. Significant cumulative saltwater injury from the previous year's flooding/hurricane, primarily the 2011 and 2012 hurricanes (518 acres), was also recorded.

### 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  
Benefiting States: CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, WV  
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.

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

The Urban and Community Forestry program provides technical assistance to cities, towns, developers, and nonprofit organizations. Annual community forestry grants are awarded to organizations for tree planting or management projects on public lands. In 2023, the Delaware Forest Service provided over \$175,000 for 46 tree projects throughout the State as part of its competitive annual grant program.

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## **Contact Information**



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