



# State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Delaware 2021



## Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2020 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$83,000
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$84,900
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$115,448
Urban and Community Forestry	\$200,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$30,505
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$513,853</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 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 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

<b>Selected Facts</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>FY 2020 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Value</b>
Population	897,934	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	1,596
Acres of Forest Land	354,925	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	2,055
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	325,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	1,905
Number of NIPF Landowners	55,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	225
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	84
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	47
Forest Based Employment	1,852	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	500,118
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	7	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	812
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	1,629,300		

## Program Highlights

### **Chesapeake Bay Initiative**

Delaware contributes to Chesapeake Bay forestry goals through community forestry. The Delaware Forest Service created a Community Tree Canopy online tool that helps communities see their current canopy and areas that can be improved by planting trees. To date, over 7,000 trees have been planted by community organizations. Delaware continues to address forestry goals that are part of the Chesapeake Bay Program and State Watershed Implementation Plans and worked on a Chesapeake Bay Shared Stewardship Agreement signed by State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service Chief in October 2020.

### **Cooperative Fire Protection**

Delaware utilized State Fire Assistance and Volunteer Fire Assistance funds to provide a small grants program for volunteer fire departments in preparing for wildland fire suppression responsibilities. Two remote automated weather stations were maintained, and basic wildland firefighter training was delivered to local firefighters in cooperation with the Delaware State Fire School. One hundred Smokey Bear wildfire prevention programs were delivered to first-graders in 57 communities, raising wildfire prevention awareness. Prescribed fire was used to treat 500 acres and mechanical treatment methods were used on over 1,000 acres.

### **Forest Health Protection**

Many new emerald ash borer infestations were found this year. Most ash stands in Delaware are within 15 miles of known populations. Spotted lanternfly has spread, with populations established in the north and quarantines expanded to New Castle and Kent Counties. Populations of southern pine beetle and fall webworm were down. Bacterial and fungal leaf infections such as anthracnose were common this year due to cool spring temperatures and plentiful rain over the growing season. Three more co-dominant white oaks died over the summers of 2019 and 2020 in the white oak decline study, even though dieback in general was down this year for other live trees. Eight new damage sites were observed from this year's aerial survey. These sites included small hardwood flooded sites, Norway spruce damage, and damage due to emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, frost, and intentional herbicide. Damage totaled 81.1 acres.

### **Forest Stewardship**

The Delaware Forest Service (DFS) assists private landowners in all aspects of forest management, ranging from tree planting and timber stand improvement to long-term management plans. The DFS supervised the planting of 277,050 seedlings on a total of 214 acres of private land. One 157-acre site was hardwood afforestation and three sites (57 acres) were pine reforestation. The DFS also assists

landowners on stewardship planning. State service foresters prepared 23 stewardship plans, which included management goals and prescriptions for 2,055 acres of land.

### **Urban and Community Forestry**

The Urban and Community Forestry program provides technical assistance to cities, towns, communities, developers, and local governments. Annual community forestry grants are awarded to organizations for tree planting or tree management projects on public lands. In FY 2020, the Delaware Forest Service provided \$65,308 for 17 tree projects as part of its competitive annual grant program.

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## **Contact Information**



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