



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Illinois 2021



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2020 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$299,688
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$183,755
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$397,500
State Fire Assistance	\$413,370
Urban and Community Forestry	\$814,428
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$476,188
Total	\$2,584,929

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

- Oak-hickory forests are threatened.
- Large forest blocks are disappearing.
- Forest health threats are increasing.
- Forestry professionals are too few.
- Forest industries and mills are shrinking.
- Urban and community forests face extreme pressures and challenges.
- Forest funding and other significant threats exist.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2020 Accomplishments	Value
Population	12,830,632	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	13,636
Acres of Forest Land	4,854,960	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	45,161
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	3,725,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	38,838
Number of NIPF Landowners	184,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	0
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	30
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	10,670,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	19,305
Number of Rural Fire Departments	1,280	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	1,299	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	486
Forest Based Employment	44,145	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	10,054,336
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	8	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	22,916
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	6,100,000		

Program Highlights

Cooperative Fire Protection

Illinois benefitted from \$573,123 in funding for cross-boundary fuels reduction projects over fiscal years 2020 through 2023. These projects occur on non-Federal land near national forests and provide the benefit of reducing wildfire risk and improving ecosystem. The State acquired \$914,709 in property from the Department of Defense Fire Fighter Program (FFP) and \$3,180,690 in property from the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) program. The property is used to support the State and Volunteer Fire Department wildland fire programs.

Forest Health Protection

The 2020 summer derecho impacted northern Illinois, resulting in a major loss of urban canopy cover. Surveys conducted for thousand cankers disease, laurel wilt, sudden oak death, and spotted lantern fly resulted in no positive detections. The Slow the Spread Program for gypsy moth continued to survey the northern quarter of the state and treated small areas in five counties to limit the expansion south and west into the un-infested area.

Forest Stewardship

The state continues to provide technical assistance to the nearly 10,000 Forest Stewardship program participants, enabling them to sustainably manage their forests while working to achieve their forest goals, whether those be timber production, wildlife habitat, recreation, or other ecosystem services. Restoration of oak on the landscape continues to be a priority. With a number of collaborative restoration efforts already underway, the recently signed Shared Stewardship Memorandum of Understanding will help pave the way for increased cross-boundary collaboration in the management of the private forest resources of Illinois.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Four Illinois projects received over \$700,000 in Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant funding through the USDA Forest Service's 2020 competitive process. Openlands, The Morton Arboretum, and Wildlife Habitat Council will plant and maintain trees and other vegetation in under-resourced areas of northeastern Illinois to mitigate urban tree canopy loss and provide green stormwater infrastructure. Added community benefits of these projects include tree steward training, neighborhood volunteer engagement, forestry professional development, and public-private partnership development.

Urban and Community Forestry

Illinois's partnerships help extend the state's outreach with a multifaceted team of expertise. In 2020, Trees Forever deployed an Illinois Strike Team to Ottawa to assess trees damaged from the derecho that swept across Iowa and northern Illinois. The Morton Arboretum completed a Chicago Region Tree Census to compare canopy change over the past decade. The Illinois Arborist Association completed over 40 virtual training segments. Openlands graduated 100 new TreeKeepers and led them into volunteer service in the Chicago area.

Contact Information



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