



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Indiana 2024



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2023 Estimate
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$44,000
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$0
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$220,500
Urban and Community Forestry	\$50,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$80,000
Total	\$394,500

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

- Conserve, manage, and protect existing forests, especially large forest patches, with increased emphasis on oak regeneration.
- Restore, expand, and connect forests, especially in riparian areas.
- Connect people to forests, especially children and land-use decision makers, and coordinate education training and technical assistance.
- Maintain and expand markets for Indiana hardwoods, with special focus on secondary processors and promoting the environmental benefits of wood products to local communities and school groups.
- Significantly increase the size of Indiana's urban forest canopy by developing community assistance programs and tools focusing on local governments partnering with stakeholders, including citizen scientists, volunteers, universities, and nonprofit organization and private enterprise, to preserve and grow the urban canopy by policy implementation, low-impact development, maintaining existing trees, and planting new trees.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2023 Accomplishments	Value
Population	6,785,528	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	4,778
Acres of Forest Land	4,809,111	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	118,541
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	3,638,399	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	61,017
Number of NIPF Landowners	85,538	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	200
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	1,060
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	7,328,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	0
Number of Rural Fire Departments	972	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	566	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	94
Forest Based Employment	51,830	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	3,240,545
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	61,085
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	12,703,645		

Program Highlights

Cooperative Fire Protection

Indiana used a State Fire Assistance grant to train 350 firefighters, implement 5,600 acres of hazardous fuels treatment through 16 projects, and conduct 20 fire prevention programs. Volunteer Fire Assistance funds will be distributed to 200 fire departments and used for training, installation of dry hydrants, or to purchase necessary equipment and gear to combat wildland fires. Indiana acquired \$327,125 in property from the Department of Defense Firefighter Property program and \$150,939 in property from the Federal Excess Personal Property program. Indiana continues outreach and assistance to communities competing for Community Wildfire Defense Grants.

Economic Action

In 2023, one Temporary Bridge Crossing grant was awarded to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources – Division of Forestry for \$175,000.

Forest Health Protection

The 2023 growing season started with frost, freeze, and rain that created sycamore anthracnose defoliation and other foliage diseases. Foresters and forest landowners continued to report oaks near agricultural fields affected by herbicide damage. The spongy moth Slow the Spread Program continued statewide and recorded 35,535 moths, a 68 percent increase over 2022 but almost the same as 2021. In May and June, four locations totaling 51,263 acres were treated to slow the spread of spongy moth. Aerial surveys identified 3,766 acres of spongy moth defoliation in the moraine area of LaPorte and Porter Counties. It was the third consecutive year of defoliation in Indiana and was the most in one year on record. Lake and Whitley Counties were added to Indiana's and USDA's spongy moth quarantine, and spongy moth was detected for the first time in Dubois County. Spotted lanternfly was detected in Allen, Elkhart, Porter, and St. Joseph Counties, making six Indiana counties with spotted lanternfly. Surveys in late 2023 did not detect beech leaf disease. Other forest health concerns are chestnut oak mortality, sassafras wilt, oak wilt, hemlock woolly adelgid, beech bark disease, Asian longhorned beetle, and invasive plants.

Forest Stewardship

Despite the fact that southern Indiana is home to the State's large contiguous forest tracts, Indiana focuses its stewardship grant efforts in the northern half of the State. The woodlots tucked in the agricultural landscape, along with the forested stream corridors, provide critical ecological services. Promoting stewardship helps landowners realize the importance of their woods and gives management

suggestions to promote forest health. The ultimate goal is to keep and hopefully expand Indiana's important northern forests.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

In 2023, the Wildlife Habitat Council received \$282,242 through the USDA Forest Service's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative competitive grant process. The funds will support planting over 700 trees and shrubs in the Calumet region to help mitigate pollution and flooding from overland runoff and restore at least 25 acres of land. The project will use trees that will be resilient to climate change and soil conditions influenced by industrial conditions. The project also plans to engage industry employees and local community members in planting sessions that will include education on the benefits of urban forestry and tree planting.

Urban and Community Forestry

In FY 2023, 65 communities, 16 campuses, 6 utility companies, and 1 K-12 school in Indiana were awarded recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation for Tree City, Tree Line, and Tree Campus programs. The State program also hosted a tree inventory workshop in northern Indiana as well as a Tree Steward workshop in northwest Indiana that included participants from Gary, Michigan City, Portage, and other cities. Two more Tree Steward events took place later in 2023 in different parts of the State.

Contact Information



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