



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Indiana 2025



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2024 Final
Community Forests and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$213,377
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$194,070
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$572,883
Urban and Community Forestry	\$545,566
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$584,514
Total	\$2,110,410

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 2024 Accomplishments	Value
Population	6,785,528	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	6,762
Acres of Forest Land	4,809,111	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	141,082
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	3,638,399	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	60,832
Number of NIPF Landowners	85,538	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	0
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	1,059
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	7,328,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	15,606
Number of Rural Fire Departments	972	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	566	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	121
Forest Based Employment	51,830	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	3,527,137
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	19,002
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	12,703,645		

Program Highlights

Cooperative Fire Protection

Indiana used State Fire Capacity grants to fund 5,600 acres of hazardous fuels treatment through 16 projects and conducted 25 fire prevention programs. Indiana acquired \$166,985 in property from the Department of Defense Firefighter Property program and \$158,989 in property from the Federal Excess Personal Property program.

Economic Action

In 2024, three Indiana projects received over \$1.5 million in Forest Markets grants, including Wood Innovations and Community Wood Funding. Project work includes establishing a state wood utilization team, upgrading dry kilns, and upgrading stacker abilities for kilns.

Forest Health Protection

2024 weather indicated an early spring and spongy moth egg hatch, but was cool and wet, creating Entomophaga and nucleopolyhedrosis virus (NPV) infection and sycamore anthracnose. Cicada Broods 13 and 19 emerged in northwest and southwest Indiana, 'flagging' trees. White oak and other trees received herbicide damage. In May, post oak defoliation on one state forest indicated a possible looper epidemic. The spongy moth Slow the Spread (STS) Program recorded 29,239 moths, a 36% decrease over 2023. STS treated 10,442 acres in four locations and treated 5,149 acres in the Wayne County eradication project. An estimated 1,000+ acres of spongy moth defoliation occurred in Allen, Laporte, Noble, Porter and Whitley counties. The population collapsed in LaPorte and Porter. The first spongy moth outbreak in 2023 in Dubois County did not repeat in 2024. Spotted lanternfly was detected in eight additional counties along rail lines, bringing the total to 14. Beech leaf disease was not detected. Sassafras wilt is proposed by Purdue University after finding other pathogens but not laurel wilt. Oak wilt was re-confirmed in Elkhart and Franklin counties. Other concerns are hemlock woolly adelgid, Asian long horned beetle, and invasive plants.

Forest Stewardship

Indiana focused its stewardship efforts on the northern, agricultural dominated half of the state. This may seem counterintuitive since most of Indiana's forest are in the southern half. The scarcity of forests in the north makes the conservation of the existing forests and the establishment of new forests critical to water quality, wildlife habitat, and raw material for the wood products industry. The Forest Stewardship Program made it possible for our foresters to meet landowners face to face and develop property specific management plans to enhance this crucial resource.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources operates one State nursery, Vallonia State Nursery, located in Vallonia. Through the Forest Stewardship program and National Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetics Resource program, the State receives financial assistance to support nursery, genetics, and seed programs. Funding helped to purchase new equipment for their state nursery's operation.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

In 2024, two organizations received a combined \$598,984 through the USDA Forest Service's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Forest Restoration competitive grant program. The funds will support planting over 5,000 trees and shrubs to help mitigate pollution and flooding from overland runoff. One of the projects may include weather adaptation in their consideration of what trees to plant. Both projects plan to work in areas and/or engage communities with increased needs in some capacity, and one includes job/skill training elements.

Landscape Scale Restoration

Grantee: Lake Monroe Water Fund, Inc.

Federal Investment: \$213,336

Project: Indiana Forests to Faucets: Native Landscapes for Clean Water

Summary: This project will improve the drinking water quality for thousands of Indiana residents by restoring watersheds identified in the State Forest Action Plan. It will control invasive plants and restore native vegetation on public and private land to enhance watershed function, restore important forest ecosystems and improve wildlife habitat. Through outreach and technical assistance, the project will provide private landowners with tools and expertise to implement restoration and other forest best management practices.

Contact Information



Indiana Department of Natural Resources

John Seifert
State Forester
Division of Forestry
402 West Washington Street, Room W296
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-232-4116
jseifert@dnr.in.gov

US Forest Service Eastern Region

Steven R Miller
Acting Deputy Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service
626 E Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53202-4616
414-297-3600
steven.miller@usda.gov
