



## State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Indiana 2021



### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2020 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$188,000
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$230,600
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$449,492
Urban and Community Forestry	\$235,800
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$436,601
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,540,493</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

- 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

<b>Selected Facts</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>FY 2020 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Value</b>
Population	6,483,802	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	3,861
Acres of Forest Land	4,774,495	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	117,595
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	3,870,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	39,872
Number of NIPF Landowners	225,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	462
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	15
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	7,328,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	5,165
Number of Rural Fire Departments	972	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	567	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	89
Forest Based Employment	51,830	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	2,975,961
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	4,465
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	12,703,645		

## Program Highlights

### **Cooperative Fire Protection**

Indiana used a portion of its State Fire Assistance grant to maintain and upgrade remote automated weather stations and a fire response vehicle. Indiana was awarded a Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant. This funding will be distributed to 76 fire departments, assisting 47 counties and 517 communities. VFA awards will be used for training, installation of dry hydrants, or to purchase necessary equipment and gear to combat wildland fires. Indiana acquired \$1,656,561 in property from the Department of Defense Fire Fighter Program and \$413,641 in property from the Federal Excess Personal Property program.

### **Forest Health Protection**

In 2020, widespread defoliation due to oak shothole leafminer was recorded for the first time. The Slow the Spread Program for gypsy moth continued to survey the northern third of the state, providing treatment to small blocks to minimize expansion in the un-infested area. Chestnut oak mortality, first detected in 2016, totals over 30,000 acres in south central Indiana. Other forest health concerns are laurel wilt, beech leaf disease, beech bark disease, hemlock woolly adelgid, sudden oak death, and invasive plants.

### **Forest Stewardship**

Despite the COVID pandemic, the private lands staff never stopped providing service to landowners. By adding some safety precautions (wearing masks, not sharing vehicles, and expanding communication options for landowners), they assisted more than 3,300 Hoosiers with their combined 181,600 acres of forest or tree plantings.

In 2019, the Indiana Division of Forestry entered a 4-year cooperative agreement with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The arrangement will allow the Division of Forestry to hire additional foresters to work with private landowners. By combining funds from the USDA Forest Service and NRCS, the Division of Forestry can assist landowners from their initial stewardship plan through the implementation of recommended management activities funded through NRCS programs.

### **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative**

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) supported acquisition and permanent protection of 40 acres of oak-hickory forest and wetlands as Lake County Community Forest. This parcel connects to other protected lands in the City of Hobart Nature District, providing habitat corridors, stormwater storage, and regional trail connections amidst surrounding communities. GLRI-funded partners also continued riparian

buffer planting in the Maumee River watershed as well as tree planting, community training, and maintenance through the CommuniTree program in northwest Indiana.

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

The Community and Urban Forestry program provided financial and/or technical assistance to communities in Indiana, serving more than 3 million Hoosiers. Communities and non-profit organizations received grants for community-based projects. Indiana awarded Tree City USA, Tree Campus USA, and Tree Line USA awards to communities, universities and colleges, and utility companies, respectively.

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## **Contact Information**



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