State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet
Maryland 2023

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>FY 2022 Final</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Forestry and Open Space</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Legacy</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Stewardship</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Scale Restoration</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Fire Assistance</td>
<td>$682,559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban and Community Forestry</td>
<td>$214,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Fire Assistance</td>
<td>$142,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$1,279,206</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

• Grow forests, habitats, markets, and jobs.
• Manage forest health and fire.
• Provide clean water.
• Create healthy, livable communities with trees and forests.
• Respond to climate change.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments
Program Highlights

Chesapeake Bay
The Chesapeake Shared Stewardship Agreement is being implemented and will help Maryland meet its mandated water quality improvement goals for the Chesapeake Bay through watershed forestry. The Maryland Forest Service led the restoration of 281 acres of riparian forest buffers, 276 acres of upland tree planting, and 15,660 acres of forest harvest best management practices in the most recent reporting cycle, approved in 2022. Other significant watershed forestry activities included large-scale tree planting efforts such as Healthy Forests Healthy Waters, leading a forest buffer partners team, hosting three riparian forester positions, and developing Maryland’s new Riparian Forest Buffer Action Strategy.

Cooperative Fire Protection
Maryland trained 280 firefighters through the Volunteer and State Fire Assistance programs. Grants were provided to 45 volunteer fire departments to support wildland fire response. Maryland was awarded a Wildfire Risk Reduction grant to mitigate risk in wildland urban interface areas through the delivery of over 40 wildfire prevention and mitigation outreach events reaching 24,000 individuals. These outcomes included treatment of 1,200 acres in 30 fuels reduction projects as well as the recertification of 4 Community Wildfire Protection plans and the development of 4 new plans. Maryland acquired $1,552,601 in property from the Department of Defense Firefighter Property program and $240,064 in property from the Federal Excess Personal Property program. The property is used to support State and volunteer fire departments’ wildland fire programs.

Forest Health Protection
The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) conducted spongy moth egg mass surveys on 509,038 acres and treated 7,411 acres that were at risk of heavy defoliation. MDA also treated 10,875 hemlocks for hemlock woolly adelgid and conducted surveys for beech leaf disease, beech bark disease, southern pine beetle, walnut twig beetle, Phytophthora ramorum, and saltwater intrusion damage.

Forest Markets & Wood Innovations
In FY 2022, the Eastern Region’s Wood Education and Resource Center provided $30,000 in Federal financial assistance for one project in Maryland to complete a study to identify usable woody biomass for wood-to-energy projects.

Forest Stewardship
Maryland Forest Service provided technical services to over 1,400 landowners during 2022. Responding to industry concerns regarding implementation of best management practices, the Maryland Forest Service is providing technical reviews on 90 percent of harvest sites involving 22,000 acres of active
harvesting. New March Strategies conducted a formal risk assessment of Maryland’s forestry practices and supply chain behaviors across eight sustainability evaluation areas, finding low or negligible risk that wood originating in Maryland’s forests is associated with a direct adverse sustainability impact. Maryland initiated the ambitious 5 Million Trees program, having a simple goal of planting 5 million trees above baseline by 2030.

The Maryland Forest Service operates one State nursery, John Ayton State Tree Nursery, located in Preston. 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.

**Landscape Scale Restoration**
Grantee: Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay  
• Federal investment: $126,532  
• Non-federal match: $130,000  
• Project Title: Making Trees and Buffers the Right FFIT (Forestry Finance Implementation Tool) for Stormwater Planning  
• Project Description: Implement an outreach initiative to local governments and private landowners that leverages restoration funding allocated by both Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Phase I and II jurisdictions and existing restoration grant programs to accelerate riparian forest buffer restoration in Maryland.

**Urban and Community Forestry**
Maryland Forest Service’s Urban and Community Forestry program provides urban forestry assistance to 5,098,418 citizens in 518 census-designated places in Maryland. The State is poised to provide tree equity to underserved communities through its partnership with the historic black colleges and universities in Maryland. The State also has a new Urban & Community Forest Committee grant program and is participating in tree equity trainings and the new 5 Million Tree Initiative, which specifies that 500,000 trees are to be planted in underserved urban areas by 2032. These initiatives and partnerships will enable Maryland to increase its urban tree canopy in the coming years.

**Contact Information**

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