



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Maryland 2024



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2023 Estimate
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$394,500
Forest Legacy	\$50,000
Forest Stewardship	\$467,828
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$226,532
State Fire Assistance	\$907,479
Urban and Community Forestry	\$1,572,249
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$177,520
Total	\$3,796,108

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

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2023 Accomplishments	Value
Population	6,177,224	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	972
Acres of Forest Land	2,448,338	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	23,666
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	1,451,469	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	5,015
Number of NIPF Landowners	31,274	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	50
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	424
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	3,200,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	6,515
Number of Rural Fire Departments	371	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	157	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	512
Forest Based Employment	13,135	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	5,098,418
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	4	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	46,000
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	9,500,000		

Program Highlights

Chesapeake Bay Watershed

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 in the restoration of 460 acres of riparian forest buffers and 401 acres of upland tree planting. Other significant watershed forestry activities in 2023 included initiating large-scale tree planting efforts through the State's new 5 Million Trees Initiative and the Healthy Forests Healthy Waters program, building internal capacity to support these efforts, leading a forest buffer partners team, and implementing Maryland's new Riparian Forest Buffer Action Strategy.

Cooperative Fire Protection

Maryland trained 280 firefighters through the Volunteer and State Fire Assistance programs and treated 1,500 acres in 80 fuels reduction projects. Grants were provided to 35 volunteer fire departments to support wildland fire response. Maryland was awarded a \$300,000 Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant to mitigate risk in wildland urban interface areas. Maryland acquired \$927,278 in property from the Department of Defense Firefighter Property program. The property is used to support State and volunteer fire departments. The State is helping communities develop Community Wildfire Assistance Grants through a \$150,000 grant to provide technical assistance.

Economic Action

In 2023, two projects in Maryland were selected for a total of \$540,000 in Wood Innovations grants to support efforts such as mass timber construction and continuing work with the State's Wood Energy Team. One Temporary Bridge Crossing grant for \$175,000 was awarded to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Forest Health Protection

The Maryland Department of Agriculture's (MDA) largest suppression activity in 2023 was the 452,000 acres surveyed for spongy moth and treatment of 6,030 acres with *Bacillus thuringiensis* to protect areas at risk of heavy defoliation. MDA also treated 7,179 hemlock trees for hemlock woolly adelgid and continued to survey for beech leaf disease, beech bark disease, walnut twig beetle, *Phytophthora ramorum*, elm zigzag sawfly, *sirex noctilio*, southern pine beetle, and saltwater intrusion damage.

Landscape Scale Restoration

Grantee: National Association of Conservation Districts
Federal investment: \$600,000 (13-State project)
Project: Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forests and Water

Benefiting States: CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, WV

Summary: This interagency, multi-partner collaboration advances science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes and protects water in 13 States across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. The project is also supported by the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and includes focus on protecting water supplies for underserved communities and a climate markets work group. Regional collaboration will drive alignment between the forest and water sectors and facilitate greater information sharing. Projects will result in measurable on-the-ground outcomes.

Grantee: Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Forest Service

Federal investment: \$239,175

Project: Fueling Locally Led Coastal Forest Restoration

Summary: Coastal forests face accelerated stresses with climate change, and an equity focus means listening and acting locally. This proposal taps local grassroots networks and minority-oriented partners, works with non-traditional partners to build contractor and citizen capacity for invasive species control, treats local priority natural areas, and prescribes fire and fuel reduction in coastal forests. They will collaborate with partners to develop invasive species plans for over 2,500 acres, train 150 people, and treat/plant 500 acres. This project will also engage and train under-resourced communities including through several partners focused on underserved people.

Urban and Community Forestry

Maryland Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry program provides urban forestry assistance to over 5 million citizens in 518 census-designated places in Maryland. The State is poised to provide tree equity to underserved communities through its partnership with Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Maryland, a new Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee grant program, participation in tree equity training, and the new 5 Million Tree Initiative, which specifies that 500,000 trees are to be planted in urban, underserved areas by 2032. These initiatives and partnerships will enable Maryland to increase its urban tree canopy in coming years.

Contact Information



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