



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Maine 2023



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2022 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$533,000
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$407,000
Forest Legacy	\$16,085,000
Forest Stewardship	\$235,501
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$503,500
Urban and Community Forestry	\$250,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$179,344
Total	\$18,193,345

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

- Support a diverse, robust forest economy.
- Support active management of the forest land base.
- Address climate change and its impacts on Maine's forests.
- Maintain the capacity of the Maine Forest Service as an institution to serve the citizens of Maine.
- Maintain the health and resiliency of Maine's forests in the face of threats from biotic and abiotic agents.
- Promote outcome based forestry and streamline the regulatory framework.
- Predict future forest conditions and wood supplies.
- Conserve forests for clean drinking water supplies and healthy fisheries.
- Conserve forest biodiversity.
- Maintain healthy trees and woodlands in urban and community areas.
- Address ongoing erosion of federal support for Cooperative Forestry programs.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2022 Accomplishments	Value
Population	1,362,359	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	17,781
Acres of Forest Land	17,518,847	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	25,663
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	9,450,240	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	5,090
Number of NIPF Landowners	78,566	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	125
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	270
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	1,766,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	0
Number of Rural Fire Departments	419	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	453	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	180
Forest Based Employment	14,207	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	1,022,348
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	1	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	8,363
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	10,450,000		

Program Highlights

Community Forestry and Open Space

More than 2,000 acres of forests, wetlands, and forested lake shore were purchased in the rural town of Lakeville. The forest contains 8 miles of interior roads and 2.7 miles of undeveloped shoreline on Sysladobsis and Horseshoe Lakes. Additionally, over 1.2 miles of streams, mostly priority wild brook trout habitat, are open for fishing. The roads will be used by the community for hiking, hunting, snowmobiling, mountain biking, and other recreational activities. The Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program contributed \$600,000 to the purchase.

Cooperative Fire Protection

Maine continues to have a very active and progressive aviation program, including unmanned aerial systems, two new Bell 407 helicopters in the FY22 budget, and aircraft provided through the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) program. Maine has had busy fire seasons for the last several years and has mobilized resources to the southern and western parts of the country during times of need. The State has opted in to the Community Wildfire Defense program to support communities applying for competitive grants. Maine fully integrated the use of INFORM for wildfire incident reporting in 2022 with a real-time dashboard showing the number of fires, acres, fire causes, and structures impacted. The State acquired \$17,000 of equipment from the FEPP program and \$8,971 in property from the Department of Defense Firefighter Property program to support wildland fire suppression.

Forest Health Protection

Aerial survey missions in 2022 covered over 14.3 million acres and documented 217,682 acres of damage, a substantial decrease from the roughly 262,000 acres of damage documented in 2021. Ground survey efforts documented an additional 12,966 acres of damage, for a total of 230,648 acres of statewide forest pest and pathogen damage in 2022. Areas of browntail moth defoliation that were centered in mid-coast Maine over the past few years were less impacted in 2022; however, damage now appears to radiate from these past epicenters into new territory to the northeast and northwest. Just under 50,000 acres of defoliation by spongy moth were documented during aerial survey in 2022, a slight decrease from 2021. Spruce budworm defoliation also decreased in 2022. Forest tent caterpillar also made a strong appearance in Aroostook County in 2022. Ground surveys and unmanned aerial vehicle photography documented some 17,000 acres of damage. Aerial and ground surveys in 2022 also documented ash rust, balsam woolly adelgid, beech leaf disease, red pine scale, and winter moth.

Forest Stewardship

In FY 2022, the Maine Forest Stewardship Program, known in Maine as "Be Woods Wise"/ WoodsWISE Incentives Program, developed 236 new or continuing forest stewardship plans (including CAP-106 Plans funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program), covering 25,663 acres, of which 5,090 acres were in spatially defined Important Forest Areas. About 12,858 woodland owners took part in educational programs offered by the Maine Forest Service that promote activities encouraging sound, long-term management of Maine's forest resources. Maine Forest Service personnel assisted 4,923 individuals with matters pertaining to forest stewardship. Efforts continued to encourage landowner engagement in the "Downeast" portion of the State, as part of the WoodsWise (East) program.

Maine does not operate a State nursery. 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.

Urban and Community Forestry

Project Canopy has a vision that every community in Maine will actively and wisely manage its community forestry resources in a sustainable manner, and that all Maine citizens become well informed of the proper management of these resources and the benefits derived from them. In Fiscal Year 2021, Project Canopy focused on work to improve understanding of the benefits of tree cover in urban areas and communities; encourage maintenance of trees and community forests; and expand the number of communities managing their natural resources and the population affected by program assistance. The primary goal for this grant period is to select priority communities and begin implementing strategies in the Maine Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy (December 2020). A core priority was to increase the number of communities with tree boards, ordinances, public tree inventories, management plans, and professional arborists and foresters. Of particular note is the Town of Brunswick's establishment of a town tree nursery. Also, the Hallowell Tree Board, in cooperation with the Hallowell Conservation Commission and the City of Hallowell, worked to restore native trees and shrubs to displace invasive species along the Kennebec River.

Contact Information



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