



# State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

## Michigan 2021



### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2020 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$1,021,035
Forest Legacy	\$16,640
Forest Stewardship	\$236,739
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$151,932
State Fire Assistance	\$946,353
Urban and Community Forestry	\$574,540
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$381,287
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,328,526</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

- Enhance coordination among cooperative programs, stakeholders, and partners.
- Advocate for sound forestry policies.
- Increase economic productivity and benefits.
- Communicate the value and importance of forestry.
- Involve partners and the public in managing Michigan's forests.
- Monitor the condition of the forest and impacts of our work.
- Improve understanding of forests through research.
- Implement actions to improve Michigan's forests.

## Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2020 Accomplishments	Value
Population	9,883,640	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	10,042
Acres of Forest Land	20,167,228	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	43,764
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	10,988,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	43,337
Number of NIPF Landowners	498,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	208
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	0
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	20,000,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	120
Number of Rural Fire Departments	1,071	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	717
Cities and Towns	533	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	266
Forest Based Employment	36,202	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	5,629,588
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	5	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	19,428
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	32,000,000		

## Program Highlights

### Cooperative Fire Protection

Michigan allocated more Volunteer Fire Assistance funds to local fire departments than in other years due to COVID and a State hiring freeze. The State successfully converted six surplus freightliners into transport units for its bulldozers, replacing aging units. Michigan's wildfire prevention campaign utilized State Fire Assistance funds for advertisements, billboards, and radio ads, which were critical with so many people at home, teleworking, and enjoying outdoor recreation during the spring fire season.

### Forest Health Protection

Hemlock woolly adelgid has expanded to five counties along Lake Michigan in the western Lower Peninsula, triggering an extensive survey and treatment containment effort by the state and a variety of partner organizations interested in maintaining hemlock as a major forest component. Oak wilt, beech bark disease, and heterobasidion root disease remain influential factors when making forest management decisions. Spruce budworm defoliation and scattered fir/spruce mortality continue across the Upper Peninsula. Optimal conditions for gypsy moth resulted in significant defoliation in historically affected areas across the northern Lower Peninsula. These outbreaks generally last 2 to 3 years before subsiding. Spotted lanternfly and beech leaf disease are new watchlist species that threaten Michigan forests in the southeast but have not yet been discovered in the state.

### Forest Legacy

The Michigan Forest Legacy Program continued protecting important forests in the northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan with the fee acquisition of two tracts for the Elk Forest project. In 2020, the State acquired two tracts totaling 717 acres in fee using \$1,499,827 in Forest Legacy Program funds to complete this project. The tracts add important forest acreage to the Pigeon River Country State Forest, permanently protecting important elk habitat.

### Forest Stewardship

Much of the year was spent adjusting to new working methodologies during the COVID pandemic while trying to maintain services for family forest landowners in spite of all the disruption. Some aspects of the program like field days and workshops suffered greatly, although the pandemic inspired some new innovations to offer better online training and education. The number of Forest Stewardship Plans held steady because demand for our two property tax reduction programs remained stable.

### Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Eight Michigan projects were selected for over \$1.5 million in Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant funding through the USDA Forest Service's 2020 competitive process. Work includes mitigating hemlock woolly adelgid threats to waterways, replacing urban trees lost to emerald ash borer, planting trees as green stormwater infrastructure, and enhancing riparian forest resilience to climate change. In addition to planting over 140,000 new trees and treating 15,000 vulnerable hemlocks, these projects involve Michigan communities in land stewardship. Estimated outcomes include over 3,600 volunteer hours contributed, 1,400 people engaged, and 10 schools certified through Tree Campus K-12.

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

In spite of the ongoing COVID pandemic, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' urban and community forestry program maintained a high level of outreach and assistance this year. Through provision of financial grant assistance and collaborative efforts with partners, the program reported increased engagement and participation in the Tree City USA and companion programs and growth in training and volunteer numbers, primarily through the use of virtual engagement platforms.

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## **Contact Information**



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