



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Missouri 2024



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2023 Estimate
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$166,216
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$160,856
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$70,076
State Fire Assistance	\$825,839
Urban and Community Forestry	\$494,884
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$512,537
Total	\$2,230,408

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

- Species and natural systems health and conservation.
- Pollution prevention, control, and mitigation.
- Private lands.
- Missouri's public lands managed for the greatest public good.
- Climate change.
- Improving and maintaining high-quality soil and water resources.
- The role of fire: historic, wild, and prescribed.
- Missouri's growth, harvest, and consumption of forest products.
- Recreation, human health, and relevance of nature.
- Logistical framework for improvement and sustainability.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2023 Accomplishments	Value
Population	6,154,913	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	19,853
Acres of Forest Land	15,425,911	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	14,210
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	11,398,415	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	4,163
Number of NIPF Landowners	179,606	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	190
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	70
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	42,350,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	0
Number of Rural Fire Departments	860	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	7,204
Cities and Towns	948	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	72
Forest Based Employment	27,117	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	2,540,498
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	5	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	19,672
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	16,300,000		

Program Highlights

Community Forestry and Open Space

A mile from downtown Ozark is Missouri's first Community Forest and Open Space Conservation project. The 9.8-acre community forest at Garrison Springs was purchased by the city of Ozark using \$184,000 from the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program. The property contains three natural springs coming from the karst features on the property that feed into Garrison Branch. The community forest at Garrison Spring offers the unique opportunity to create the first soft-surface trail system in Ozark, as well as a beautiful Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant hard-surface trail that provides views of the spring and planned learning stations.

Cooperative Fire Protection

The State helped support 190 volunteer fire departments with Volunteer Fire Assistance funding. Missouri's Rural Forest Fire Equipment Center acquired \$1,027,698 of Department of Defense Firefighter Property program equipment for rural fire protection. Missouri Department of Conservation provided State suppression resources and wildland fire training for 350 personnel and implemented 10,200 acres of hazardous fuels reduction.

Economic Action

In 2023, one \$300,000 project in Missouri was selected for funding in the Wood Innovations program. This project assists with the development of thermally modified wood products.

Forest Health Protection

Extreme drought and a late spring freeze were major stressors for trees in Missouri in 2023. Overnight temperatures on April 23-24 dipped to 26 Fahrenheit degrees, leading to an estimated 202,000 acres of freeze damage on trees through the south-central part of the State (mapped through remote sensing). Drought began increasing in March, and by mid-July almost one-third of the State was in extreme to exceptional drought. Oak health continues to be threatened by drought, advanced age of trees, and multiple stressors, generally classified as oak decline. Emerald ash borer was detected in an additional 8 counties for a total of 110 out of 114 infested counties in Missouri. The statewide survey for spongy moth resulted in the capture of five male moths. There is no evidence of reproducing populations, and Missouri remains uninfested. Surveys were also conducted for thousand cankers disease, laurel wilt disease (which affects sassafras), Asian longhorned beetle, and spotted lanternfly, which resulted in no positive detections. Invasive plant management and mapping efforts continue across the State.

Forest Legacy

The Missouri Department of Conservation completed two Forest Legacy Program (FLP) projects in southeastern Missouri resulting in the permanent protection of three separate tracts. The Eleven Point Forest FLP project involved the acquisition of an 1,823-acre conservation easement, utilizing a total \$1,947,000 in FLP funds. The State also enrolled an additional 400 acres of property into the FLP that it acquired with non-Federal funds as part of the State's cost-share match contribution. The second project completed by the State in FY 2023 was the Chilton Creek Forest project in which a 4,981-acre tract was purchased by the State using \$4 million in FLP funds. This property will be managed as part of the State's Peck Ranch Conservation Area.

Forest Stewardship

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources operates one State nursery, George O. White State Tree Nursery, located in Licking. 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: Missouri Department of Conservation

Federal investment: \$70,076

Project: St. Francois Knobs and Woodlands Restoration

Summary: This project will continue landscape-level restoration of glades and woodlands across five counties in the Missouri Ozarks, which are encompassed in our Priority Forest Landscape. This will restore significant natural communities to their intended state and positively impact their associated species of conservation concern, foster partnerships with landowners and other conservation entities, and increase the recreational value of this area. The project benefits five counties with medium-high Social Vulnerability Index and disadvantaged communities identified by the Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool. In addition, it provides work in this high-poverty area.

Urban and Community Forestry

This past year, the Missouri Department of Conservation's Community and Private Lands Conservation Branch, through the hard work of field staff, provided financial assistance to 53 communities totaling \$712,303. This funding was distributed using a Community Conservation–tiered model, which uses geospatial information to provide funding in an equitable manner. Staff also provided technical assistance to 66 communities.

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