



New Jersey Forest Resource Fact Sheet 2025

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Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2024 Final
Cooperative Fire Protection	\$592,437
Cooperative Forestry	\$0
Forest Health Management	\$132,420
Forest Legacy and Community Forestry	\$0
Total	\$724,857

NOTE: This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.

Key Issues

- Forest function.
- Forest restoration--species of concern.
- Forest management plans (scalable management).
- Inventory.
- Forest products (utilization and markets).
- Resiliency.
- Damage causing agents.
- Climate.
- Fragmentation/habitat restoration.
- Biodiversity.
- Recreation.
- Education, communication, and outreach.
- Data: Data driven strategic planning and management.
- Data gaps.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2024 Accomplishments	Value
Population	9,288,994	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	3,825
Acres of Forest Land	1,988,518	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	13,768
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	653,761	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	4,486
Number of NIPF Landowners	13,903	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	100
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	502
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	3,250,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	4,629
Number of Rural Fire Departments	353	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	323	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	365
Forest Based Employment	24,283	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	7,746,274
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	7	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	4,865
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	6,363,938		

Program Highlights

Cooperative Fire Protection

State Fire Capacity funding was used to treat 2,385 acres. New Jersey was awarded a \$300,000 Wildfire Risk Reduction grant to build prescribed fire capacity and treat hazardous fuels within the urban interface. Training was provided to 600 State and local firefighters in wildland firefighting and incident management. Volunteer Fire Capacity funds were received by 35 departments to support wildland fire response. The State acquired \$37,340 in property from the Department of Defense Firefighter Property program.

Forest Health Protection

In 2024, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Forestry continued to actively monitor for new and established invasive species and found no introductions of oak wilt nor thousand cankers disease. After first being found in 2020,

beech leaf disease continues to be found causing extensive leaf damage on beech and was found in two additional counties (Camden and Gloucester) in 2024 and can now be found in 16 of 21 counties. New Jersey has established a network of permanent beech plots to assess the damage being caused by both beech leaf disease and beech bark disease. Forest damage caused by spongy moth was observed by aerial surveys on over 140,000 acres, mostly in the northeast part of the state, and an aerial application suppression program is being planned for spring 2025. Southern pine beetle populations were low in 2024. Finally, individual-tree pesticide treatments for emerald ash borer were applied to 43 ash trees on state lands; New Jersey and other state and federal land managers collected *Laricobius nigrinus* biocontrol agents for emerald ash borer throughout the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area for redistribution in other states; and evidence of elm zigzag sawfly feeding was found on elm trees for a second year.

Forest Stewardship

New Jersey's forest lands are critical contributors to the environmental, social, and economic well-being of the State as providers of a myriad of ecosystem services and benefits to its communities and residents. They are an irreplaceable component of the environment needing conservation and stewardship to guarantee sustained and improved yields of these services and benefits. The New Jersey Forest Service Private Lands program through Forest Stewardship provides the rules and expertise to over 7,000 landowners and their consultant foresters to sustainably manage their woodland in order to help facilitate maintaining their ownership in an environment of high development pressure and parcelization. Through Forest Stewardship, woodland management in New Jersey is not focused on the monetary benefits of wood production, but rather the improvement of the forest through carbon-friendly management while also highlighting the money saved in tax payments and retaining open space for things like clean water, carbon storage, and wildlife habitat.

The New Jersey Forest Service operates one forest tree nursery, located in Jackson. 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: National Association of Conservation Districts

Federal Investment: \$585,824 (Multi-State Project)

Project: Northeast Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forests and Water

Summary: The Northeast-Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forests and Water is an interagency, multi-partner collaboration that advances restoration of priority forest landscapes and protects water from West Virginia to Maine. This project will facilitate continued collaboration among the diverse array of partners in states across the northeast and mid-Atlantic, will foster shared learning, and support forested watershed restoration activities.

Urban and Community Forestry

New Jersey's Urban and Community Forestry program continued to provide grants to communities in fiscal year 24, with a total investment of close to \$8,500,000 including state and local funding. The grants ranged from \$3,000 to over \$50,000 for projects including tree inventory/assessment, Community Forest Management Plan development and tree planting. Volunteers contributed approximately 4,865 hours of service to urban and community forestry in the state, gaining knowledge and skills to support their local programs and services as shade tree board representatives to advise and carry out urban and community forestry activities in their hometowns.



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