



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet New Jersey 2024



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2023 Estimate
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$260,863
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$0
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$527,500
Urban and Community Forestry	\$573,450
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$282,898
Total	\$1,644,711

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

- 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 2023 Accomplishments	Value
Population	9,288,994	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	1,993
Acres of Forest Land	1,988,518	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	12,654
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	653,761	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	3,134
Number of NIPF Landowners	13,903	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	100
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	92
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	3,250,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	5,327
Number of Rural Fire Departments	353	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	323	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	388
Forest Based Employment	24,283	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	7,912,987
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	7	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	5,013
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	6,363,938		

Program Highlights

Cooperative Fire Protection

State Fire Assistance funding was used to treat 2,095 acres in 24 separate fuels reduction projects. 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 1,090 State and local firefighters in wildland firefighting and incident management. Forty volunteer fire departments received funds to support wildland fire response. The State of New Jersey is helping communities develop Community Wildfire Assistance Grants through a \$200,000 grant to provide technical assistance.

Forest Health Protection

In 2023, the Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Forestry continued to actively monitor for new and established invasive species and found no introductions of oak wilt or thousand cankers disease. First detected in 2020, beech leaf disease continues to cause extensive leaf damage and was found in two new counties (Middlesex and Salem) for a total of 14 counties. New Jersey has established a network of permanent beech plots to assess damage caused by both beech leaf disease and beech bark disease. Forest damage observed by aerial surveys in New Jersey in 2023 was caused by spongy moth (15,902 acres), and an aerial application suppression program was conducted on 5,000 acres to suppress high spongy moth populations. In addition, individual-tree pesticide treatments were also applied to 200 ash trees at Liberty State Park to protect from emerald ash borer.

Forest Stewardship

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: \$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.

Urban and Community Forestry

New Jersey's Urban and Community Forestry program continued to provide grants to communities in 2023, with a total investment of over \$420,000 including State and local funding. The grants ranged from \$3,000 to over \$30,000 for projects including tree inventory/assessment, Community Forest Management Plan development, and tree planting. Volunteers contributed over 5,013 hours of service to urban and community forestry in the State. They gained knowledge and skills to support their local programs and services as shade tree board representatives who advise on and carry out urban and community forestry activities in their hometowns.

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