



# New York Forest Resource Fact Sheet 2025

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## Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2024 Final
Cooperative Fire Protection	\$2,649,640
Cooperative Forestry	\$2,007,242
Forest Health Management	\$225,000
Forest Legacy and Community Forestry	\$361,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,242,882</b>

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

## Key Issues

- Keep New York's forests as forests.
- Keep New York's forests healthy.
- Ensure forests benefit humans and all living creatures.
- Appreciate, support, and protect New York's forests.

## Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2024 Accomplishments	Value
Population	20,201,249	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	1,900
Acres of Forest Land	18,622,212	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	45,860
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	11,818,798	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	20,173
Number of NIPF Landowners	200,714	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	350
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	1,075
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	23,132,960	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	282
Number of Rural Fire Departments	1,741	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	4,499
Cities and Towns	1,520	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	162
Forest Based Employment	46,958	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	13,384,492
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	5	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	100,873
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	18,000,000		

## Program Highlights

### Chesapeake Bay Watershed

The Chesapeake Shared Stewardship Agreement is being implemented and will help New York meet its mandated water quality improvement goals for the Chesapeake Bay through watershed forestry. New York's Department of Environmental Conservation participated in the reporting and restoration of 127 acres of riparian forest buffers, 40 acres of upland tree planting on agricultural lands, and 35 acres of urban tree planting in the most recent reporting cycle, approved in 2024. Other significant watershed forestry activities in 2024 included working with partners at the Upper Susquehanna Coalition to plant trees through programs such as Trees for Tributaries, continuing the Buffer Stewards Program to evaluate and establish riparian forest buffers, and implementing New York's Riparian Forest Buffer Action Strategy.

### Community Forests and Open Space

A forested property that once housed a graphite mine 100 years ago and a golf driving range 30 years ago is now one of Saratoga County's newest recreational destinations. The 204-acre Graphite Range Community Forest, named after its historical uses, was acquired by Saratoga County through \$391,000 in funds from the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program. The property features an extensive trail network, offering access for hikers and mountain bikers of all skill levels, while also protecting the forest and its diverse habitats.

### Cooperative Fire Protection

Volunteer Fire Assistance funding supported 350 departments. Approximately 1,250 firefighters received training, and 225 acres of hazardous fuels treatment were funded through State Fire Capacity funding. The Albany Pine bush Preserve was funded \$150,000 for a Wildfire Risk Reduction grant to treat hazardous fuels and provide wildlife habitat. A sub-geographic operating plan between the USDA Forest Service, State of New York, and the Fire Department of New York City was used to mobilized FDNY personnel to

wildfires and all-hazard incidents across the country.

### **Economic Action**

In 2024, three New York projects received \$2 million in Forest Markets grant funding, including Wood Innovations and Temporary Bridge Crossings Funding and Wood Education Resource Center. Project work includes engineering and design for using mass timber for senior housing, small sawmill expansion, firewood production improvements, emission standards, and temporary bridge crossings.

### **Forest Legacy**

The New York Department of Environmental Conservation completed the Rensselaer Plateau Working Forest project with the acquisition of three tracts in eastern New York as part of the Forest Legacy Program (FLP). Using \$3,927,723 of FLP funds, the completion of the Rensselaer Plateau Working Forest FLP project protects 6,099 acres of newly conserved forestland.

### **Forest Stewardship**

The New York Forest Stewardship Program reported 255 new or revised stewardship plans covering 45,860 acres, of which 20,173 acres were in Important Forest Areas per New York's Strategic Forest Action Plan. In 2024, 1,500 landowners were provided forestry technical assistance and 400 landowners participated in education programs. New York successfully launched the Regenerate New York Forestry Cost Share Program to assist private forest landowners in addressing forest regeneration issues on their property through planting.

The New York Department of Environmental Conservation operates one State nursery, Colonel William F. Fox Nursery, located in Saratoga Springs. 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.

### **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative**

In 2024, four projects from local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and educational institutions in New York received over \$500,000 in Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding through the USDA Forest Service's Forest Restoration and Cooperative Weed Management Area competitive grant programs. For three of the projects, funding will go toward treating more than 2,500 acres of forests impacted by hemlock woolly adelgid and riparian and wetland areas impacted by invasive plant species. The fourth project will plant 400 trees and shrubs to simultaneously address access to food and stormwater runoff. Two of the four projects plan to address changing weather impacts and incorporate job/skill training elements into their projects.

### **Landscape Scale Restoration**

Grantee: Sullivan County Soil and Water Conservation District

Federal Investment: \$100,000

Project: Protecting Threatened Hemlocks in the New York Catskills, for New York City Drinking Water Quality

Summary: Bringing together the resources of four organizations, this project will use Integrated Pest Management best practices to protect threatened hemlocks along riparian corridors that span public and private land in a portion of the New York City watershed. Eastern hemlock is a dominant species in Catskill riparian forests and is important for maintaining water quality in the watershed. Hemlock woolly adelgid is widespread in the region and hemlock decline in riparian corridors is accelerating.

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 York State (NYS) received \$13.5 million from the USDA Forest Service for urban forestry efforts. In 2024, \$12.5 million was awarded to 23 projects in low-income communities across the state. \$10.4 million was awarded for projects that implement existing community forest management plans, which primarily includes tree planting and tree maintenance, and \$2.1 million was awarded for ash tree management projects, primarily removals and replanting. NYS also received \$15 million from the 2024-25 state budget for tree planting projects. Additionally, the NYS Community Reforestation Grant program will focus on restoring degraded forests and afforestation in and near urban areas. Finally, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation produces a monthly newsletter that includes an Urban and Community Forestry section with information about open urban forestry-related grants, upcoming and recent workshops/webinars/events, and a Community Highlight.??



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