



# Ohio Forest Resource Fact Sheet 2024

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## Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2023 Estimate
Cooperative Fire Protection	\$1,148,691
Cooperative Forestry	\$1,054,772
Forest Health Management	\$168,415
Forest Legacy and Community Forestry	\$97,585
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,469,463</b>

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

## Key Issues

- Sustainable forest management on all forest lands.
- Public benefits from Ohio's forests.
- Conservation of soil and water resources.
- Conservation of biological diversity.
- Threats to forest health.
- Forest fragmentation, parcelization, and loss.

## Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2023 Accomplishments	Value
Population	11,799,448	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	6,020
Acres of Forest Land	7,809,811	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	17,666
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	5,564,951	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	7,330
Number of NIPF Landowners	120,835	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	197
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	241
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	5,822,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	15,572
Number of Rural Fire Departments	1,366	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	926	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	308
Forest Based Employment	57,969	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	6,213,263
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	5	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	47,654
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	11,472,000		

## Program Highlights

### Cooperative Fire Protection

Volunteer Fire Assistance funds supported 54 fire departments for wildland fire suppression training and preparedness. Ohio was awarded two Wildfire Risk Reduction Grants for \$300,000 to implement projects supporting the Cohesive Strategy. The State trained 834 firefighters through Cooperative Fire program funding. Ohio acquired \$19,336 in property from the Department of Defense Firefighter Property program, used to support State and volunteer fire departments' wildland fire programs.

### Economic Action

In 2023, two Wood Innovations projects and one Temporary Bridge Crossing project in Ohio totaling \$675,000 were funded through the USDA Forest Service. The Wood Innovations projects' goals include post-combustion carbon capture through advanced woody biomass boiler technologies and increasing use of wood in stairways and guard systems by developing skills in the architectural and engineering fields. The Temporary Bridge Crossing grant was awarded to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources – Division of Forestry.

### Forest Health Protection

The Asian longhorned beetle was discovered in Clermont County in 2011 and as of December 2, 2023, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service had removed 21,747 infested trees. Beech leaf disease continued to spread and cause damage to American beech in Ohio, with nine new counties confirmed in 2023. The Ohio Division of Forestry continues to manage hemlock woolly adelgid and chemically treated 6,000 eastern hemlock trees across 550 acres of high-priority hemlock forest in 2023. The first discovery of an elm zigzag sawfly in Ohio was made in July 2023 in central Ohio. Continued statewide surveys and additional

studies to learn about the biology and impact of elm zigzag sawfly will be conducted in 2024.

**Great Lakes Restoration Initiative**

In 2023, three projects from local governments and nongovernmental organizations in Ohio received Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding through the USDA Forest Service's competitive grant program. Over \$400,000 will go toward managing the impacts of invasive plants, invasive insects, and disease, and restoring coastal and riparian forest habitat. Collectively, the projects will plant over 17,000 trees, which will contribute to the treatment of 137 acres impacted by invasive species.

**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**

Ohio's Urban Forestry Assistance Program awarded \$530,914 in community tree planting projects that address environmental justice and climate adaptation. The program also advanced Federal priorities of focusing assistance and outreach benefits toward disadvantaged communities by developing outreach material, attending career fairs, mobilizing industry partners, and engaging with high school teachers and students in underserved and disadvantaged populations.



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