State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet
Ohio 2023

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>FY 2022 Final</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Forestry and Open Space</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management</td>
<td>$128,840</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Legacy</td>
<td>$39,880</td>
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<td>Forest Stewardship</td>
<td>$193,660</td>
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<tr>
<td>Landscape Scale Restoration</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<td>State Fire Assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban and Community Forestry</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Volunteer Fire Assistance</td>
<td>$486,897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,986,002</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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
- 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
Program Highlights

Cooperative Fire Protection
Ohio was awarded two Wildfire Risk Reduction grants for $373,000 to conduct prescribed burning and implement fire prevention programs. The State trained 633 firefighters through Cooperative Fire program funding. Ohio acquired $79,993 in property from the Department of Defense Firefighter Property program, used to support State and volunteer fire departments' wildland fire programs. State Fire Assistance core funds help support Ohio's prescribed fire regulatory programs and leadership in the Ohio Prescribed Fire Council.

Forest Health Protection
The Asian longhorned beetle was discovered in Clermont County in 2011; as of December 2022, USDA APHIS removed 21,667 infested trees. The Ohio Department of Agriculture continued treatment efforts for spongy moth, in the Slow the Spread transition zone, treating 1,056 acres with Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki (Btk) bacterium and 46,074 acres with mating disruption pheromone. The Ohio Division of Forestry continues to manage hemlock woolly adelgid and chemically treated over 4,400 eastern hemlock trees in 2022. The State's first known spotted lanternfly infestation was discovered in 2020 in Jefferson County in eastern Ohio. In 2022, an additional infestation was discovered in Hamilton County, near Cincinnati.

Forest Legacy
The Ohio Department of Natural Resources continued to protect important forests in southern Ohio through the Forest Legacy Program with the acquisition of the two tracts comprising the Little Smokies II project. Between the tract purchased using $2.5 million of Forest Legacy Program funds and a tract pledged as cost share match, the completed Little Smokies II project permanently protects 1,610 acres of newly conserved forestland in Ohio.

Forest Stewardship
The Ohio Stewardship Program completed 102 new or revised stewardship plans and 118 new or revised Environmental Quality Incentives Program management plans. These covered a combined 20,804 acres, 2,405 acres of which were in Ohio's Forest Stewardship Priority Forest Areas per the State's Strategic Forest Action Plan. An additional 4,035 acres were covered by practice plans for sustainable forest management practices supported by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Farm Bill programs, including 933 acres in Stewardship Priority Forest Areas. In addition, 1,593 landowners were provided forestry technical assistance and 1,404 landowners participated in education programs. The Ohio Division of Forestry also worked with partners to enhance eight acres of demonstration area for oak management at Vinton Furnace State Forest, with support through a White Oak Initiative Landscape Scale Restoration
grant. Finally, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources worked with the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the USDA Farm Services Agency, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to finalize new agreements for the Lake Erie and Scioto River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, an important partnership that leverages State and Federal funds to improve water quality and conserve other natural resources in key Ohio watersheds.

**Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)**
In 2022, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources received $300,000 through the USDA Forest Service’s Great Lakes Restoration Initiative competitive grant process. The grant is supporting the Lake Erie Infrastructure grant program, which allows Ohio cities, villages, townships, and nonprofit organizations within the Lake Erie watershed to apply for funding and planning assistance to plant trees to reduce stormwater runoff.

**Urban and Community Forestry**
Ohio's Urban Forestry Assistance program awarded $250,000 in community tree-planting projects that address environmental justice and climate adaptation and $24,000 in scholarships for classroom and field-based education and training. The program also advanced Federal priorities of focusing assistance and outreach benefits toward disadvantaged communities by adding a special projects urban forester focused on tree equity and developing outreach material, attending career fairs, mobilizing industry partners and engaging with high school teachers and students in underserved and disadvantaged populations.

**Urban Connections**
In FY 2022, $30,000 of Forest Service funding supported one Urban Connections project in Ohio with a partner match of $16,397. This included a partnership with the Southern Wayne Advocacy Council. In addition, $190,088 of Forest Service funding went to five Urban Connections projects that supported the greater Eastern Region with a partner match of about $99,361. This included partnerships with Go Find Outdoors Natural Inquirer, Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, Outdoor Afro, Outdoors Empowered Network, and the Bus for Outdoor Access and Teaching.

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