



# State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Pennsylvania 2021



## Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2020 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$588,122
Forest Legacy	\$14,622
Forest Stewardship	\$204,946
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$1,231,842
Urban and Community Forestry	\$503,155
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$840,457
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,383,144</b>

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 and Private 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

- Land use change.
- Forest health.
- Sustainable forest management.
- Climate change.
- Communicating natural resource values.
- Energy management and development.
- Wildland fire and public safety.
- Plant and wildlife habitat.
- Forest-related economy and jobs.
- Forest recreation.
- Water and soil.

## Forest Facts and Accomplishments

<b>Selected Facts</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>FY 2020 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Value</b>
Population	12,702,379	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	34,362
Acres of Forest Land	16,621,968	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	1,534
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	11,505,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	1,183
Number of NIPF Landowners	497,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	150
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	1,207
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	17,000,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	1,050
Number of Rural Fire Departments	2,650	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	3,683
Cities and Towns	1,015	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	423
Forest Based Employment	72,173	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	7,253,819
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	2	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	16,498
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	32,990,000		

## Program Highlights

### **Chesapeake Bay Initiative**

The Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry has been a leader in the Chesapeake Bay Program's Forestry Workgroup to advance forestry goals included in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, specifically by establishing a high-level Riparian Buffer Advisory Board and using nearly \$1.8 million of EPA watershed restoration funding to expand forests. Pennsylvania continues to address forestry goals that are part of the Chesapeake Bay Program and State Watershed Implementation Plans and worked on a Chesapeake Bay Shared Stewardship Agreement signed by State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service Chief in October 2020.

### **Cooperative Fire Protection**

Pennsylvania was awarded a competitive State Fire Assistance grant to expand the use of prescribed fire for hazardous fuel reduction and maintain fire-adapted ecosystems through the treatment of 577 acres. Approximately 1,200 educational programs will be supported with fire prevention, Firewise, and wildfire mitigation materials. The State hosts the Mid-Atlantic Coordination Center in Harrisburg that supports national forests, Mid-Atlantic Compact states, and Federal partners with wildfire dispatching and coordination. Pennsylvania acquired \$1,168,965 in property from the Department of Defense Fire Fighter Program. The property is used to support the State and Volunteer Fire Department wildland fire programs.

### **Forest Health Protection**

Spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) is a new invasive insect first detected in Berks County in 2014, which feeds on tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) during its life cycle. In North America, it also feeds on a variety of plants and trees, including wine grapes, wild grapes, sweet birch, big-tooth aspen, and black walnut. There is currently a 26-county quarantine for spotted lanternfly. Beech leaf disease has been confirmed in 22 counties. Pennsylvania has also experienced a large increase in gypsy moth populations.

### **Forest Legacy**

The Pennsylvania Forest Legacy Program continued protecting important forests in northeastern Pennsylvania with the conservation easement acquisition of three tracts for the Northeast Connection multi-tract project. In 2020, the State acquired three conservation easements on 3,683 acres using \$3,333,000 in Forest Legacy Program funds. The State is continuing acquisition activities on the remaining tract in the project.

**Forest Stewardship**

Pennsylvania's Forest Stewardship program, a longstanding and fruitful partnership between the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry and the Center for Private Forests at Penn State, provided technical assistance to 1,166 landowners and municipalities and educated an additional 33,196 landowners. An example of this collaboration is the annual Walk in Penn's Woods to celebrate and encourage learning about Pennsylvania's working forests. This day of woods walks (and, in 2020, virtual events) encourages citizens to visit forests and attend tours and learning events with engaged forest landowners and natural resources professionals to understand how and why to care well for the woods. Each year the event has attracted well over 1,000 participants with up to 80 events occurring on a single day across the state.

**Urban and Community Forestry**

Pennsylvania's Urban and Community Forestry program served 479 communities (6,782,162 residents) through its TreeVitalize partnership program. Approximately \$330,000 in grants were given to communities and non-government organizations to plant street trees, park trees, and urban riparian buffers and to pursue other community forestry projects and trainings. The addition of a staff person to coordinate partnership efforts is helping Pennsylvania's urban and community forestry partners to work toward shared success.

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**Contact Information**



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