



## State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Pennsylvania 2024



### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2023 Estimate
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$2,173,903
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$439,744
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$210,000
State Fire Assistance	\$1,030,007
Urban and Community Forestry	\$2,182,337
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,035,991</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, 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

- 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

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2023 Accomplishments	Value
Population	13,002,700	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	19,764
Acres of Forest Land	16,622,803	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	1,133
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	9,622,475	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	257
Number of NIPF Landowners	179,543	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	0
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	0
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	17,000,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	292,968
Number of Rural Fire Departments	2,650	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	556
Cities and Towns	1,013	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	389
Forest Based Employment	72,173	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	6,813,590
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	2	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	64,845
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	32,990,000		

## Program Highlights

### Cooperative Fire Protection

Volunteer Fire Assistance funds supported 140 fire departments for wildland fire suppression training and preparedness. Pennsylvania acquired \$895,501 in property from the Department of Defense Firefighter Property program, which was used to support State and volunteer fire department wildland fire programs. Over 9,000 wildland firefighters were trained in annual fire warden training, introduction to wildland fire behavior, and various intermediate-level National Wildfire Coordinating Group training courses. The State is helping communities develop Community Wildfire Assistance Grants through a \$400,000 grant to provide technical assistance.

### Economic Action

In 2023, six projects in Pennsylvania were selected for over \$1.4 million in Wood Innovations funding and \$1 million in Community Wood funding. The five Wood Innovations projects have goals that include establishing a Wood Utilization Team, completing feasibility studies for hardwood log scanning, upgrading sawmill technology, and improving the health of the Allegheny National Forest through wood waste and invasive pest control management. The Community Wood project is to upgrade failing equipment for a hardwood lumber mill.

### Forest Health Protection

The spotted lanternfly is a new invasive insect found in Berks County in 2014 that feeds on the tree-of-heaven 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 51-county quarantine for spotted lanternfly. Beech leaf disease and hemlock woolly adelgid have been confirmed in all 67 counties. Pennsylvania experienced a large increase in spongy moth populations, with 855,406 acres defoliated and 290,819 acres treated.

### Forest Legacy

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources acquired the 556-acre Camp Pawe tract, which was the final tract of the Northeast Connections Forest Legacy Program (FLP) project. This important forested property located in northeastern Pennsylvania was purchased in part with \$1,340,457 in FLP funds and it will be managed as part of the Delaware State Forest.

### Forest Stewardship

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania operates two State nurseries. Penn Nursery, in Spring Mills, is

managed by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Howard Nursery, in Howard, is managed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. 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***

Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry served 383 communities (6,813,590 residents) through its Urban and Community Forestry partnership program. Approximately \$3.6 million in grants was given to communities and nongovernment organizations to plant street trees, park trees, and urban riparian buffers and to pursue other community forestry projects (such as a large-scale bare root tree planting program) and trainings (including a successful in-person statewide community forestry conference). In 2023, Pennsylvania hired a Chesapeake Bay community tree specialist to help activate tree equity work to serve environmental justice and other historically disadvantaged communities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed while continuing the work that has made the program such a successful partnership.

---

## **Contact Information**



### **Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**

Jason Albright

*Acting State Forester*

Bureau of Forestry

P.O. Box 8552

Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552

717-783-7938

[jasalbrigh@pa.gov](mailto:jasalbrigh@pa.gov)

### **US Forest Service Eastern Region**

Bob Lueckel

*Deputy Regional Forester*

USDA Forest Service

626 E Wisconsin Avenue

Milwaukee, WI 53202-4616

414-297-3600

[bob.lueckel@usda.gov](mailto:bob.lueckel@usda.gov)

---