



# State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

## Rhode Island 2021



### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2020 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$173,000
Forest Legacy	\$40,000
Forest Stewardship	\$60,000
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$97,371
Urban and Community Forestry	\$200,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$30,886
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$601,257</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

- Forest loss, fragmentation, and parcelization.
- Forest health.
- Water.
- Fire.
- Climate change.

### Forest Facts and Accomplishments

<b>Selected Facts</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>FY 2020 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Value</b>
Population	1,052,567	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	127
Acres of Forest Land	361,127	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	1,227
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	303,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	1,186
Number of NIPF Landowners	38,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	11
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	31
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	433,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	0
Number of Rural Fire Departments	70	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	8	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	25
Forest Based Employment	3,877	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	802,397
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	5	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	3,027
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	1,750,000		

## Program Highlights

### **Cooperative Fire Protection**

Rhode Island experienced more than 100 fires during the very dry year of 2020. Substantial oak mortality due to several years of gypsy moth outbreak and drought has exacerbated fire potential, particularly in the western portion of the state. Rhode Island is working with the Northeast Forest Fire Compact to implement a recently awarded Landscape Scale Restoration grant to develop a refined wildfire risk/hazard map that can be used on a much smaller scale than most current products. The statewide fire plan has been updated and will be rolled out with an exercise in early 2021.

### **Forest Health Protection**

The Rhode Island Forest Stewardship Program reported 28 new or revised stewardship plans for 1,227 acres, 1,186 of which are in Important Forest Areas per Rhode Island's Strategic Forest Action Plan. The program participated in the Rhode Island Fall Tree Farm Tours and Small-Scale Forestry workshops in conjunction with the Rhode Island Soil and Water Conservation districts. About 66 woodland landowners took part in educational programs throughout the year.

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### **Urban and Community Forestry**

Rhode Island Urban and Community Forestry (UCF), Rhode Island Department of Health, and American Forests partnered with CAPA Strategies to conduct a heat watch campaign. Volunteers used car-mounted thermal sensors to develop heat maps in Providence and three other cities. Seven Rhode Island UCF subgrants were awarded to the Rhode Island Tree Council and six communities for public tree inventories, tree planting/maintenance, and educational programs. Eleven training sessions on urban forestry topics were delivered by the Rhode Island Tree Council and Rhode Island UCF. New UCF webpages were developed at [www.dem.ri.gov/urbanforestry](http://www.dem.ri.gov/urbanforestry).

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## Contact Information



**Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management**

TeeJay Boudreau  
*Deputy State Forester*  
Division of Forest Environment  
235 Promenade St., Rm 394  
Providence, RI 02908  
401-222-4700 ext. 2301  
[teejay.boudreau@dem.ri.gov](mailto:teejay.boudreau@dem.ri.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)

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