



Vermont Forest Resource Fact Sheet 2025

Oliver Pierson, State Forester
Phone: 802-505-3563

<http://www.vtfpr.org/htm/forestry.cfm>
Email: oliver.pierson@vermont.gov



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2024 Final
Cooperative Fire Protection	\$63,058
Cooperative Forestry	\$68,369
Forest Health Management	\$17,993
Forest Legacy and Community Forestry	\$0
Total	\$149,420

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

Key Issues

- Conserve native biological diversity across all landscapes.
- Maintain and enhance forest ecosystem health and ecological productivity.
- Maintain and enhance forest contribution to ecosystem services.
- Maintain and enhance an ethic of respect for the land, sustainable use, and exemplary management.
- Legal, institutional, and economic framework in place for forest conservation and sustainability.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2024 Accomplishments	Value
Population	643,077	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	1,096
Acres of Forest Land	4,522,889	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	48,181
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	3,044,069	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	26,205
Number of NIPF Landowners	40,887	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	75
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	13
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	4,700,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	62
Number of Rural Fire Departments	222	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	183
Cities and Towns	284	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	110
Forest Based Employment	5,332	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	474,797
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	2	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	11,674
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	3,768,904		

Program Highlights

Community Forests and Open Space

The Town of Wolcott used \$357,000 in funds from the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program to create the 734-acre Wolcott Community Forest. Located next to the town center, the forest provides a fantastic recreational asset for the community, with a parking lot for recreational access located at the Wolcott Town Offices. The town forest also will provide numerous educational opportunities for the town elementary school, which is immediately adjacent to the eastern portion of the forest.

Cooperative Fire Protection

Vermont supported 50 volunteer fire departments with grant funds, trained 318 firefighters, and treated 50 acres of hazardous fuels, through Volunteer Fire Capacity and State Fire Capacity funds.

Economic Action

In 2024, seven Vermont projects received over \$3.3 million in Forest Markets grant funding, including Wood Innovations, Community Wood, and Temporary Bridge Crossings. Project work includes Installing and upgrading wood energy systems, temporary bridge crossings, as well as providing the state of Vermont with funding to award subgrants for energy-related projects.

Forest Legacy

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation acquired a conservation easement protecting 183 acres of forestland in southern Vermont. The value of this conservation easement will be used to meet the state's nonfederal cost share match obligation for the Forest Legacy Program Chateaugay Forest project.

Forest Stewardship

The Vermont Forest Stewardship Program reported 341 new or revised stewardship plans for 48,181 acres of which 26,205 acres were in Important Forest Areas per Vermont's Strategic Forest Action Plan; In 2024, 625 landowners were provided forestry technical assistance and 471 landowners participated in education programs. The Landscape Scale Restoration program supported multiple projects to engage new forest landowners in stewardship activities, elevate the accessibility and role of community forests as models of stewardship, and develop materials and assistance to support the efforts of sugarmakers in supporting healthy forests. In 2024, Vermont received \$5 million to support the role of forest products in advancing forest resilience. This project will get underway in earnest in 2025 and be very complementary to the strategies to deliver the Forest Stewardship Program.

The State of Vermont does not operate a nursery. 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: \$585,824 (Multi-State Project)

Project: Northeast Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forests and Water

Summary: The Northeast-Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forests and Water is an interagency, multi-partner collaboration that advances restoration of priority forest landscapes and protects water from West Virginia to Maine. This project will facilitate continued collaboration among the diverse array of partners in states across the northeast and mid-Atlantic, will foster shared learning, and support forested watershed restoration activities.

Urban and Community Forestry

Fiscal Year 2024 was a significant year for Vermont's Urban and Community Forestry Program. Between the unprecedented USDA Forest Service funding, our traditional grant programs, and an additional allocation of state fiscal recovery funds, our small state program awarded over \$1 million through subawards to communities and local organizations for projects to support urban tree canopy expansion and sustainable urban and community forest management. The program added an urban forester position, greatly expanding the breadth and depth of the direct technical assistance offered statewide. The program organized a successful annual Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Conference, offered free pruning workshops in partner communities of our Vermont Community Canopy free tree giveaway, and engaged over 100 participants in a Forest Pest First Detector multi-week online training targeted to members of outdoor recreation organizations and trail managers.



Steven Miller, Acting Deputy Regional Forester

Phone: 414-297-3600

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r9/home>

Email: steven.miller@usda.gov
