



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Vermont 2024



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2023 Estimate
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$1,170,341
Forest Legacy	\$228,000
Forest Stewardship	\$233,458
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$180,165
Urban and Community Forestry	\$432,217
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$122,666
Total	\$2,366,847

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

- 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 2023 Accomplishments	Value
Population	643,077	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	1,479
Acres of Forest Land	4,522,889	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	41,481
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	3,044,069	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	30,316
Number of NIPF Landowners	40,887	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	50
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	0
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	4,700,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	245
Number of Rural Fire Departments	222	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	757
Cities and Towns	284	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	92
Forest Based Employment	5,332	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	424,048
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	2	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	8,583
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	3,768,904		

Program Highlights

Community Forestry and Open Space

The city of Montpelier acquired two tracts of forestland totaling 77 acres, adding to the city's Hubbard Park. The park and the added community forest lands have a network of trails with a trailhead immediately behind the Vermont State House in the city center. In addition to providing public access to this property for recreation, the city plans on using the forest for education purposes through the Montpelier Youth Conservation Corps. Montpelier was awarded a grant of \$258,000 from the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program for the purchase of the land.

Cooperative Fire Protection

Vermont supported 50 volunteer fire departments with grant funds and trained 608 firefighters through Volunteer Fire Assistance and State Fire Assistance funds.

Economic Action

In 2023, three projects in Vermont were awarded a total of \$817,532 in Wood Innovations funding. These projects' efforts include using the thermal energy from on-site wood waste for kiln drying and space heating, agricultural uses of low-grade biomass, and general equipment and energy system upgrades.

Forest Health Protection

Beech leaf disease was detected for the first time in Vermont in 2023 in Windham County. Emerald ash borer (EAB) has now been detected in 57 Vermont communities, with 1,381 acres of ash mortality due to EAB observed through aerial surveys. Two additional EAB biocontrol sites were added in 2023. The recent outbreak of spongy moth collapsed in 2023. Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) continues to threaten hemlock trees in southern Vermont. HWA biocontrol efforts continued in 2023, with 337 wildlings of the predatory beetle *Laricobius nigrinus* released at Fort Dummer State Park in the fall.

Forest Legacy

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation completed the Hunger Mountain Headwaters Forest Legacy Program (FLP) project with the purchase of the final 13-acre cost-share tract. The State also acquired three additional properties that will be used to help meet the State's non-Federal cost-share match obligation for the Worcester Woods FLP project, representing an additional 744 newly conserved forested acres enrolled in the FLP.

Landscape Scale Restoration

Grantee: Forest Stewards Guild
Federal investment: \$236,025 (multistate project)

Project: Sustaining Ash of the Northeast Through Training, Treatment and Outreach

Summary: The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a non-native insect that threatens to functionally eliminate ash from our forests. This project will create a regional response to EAB through educating and engaging land managers in science-based, thoughtful treatment of ash, sharing stories of hope, and encouraging actions that will sustain ash across the landscape.

Grantee: National Association of Conservation Districts

Federal investment: \$600,000 (13-State project)

Project: Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forests and Water

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. 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.

Grantee: Forest Stewards Guild

Federal investment: \$236,025

Project: Sustaining Ash of the Northeast Through Training, Treatment and Outreach Department

Summary: This project will create a regional response to EAB through educating and engaging land managers in science-based, thoughtful treatment of ash, sharing stories of hope, and encouraging actions that will sustain ash across the landscape.

Grantee: Audubon Vermont

Federal investment: \$324,316

Project: Engaging Landowners to Address the Biodiversity Crisis: Collaborative Conservation for Vermont Forests

Summary: This project will leverage the relationships, resources, and expertise of a new biodiversity collaborative to elevate and coordinate existing landowner outreach and technical assistance programs.

Urban and Community Forestry

In June 2023, the LGBTQIA2S+ Allies of Windsor, in partnership with Vermont Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, dedicated a flowering cherry planted at the Old Constitution House State Historic Site as a LGBTQ+ Pride Tree. The project celebrated 8 months of planning among the partners and aligns with the State of Vermont's commitment to building on local, State, and national efforts to advance equity and social justice for all people. In August, Vermont UCF offered hands-on training on how to install a pull rope into a tree. The 3 all-day trainings served 37 municipal staff from 15 municipalities statewide, 15 Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation staff, 2 private arborists, and 1 State of Vermont Building & General Services staff. Two municipalities received a technical and financial assistance package from Vermont UCF staff totaling \$20,000 during an 18-month period from January 2022 through June 2023 to plant and prune trees in their downtowns.

Contact Information



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