



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Wisconsin 2023



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2022 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$200,000
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$89,018
Forest Legacy	\$1,750,000
Forest Stewardship	\$0
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$440,250
State Fire Assistance	\$1,039,132
Urban and Community Forestry	\$416,500
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$371,805
Total	\$4,306,705

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

- Forest resources and ecosystems.
- Climate change.
- Forest socioeconomics.
- Forest ownership.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2022 Accomplishments	Value
Population	5,893,718	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	13,438
Acres of Forest Land	16,943,219	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	132,364
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	10,524,298	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	29,337
Number of NIPF Landowners	154,454	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	255
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	147
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	31,299,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	121,789
Number of Rural Fire Departments	947	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	1,850	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	231
Forest Based Employment	74,548	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	3,688,771
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	1	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	3,862
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	29,004,400		

Program Highlights

Community Forestry and Open Space

Working with the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, Ozaukee County protected the 134-acre Clay Bluffs Cedar Gorge Nature Preserve, a multi-agency and multi-partner conservation project along the shores of Lake Michigan. The Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program provided \$600,000 to protect the 42-acre forested portion of the preserve. Planned native vegetation restoration efforts include invasive species management to help provide high-quality habitat for wildlife and migratory birds.

Conservation Education

Over 50 Project Learning Tree coordinators from across the country toured the Forest Products Lab in Madison to discuss with research scientists how technology and engineering, as well as green jobs, could be incorporated in Project Learning Tree materials.

Cooperative Fire Protection

State Fire Assistance grants allowed Wisconsin to provide wildland firefighting training for 690 firefighters and supported a successful prevention and mitigation program, assisting 574 communities. Hazardous fuels reduction of 27,500 acres was accomplished. Two Cross-Boundary grants were awarded to implement Community Wildfire Protection plans for \$300,000 and to establish 225 acres of fuels treatment demonstration sites for \$248,354. Wildfire Risk Reduction grants helped staff use the Department of Defense Firefighter Property program for excess equipment and the development of wildland urban interface partner support, education, and community planning programs. Additionally, Department of Natural Resources staff completed 25,000 acres of prescribed fire treatments on State-managed lands. The Volunteer Fire Assistance program awarded 255 grants to rural fire departments.

Forest Health Protection

Emerald ash borer continues to increase in Wisconsin and has been confirmed in all but five counties. Current actions in heavily affected southeastern and southwestern Wisconsin include introduction of biocontrol agents, removal of hazard trees, and planting of replacement trees. The spongy moth population has increased for the third consecutive year, and several thousand acres of oak defoliation were observed. Stressors, such as defoliation events and abnormally dry to drought conditions in 2022, have led to an increase in two-lined chestnut borer damage to oaks.

Forest Markets & Wood Innovations

In FY 2022, the Eastern Region's Wood Education and Resource Center provided more than \$240,000 in Federal financial assistance for two projects in Wisconsin to demonstrate and outreach the applicability of urban wood to architectural applications and support a wood-to-energy system to dry lumber at a sawmill.

and dry kiln company.

Forest Stewardship

The Department of Natural Resources, along with partners within the State, continues to successfully implement their 20K Initiative, striving to collectively reach 20,000 unengaged private forest landowners each year to foster active management of their forest resources. In 2022, nearly 18,000 site visits were conducted with previously unengaged landowners on some 800,000 acres of private forest land. By implementing a multi-media outreach campaign that combined traditional direct mail solicitations along with a variety social media and electronic technologies, partners educate over 190,000 landowners about the benefits of active forest management and ways to obtain addition forestry services.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources operates one State nursery, Wilson State Nursery, located in Boscobel. 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.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)

Ten projects from local government and nongovernment organizations in Wisconsin received Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding through the USDA Forest Service's 2021 competitive process. Over \$1 million in new funding will build on past efforts to mitigate tree canopy loss due to emerald ash borer and improve the health and resilience of Wisconsin's coastal and riparian forests. Additionally, \$600,000 of those funds supported acquisition and permanent protection of 2,001 acres of land in Bayfield County as a community forest with an emphasis on locally led management for forest health, fire resilience, environmental education, and a recreation-based economy.

Landscape Scale Restoration

Grantee: University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

- Federal investment: \$296,675
- Non-federal match: \$316,659
- Project Title: Developing a Network of Bird Habitat Focused Forest Management Demonstration Areas in Wisconsin
- Project Description: Develop a network of demonstration areas focused on using timber harvest to generate habitat for birds. This project will include both sites with existing restoration work and sites yet to be treated and will include: (1) barrens and scrub oak; (2) mid/high-quality oak and aspen sites; (3) riparian forest sites; and (4) northern hardwoods. An assessment tool will be developed and natural resource manager and landowner outreach is planned.

Grantee: Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.

- Federal investment: \$143,575
- Non-federal match: \$143,575
- Project Title: Using Boots on the Ground and Outreach to Private Forest Landowners to Affect Landscape Scale Restoration across the Lumberjack RC&D Region
- Project Description: Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development's region encompasses 4.78 million acres in nine counties in northeastern Wisconsin. For this project, we'll partner with Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas, Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership, co-conservation departments, conservation organizations and tribes and use the goals of the Wisconsin State Forest Action Plan to work toward landscape scale restoration. Engaging private forest landowners is a priority as they are the largest demographic of rural forest landowners and own most of the forested land in Wisconsin. This project has a two-part structure -- boots on the ground and landowner outreach -- and is supported by Menominee Tribe.

Urban and Community Forestry

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) awarded \$190,000 of USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry Urban and Community Forestry grant funds to local communities and non-profits, who matched these funds one to one. These monies supplemented our State Urban Forestry Grants program and funded nine additional projects. In partnership with the Wisconsin Arborist Association (WAA), the DNR used federal funds to co-sponsor the 2022 WAA/DNR Annual Urban Forestry Conference, which was attended by and provided training to nearly 700 arboriculture and urban forestry professionals.

Urban Connections

In FY 2022, \$67,695 of Forest Service funding supported three Urban Connections projects in Wisconsin with a partner match of \$45,896. This included partnerships with Cream City Conservation, Northland College, and the Urban Ecology Center. In addition, \$190,088 of Forest Service funding went to five Urban Connections projects that supported the greater Eastern Region with a partner match of about \$99,361. This included partnerships with Go Find Outdoors Natural Inquirer, Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, Outdoor Afro, Outdoors Empowered Network, and the Bus for Outdoor Access and Teaching.

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