

Reforestation New York: A Vital Investment for Our Future

What difference does reforestation make for communities in New York?



By protecting forested watersheds, New York City avoids building a filtration plant that would cost \$8-10 billion to build and about \$1 million a day to run⁶, supplying clean water to roughly 9 million people.⁵



New York's forest economy delivers about \$22.9 billion in total economic impact² and supports close to 97,000 jobs statewide, from forestry and wood products to the many businesses they sustain.^{1,3}



New York has up to 5.5 million acres where forest could be restored, which could capture about 10.8 million tonnes of CO₂ a year, equivalent to taking 2.3 million cars off the road.⁸



Streamside reforestation pays a double dividend: shaded, cooler water sustains native cold-water species like brook trout, New York's state fish, and the recreational fishery built around them, while filtering runoff for downstream drinking water.^{19,20}

How Reforestation Can Be Supported and Expanded in New York



Expand Landowner Participation Through Technical Assistance

Most reforestation opportunity in New York is on private land⁸, but many owners don't know help exists, and the local groups that could reach them are understaffed.²¹ Funding outreach and technical assistance would lower barriers and speed planting.



Increase Incentives for Private Land Reforestation

About three-quarters of New York's forestland is privately owned, so landowner participation is essential to meeting reforestation targets.⁷ Expanding cost-share programs like Regenerate NY¹³ would cut upfront costs and let more landowners take part.



Expand Seedling Production Capacity

New York's goal of 680 million trees by 2040 far outpaces current seedling supply. Limited nursery capacity, especially for native species, is a major constraint, so funding to expand nursery production would raise planting rates statewide.^{10,11}



Address Deer Browse to Improve Seedling Survival

High deer densities are a leading cause of regeneration failure and sharply reduce survival of planted seedlings. Funding deer management plus protections like fencing and tree shelters would improve outcomes and protect public investment.^{13,14}

87%

of voters nationwide (80% GOP, 88% IND, 93% DEM) support "providing financial incentives and programs for private forest and woodland landowners to sustainably manage their land to keep forests healthy and adopt practices that naturally remove carbon from the air."⁹



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