



New York Forest Resource Fact Sheet 2026

Fiona Watt, State Forester
Phone: 518-402-9428

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/650.html>
Email: fiona.watt@dec.ny.gov



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2025 Final
Cooperative Fire Protection	\$1,865,987
Cooperative Forestry	\$784,389
Forest Health Management	\$883,865
Forest Legacy and Community Forest Programs	\$161,000
Total	\$3,695,241

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

Key Issues

- Keep New York's forests as forests.
- Keep New York's forests healthy.
- Ensure forests benefit humans and all living creatures.
- Appreciate, support, and protect New York's forests.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2025 Accomplishments	Value
Population	20,201,249	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	2,500
Acres of Forest Land	18,622,212	Total Acres of all New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	24,795
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	11,818,798	Acres of New or Revised Stewardship Plans within Federal Investment Areas	8,622
Number of NIPF Landowners	200,714	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	250
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	75
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	23,132,960	Forest Health Non-Federal Acres Protected	100,605
Number of Rural Fire Departments	1,741	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	1,520	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	155
Forest Based Employment	46,958	Population of Communities Receiving Urban Forestry Program Assistance	13,232,447
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	5	Labor Value of Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	3,278,610
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	18,000,000		

Program Highlights

Chesapeake Bay Watershed

The Chesapeake Shared Stewardship Agreement is being implemented and will help New York meet its mandated water quality improvement goals for the Chesapeake Bay through watershed forestry. New York's Department of Environmental Conservation participated in the reporting and restoration of 205 acres of riparian forest buffers, 121 acres of upland tree plantings on agricultural lands, 24 acres of urban tree plantings, and 257 acres of forest harvesting with Best Management Practices in the most recent reporting cycle, approved in 2025. Other significant watershed forestry activities in 2025 included working with partners at the Upper Susquehanna Coalition to plant trees through programs such as Trees for Tributaries and continuing the Buffer Stewards Program to evaluate and establish riparian forest buffers.

Economic and Public Benefits of Trees — Urban and Community Forestry

In 2025, New York's Urban and Community Forestry program awarded \$15 million in the first round of Community Reforestation Grants to develop, expand, and restore healthy forested natural areas in or near communities across New York State. Grants ranged from \$300,000 to \$2 million. In addition, 180 communities received educational, technical, and/or financial assistance. Volunteers contributed more than 94,000 hours of service to community forestry, gaining knowledge and skills to support their local programs, and providing services as shade tree board representatives to advise and carry out community forestry activities in their hometowns.

Healthy Forests — Forest Health Protection

In 2025, 21 aerial detection surveys were conducted, including 15 general forest health, 3 oak wilt, and 2 southern pine beetle (SPB) surveys. In total, 1,930 distinct damage areas totaling 143,269 acres were mapped. The largest damage agents by area were spongy moth, 55.2 percent; SPB, 10.6 percent; emerald ash borer (EAB) caused ash mortality, 7.9 percent; and cherry scallop shell

moth, 2.3 percent. Spongy moth damage was mapped primarily throughout the Hudson Valley region. The number of impacted acres in this region is down significantly from the year prior, greater than 600,000 acres; it appears likely that the spongy moth population boom in this region is beginning to collapse. While SPB continues to be detected through pheromone trapping north into the Hudson Valley and Adirondacks, Suffolk County on Long Island remains the only area with an outbreaking population. EAB has spread across all 62 counties in New York. Most ash stands have experienced more than 90 percent mortality following EAB infestation. As a result, management efforts focus on mitigation of impacts through release of biological control agents, *Tetrastichus planipennisi* and *Spathius galinae*, and by engaging in research to identify and conserve lingering ash trees. Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) has been confirmed in 54 of 62 counties including Essex County, near the shore of Lake Champlain, this year. Insecticide treatments to control HWA have occurred at 14 sites statewide, protecting 3,496 hemlock trees over 339 acres, while biological control strategies this year have focused on repeatedly inundating 2 sites with separate releases of *Laricobius nigrinus* and *Leucotaraxis* sp., both predators of HWA. The Asian longhorned beetle eradication program continued on Long Island with a handful of positive trees detected in 2025.

Landscape Scale Restoration

Grantee: Oneida Indian Nation

Federal Investment: \$300,000

Project: Oneida Indian Nation Reforestation and Maple Syrup Expansion Project

Summary: This project will support economic and environmental sustainability by planting maple, birch, and cherry trees that will increase production of maple syrup by Oneida's Wáhta' Maple Farm operation and provide other benefits such as wildlife habitat.

Markets — Wood Innovation

Forest products manufacturers Fitzpatrick & Weller, Mullican Flooring, and Tioga Hardwood received funding totaling \$1,432,585 to upgrade emission control systems on their wood fired boilers. Finch Paper secured \$770,000 in funding for equipment improvements and the New York Climate Exchange received \$300,000 to expand mass timber construction in New York City.

Private Working Forest Lands — Forest Stewardship

The New York Forest Stewardship Program reported 152 new or revised Forest Stewardship Plans covering 24,795 acres for a total of 308,542 acres of Forest Stewardship Plans. In 2025, 1,500 forest landowners received forestry technical assistance and 1,000 forest landowners participated in education programs. In coordination with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, New York foresters assisted with 16 Conservation Stewardship Program projects and 104 Environmental Quality Incentives Program projects. Following a series of tornados and significant wind events, the State partnered with the USDA Farm Service Agency to help 14 forest landowners implement restoration practices through the Emergency Forest Restoration Program. New York successfully launched the fourth round of the Regenerate New York Forestry Cost Share Program to assist forest landowners in addressing forest regeneration issues on their property. To date, 64 projects have been funded covering 2,045 acres of forestland. New York received \$4.08 million from the USDA Forest Service active forest management assistance grant funds that will boost the fifth round of Regenerate New York, with a focus on new forest landowners and military members.

National Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetics Resource Program

The New York Department of Environmental Conservation operates one State nursery, Colonel William F. Fox Nursery, located in Saratoga Springs. 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.

State Forest Action Plan Implementation

Providing a roadmap for shared stewardship, the State Forest Action Plan (SFAP) guides the work of natural resource professionals, in partnership with others across the State, to provide forest benefits for future generations. The SFAP includes goals and strategies for active forest management for healthy, productive forests; wildfire readiness and response; forest products and markets; and more (see "Key Issues" listed above from the SFAP). A SFAP five-year highlights report will be completed in 2026. Accomplishments from the SFAP highlights report will be added to this State Fact Sheet later this year.

Wildland Fire — Cooperative Fire Protection

Volunteer Fire Assistance funding supported 250 departments. Approximately 2,150 firefighters received training, and 500 acres of hazardous fuels treatment were funded through the State Fire Capacity Program. The State supported national wildland fire suppression efforts through the mobilization of firefighters and equipment. A sub-geographic operating plan between the USDA Forest Service, State of New York, and the Fire Department of New York City was used to mobilize Fire Department of New York City personnel and incident management teams to wildfires and all-hazard incidents across the country.

Working Lands — Forest Legacy, Community Forest and Open Space Conservation

Through the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (CFP), the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance and its partners completed the Wolf Creek project. This project used \$361,000 of CFP funds to permanently conserve 375 acres of forestland in eastern New York.



Edward Hunter, Acting Deputy Regional Forester

Phone: 414-297-3600

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

Email: edward.hunter@usda.gov
