



# Illinois Forest Resource Fact Sheet

Fiscal Year 2012

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## Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Cooperative Fire Protection  
 Cooperative Forestry  
 Forest Health Management  
 Forest Legacy  
**Total**

**FY 2011**  
**Final**  
 719,549  
 745,907  
 463,900  
 0  
**1,929,356**

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

## Key Issues

- Non-industrial private forests: lack of management, development pressure, and taxes.
- Lack of time, funds, and staff to reach more forest landowners and communities and to manage state forest lands.
- Forest fragmentation, parcelization, and open space retention.
- Lack of public understanding about the importance of forests and forestry.
- Impacts of exotic and invasive plants on the forest ecosystem.

## Forest Facts and Accomplishments

### Selected Facts

Population	12,830,632
Acres of Forest Land	4,861,461
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	3,725,000
Number of NIPF Landowners	184,000
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	10,670,000
Number of Rural Fire Departments	1,280
Cities and Towns	1,299
Forest Based Employment	44,145
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	8
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	6,100,000

### Selected FY 2011 Accomplishments

Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance (Each)	4,637
Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	24,383
Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	19,492
Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted (Each)	160
State Fire Communities Assisted (Each)	230
Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	12,448
Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions (Acres)	0
Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance (Each)	219
Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance (Each)	8,110,744
Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance (Hours)	17,700

## Program Highlights:

### Cooperative Fire Protection

National Fire Plan funds aided in the treatment of 5,000 acres, reducing wildfire threats to high risk communities. DNR and its partners assisted with the development of two Community Wildfire Protection Plans. The Volunteer Fire Assistance Program gave out over \$400,000 in grants to fire departments for the purchase of Wildland fire equipment and to assist with the modification of FEPP equipment.

### Forest Health Protection

A serious foreign pest, Emerald ash borer, is spreading. As part of the National Gypsy Moth Slow-the-Spread Program, Illinois treated about 13,000 acres in 2011. The program has reduced the rate of spread by at least 60%. A multi-state invasive plant partnership surveyed areas of the Ohio River, finding over 500 previously unknown sites of significant terrestrial and aquatic invasives. Project leaders received both a national and a regional award from the US Forest Service in 2011.

### Forest Legacy

Illinois expanded the area eligible for protection with Forest Legacy funds by gaining approval for the Lower Kaskaskia Forest Legacy Area.

### Landowner Assistance

The amount of sustainably-managed forest land enrolled in the Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) is growing; 11,000 private landowners are managing 600,000 acres. The FSP is an important foundation for other conservation efforts, including \$45 million for permanent forestry easements through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, record participation in Environmental Quality Incentives Program forestry, and a state Conservation Stewardship Program for private grass, wetland and savannah certification. State service foresters deliver forestland assistance and monitor existing FSP plans.

### Urban and Community Forestry

The Program provided technical assistance and education to Tree City USA, Tree Line USA, and Tree Campus USA program participants. Communities also received grants and technical assistance to prepare for and respond to the emerald ash borer. The state has the second largest number of communities earning Tree City USA status (192) and the greatest number of Tree Campus USAs (12) in the country.

### Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC)

WERC assisted in establishing the IL Emerald Ash Borer Wood Utilization Team, which is working with industry and communities to maximize the value of urban and suburban trees removed due to invasive insect outbreaks. Information: <http://www.illinoisurbanwood.org/>.



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