

Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry



Redesign Project Summaries Fiscal Year 2008



USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry
11 Campus Boulevard, Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073
www.na.fs.fed.us
March 2009

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Insect and disease infestations, catastrophic wildfires, and land conversion, among other factors, are major threats to the long-term sustainability of our forest resources. Meanwhile, forest industries and local economies are coping with the effects of an increasingly competitive global economy. Addressing these challenges in times of economic hardship and declining budgets demands creative new ways to prioritize activities and use available resources most efficiently.

In 2008, the U.S. Forest Service launched a “Redesigned” State and Private Forestry (S&PF) program based on a down-to-earth idea—targeting resources to areas of greatest need as the most effective and efficient way to make a difference with limited resources. The U.S. Forest Service, working closely with the National Association of State Foresters, captured this idea in a simple “equation:”

FOCUS + PRIORITY + OUTCOME

To bring it to life, the Redesign effort sets *priorities* using the following process:

1. Examine current conditions and trends,
2. Review existing S&PF programs to determine the best way to address forest threats, and
3. Develop a strategy to deliver relevant, meaningful S&PF programs and provide skills and opportunities.

Redesign *focuses* on three S&PF national themes:

1. Conserve working forest landscapes,
2. Protect forests from harm, and
3. Enhance public benefits from trees and forests.

The first group of competitive Redesign projects was funded in Fiscal Year (FY) 2008. Fifteen percent of S&PF funds were competitively awarded, a figure that will gradually increase over the next several years. This report contains a short description of each of the projects funded in the Northeastern Area in FY 2008.



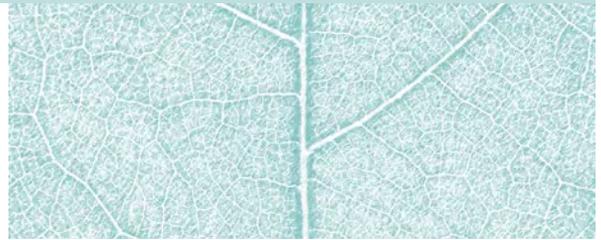
1

FOREST AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT IN WISCONSIN'S LAKE SUPERIOR BASIN

OVERVIEW

After runoff forced a “boil water” warning for thousands of residents, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) used Northeastern Area-wide protocols to assess the potential of forests to control runoff. WDNR is using satellite images to locate and target critical lands, providing information to forest management professionals, and assisting landowners in critical areas. They are also quantifying ecological services provided by Basin forests and analyzing landowner preferences for conservation options.

Partners include the Wisconsin and Minnesota Departments of Natural Resources, Nemadji River Basin Project, Natural Resources Conservation Service, EPA, and the U.S. Forest Service.



LOCATION

Wisconsin

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$149,493
Total	\$299,057

2

SAMPLE URBAN STATEWIDE INVENTORY (SUSI) TOOLS

OVERVIEW

The project targets watersheds that do not meet clean water or other natural resource goals, or need protection to sustain current water quality. Data from a statewide urban forest health inventory and analysis will be used to create user guides, which will detail how to plant trees strategically to improve air and water quality, sequester carbon, and enhance the urban environment. Information will also allow users to promote conservation of existing parcels based on their environmental and economic values.

Partners include the Davey Resource Group, 20 municipalities, and the Indiana Urban Forestry Council.



LOCATION

Indiana: 22 communities in 16 counties, 9 Congressional Districts, and 16 watersheds

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$50,000
Total	\$100,796

3

2008 EMERALD ASH BORER RISK-BASED DETECTION SURVEY IN WISCONSIN AND NORTHERN MICHIGAN

OVERVIEW

First discovered in Michigan in 2002, the exotic emerald ash borer kills trees of all sizes. The project is conducting a risk-based detection survey by using trap trees to supplement ongoing baited trap surveys. Increasing the scope of the survey will better identify areas where the exotic insect is established, providing the information needed to target areas where treatment will be most beneficial. Early detection is the best tool for controlling and preventing the spread of this destructive insect.

Partners include the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and Michigan Technological University.



LOCATION

Wisconsin, Michigan

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$79,475
Total	\$158,977

4

TREEVITALIZE COMMUNITIES: BEST PRACTICES FOR COUNTY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

OVERVIEW

Of 239 local governments in the five-county region of this project, only 17 percent have a strong urban forestry program. The project targets 24 communities that have below-average tree cover. Cooperators are training municipal officials and citizens, and providing onsite and remote technical assistance. The project is also promoting cross-boundary cooperation.

Partners are led by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry and include the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Penn State School of Forest Resources, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, and Morris Arboretum.



LOCATION

Pennsylvania: Five southeastern counties

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$94,000
Total	\$243,800

5

EXOTIC AND INVASIVE PEST ANALYSIS AND ISSUE CHARACTERIZATION OF MUNICIPALITIES (A TALE OF FOUR CITIES)

OVERVIEW

Greater Chicago is under intense pressure from exotic pests. Although some pest management strategies are in place, they address street trees only. The project is working with four Chicago-area cities to develop and implement a science-based, yet practical, method to assess and manage threats from exotic pests. The project is also fostering cross-boundary cooperation. Deliverables include community-level GIS data, a report on community issues, an Exotic and Invasive Species Manual/Action Plan, and local action plans.

Partners include the cities, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Davies Resource Group, Illinois Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Illinois Arborist Association, University of Illinois Extension, and citizen-based groups.



LOCATION

Illinois

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$185,000
Total	\$370,000

6

FIELD IMPLEMENTATION OF HIGH-RESOLUTION REMOTE-SENSED IMAGERY FOR RAPID EARLY DETECTION OF EMERALD ASH BORER, BEECH BARK DISEASE, OAK WILT, AND HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID IN URBAN AND RURAL FOREST LANDSCAPES IN MICHIGAN AND WISCONSIN

OVERVIEW

Early detection of forest health issues is critical to developing effective management and rapid response strategies. The project is using hyperspectral imagery to identify and assess the condition of ash, beech, oak, and hemlock in urban and rural forests. Suspect areas will be located via imagery and followed up with onsite assessments to determine species, condition, and causes of tree decline or mortality. Information will improve the accuracy of National Risk Map models and measure the extent and percentage of urban tree cover in Traverse City.

Partners include the Michigan and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources, Michigan Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Forest Service Eastern Threats Center at the Southern Research Station, with support from the Menominee Tribe, Wisconsin Nature Conservancy, and others.



LOCATION

Michigan: Traverse City and surrounding interface, Wisconsin: Menominee Indian Reservation and County in northeastern Wisconsin

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$77,262
Total	\$304,586

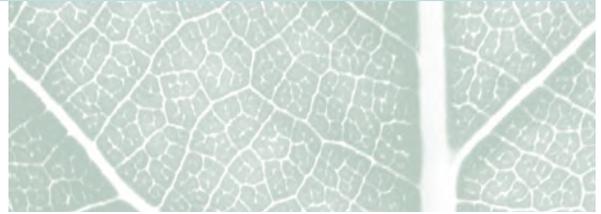
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FAMILY FORESTS FOR THE FUTURE: ENHANCING INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSFER OF FAMILY FORESTS

OVERVIEW

Many Michigan landowners have difficulty planning for—or even discussing—what will happen to their land after they have passed away. This project is providing landowners and their families with the tools to talk about their values and wishes, to meet environmental and economic goals for their land, and to learn about specific methods they can use to keep their land intact for future generations. Topics include long-term forest management scenarios, legal options, and transfer of property. The goal is to reduce forest fragmentation and conversion across the landscape.

Partners include the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Michigan State University Extension.



LOCATION

Michigan

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$25,000
Total	\$50,000

8

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE AND COMPETITIVE LOGGING WORKFORCE

OVERVIEW

Connecticut Logger certification programs benefit the logging profession by improving skills and worker safety. They also promote responsible harvesting, helping to safeguard working forests and the benefits they provide to society. Landowners and consumers benefit from knowing their products were harvested sustainably. This project is auditing at least 14 southern New England logging companies, certifying those that meet Northeast Master Logger Certification Program standards. It is also providing Game of Logging and Hardwood Log Bucking training.

Partners include the Trust to Conserve Northeast Forestlands, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Northeastern Loggers' Association, and Hull Forest Products.



LOCATION

Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$49,980
Total	\$100,060

9

COOL COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

OVERVIEW

This project promotes the use of strategically-placed trees to mitigate heating and cooling costs in core areas of the State’s economically-challenged communities. Previous experience reveals multiple benefits: lower heating and cooling costs in buildings, citizens actively engaged in improving their living environment, local tree boards and citizen groups with more expertise and capacity to manage urban natural resources, and a boost in economic vitality. The project is providing technical assistance, trees, planting materials, and labor to communities.

Partners include the West Virginia Division of Forestry, West Virginia Division of Energy, West Virginia Urban Forestry Council, and West Virginia municipalities.



LOCATION

West Virginia

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$75,000
Total	\$150,000

10

MICHIGAN COMMUNITIES AT RISK/COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

OVERVIEW

The project is assisting the State’s highest-risk communities with their Community Wildfire Protection Plans. Partners are helping communities develop mitigation measures that are specific to their particular situation. Assistance includes outreach to homeowners, landowners, and businesses. The selected communities were identified as high priority in the recently-completed University of Michigan Extension Assessment of Communities at Risk.

Partners include the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, University of Michigan Extension, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Park Service, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Michigan State Firefighters Association, and the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs.



LOCATION

Michigan

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$150,000
Total	\$312,917

11

TOOLS FOR WORKING WITH SMALL ACREAGE LANDOWNERS

OVERVIEW

This project, a melding of the State’s Community Forestry and Stewardship/Private Lands Programs, is identifying and motivating landowners who hold between 3 and 60 acres. Programs are targeting assistance to the State’s “Conservation Opportunity Areas” where applicable. Landowners will be invited to join the Missouri Forestkeepers Network, an existing program whose mission is to develop a network of informed citizens working to conserve, sustain, and enhance the State’s urban and rural resources through volunteerism, monitoring, advocacy, and management.

Partners include Missouri ReLeaf (day-to-day management), Department of Natural Resources, and Missouri Forestkeepers Network.



LOCATION

Missouri: Thirteen rapidly-growing counties

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$70,000
Total	\$140,000

12

BUILDING AND IMPLEMENTING A WATERSHED CONSERVATION PLAN AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

OVERVIEW

The project will generate new, detailed, state-of-the-art spatial data for land-use planning and resource management decisionmaking. The data will be used to identify forest parcels most critical to protecting water quality, creating landscape connectivity, and conserving biodiversity. An outreach campaign will be used to promote working forests and to protect the forest from wildfire and sprawl-induced fragmentation. The need for water sources for rural firefighting will also be addressed.

Partners include the Green Valley Institute, Department of Environmental Protection Division of Forestry, Windham Regional Council of Governments, The Nature Conservancy, several local governments, and others.



LOCATION

Northeastern Connecticut: Natchaug River Watershed

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$125,272
Total	\$250,939

13

COALITION TO IMPROVE MANAGEMENT OF NONINDUSTRIAL PRIVATE FORESTS

OVERVIEW

Michigan’s challenges include a high proportion of older landowners, leading to accelerated rates of ownership turnover and forest fragmentation, too few landowners managing their forests, fewer government resources for landowner assistance, and economic pressure on forests. A new coalition of government, forest industry, educational, and nonprofit organizations is coordinating services to increase the number of landowners actively managing their land. A key message explains that forest management helps meet personal goals while conserving the working landscapes that enhance the State’s economic, social, and environmental health.

Partners include the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan State Extension, The Nature Conservancy, Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, and the Michigan Timberman Association.



LOCATION

Michigan

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$93,227
Total	\$201,724

14

MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE – WOOD ENERGY SPECIALIST

OVERVIEW

The State’s Public Service Commission has issued a sober prediction: “Unless steps are taken now, Maryland faces a critical shortage of electricity that could force mandatory usage restrictions, such as rolling blackouts, by 2011 or 2012.” A partial answer: 800,000 tons of urban wood debris generated each year. The Maryland Forest Service and the Maryland Environmental Service (MES) are working to move wood energy from concept to installation within 3 years. A contracted wood energy technical consultant will work directly with candidate installations to augment MES engineering and economic expertise.

Partners: Early candidates include the University of Maryland and the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. Partners with the sponsoring agencies include the Maryland Energy Administration; University of Maryland; Community Woodlands Alliance; and numerous environmental, civic, and tree industry organizations.



LOCATION

Maryland

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$100,000
Total	\$200,000

15

URBAN HEAT ISLAND MITIGATION

OVERVIEW

The entire State of Delaware fails to meet the 8-hour ozone standard. New Castle County fails to meet the standard for fine particles, showing the highest concentrations in the city of Wilmington. Trees and vegetation effectively reduce urban heat islands and particulates, besides offering a host of other benefits. This project is quantifying air quality benefits from strategically-located trees and pervious surfaces; planting trees to lower urban temperatures; and implementing best management practices that include stormwater management, educating the public, and developing guidelines for future projects.

Partners include the Delaware Forest Service, Delaware Center for Horticulture (project manager), Delaware Natural Resources Air Quality Management Section, and school volunteers.



LOCATION

Delaware: New Castle County, City of Wilmington, Christina River Watershed

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$52,000
Total	\$104,000

16

MARKETING STEWARDSHIP TO NEW FOREST LAND BUYERS

OVERVIEW

Marketing and social behavior studies show that landowners are most open to information about managing their land when they are contacted directly soon after they acquire property. New landowners are more likely to know little about their land and to have no experience with forest management. Early contact could be a very effective way to target the landowners most likely to manage, reaching them before they make irreversible choices. The project will use land transaction records to find new landowners, and will provide information about broader forest issues such as climate change, in addition to forest management messages.

Partners include the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation; Vermont Tax Department; VermontRealEstateSales.net; Department of Fish and Wildlife; Vermont COVERTS, Inc. (landowner association); and ACORN (information for small woodlot owners through the University of Massachusetts).



LOCATION

Vermont

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$21,500
Total	\$43,000

17

INTERAGENCY EDUCATION PLAN AND INVASIVE SPECIES WEB PORTAL

OVERVIEW

Public awareness is critical to early detection and management of invasive species. Several independent efforts have been launched, creating duplication of effort and potential public confusion. The project will develop an interagency 10-year education plan aimed at motivating public action regarding invasive species. It will also create a one-stop Web site to integrate the information and Web sites of all participating organizations.



Partners include the Minnesota Division of Ecological Services, University of Minnesota, U.S. Forest Service, Minnesota Forest Protection Task Force, Minnesota Hospitality, Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, USDA APHIS, Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Minnesota Consumer and Trade Protection, and the Minnesota Forest Resource Council.

LOCATION

Minnesota

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$100,000
Total	\$205,000

18

MONITORING PROTOCOL FOR FOREST ECOSYSTEM HEALTH: CONNECTICUT HIGHLANDS PILOT PROJECT

OVERVIEW

Basic, science-based ecosystem health indicators could be an affordable early warning system or way to document ecosystem recovery. Protocols will be developed and tested, then deployed statewide. The project is thought to be the first to link data to existing GIS layers on forest cover, fragmentation, land use, invasive species and pathogens, wildlife distribution, and other geographic analyses.



Partners include Audubon Connecticut; The Nature Conservancy; The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station; Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Divisions of Forestry and Wildlife; Metropolitan District Commission; University of Connecticut; Yale University; and others.

LOCATION

Connecticut Highlands (sections of Litchfield and Fairfield Counties), Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$175,360
Total	\$355,720

19

STATEWIDE URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PLANNING INITIATIVE

OVERVIEW

Delaware loses 3,000 acres of forest to development each year, creating wildland urban interface (WUI) in the process. Using current spatial analysis products, partners will assess the urban forest canopy and WUI threats. They will use an overlay model similar to the Stewardship Analysis Project to target priority areas. Sustainable management plans will include factors such as tree canopy, amount of impervious surface, population, and WUI fire risk. Tree planting and hazardous fuels mitigation will follow the planning phase.

Partners include the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and the Division of Air and Waste Management (technical), and the Delaware Center for Horticulture (outreach).



LOCATION

Delaware

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$172,000
Total	\$345,000

20

AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO MITIGATE AND MANAGE THE EFFECTS OF INVASIVE PLANTS IN URBAN AND FOREST LANDSCAPES

OVERVIEW

Nationally, invasive plants cause about \$120 billion in damage to the environment, forestry, agriculture, industry, recreation, and human health each year. Because Ohio is in a climatic and physiographic transition zone, the State faces a higher-than-normal onslaught of invasives. Partners are integrating programs to more effectively deal with the problem. Areas of cooperation include management recommendations, strategic use of EQIP funds, demonstration areas, and treatment/control measures.

Partners include the Ohio Division of Forestry; U.S. Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry; Wayne National Forest; Natural Resources Conservation Service; Ohio Invasive Plants Council; and the U.S. Forest Service Northern Research Station.



LOCATION

Ohio: Five watersheds in 22 counties

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$500,000
Total	\$1,000,000

21

WORKING FOREST CARBON OFFSET PROJECT

OVERVIEW

The project has already created, and will now refine, the process for private landowners to participate in the carbon offset trading market. This effort is an outgrowth of a Fiscal Year 2007 Michigan pilot project. Partners will recruit forest owners to participate in the carbon trading market as they sustainably manage their forest land. Included is a baseline inventory, certification, contract with an aggregator, training for landowners and foresters, and a means to trade the additional carbon their forests sequester because of their management activities. New stewardship plans will be written for an estimated 19,000 acres initially.

Partners include the Michigan and Indiana Departments of Natural Resources, Delta Institute (aggregate carbon estimates), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service, Extension Service, and Natural Resources Conservation Service.



LOCATION

Michigan and Indiana

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$242,500
Total	\$485,000

22

ENGAGING LANDOWNERS IN OAK-HICKORY FOREST RESTORATION IN A CRITICAL WATERSHED OF THE ILLINOIS RIVER

OVERVIEW

Oak-hickory forests once dominated the Illinois River Bluffs. These “working ecosystems” filtered and infiltrated stormwater, protected erodible soils, and harbored a diverse array of flora and fauna. This project seeks to restore functionality by thinning invasive vegetation and allowing the slopes to repopulate with native oak-hickory forest land species. It will also protect eroding slopes that continue to harm existing, albeit degraded, forests that currently populate the bluffs. Project partners expect the work to reduce sedimentation by about 20,000 tons per year.

Partners include the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, landowners, Native American Fellowship, Daysprings Church (demonstration site), local government, and the Natural Resources and Your Development Task Force.



LOCATION

Illinois

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$300,000
Total	\$600,000

23

FOCUSED LANDSCAPE-LEVEL MANAGEMENT ACROSS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR PROPERTIES

OVERVIEW

The project establishes focused, integrated landscape-level management across 21,214 acres of public and privately-owned forests in the Soap Creek Watershed. It includes a targeted private forest landowner outreach campaign for the 17,113 acres that surround public land. Partners will also develop a Web-based GIS tool to demonstrate forest stewardship connectivity across ownership boundaries. This project marks the first time that multiple public agencies have developed cross-boundary management plans for public land.

Partners include the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Forestry, Parks, and Wildlife Bureaus; IDNR GIS Section; Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Division of Soil Conservation; Appanoose County Soil and Water Conservation District; and the Davis County Soil and Water Conservation District.



LOCATION

Southeastern Iowa: Soap Creek Watershed of Davis and Appanoose Counties

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$300,000
Total	\$635,000

24

EMERALD ASH BORER MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND OUTREACH

OVERVIEW

Emerald ash borer has killed an estimated 25 million ash trees in three nearby States. The stakes are high: 20 to 60 percent of Iowa's street trees and 5 percent of its forest trees are ash. A quarantine is in place, but relatively ineffective against accidental distribution.

Partners are visually surveying campgrounds, nurseries, sawmills, and recent commercial and residential developments built before the quarantine. They are also monitoring 400 trees at campgrounds along major highway corridors. Public outreach includes publications, billboards, radio and TV advertising, direct mailings to out-of-state hunters and campers, and workshops.

Partners include the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Forestry Bureau; Iowa State University; Iowa Department of Agriculture State Entomologist's Office; U.S. Forest Service; USDA APHIS; campground managers and hosts; and city planners.



LOCATION

Iowa

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$200,000
Total	\$400,000

25

ENHANCED CALL BEFORE YOU CUT: CENTRAL HARDWOODS REGION

OVERVIEW

Ohio's *Call Before You Cut* program, which provides one-stop information to landowners, has more than doubled the number of referrals to consulting foresters since late 2006. This project builds on Ohio's success by adopting coordinated messages on key issues across the 70 million-acre central hardwoods region. Several regional products are planned: radio ads, billboards, posters, event displays, a multimedia campaign kit, and a regional survey. The project also establishes regional BMP standards and monitoring processes for evaluating landowner decisions and actions after they've received technical assistance.

Partners include the State foresters of each participating State, Ohio State University, The Nature Conservancy, and numerous others.



LOCATION

Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, West Virginia

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$259,250
Total	\$518,500

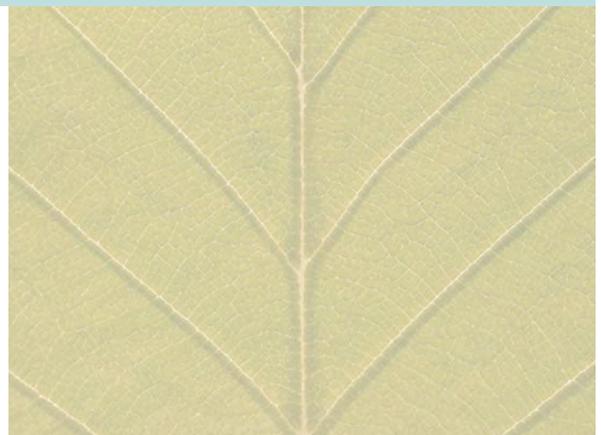
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FOREST INFRASTRUCTURE TOOLS FOR URBAN COMMUNITIES

OVERVIEW

The Hudson River and New York/New Jersey Harbor estuary provides critical habitat for more than 200 fish and shellfish species. Twelve million people live in counties bordering the estuary. Partners have launched three pilot projects to implement state-of-the-art ecosystem-based management tools; each pilot area is at a different stage of planning for green infrastructure. The Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice leads pilot one. Newtown Creek, one of the most polluted waterways in America, is the site of pilot two, while New Jersey will replicate Combined Sewer Overflow planning models in the Greater Newark Bay and Upper New York Bay during pilot three. Special emphasis is going to environmental justice communities and urban centers in the pilot areas.

Partners are too extensive to list completely, but include several New York State Departments: Urban and Community Forestry, Hudson River Estuary Program, and Office of Environmental Justice; New Jersey Urban and Community Forestry Program; Drexel University; Gaia Institute; Newtown Creek Alliance and Riverkeeper; and Groundwork Hudson Valley.



LOCATION

Hudson River and New York/New Jersey Harbor Greater Metropolitan Area

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$364,000
Total	\$738,648

27

BALTIMORE CITY URBAN TREE CANOPY ASSESSMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

OVERVIEW

The city of Baltimore recently set a goal to attain 40 percent urban tree canopy by 2036. The Parks & People Foundation, agencies, community organizations, and residents will complete four watershed-wide GIS-based field surveys and greening plans to focus on maximizing the environmental benefits of trees and other vegetation. Plans include removing or mitigating 12 acres of impervious surfaces; installing 124 stormwater and erosion control projects; creating new green spaces; and planting 2,000 trees at 22 schoolyards, nine public housing properties, and four neighborhoods.

Partners include the Parks & People Foundation, Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management, Maryland Forest Service, U.S. Forest Service, Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development, Baltimore City Public School System, and numerous local groups.



LOCATION

Maryland

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$200,000
Total	\$1,040,500

28

WISCONSIN FOREST INVENTORY AND REPORTING SYSTEM (WisFIRS)

OVERVIEW

Wisconsin lacks geospatial data on private lands enrolled in State tax programs, the stewardship program, or both. WisFIRS, a statewide forest land management Information Technology system, will allow public, private, and consulting foresters to target priority sites and manage them in a landscape context. WisFIRS will enable counties, State Department of Natural Resources staff, and private consulting foresters to span agency boundaries, save time, reduce errors, improve communication, and enhance forest management. It also automates stewardship plan tracking and reporting. Local governments can use the information for comprehensive land use planning.

Partners include the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry; county foresters; cooperating foresters; and certified plan writers.



LOCATION

Wisconsin

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$350,000
Total	\$700,000

OVERVIEW

Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts are among the top four States with the highest rates of urban expansion. Urban forests are becoming the predominant forests, bringing critical environmental, social, and economic benefits to communities. This project is using remote sensing and analysis to explore and document opportunities to increase canopy cover in high-priority urban centers. They are building local capacity to analyze and act upon the data by developing local networks and coalitions. Replicable procedures and strategies will be shared with communities nationwide.

Partners include the State foresters' offices in each State, several major cities, Urban Ecology Institute, University of Vermont Spatial Analysis Lab, New England Patriots Charitable Foundation, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, and local community groups.

**LOCATION**

Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, District of Columbia

LEVERAGED DOLLARS

U.S. Forest Service	\$823,245
Total	\$823,245

