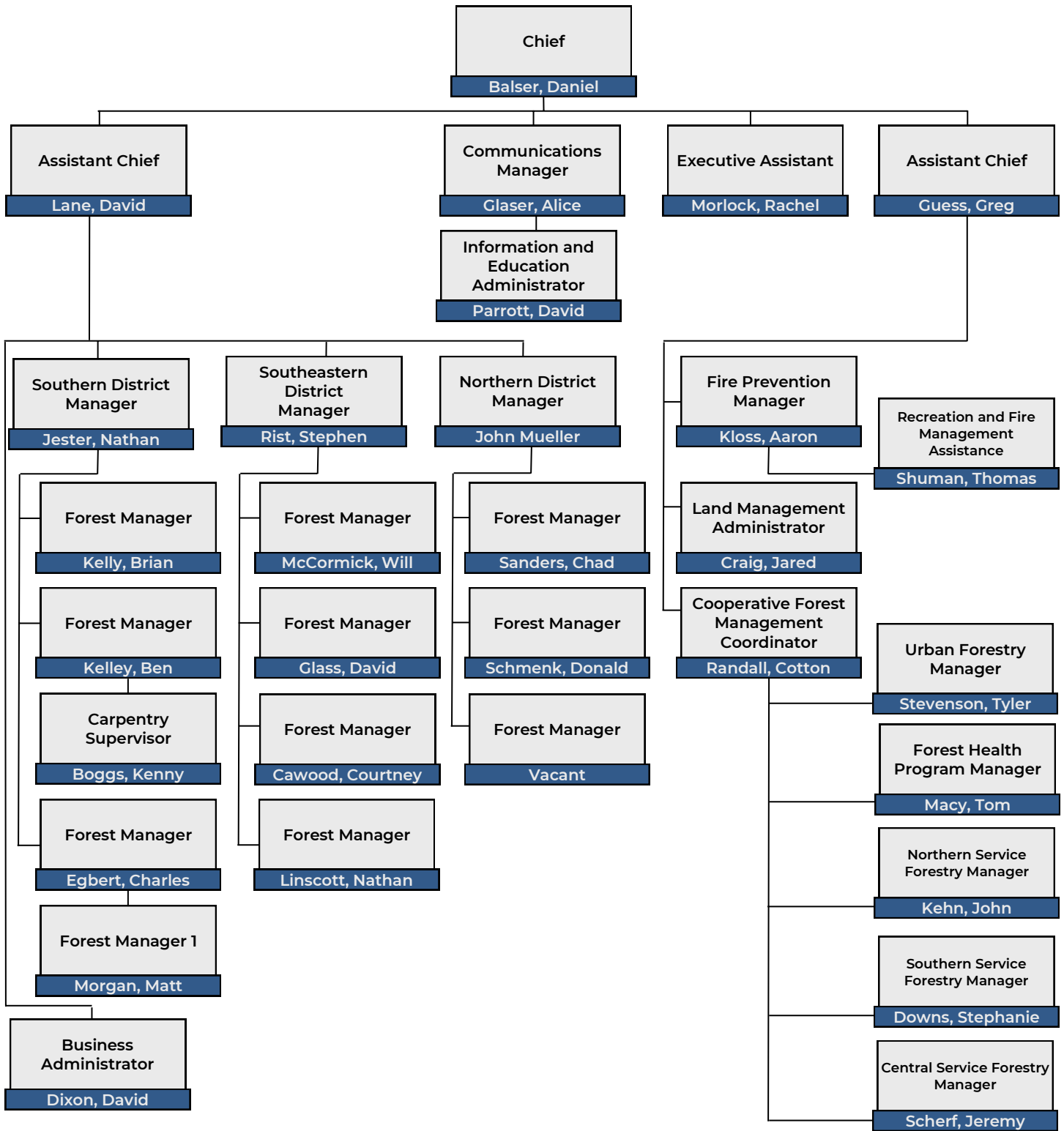


ANNUAL REPORT

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY

2022
FISCAL YEAR


FY 2022 ODNR Division of Forestry Managerial Table of Organization



Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
2045 Morse Road, H-1
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693
forestry.ohiodnr.gov



Cover photo: Pike State Forest, by DOF Employee Elizabeth Christopher



OUR VISION: The Ohio Division of Forestry envisions healthy, diverse forests valued for the life-sustaining benefits they provide for all Ohioans.

The Division of Forestry operates and maintains 24 state forests, encompassing more than 203,000 acres. The Division creates recreation opportunities, improves the health of Ohio's public and private forests, and protects our state from forest fires, pollution, and other threats. State foresters are experts at managing Ohio's largest renewable resource.

OUR MISSION: To promote and apply management for the sustainable use and protection of Ohio's private and public forest lands.



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INFORMATION & EDUCATION

The Division of Forestry Communications Program supports all Division of Forestry programs by raising awareness of the importance of trees and forests, providing forest education tools for all age levels, publicizing Division accomplishments, and encouraging vibrant DOF partnerships in promoting wise forest stewardship for healthy public and private forest ecosystems.



INFORMATION & EDUCATION

2022 BY THE NUMBERS

155

Events attended

16,000+

Copies of *The Ohio Woodland Journal* issued

264

Social media posts

342,297

People reached through social media

65%

Increase in engagements on Instagram

35%

Increase in engagements on Facebook

35

Youth-focused events attended

680

Students reached through Forestry Field Days

INFORMATION & EDUCATION REPORT

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Forestry's Information & Education program provides the public with opportunities to learn about and experience the best that the Division and Ohio's forests have to offer.

ODNR Division of Forestry's professional foresters and communications team work together to develop and present publications, workshops, videos, Smokey Bear messaging, Project Learning Tree-Ohio activities, and educational presentations.

THE OHIO WOODLAND JOURNAL

The Ohio Woodland Journal is a quarterly publication of the Ohio Tree Farm System. It is mailed at no charge to Certified Tree Farmers and at no charge for one year to all forest landowners receiving a Forest Stewardship Plan. It is also available to paying subscribers. The ODNR Division of Forestry assists with editing and article contribution for the publication.

In FY2022, four Issues of *The Ohio Woodland Journal* were published with more than 4,000 copies of each issue mailed or distributed.

PROJECT LEARNING TREE



Project Learning Tree® (PLT) is an environmental education initiative that takes students outdoors to learn and connect with nature in urban, suburban, and rural settings. The program inspires educators and youth leaders to take action for sustainable forests and introduces young people to careers in natural resources. In Ohio, Project Learning Tree is sponsored by the Division of Forestry.

The Division's 2022 Teacher Field Days, sponsored by PLT Ohio and ODNR Division of Forestry focused on urban forestry and provided teachers a glimpse into what urban forestry is all about and the duties of some of Ohio's urban foresters. The two-day program provided information on what distinguishes an urban forest from a woodland forest, what the City of Columbus is doing to address tree equity, how to properly (and safely) prune trees, how to identify trees, and a demonstration of the i-Tree app. Teachers learned several PLT activities that they can use in their classrooms, such as how to count the rings of tree cookies, the Web of Life, and various ways to measure and identify trees.



INFORMATION & EDUCATION

EVENTS

The Ohio Division of Forestry is committed to making forestry information available to all Ohioans. This report highlights some of the major events, presentations, and trainings the Division participated in during FY2022.

YOUTH OUTREACH

In 2022, the Division of Forestry created the Youth Outreach Committee. The committee develops partnerships with outside organizations to increase recruitment and interest in forestry and the life-sustaining benefits of forests. The effort was important to the Division's participation in more than 35 events focused on youth education in FY2022.

- Camp Canopy
- Numerous career events
- Knox County Pheasants Forever #616 Annual Youth Day
- STEAM it and Mean it
- 4-H Forestry & Wildlife Camp, Canter's Cave
- Leading Creek Watershed Day Camp
- FFA Camp

RECOGNITIONS

- Tree Planting Memorial for Selinde Roosenburg
- Dedication of the Selinde Roosenburg Backpack Trail
- Tree City USA Awards Programs: Regions 1-6
- Roosevelt Preserve Anniversary Celebration
- Forest of Honor
- Willow Grove Memorial Event

STATE FOREST EVENTS

- Hocking State Forest Fall Color Tour

STATEWIDE EVENTS

- Ohio State Fair
- Farm Science Review
- Paul Bunyan Show
- Open Season Sportsman's Expo
- Ohio Forest Health Meeting
- Ohio Wildlife Management Conference
- Ag-Pro Expo
- State Fire Marshal Fire Expo & Muster





INFORMATION & EDUCATION



PARTNER PROGRAMS

- Ohio Tree Farm Committee Quarterly Meetings
- A Walk Through the Woods
- Woodland Wednesdays
- OSU-E Woodland Wetland event
- Ohio Forestry Association Annual Meeting
- A Day in the Woods
- OSU's College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences' Legislative Luncheon at the Ohio Statehouse
- Ohio Society of American Foresters (OSAF) Winter and Summer Meetings
- Ohio Statehouse Holiday Festival and Tree Lighting
- Buckeye Hero Hunt
- Wheelin' Sportsmen Turkey Hunt
- Thunder in the Hills Hunt
- Southeast Ohio Pheasants Forever
- Ohio Walnut Council Spring Field Day
- Friendship Park District Tree Planting Community Day
- Boy Scouts "Thunderbase"
- Scioto SWCD Forestry Field day
- National Wild Turkey Foundation Jake's Day
- SFI/PLT Annual Conference
- ODNR Forestry Conference
- Boy Scouts at Shawnee State Forest
- NE Ohio Urban and Community Forestry Conference

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

- Small Patch Forest Management Panel Discussion
- Timber Marketing Workshop -- To Sell or Not to Sell
- Call Before You Cut talk at Ravenna Elks Club
- Northeast County Auditors Association of Ohio District Meeting
- Ohio River Valley Woods and Wildlife Workshop
- Women Owning Woodlands:
 - Tools for Your Woodland Management Toolbox
 - "Sappy Hour": woodland management goals and activities
 - Making an Impact with Small Woodlot Management
 - Invasive Plants and Native Alternatives
- Ashland University Teacher Resource Class
- Woodland Stewardship Opportunities

URBAN FORESTRY

A photograph of three individuals in safety gear standing in a park-like setting. On the left, a woman wears a white hard hat, glasses, and an orange safety vest. In the center, a woman with short grey hair wears a grey t-shirt and a neon green safety vest. On the right, a woman wears a neon green hard hat, sunglasses, a red polo shirt, and a neon green safety vest, holding a clipboard and a smartphone. The background shows green grass, trees, and a building.

The Ohio Division of Forestry Urban Forestry program provides community officials and allied agencies with the organizational and technical assistance to effectively manage the trees and land within their communities and enhance the quality of life for all Ohioans.



URBAN FORESTRY

2022 BY THE NUMBERS

1,320

Total urban forestry assists

1,074

Total community assists

363

Total communities assisted

248

Tree City USA Communities

35

Tree City USA Growth Awards

25

Tree Campus USA

6

Tree Line USA

51,212

Tree City USA Volunteer Hours

36,977

Trees Planted

99,983

Trees Pruned

19,245

Trees Removed

\$4.1 million

Urban Forestry Expenditures

URBAN FORESTRY REPORT

Ohio's Urban Forestry Assistance Program provides community officials and allied agencies with the organizational and technical assistance to effectively manage trees and urban forest resources. Ohio's statewide network of regional urban foresters helps develop and support sustainable urban forest management programs and empowers communities to manage their urban forest resources to meet their local needs. The program also administers the Tree City USA Program in Ohio for the Arbor Day Foundation.



Urban Canopy Restoration Grant Program

Ohio's Urban Forestry Assistance Program received funding through the USDA Forest Service & National Association of State Foresters (NASF) 2021 State Urban Forest Resilience Grant Program (SUFR) to address the critical need to restore and improve urban forests due to catastrophic losses from Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and to reduce the impact of climate change, while building resiliency through tree planting in urban communities where trees are critical to human health.

In FY22 the program provided a competitive, statewide grant program for tree planting projects utilizing SUFR grant funding. The program developed the RFP and application materials, reviewed, scored, and ranked applications, and held grant kick-off meetings with all successful applicants. Of the 43 organizations that applied for almost \$700,000 in funding, ODNR awarded \$250,000 to 16 community tree planting projects that address environmental justice and climate adaptation. Award amounts ranged from \$2,500 to \$25,000 to plant a total of 1,300 trees on public lands. ODNR Urban Foresters provided reforestation planning assistance, monitored project progress, and conducted inspections to confirm proper planting according to BMPs. Communities receiving funds included Baltimore, Bay Village, Bryan, Euclid, Fairview Park, Kettering, Lebanon, Lyndhurst, Ottawa, Oxford, Rocky River, Shaker Heights, Springfield, Stow, Vermilion, and Waterville. Fourteen of the sixteen communities awarded focused their tree planting efforts in areas prioritized to address environmental justice issues or low tree equity as defined by American Forest's Tree Equity Score.



URBAN FORESTRY

Program Workshops and Trainings

Ohio's Urban Forestry Assistance Program continued working with diverse partners in FY22 to provide classroom and field-based education and training to communities and allied agencies. Tree Commission Academy (TCA) returned to full, in-person classes in Cincinnati, Logan, and Montgomery and the program began a TCA train-the-trainer program for our new urban foresters as they come on board following several retirements. Our urban foresters hosted various programs throughout the year including tree planting, tree identification, and tree risk assessment workshops, summer conclaves, soil conferences, and road trip tours. Some of our standard programs like Tree Survival School, Tree Commission Academy, and Young Tree Training were supplemented with new and intermittent educational opportunities for the urban forestry community. For example, an abbreviated version of our three day Tree Survival School was held at Little Hocking Riverfront Park with partners from OSU Extension and Washington County SWCD where attendees learned proper planting techniques and BMPs for protecting young trees from deer browse and damage.

A Deep Dig into Soils and Soil Reconstruction

In September of 2021, communities were offered a two-day seminar in partnership with Ohio Independent Arborist Association on soil science and the methods and products available to repair damaged urban soils. Even though soils are crucial to the health and success of trees and most urban soils have been heavily damaged, soil science is often the least understood part of arboriculture and urban forestry. The seminar featured soil scientists that could help raise Ohio communities' understanding of soils.

NW Ohio Urban Forestry Conference: Road Trip Edition

In NW Ohio, communities were invited to join our regional urban forester on a series of road trips held throughout the summer and early fall that highlighted examples of good management, innovative technologies, master planting designs, insect and disease control, champion and significant trees, and new and historical ways to address challenges in the urban environment. The half-day caravan tours allowed for social distancing while also bringing everyone together at demonstration sites often highlighted at the program's typical urban forestry conferences. Tree commissioners, local officials, engineers, planners, arborists, and green industry professionals were encouraged to attend and also provided tour guides in case they wanted to take the tours on their own time.





URBAN FORESTRY

SW Ohio Summer Conclave

In SW Ohio, a field day specially designed for Tree Commission Academy (TCA) graduates covered how to create your own community arboretum. Ohio's TCA Conclaves are intended to facilitate networking between communities to share ideas, successes, and failures, introduce non-TCA members to the benefits of TCA, and spend time exploring subjects covered in TCA. This year's conclave was held at Anderson Township's new Heritage Center Arboretum in August. The program began with small group tours of the Arboretum and then centered on a panel of arboretum experts from Cox Arboretum, Forest Hill Cemetery & Arboretum, and Spring Grove Cemetery & Arboretum that discussed how to develop and operate arboretums and what it means to be accredited. The afternoon was spent learning from the Tree Commissioners who organized the township's new arboretum and then working in small groups to develop arboretum plans with the experts.

Ohio Virtual Pruning Training & Hands-On Workshop

Several of the program's regional Young Tree Training Workshops took on a hybrid approach at the beginning of the fiscal year to reach more students across the state and beyond, ultimately gathering over 1,000 in attendance. With special guest presenter, Dr. Bill Fountain from the University of Kentucky, virtual attendees learned the basics of tree biology for structural pruning. All those who attended the virtual portion were then invited to attend a hands-on training at one of eight locations throughout the state.

Many valued partners made all of these programs possible including Advanced Tree Health, Bur Oak Consulting, Cleveland Metroparks, Kent State University, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio Chapter ISA, Ohio Independent Arborist Association, OSU Extension, Metroparks Toledo, University of Kentucky, Wright Patterson AFB, Youngstown State University, multiple Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Ohio's communities.

The program also organized, presented, and assisted with several of our partner's arboriculture and urban forestry programs and events throughout Ohio including, the Mahoning Valley Tree Symposium, Holden Arboretum's Tree Corps CREW program, the Ohio Tree Care Conference, and multiple tree planting events with Governor DeWine and Director Mertz. In addition to assisting with partnering educational programs, Ohio also provided two \$2,400 scholarships for the Society of Municipal Arborist's Municipal Forestry Institute in Bowling Green.



NORTHWEST OHIO FIELD WINDBREAK PROGRAM

A person wearing a green hoodie and blue jeans is kneeling in a field, working on a red metal structure. The structure appears to be part of a windbreak or field protection system. In the background, there are bare trees and a field of dry grass. A large white plastic bag is visible on the left side of the structure.

The Northwest Ohio Field Windbreak Program plants field windbreaks that provide protection against wind erosion and wind damage to crops. The windbreaks may also provide food and cover for wildlife.



NORTHWEST OHIO FIELD WINDBREAK PROGRAM

2022 BY THE NUMBERS

41,383
Total trees planted

63
Miles planted

24
Windbreak
projects
completed

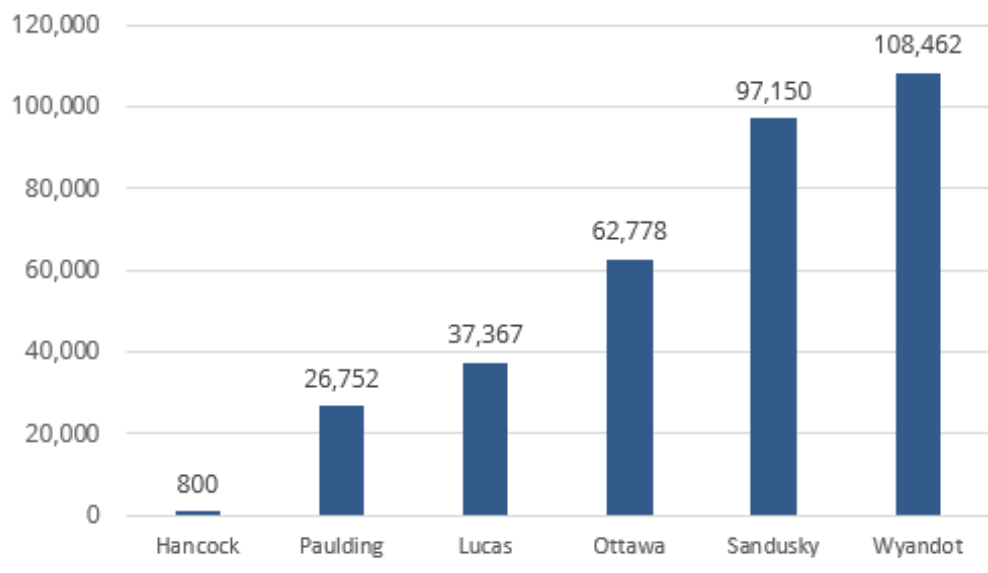
6
Counties
benefited from
the program

NORTHWEST OHIO FIELD WINDBREAK PROGRAM REPORT

The Northwest Ohio Field Windbreak Program, an interagency effort, began in 1977 to encourage planting of field windbreaks in northwestern Ohio to reduce soil erosion, protect crops from wind damage, and enhance wildlife habitat.



Row Feet by County FY2022

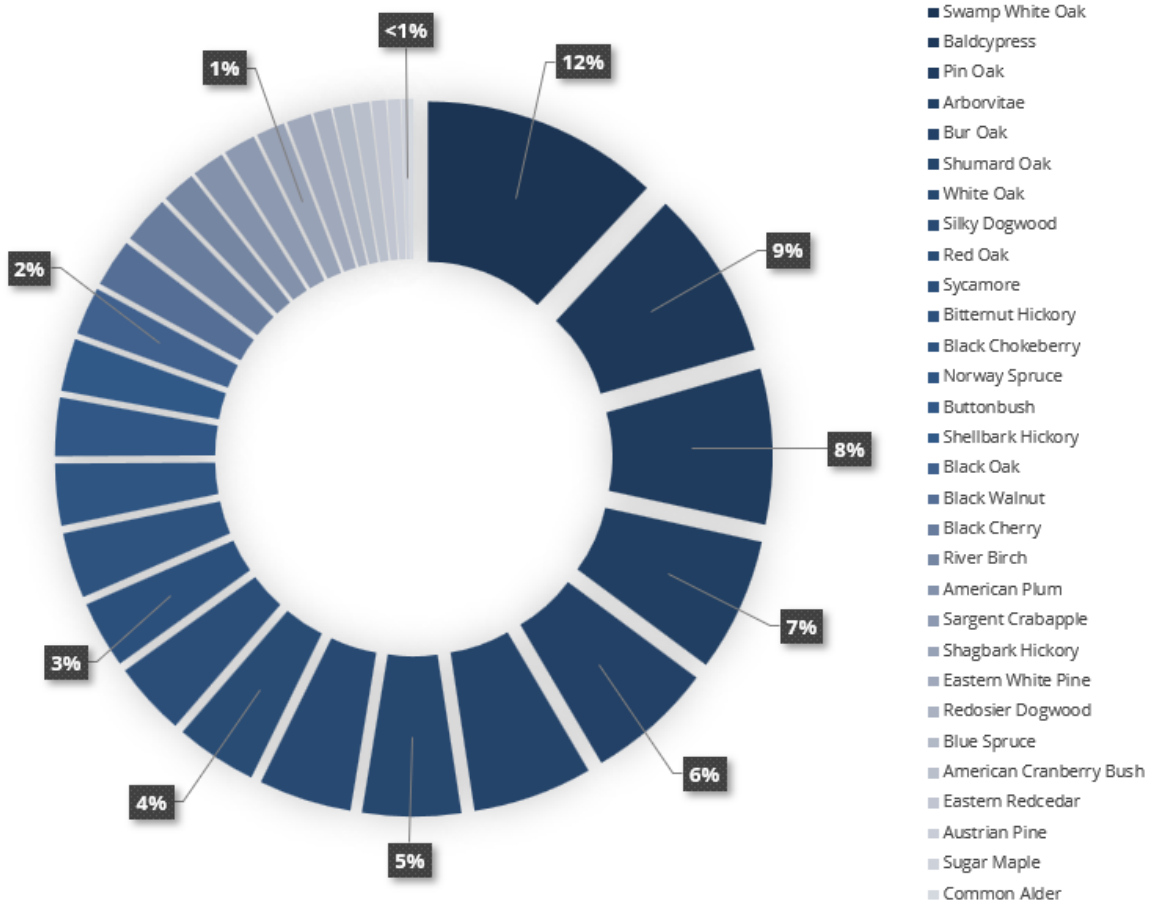


TOTAL: 333,309 feet



NORTHWEST OHIO FIELD WINDBREAK PROGRAM

FY2022 Distribution By Species



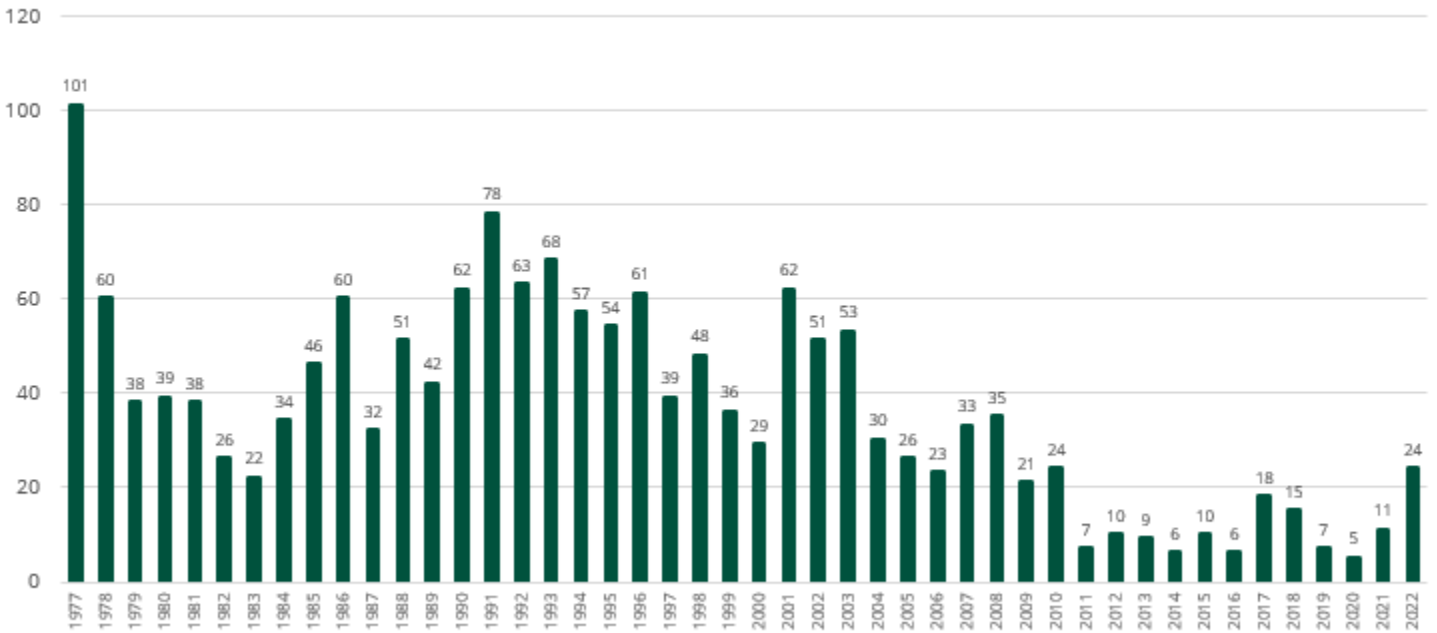
SPECIES	NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED	SPECIES	NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED
Swamp White Oak	4955	Black Oak	1000
Baldcypress	3558	Black Walnut	1000
Pin Oak	3247	Black Cherry	1000
Arborvitae	2797	River Birch	704
Bur Oak	2645	American Plum	679
Shumard Oak	2500	Sargent Crabapple	673
White Oak	2055	Shagbark Hickory	600
Silky Dogwood	1940	Eastern White Pine	519
Red Oak	1700	Redosier Dogwood	370
Sycamore	1539	Blue Spruce	366
Bitternut Hickory	1400	American Cranberry Bush	358
Black Chokeberry	1373	Eastern Redcedar	297
Norway Spruce	1292	Austrian Pine	265
Buttonbush	1217	Sugar Maple	117
Shellbark Hickory	1100	Common Alder	117

TOTAL NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED: 41,383



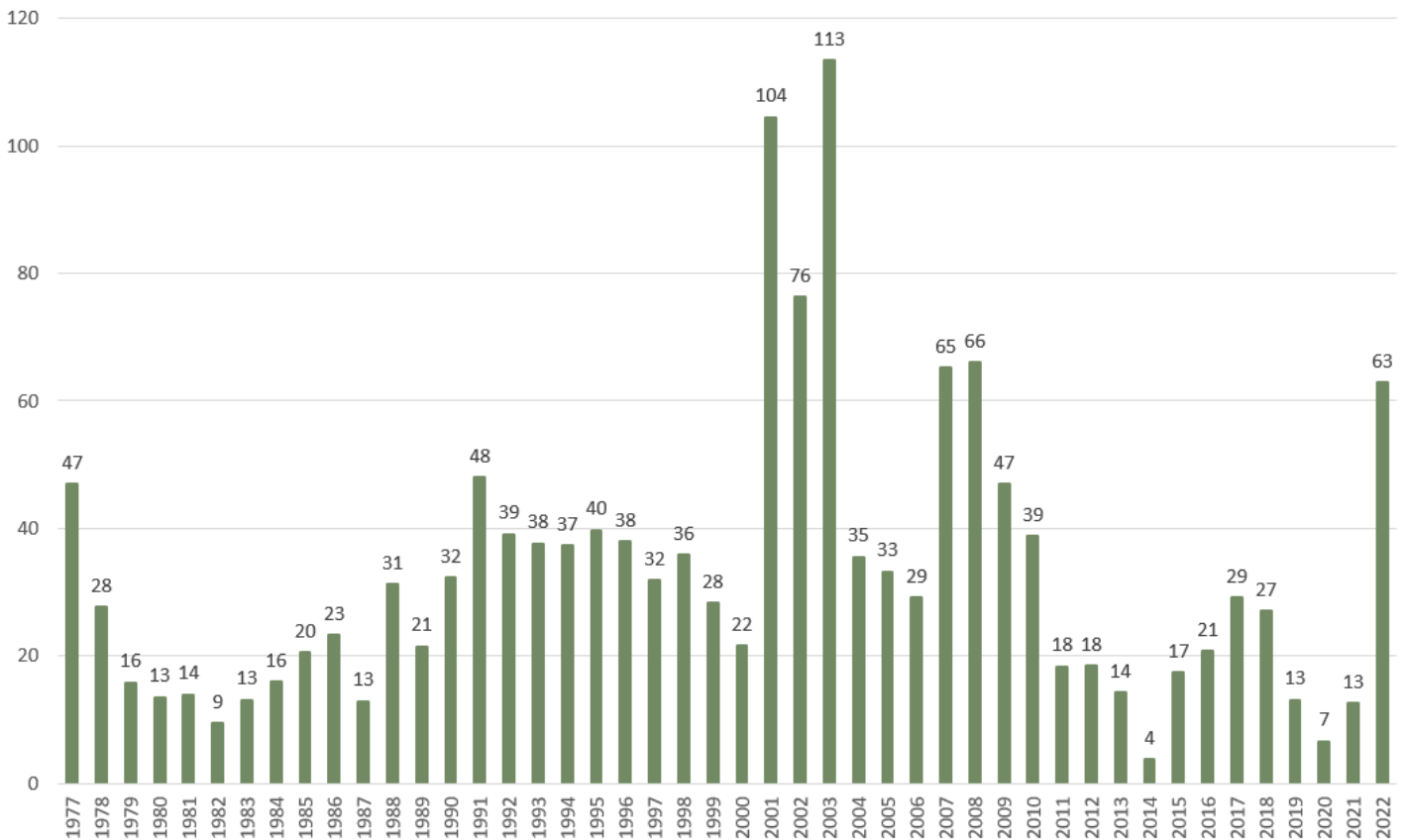
NORTHWEST OHIO FIELD WINDBREAK PROGRAM

Projects Completed (1977-2022)



Total Projects Completed: 1,670

Miles Planted (1977-2022)



Total Miles Planted: 1,504

SERVICE FORESTRY



Ohio's forests are predominantly privately owned, and they provide life-sustaining benefits to all citizens. The Division of Forestry's state service forestry program empowers those connected to Ohio's private woodlands by providing information and technical assistance to support sustainable management.



SERVICE FORESTRY

2022 BY THE NUMBERS

1,593

Landowners
received technical
assistance

1,404

Landowners
participated in
educational
programs

20,804

Acres covered by
new or revised
Forest Stewardship
Management Plans

220

New or revised
Forest Stewardship
Management Plans

223,916

Acres covered by
current Forest
Stewardship
Management Plans

SERVICE FORESTRY REPORT

The Division of Forestry's Service Forestry program is the primary source of forestry assistance for private woodland owners in the State of Ohio. State service foresters provide one-on-one assistance and group education to landowners, helping them evaluate their woods and plan for proper management, create or enhance wildlife habitat, plant trees for future forests, and maximize the benefits from their woods.

State service foresters also administer Ohio's property tax reduction program for woodlands, called Ohio Forest Tax Law, and provide technical assistance to landowners participating in the USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and other federal incentive programs. The Division of Forestry works with many partners, including the Ohio Tree Farm program, U.S. Department of Agriculture, local Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Ohio State University Extension, and other state and local partners.

PRIVATE LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE FY2022	
Total Forest Stand Improvement	5,204 acres
Marketing assistance to landowners for potential timber harvests	1,031 acres
Referrals to Consultants	136

CALL BEFORE YOU CUT

Call Before You Cut is a program designed to provide landowners with information to make educated management decisions about their woodlands at the time of a harvest. Through the program, landowners can also connect with professional resources, including ODNR Division of Forestry service foresters or private consulting foresters, to assist them. The Ohio Call Before You Cut program is a partner program coordinated by the ODNR Division of Forestry and Ohio State University Extension. Other partners of the program include the Ohio Chapter of the Society of American Foresters, the ODA Division of Soil & Water Conservation, the Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, The Nature Conservancy, and the Ohio Tree Farm Committee.



SERVICE FORESTRY

FORESTRY POLLUTION ABATEMENT PROGRAM

The ODNR Division of Forestry's (DOF) Forestry Pollution Abatement Program has the responsibility to enforce and promote Ohio's Forestry Pollution Abatement Rules and Standards, in partnership with Ohio's 88 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). In FY2022, more than 40 logging site complaints were investigated to ensure that Best Management Practices (BMPs) were being used and that water quality was protected. Staff also provided BMP and complaint-response training to more than 70 SWCD staff and supervisors. DOF staff assisted with two statewide BMP training programs for logging companies during the year, in cooperation with the Ohio Forestry Association. BMP training was also provided to two logging companies for individualized training. Several public education programs were also conducted to educate landowners about the benefits of filing Timber Harvest Plans, prior to harvest, and utilizing BMPs throughout the logging process. These sessions were taught at numerous timber marketing events throughout the state, including events hosted by SWCDs, OSU Extension, and other partners.





SERVICE FORESTRY

NRCS PROGRAMS

The Ohio Division of Forestry and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) work together to provide financial incentive opportunities for landowners to complete management activities in their woodlands. Activities such as invasive plant control, crop tree release, tree planting, wildlife habitat development and many more can be completed with both technical and financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Both of these programs are run through NRCS with technical assistance from state service foresters.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP is an incentive program that provides technical and financial assistance for completing woodland management activities to improve the health and sustainability of Ohio's woodlands. Common activities include woody invasive plant removal, grapevine control, forest stand improvement work, tree planting, herbaceous weed control, erosion control, wildlife habitat development and more.

EQIP COST SHARE ASSISTANCE FY2022	
Number of new and/or revised Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Management Plans	118 plans
Number of acres of new and/or revised EQIP Management Plans	1,989 acres

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

CSP is an incentive program that is designed to build upon management work already being completed by a landowner. This program offers assistance for continued management on woodlands that are actively managed and where landowners would like to achieve enhanced woodland health and sustainability. Most CSP practices build upon work done in EQIP to achieve specific landowner-driven results in regards to woodland and wildlife habitat quantity and quality.



OHIO FOREST TAX LAW

The Ohio Forest Tax Law program provides a 50% reduction of property taxes on qualifying forested acreage. In exchange for the tax reduction, landowners agree to manage their forest land for the commercial production of timber and other forest products and to abide by pertinent rules and regulations.

ODNR Division of Forestry service foresters approve management plans and inspect participating properties to ensure those management plans are being followed.

FIRE PROGRAM

A group of firefighters in yellow jackets and red helmets are standing in a wooded area. One firefighter in the center is gesturing with his hand. In the background, there is a utility vehicle and a white truck. The scene is outdoors with many trees.

The Ohio Division of Forestry Fire Management Program provides statewide leadership in wildfire management through fire department support programs, wildfire prevention efforts, and promotes prescribed fire as a resource management tool.



FIRE PROGRAM

2022 BY THE NUMBERS

344
Wildfires
reported in Ohio

657
Total acres burned
in wildfires

205
Wildfires caused
by debris burning

145
Reported
prescribed burns

94
Wildland fire
protection
projects funded

444k
Total wildland fire
protection grant
funds awarded

13
States assisted
by the Ohio
Interagency Fire
Crew

OHIO FIRE REPORT

The Division of Forestry provides leadership in wildfire prevention, training, suppression, and prescribed fire management. The Division participates in cooperative agreements with local fire departments, as well as in training, equipping, and coordinating the Ohio Interagency Fire Crew and specialized individual resource personnel for wildfires and disasters in and out of state. The Division also administers federal grants and federal excess property to rural fire departments.

WILDFIRE STATISTICS

The leading cause of wildfires in Ohio in FY2022 was debris burning. The remaining causes were distributed among other common causes:

CAUSE	NUMBER OF FIRES	TOTAL ACRES
Campfire	6	5.6
Children	5	4.36
Debris Burning	205	325.74
Equipment	22	95.87
Incendiary	18	35.72
Lightning	3	0.85
Miscellaneous	50	152.87
Powerline	15	13.46
Railroad	4	2.50
Smoking	11	4.32
Structure	3	5.35
Fireworks	2	10.15
TOTAL	344	656.79

Wildfires and Acres Burned by Causes

Between 07/01/21 and 06/30/22

SIZE CLASS	NUMBER OF FIRES	TOTAL ACRES
Class A .25 Acres or less	149	227.95
Class B .26 to 9.9 Acres	176	389.62
Class C 10 to 99.9 Acres	19	39.22
TOTAL	344	656.79

Wildfires and Acres Burned by Size Class

Between 07/01/21 and 06/30/22



FIRE PROGRAM

PRESCRIBED FIRE

The Division continued to provide leadership in prescribed fire management in FY2022. Waivers of ORC 1503.18 were issued by the Division of Forestry to federal, state, and local government partners, as well as to private companies, NGOs, and citizens to facilitate prescribed fires across Ohio.

PRESCRIBED FIRES	ACRES
Division granted 161 Waivers (can cover multiple units)	39,497 acres
Received 145 reports of burn units	3,965 acres

RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT SUPPORT

The Division achieves its goal of reducing the threat of wildfires through partnerships with rural fire departments, which includes providing training and administering grants and excess property to rural fire departments.

The Prescribed Fire Supplies, Tools, Education, and Personal Equipment (STEP) grant helps partner agencies build and expand their prescribed fire programs. This cost-share reimbursement grant opportunity is open to local and state land management agencies and supports prescribed fire management projects in Ohio with 50/50 matching grants.

Eligible applicants include local government agencies, state government agencies, metro park agencies, county park agencies, park districts, and non-profit land management entities.

FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANTS	
	STEP: 16 grants for \$39,346
	Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA): 57 grants for \$385,328
	Ohio Fire Academy: 1 grant for \$20,000





FIRE PROGRAM

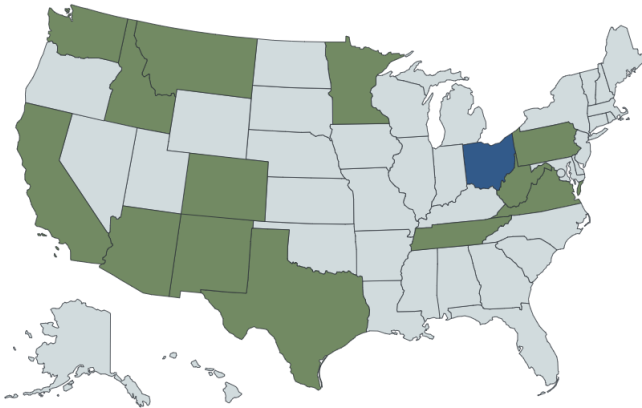
INTERAGENCY WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION SUPPORT

The Ohio Division of Forestry trains federal, state, and local agencies for wildland fire detail and providing assistance to other states as part of a national effort. Ohio crews and individual management personnel have assisted with hurricanes, floods, and wildfire incidents since 1986.

The Division of Forestry's Interagency Fire Crew provided engines and 70 resources to assist suppression efforts throughout the United States.



STATES ASSISTED FY2022:



- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Idaho
- Minnesota
- Montana
- New Mexico
- Pennsylvania
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Virginia

SMOKEY ART TOUR

In FY2022, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry was proud to present and share a collection of beautiful and timeless Smokey Bear artwork images produced by famed USDA Forest Service artist Rudy Wendelin (1910-2000). The collection was on loan to the State of Ohio from the Special Collections section of the USDA National Agriculture Library, located in Washington, DC. The display was exhibited at ODNR State Park Lodges across Ohio in an effort to bring Smokey's image and message close to home for Ohioans and visitors across the Buckeye State.





COOPERATIVE FOREST HEALTH PROGRAM

The Division of Forestry's Forest Health Program works cooperatively with partner agencies, organizations, and all Ohioans to protect Ohio's forests and the benefits they provide through early detection and effective management of threats to forest ecosystems.



COOPERATIVE FOREST HEALTH PROGRAM

2022 BY THE NUMBERS

500

Acres in Maumee state forest damaged by tornadoes

24

Total counties sampled for beech leaf disease

7,846

Acres with forest damage identified with aerial survey

1,600

Total trees distributed through the ALB re-planting

OHIO FOREST HEALTH REPORT

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Forestry's Forest Health Program is a cooperative initiative of partnering agencies and organizations within Ohio and neighboring states. Since insects and pathogens do not recognize state boundaries, it is important for states to work together to mitigate potential threats to their forest resources. This is achieved through rigorous field work and various investigative techniques. Additionally, state land managers, service foresters, and urban foresters are periodically asked for assistance and provide input related to forest health issues throughout the year.

Landowners and the general public are encouraged to call the Ohio Division of Forestry, toll free at 1-877-247-8733, and report any forest health concerns they feel are abnormal and potentially threatening.

Aerial Forest Health Survey

Each year, Ohio Division of Forestry staff, with the help of Ohio Division of Wildlife pilots and aircraft, conduct an aerial survey over the majority of the state to survey Ohio's forest health. This year's survey began on June 11 and concluded on June 25. The observers identified 157 different sites from the air with discoloration, defoliation, or mortality, totaling 7,846 acres. Ground inspections were carried out on 119 of these sites by Ohio Division of Forestry staff. The top five damage-causing agents (DCA) and associated acreage are below:

Damage causing agent	Acres
Eastern white pine needle damage	7,435
Wind/tornado damage	2,278
Diplodia canker	1,040
Yellow-poplar weevil	852
Flooding	262



COOPERATIVE FOREST HEALTH PROGRAM

Special Issues

Spotted Lanternfly

Ohio's first known spotted lanternfly infestation was discovered in 2020. Three counties – Cuyahoga, Jefferson, and Lorain – are under a spotted lanternfly quarantine by the Ohio Department of Agriculture to reduce the spread of the insect. In 2022, confirmed sightings of spotted lanternfly increased in many parts of the state and efforts to delineate infestations and determine if reproducing populations are present are ongoing. Most of the known spotted lanternfly infestations in Ohio appear to be associated with railroads and the non-native tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). An interagency team, led by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and including the USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio State University Extension, and Ohio Grape Industries Committee, is assisting with survey, management, and education and outreach efforts.



Oak Wilt

The fungal pathogen *Bretziella fagacearum*, which causes the disease oak wilt, has been known to occur in Ohio since at least 1950, but there has been a concerning increase in oak wilt infected areas since 2019, with some new infected areas reported in 2022. New and existing infections were identified in all regions of the state. Ohio Division of Forestry is working with landowners to help manage oak wilt infections on private land as well as on Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)-owned properties. The ODNR Division of Forestry convened an Ohio Oak Wilt Working Group in 2022 for the purpose of bringing together agencies, organizations, and professionals that may work on some aspect of oak wilt. The Working Group was tasked with increasing education and outreach about oak wilt and management options, and improving the mapping of oak wilt across the state.

Pest and Disease Update



Beech Leaf Disease

A decline of American beech (and potentially several other non-native beech species) has been documented in northern Ohio since 2012. This decline is being referred to as beech leaf disease and was first noted in Lake County, Ohio. In 2022, beech leaf disease was detected in one new Ohio county: Fulton. In 2019, scientists and researchers with several agencies and organizations made progress in identifying the possible causal agent, a newly described species of foliar nematode (*Litylenchus crenatae* ssp. *mccannii*). Since 2021, the Ohio Division of Forestry in partnership with Holden Arboretum, has sampled American beech (as well as maple and oak species) buds from 24 counties across the state. The results of the sampling efforts are currently pending. Long-term monitoring plots have been established in the area of the known extent of beech leaf disease in Ohio to better track tree damage progression over time and document impacts and changes to forest ecosystems.



COOPERATIVE FOREST HEALTH PROGRAM

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and Elongate Hemlock Scale

All counties with confirmed Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) infestations are quarantined by the Ohio Department of Agriculture to prevent the movement of potentially infested hemlock materials out of the infested areas. Since 2013, the Division of Forestry and partners have conducted HWA biocontrol predator beetle releases. More than 7,300 beetles (*Laricobius nigrinus* and *L. osakensis*) have been released on HWA-infested trees. Monitoring of treatment success and additional predator beetle releases will be ongoing. Continued hemlock pest detection surveys are planned for this winter.

Asian Longhorned Beetle

The USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and Ohio Department of Agriculture cooperatively manage the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) eradication program in Ohio and enforce a quarantine area of 57 square miles, centered over Tate Township in Clermont County to prevent the movement of regulated items including wood from any hardwood tree species out of the infested area. To help replace trees that were removed due to infestation, a replanting project was initiated by the Division of Forestry in the fall of 2012, with non-host tree species available to landowners who were impacted by landscape tree removals by the Ohio ALB program. Since the start of this program, approximately 1,600 trees have been distributed for planting.

Notable Occurrences

Severe Weather

In June and July, several severe weather events included high winds and tornadoes that caused significant damage to trees and forests. These storm events were widespread across the state, but some of the most impactful were in north-central Ohio (south of Mansfield), western Ohio (north of Dayton), and southeastern Ohio (east of Chillicothe). Thousands of acres of forest saw damage in the form of tree breakage or blow-down and uprooting. Mapping of storm damage at Mohican-Memorial State Forest from a tornado on June 13-14 took place via unmanned aerial system, helicopter, and high-resolution satellite imagery. Over 500 acres of impacted forest were identified. Aerial video footage of the damage can be viewed online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdVcNevq9k&t=1s>.

Non-native Invasive Plants

Non-native invasive plants are a threat to the biodiversity of forests throughout Ohio. Some forests contain dense infestations of invasive plants such as *Ailanthus*, Asian bush honeysuckles, autumn-olive, multiflora rose, and Japanese stilt grass, while other areas remain largely uninvaded. In 2022, new infestations of Japanese angelica tree (*Aralia elata*) and a hybrid crabapple (*Malus* spp.) were identified and reported in parts of eastern and central Ohio. Efforts are underway to document the extent of these species and explore treatments to reduce their populations. In 2018, over 30 species of invasive plants were banned from sale and propagation in Ohio. Callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*; including the popular 'Bradford' variety), which had a 5-year phase out period, will be banned from sale starting January 1, 2023. The Ohio Division of Forestry promotes invasive plant control by working with Ohio's Cooperative Weed Management Areas, Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas, Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management, and on private land through its Service Forestry Program and through other outreach events.

The Division of Forestry's Land Management program manages state forests to maintain forest health, a sustained yield of forest products, and to promote diverse forest habitats across the landscape, while considering a multiple-use mandate. The Division strives for state forests to be the best example of the benefits resulting from long-term forest management.

A photograph showing two men in profile, looking towards the right. The man in the foreground is wearing a yellow hard hat and glasses. The man in the background is wearing a white hard hat. They are standing in front of a large, blurred pile of cut wood. The text 'STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT' is overlaid in large white letters at the bottom of the image.

STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT



STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT

2022 BY THE NUMBERS

5,619

Backpackers

734

Horse campers

1,055

Family campers

398

Hunter Campers

1,490

APV Riders

Recreation and Facilities Report

STATE FOREST LAND INVENTORY

TOTAL ACREAGE: 203,398 Acres

1. **Beaver Creek:** 1,122 acres, Columbiana County
2. **Blue Rock:** 4,578 acres, Muskingum County
3. **Brush Creek:** 13,424 acres, Scioto/Adams/Pike counties
4. **Chapin:** 371 acres
5. **Dean:** 2,759 acres, Lawrence County
6. **Fernwood:** 3,023 acres, Jefferson County
7. **Gifford:** 320 acres, Athens County
8. **Harrison:** 1,345 acres, Harrison County
9. **Hocking:** 9,815 acres, Hocking County
10. **Maumee:** 3,395 acres, Fulton/Henry/Lucas counties
11. **Mohican-Memorial:** 4,541 acres, Ashland County
12. **Perry:** 4,706 acres, Perry County
13. **Pike:** 13,919 acres, Pike/Highland counties
14. **Richland Furnace:** 2,530 acres, Jackson/Vinton counties
15. **Scioto Trail:** 9,600 acres, Ross/Pike counties
16. **Shade River:** 2,859 acres, Meigs County
17. **Shawnee:** 65,987 acres, Scioto/Adams counties
18. **Sunfish Creek:** 637 acres, Monroe County
19. **Tar Hollow:** 16,446 acres, Ross/Vinton/Hocking counties
20. **Vinton Furnace:** 12,086 acres, Vinton County
21. **West Blue Rock:** 675 acres, Muskingum County
22. **Willow Grove:** 350 acres, Belmont County
23. **Yellow Creek:** 756 acres, Columbiana County
24. **Zaleski (Waterloo @ 447acres):** 27,375 acres, Vinton/Athens counties

STATE FOREST RECREATION

State forests offer visitors numerous outdoor recreation opportunities that are compatible with sustainable forest management. More than 300 miles of backcountry bridle trails, 80 miles of hiking and backpacking trails, and 50 miles of mountain bike trails are found on Ohio's state forests. Each year the state forest staff maintains the trails through vegetation management, trail blazing, monitoring, and implementing soil and erosion control practices.



STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT

OHIO'S STATE FOREST FACILITIES

Throughout Ohio's state forest districts there are eleven staffed state forest locations. Each of these facilities is maintained by Division staff. Managers and staff complete much of the maintenance and upkeep in order to save costs and fully utilize the expertise of staff. Routine maintenance includes cleaning, painting, vegetation management, and minor repairs. In-house staff also conduct many of the larger renovation and repair projects such as remodeling, roofing, demolition, and minor plumbing and electrical work.

ROADWAY MAINTENANCE

Roads with a "state forest road" designation are maintained by the forest crews. Funding and technical expertise may be provided by ODOT on larger projects. These projects include, but are not limited to: road and parking lot paving, large quantities of aggregate or culvert placement, bridge repairs or replacement, and large road slip repairs.

Within the state forest road system there are more than 200 miles of road, more than 65 bridges, and several thousand culverts and headwall systems. There are numerous parking areas, pull-offs, scenic vistas, and service roads. All routine maintenance is conducted by district employees.

The camps are also maintained with practices such as mowing, hazard tree removal, kiosk and sign management, manure and trash removal, as well as latrine cleaning and maintenance.





STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT

DAMS

Maintenance of lakes, dams and spillways is a priority for the Division of Forestry. There are several small unclassified wildlife ponds that require minimal maintenance, but the Division also manages nine classified dams. These lakes and associated infrastructure are frequently inspected and the dam's Emergency Action Plan or Emergency Preparedness Plan is followed if concerning issues are developing. The Division of Forestry utilizes the Division of Engineering for technical expertise and the Division of Water Resources regulates these classified structures. Maintenance items on these dams include mowing the earthen levees, minor repair to spillway and associated structures, vegetation clearing, spillway clearing, ice mitigation, and exercising the drain valves if present. Lake maintenance may include seasonal water level lowering, inlet maintenance, snag removal, perimeter vegetation clearing, and mowing.

SPECIAL USE

State forests may be utilized in various ways by the public, stakeholders, other government agencies, companies, etc. There are laws, rules, and policies that dictate how the Division evaluates and grants permission for these land-use requests.

One of the most common venues for allowing a special use is the issuance of a "special use permit." When relevant, an interested party would complete a special use permit application. It would then be evaluated by Division staff, and if approved, a permit for that use would be issued. These are commonly issued for short-term events in which one or more of the "forest rules" would need to be waived in order for the event to take place. In some cases, the Division may require an application fee, proof of insurance, and a surety bond. These events include, but are not limited to:



- Competitive trail races
- Large groups utilizing recreation trails
- Short-term access to private land or utility lines across state forest property
- Research
- Filming
- Events such as weddings, group tours, group camp use
- Hay production from state forest fields
- Geocaches
- Concessions taking place on state forests



STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT

2022 BY THE NUMBERS

\$3+ million

Revenue received from stumpage sales

\$1+ million

Trees to Textbooks funds distributed to local governments and 14 rural school districts

7+ million

Board feet harvested

1,563

Acres harvested

Land Management Report

FSC® AND SFI® CERTIFICATION OF STATE FORESTS

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry has continued to maintain certification of state forests under the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®). Ohio's state forests are the only dual-certified forests in Ohio and have been recognized by independent third party auditors as being "well-managed." NSF-ISR, an accredited SFI® certification body, and Scientific Certification Systems, an accredited FSC® certification body, continue to provide auditing services under the standards. Reports of the audit findings are available on the Division's website.

STATE FOREST TIMBER SALES

Each year, the Division of Forestry evaluates a portion of the forest to assess inventory and determine potential harvesting opportunities. Harvesting can improve the overall health and condition of the forest by removing trees of poor health and vigor that are prone to attack from insects and disease. It also can reduce the stand's susceptibility to natural disturbances such as wildfire and ice storms. Timber harvests are one way that the Division meets the requirement in the Ohio Revised Code to "bring about a profitable growth of timber."

Most state forest timber sales are advertised and sold through a competitive sealed bid process. The purchasers of our timber sales are part of Ohio's \$28.8 billion forest industry that employs more than 124,000 people. The successful purchaser is required to use an Ohio Forestry Association Certified Master Logging Company. These companies have completed training on environmentally sensitive harvesting. Division foresters supervise this process carefully by marking trees to be harvested and administering the operations as they proceed. Ohio's state forests are working forests that provide forest products and a diversity of wildlife habitats that are enjoyed by all.

FOREST PRODUCT SALE REVENUE AND LOG PRODUCT SALES

The sale of forest products provides revenue for the Division. These sales are differentiated from standing timber sales. These products are mostly sold as cut and sorted logs rather than as standing trees. The largest contributor to this program is the log merchandising program. Merchandising sales are generated from service contractors who harvest timber and deliver the logs to a central location for Division staff to sort the logs into separate lots for sale. The Division also harvests some timber utilizing in-house staff. The Division also sells other products throughout the year. These include sawdust, lumber, and logs salvaged by state forest crews from storms or right-of-way construction.



STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT

STATE FOREST TIMBER SALE REVENUE & HARVESTING ACTIVITY— STUMPAGE

In FY2022, revenue received from State Forest stumpage timber sales totaled \$3,044,103.23. Revenue lags sale advertisement because purchasers pay for sales as they are harvested via cutting section control or weekly payments in pay-as-cut sales.

A portion of the revenue from state forest stumpage sales is distributed to local governments that are located where the harvest took place. The Division of Forestry is allowed to recover the costs associated with timber management. The net revenue is then divided as follows according to Ohio Revised Code Section 1503.05: 35% to the Division of Forestry and 65% to the local county. The county treasurers are instructed to distribute 50% of that amount to the local school district, 25% to the township, with the county government keeping the remaining 25% pursuant to ORC. The Division of Forestry uses its share of stumpage revenue to fund the Division's operations as well as transferring funds to the wildfire protection assistance account to fund fire departments in support of wildland fire suppression.

SALES FY2022		
	Fund R043	Fund 5090
Board Feet	7,323,422	1,751,426
Tons	39,587	30
Revenue	\$3,044,103.23	\$2,732,632
Acres	1,563 acres combined	
R043 sales are normal stumpage sales. Revenues from these sales are shared with local governments through the "Trees to Textbooks" program. 5090 sales account for all forest product sales. The bulk of these sales are accomplished through the log sales where the Division utilizes contract logging crews as well as its own staff to accomplish the sales. Logs are then sold via sealed bids.		

SILVICULTURE ACCOMPLISHED FY2022	
Thinning	771 acres
Clearcuts (under 10 acres)	84 acres
Clearcuts (more than 10 acres)	16 acres
Deferment harvests	459 acres
Shelterwood harvests	133 acres
Group Openings	29 acres
The Division follows scientific silvicultural management standards. The goals are based on the Division's 5-year management plan. Overarching silvicultural goals include oak forest regeneration, increasing early successional habitats, and rare habitat management.	



ADMINISTRATION AND FISCAL



The Division of Forestry's Administration and Fiscal group supports all field staff and program managers, providing them with the tools needed to accomplish their work.



FISCAL

FISCAL REPORT

REVENUE BY FUND

FUND	FUND DESCRIPTION	FY2022
5090	State Forest	9,434,314
5100	Property Management	18,250
5210	State Recreational Vehicle	581,645
R017	Bond Refunds	173,302
R043	Timber Sales Redistribution	1,655,183
TOTAL		\$11,862,694

*GRF funds received are not calculated as revenue

EXPENSES

FY22 EXPENSES	FUND						
	GRF	5090	5100	5210	R017	R043	Total
Payroll	5,548,990	4,982,523	-	174,778	-	-	\$10,706,291
Purchased Personal Services	244,661	93,742	-	700	-	-	\$339,103
Supplies & Maintenance	1,247,433	2,288,742	49,421	32,464	-	-	\$3,618,060
Equipment	9,165	114,625	-	21,084	-	-	\$144,874
Subsidies & Shared Revenue*	-	562,490	-	-	-	-	\$2,141,602
Capital Items	-	611,356	-	-	-	1,579,112	\$611,356
Refunds	-	21,450	-	-	347,431	-	\$368,881
TOTAL	\$7,050,249	\$8,674,928	\$49,421	\$229,026	\$347,431	\$1,579,112	\$17,930,167

*Expenses for Subsidies & Shared Revenue include expenses encumbered by PO for grants expected to receive reimbursement upon completion of projects.