

Connecticut's Forest Action Plan 2020 Update

Forests cover nearly 60% of Connecticut, making it one of the most forested states in the country. Trees and forests add significantly to the quality of life through a great variety of factors across a broad spectrum of environments and communities. Whether in rural, suburban, or urban settings, trees and forests provide services and conditions that help keep people, animals, and ecosystems healthy and are integral to the character of the area. Connecticut's Forest Action Plan aims to take input from a broad swath of stakeholders and provide guidance to help conserve and manage working forest landscapes, protect forests from threats, and enhance public benefits from trees and forests across the entire state.

Connecticut's trees and forests filter the air, reduce greenhouse gases and store carbon, safeguard drinking water supplies, provide essential habitat for wildlife, create recreational opportunities, and produce locally-grown forest products generating thousands of jobs and billions of dollars for our economy.

Connecticut's trees and forests face many significant challenges that threaten the health, character, and values that we rely on every day.

Invasive insects (e.g. emerald ash borer & gypsy moth) and invasive plants (e.g. Japanese barberry & Asiatic bittersweet) are killing trees and changing the nature of the forests where they are found. They are also negatively affecting public health and state, municipal, and private budgets.

Fragmentation and parcelization threatens large blocks of forest which can reduce their usefulness to humans and animals and make them less resilient to other threats.

Limited resources and public awareness hinder conservation and management goals across the urban to rural spectrum. As old threats continue and new threats emerge, resources need to be prioritized for the greatest good.

The Forest Action Plan is required by the U.S. Farm Bill and must be updated every 10 years and reviewed every five years. The next update is due in 2020. It includes an assessment of current conditions and strategies for the next 10 years. We are working with partners and stakeholders to gather input on the relevant issues facing Connecticut's forests.

Our forests have changed over the years and continue to change. Having a long-term vision and concrete strategies to help focus and guide all those who have a role in shaping the future of Connecticut's forests can make our work more effective and efficient.

Our trees and forests need our continued commitment to ensure they remain healthy and resilient for generations to come. The Forest Action Plan is a road map to take action on that commitment.



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To view the 2015 revision of the
2010 Forest Action Plan or
for more information please visit:

<https://www.ct.gov/deep/forestactionplan>

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