



Fiscal Year 2023 Community Forest Program Funded Projects

Final Rank	State	Project Name	Acres	Entity Type	Funding
1	ME	Rumford Community Forest	446	Non-Profit	\$422,000
2	NH	Gorham Town Forest Expansion	1,109	Local Gov't	\$600,000
3	NH	Birch Ridge Community Forest Phase 3	617	Non-Profit	\$460,000
4	VT	Wolcott Community Forest	734	Local Gov't	\$580,000
5	ID	Pine Street Sled Hill Community Forest	48	Non-Profit	\$600,000
6	NH	Milan Community Forest Expansion	808	Local Gov't	\$500,000
7	MT	Marshall Community Forest and Mountain Park	480	Local Gov't	\$600,000
8	WI	Black River Community Forest	311	Local Gov't	\$300,000
9	VT	Monkton Town Forest	445	Local Gov't	\$400,000
10	PA	Northwestern REC Community Forest	98	Non-Profit	\$251,000
11	ME	Whitney Community Forest	432	Non-Profit	\$294,000
12	OH	E.J. Mackenbach Forest	44	Local Gov't	\$350,000
13	WA	Lagoon Point Community Forest	283	Non-Profit	\$600,000
Total Acreage			5,855		
Project Subtotal					\$5,957,000
Technical Assistance Funds					\$14,000
Total Funding					\$5,971,000

**Community Forest Program
Fiscal Year 2023 Project Descriptions**

Rumford Community Forest, Rumford, Maine

This 446-acre project will become the first community forest for Rumford, a reviving mill town. Rumford and surrounding areas are designated disadvantaged communities and lack access to parks and open space. This working forest will continue to protect water supply and quality for several communities, provide habitat for brook trout and Canada lynx, and support recreation with connections to a local and regional trail network.

Gorham Town Forest Expansion, Gorham, New Hampshire

The project will expand an existing town forest by 1,109 acres, resulting in a total of 6,876 acres of forestland in community ownership. This expansion will protect important hiking trails with connections to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and White Mountain National Forest, improving access to publicly conserved lands. The town forest uses local contractors to harvest timber and most of the wood is sold to local mills. Public schools also use the forest for forest-based learning, including field days, natural resource education, and tree-plantings.

Birch Ridge Community Forest Phase 3, New Durham and Middleton, New Hampshire

The project will add 617 acres to the existing 2,686-acre Birch Ridge Community Forest in New Hampshire. The expansion strengthens the community investment in the forest economy; the property will continue being managed for timber long-term as a working forest. It also adds 2.5 miles of trails to the community forest's existing network spanning 17 miles while also offering a new public access point from a highway. The blueberry barrens found on the property are not only enjoyed by people, they are also used by a vast array of wildlife including black bear, turkey, fox, grouse, and thrushes.

Wolcott Community Forest, Wolcott, Vermont

The project will acquire 734 acres of strategic forestland that is adjacent to the village center, Wolcott Elementary School, and the new regional Rail Trail. A new 5-mile trail network on the property will be built by a local professional trail-building organization, providing close-to-home recreation opportunities in a town that currently has limited public trails. The forest will provide the community with revenue from occasional harvesting as well as potential leases of taps for maple syrup production. The property is located within a top landscape linkage in the Northern Appalachians that will maintain and enhance connectivity along the Green Mountain Range in Vermont up into Canada.

Pine Street Sled Hill Community Forest, Bonner County, Idaho

This 48-acre property will be added to an existing 180-acre community forest in Bonner County, Idaho. Set along Pine Street Loop, this biodiverse property contains lush forestlands, meadows, and a large pond. The project will provide outdoor educational programming for the community and secure access to a locally cherished sled hill that will be reopened to the public. The property will also host a recently purchased portable sawmill that will allow processing of windblown and cull timber on-site and can provide sustainably grown local lumber products directly to visitors of Pine Street Woods.

Milan Community Forest Expansion, Milan, New Hampshire

This project will add 808 acres to the Milan Community Forest, expanding it to over 3,000 acres. This expansion will contribute to Milan's effort to build a climate-resilient connected corridor of conserved lands across the center of the town, linking with conserved lands to the east and west. The project contains 2.3 miles of water frontage, most of which is on the Androscoggin River. Permanent public

access and protection around the river will support the growing recreational economy of the region. Additionally, the forest has hosted outdoor learning opportunities with Milan Village School and professional development and continued education opportunities through the UNH Cooperative Extension Service.

Marshall Community Forest and Mountain Park, Missoula County, Montana

This 480-acre project is located near the confluence of the Clark Fork and Blackfoot rivers and at the headwater of Marshall Creek, making it a hub for recreation and a gateway to public lands. Plans for the forest include construction of approximately 8 miles of additional trails and two trailheads to connect the entire project area. A 1.5 mile 'learning loop' trail, a creek-side outdoor classroom, and a native plant demonstration area will be built to accommodate school field trips and skill development. Canada lynx, fisher, grizzly bear, wolverine, flammulated owl, Westslope cutthroat trout, and other wildlife have ranges within the project area.

Black River Community Forest, Douglas County, Wisconsin

This 311-acre project is sandwiched between public lands – Pattison State Park to the north and Douglas County Forest to the south. The forest includes nearly a mile of double bank frontage along the Black River, a designated trout stream with excellent habitat for brook and brown trout. The property will be managed as part of the Douglas County Forest, which generates an average of \$4.4 million each year. The local community will be able to harvest firewood for personal use, Christmas trees, and other forest products. The project will also facilitate the creation of a new and critically important off-road connection for the North Country National Scenic Hiking Trail, America's longest congressionally designated footpath.

Monkton Town Forest, Monkton, Vermont

This 445-acre project is the result of a community-driven effort dating back almost a decade. It sits in a critical landscape between the Green Mountains and Lake Champlain, two of Vermont's most defining natural features. The forest has diverse topography, natural communities, and water features that provide important habitat for a variety of species including bear, bobcat, and fisher. The property can also provide the community with a more reliable supply of firewood, a place for community volunteers to do the processing, and expand space for seasoning and storage.

Northwestern REC Community Forest, Crawford County, Pennsylvania

This 98-acre community forest will complement regional revitalization efforts by sustaining jobs, providing accessible outdoor space for public recreation and wellness, and offering a setting for forest-based learning. The project will create recreation and wellness opportunities through hiking trails, some of which will double as horse-logging skid trails for timber management, others of which can be adapted for ADA accessibility in partnership with a proposed senior community center. The forest is situated in a high priority habitat area for wood thrush, a species that has declined by 50% since 1966.

Whitney Community Forest, Ellsworth, Maine

This 432-acre community forest surrounds a local high school near the heart of Ellsworth, Maine. The land contains vernal pools and streams, an oak canopy overhead, moss, mushrooms, and ferns along the forest floor. The property's pond and stream include wild brook trout priority habitat. The forest serves as an outdoor educational and recreational landscape for the school and larger community, with over 5 miles of trails maintained by the high school cross country team.

E.J. Mackenbach Forest, Saint Marys, Ohio

The 44-acre community forest will be the largest publicly accessible forest in a county where the majority of forest land is privately owned. Owned and managed by the local park district, permanent conservation of the forest in a heavily fragmented/urbanized landscape will improve air and water quality, connect and conserve wildlife habitat, and sequester carbon. The project is located less than 0.25 miles from a local high school and middle school, and the property is intended to serve as an outdoor classroom for students and community groups.

Lagoon Point Community Forest, Whidbey Island, Washington

This 283-acre community forest is located along central Whidbey Island, which receives over one million visitors from the greater Seattle region and beyond. The forest will provide a significant new public trail opportunity that will help alleviate over-burdened trail systems in the area. Protection of this property will also provide substantial climate resilience benefits and ecosystem services including aquifer recharge, water quality, stormwater management, and flood mitigation. Efforts to conserve this forest are part of a partnership that includes the U.S. Navy through the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration program.