



Protecting Connecticut Forests with UConn Extension Forestry

Connecticut is the most forested and most urbanized state per capita in the nation. UConn Extension’s Forestry Program addresses this paradox by advancing forest health in both rural and urban settings. Our science-based engagement and training programs support landowners, professionals, and communities in making informed decisions that enhance environmental and public well-being. The program sustains Connecticut’s forested landscapes by promoting environmental stewardship, disaster resilience, and forest resilience practices. From city streets to wooded hillsides, we provide education and technical support to empower communities and landowners to protect, manage, and enjoy their forest resources.

BY THE NUMBERS



2.4k

individuals learned how to respond to environmental change



1k

adopted personal stewardship behaviors



1k

applied sustainability knowledge in roles or service



188

gained knowledge in disaster preparedness



7

forest resilience vulnerability assessments completed



6.6k

acres where best practices were implemented



3.5k

acres protected from forest loss



78

acres treated for invasive species or pests

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Our work connects people to forests—whether it’s helping a city expand its tree canopy or guiding landowners to steward woodlands sustainably.”

UConn Extension Forestry Educator



PROGRAM AREAS INCLUDE:

- **Forest Stewardship & Education:** Providing training on sustainable forestry practices for practitioners, landowners, youth and all community members
- **Disaster Education & Preparedness:** Equipping communities to anticipate and respond to environmental changes and natural hazards
- **Technical Assistance:** Offer expert guidance for forest management, invasive species control, and habitat restoration
- **Community Engagement:** Uniting people in the care and enjoyment of shared forest resources through community workshops, school programs, and local conservation partnerships

Through workshops, technical assistance, and hands-on training, we build the capacity of local leaders and residents to protect forest resources and prepare for environmental change.

FORESTRY PROGRAM EXAMPLES

- **Community Forestry Toolkits** were developed and distributed to 100 conservation professionals who are using them to train private landowners in workshops.
- A new **Pollinator Garden and tree planting site** were created in Hartford County to demonstrate forest co-benefits and serve as educational sites promoting biodiversity and sustainable forest management.
- **White Oak Initiative:** In anticipation of the 2026 celebration of the Declaration of Independence and recognizing the contribution of Connecticut’s Charter Oak to that history and the fact that the Charter Oak was a white oak (and white oak is the State Tree) 500 acorns were collected from a documented descendant of the Charter oak and another 500 from ancient white oak trees (250+years old). The seedlings will be available for distribution to communities during the summer of 2026.

For more information, visit us at:
ctforestry.cahnr.uconn.edu

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