

FORESTRY

Notes

NURTURING A PASSION FOR NATURE IN THE HEART OF KENTUCKY

Sept 28, 2023



In the heart of Kentucky, Boone County is home to an array of habitats, from lush forests to meandering streams. These natural areas play a crucial role in preserving local biodiversity and enhancing the quality of life for its residents. At the forefront of conservation efforts in Boone County is the **Boone County Conservation District (BCCDKY)**.

BCCDKY has long been a leader of environmental education and conservation efforts in the community. Their commitment to engaging and educating the public about natural resources has expanded to encompass individuals of all ages. One of BCCDKY's key programs is the Conservation Kids Camp, designed to inspire young minds aged 9 to 12. This week-long adventure takes campers outdoors, immersing them in activities like fishing, hiking, exploring, and nature studies. It's an opportunity for children to connect with nature and cultivate a lifelong love for the environment.

BCCDKY recognized a critical gap when campers outgrew the program, there were no structured opportunities for these budding conservationists to continue their journey. To address this, BCCDKY introduced the "Pathway to Conservation Leadership" initiative, designed to offer a structured pathway for students interested in conservation and environmental stewardship.

Forestry News & Resources

[Fifth graders learn about food webs, forestry, fish on Conservation Tour](#)

[New Commission Created to Reduce Rhode Island's Wildfire Risk](#)

[Delaware Conservation Districts sponsor annual poster contest, "One Water"](#)

[Organizations offering fire assistance for Oregon Road Fire victims](#)

[Spokane hopes to add more shade, educate others through urban forestry grants](#)

[Conservation Economics & Finance Resource Hub](#)

[i-Tree Tools to Engage Your Community](#)

[Invasive spotted lanternfly may not damage hardwood trees as previously thought](#)

#ForestProud Releases Urban Wood Communication Resources

In partnership with [#ForestProud](#), the Urban Wood Economy recently released a free portfolio of films and digital



In 2019, the L.E.A.F! Academy was launched as a cornerstone of the "Pathway to Conservation Leadership." This unique program, made possible with the support of the Boone County Parks Department and other partner organizations, provides students aged 13 to 15 with an immersive outdoor experience. Activities range from snorkeling in creeks to kayaking, hiking, and educational field trips to local partner organizations. The L.E.A.F! Academy has a strong emphasis on hands-on learning and exploration. Students don't just learn about conservation, they become active champions of it. Through wildlife monitoring, stream assessments, and invasive species management, they get their hands dirty and make a tangible impact on the environment.

Recognizing the need for continued engagement beyond the L.E.A.F! Academy, BCCDKY established the Junior Board in 2021. This group of 15 local students aged 16 and up meets regularly to plan and implement stewardship projects, engage in job shadowing, and organize events and projects related to conservation. Every year, the Junior Board selects a "Big Project" aimed at educating the community and improving the environment. Last year, they took on the challenge of erosion control at a local lake, benefiting both the environment and the community. This year, their focus is on creating a community orchard in England Idlewild Park, complete with native fruit and nut trees and educational signage to educate visitors about the importance of native plants. One of the most inspiring aspects of the "Pathway to Conservation Leadership" is the success stories it has generated. Andrew's journey is a shining example. He began as a Conservation Kids Camper, progressed through three years of the L.E.A.F! Academy, and now works as a habitat steward for the Boone County Parks Department while serving as a committee chair for the Junior Board. Andrew's story illustrates how this pathway translates enthusiasm for wildlife and the environment into valuable career skills and opportunities.

BCCDKY's "Pathway to Conservation Leadership" program is a testament to their dedication to nurturing a new generation of conservationists. By expanding their initiatives to include local youth, they are sowing the seeds of a more sustainable and greener future for the Boone County community and beyond. BCCDKY empowers young leaders to maintain and improve the quality and productivity of their environmental surroundings. With this initiative, they are not only cultivating a passion for conservation but also inspiring the leaders who will shape the future of Boone County's natural habitats.



To learn more about [Boone County Conservation District's programs](#) and to look at the remarkable work being led by their Junior Board, visit bccdky.org/junior-board.

assets to promote and showcase urban and community wood.

Viewers are encouraged to share the Partner Empowerment Package films on social media and other platforms. The package includes two promotional films, social media content, blogs, partner interviews, and links to available resources and articles covering urban wood.

These digital assets are available for all professionals in the field of natural resource management to learn about and promote urban and community wood. To access the free digital content, click [here](#).

US Endowment for Forestry and Communities Releases Report on Wildfire Crisis Strategy Implementation

The US Endowment for Forestry and Communities held industry-specific roundtable discussions in each forest service region with the United States Forest Service (USFS) and Resources for the Future (RFF) to address the challenges of biomass utilization, markets, and waste disposal for the Wildfire Crisis Strategy Implementation Plan. Five themes were identified in addition to region-specific opportunities, including road infrastructure improvement; certainty, trust, and credibility; workforce development; new use and market development for under-utilized biomass; and national policy.

The full report regarding the roundtable discussions has recently become available. To read the full report, click [here](#).

The Overlooked Contribution of Trees Outside Forests

Trees are an integral part in European landscapes, but only forest resources are systematically assessed by national inventories. The contribution of urban and agricultural trees to national-level carbon stocks remains

NACD AWARDED \$600,000 U.S. FOREST SERVICE LANDSCAPE SCALE RESTORATION GRANT

NACD is pleased to announce that its Northeast Mid-Atlantic Forests and Water Partnership project has been **awarded a \$600,000 grant** from the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) program. This grant will enable NACD and our partners to collaboratively advance science-based restoration initiatives in priority forest landscapes and key watersheds across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions.

The Northeast Mid-Atlantic Forests and Water Partnership brings together a coalition of agencies and organizations dedicated to enhancing forest and water priorities across a 13-state footprint, from Maine to West Virginia and Ohio. This collaboration will leverage the expertise of USFS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), state agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and conservation districts.

"This grant allows us to establish a regional forum that promotes science and research impacting forest management and water quality," said **Annica McGuirk**, NACD Northeast Region Representative. "Through strategic coordination, we will align partners across the region in support of restoration projects, share valuable lessons learned, and continue to drive alignment between the forest and water sectors to achieve greater on-the-ground outcomes."

The Northeast Partnership's inaugural projects will be launched in Ohio and Connecticut. In Ohio, the Ohio Division of Forestry will engage forest landowners on the importance of best management practices to protect water quality and promote sustainable forest management as well as provide additional access to Ohio's Forestry Pollution Abatement Plan program to prevent water pollution from forestry operations. Conservation districts in southeast Ohio will support these efforts and provide landowner education and outreach. In Connecticut, the **Connecticut Council on Soil and Water Conservation** will be leading a series of trainings on a new Geographic Information Systems toolkit for mapping riparian restoration, providing landowner outreach and education in support of sustainable forest management, and leading riparian restoration projects in priority drinking watersheds for several major cities.

Read the full announcement in [NACD's newsroom](#).

THE HUMAN HEALTH BENEFITS OF IMPROVING FOREST HEALTH IN CALIFORNIA

largely unknown.

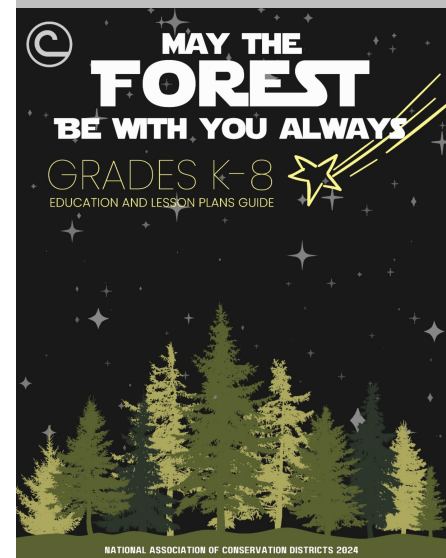
The quantification of wood resources at the national and local scales is a prerequisite for sustainable management of timber resources, habitats, and carbon stocks. Local forest management practice and planning relies to an increasing extent on national maps of forests and forest resources, and the accuracy of national carbon stock estimates may be largely improved by inclusion of such maps at the regional and national levels.

Most countries focus their inventories and mapping on closed canopy forests. Trees outside forests are often associated with scattered dryland trees in arid regions where rainfall is not sufficient for trees to form closed canopies. However, in northern countries, a substantial part of the woody resource may be growing in hedgerows, gardens, parks, urban areas, grasslands, and agricultural lands.

These trees outside forests contribute to carbon storage, provide resources for local communities, modify the local climate, are an important part of habitat networks, affect the hydrological cycle, and thus represent an important economic and social value.

The full study can be found [here](#).

NACD 2024 Stewardship Week Forestry Education Materials Available





With health impacts from wildfire smoke estimated to be one of the largest costs of wildfires, a [new study from the California Council on Science and Technology and Blue Forest](#) shows that improving the health of California's forests both reduces the risk of wildfire and benefits people's health. In this briefing, authors and Steering Committee members present the report findings, conclusions, and recommendations with slides and Q&A.

The report examines the connections between forest management, wildfire smoke, and human health through interviews with health sector organizations in California and a review of the scientific literature. The authors highlight the knowledge gaps and the data, research, and collaborations needed to effectively fill them, as well as steps the State of California, the federal government, and others can take to ensure the improved health of all who live under frequently smoky skies. Several findings include:

1. Wildfire smoke impacts human health and health sector organizations' workforces, operations, and ability to provide services, yet the costs are largely unquantified. Quantifying these costs would enable state and local health sector organizations to make more informed decisions regarding budgeting, resource allocation, and response.
2. Many interviewed health sector organizations see value in future engagement with forest management to mitigate adverse outcomes and costs associated with wildfire smoke, but require avenues for collaboration and more information on the potential benefits of forest management to human health and the health sector.
3. Comprehensive statewide and/or locally specific information on the adverse human health impacts of wildfire smoke are not readily available but could be generated from additional analysis of existing data resources. The data and methodologies to support the above understanding require thoughtful, forward-looking, collaborative, coordinated research design that is informed by use cases appropriate for California.
4. A small but growing body of research suggests that management to improve forest health can be tailored to reduce total smoke impacts and benefit human health. Informed prioritization of management strategies that promote forest resilience and human health across California's many landscapes will benefit from filling data gaps relating the costs and efficacy of various treatments under different conditions.

You can read the full report [here](#).

FORESTRY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

USDA \$188M Investment in Forestry Legacy Program

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Legacy Program (FLP) will invest \$188 million dollars towards conserving some of the nation's most economically and ecologically significant forestlands. The FLP, administered by

NACD is excited to share that the 2024 NACD Stewardship Week materials are now available for free download [on NACD's Marketplace](#). The 2024 topic is forestry, and the theme is **May The Forest Be With You Always**.

These materials are a giant step forward in educational content and lesson planning for NACD. The 2024 Stewardship Week materials have hands-on-learning and experience-based activities for K-8 grades all in a single guide with comprehensive background material, easy instructional resources, and suggestions for modification to include all students. There are also accompanying student journal resources for extending the learning experience.

The materials can be accessed [here](#).

SMA's Municipal Forestry Institute 2024

Applications are now being accepted for SMA's Municipal Forestry Institute 2024!

Registration opened on August 1 and closes on **November 1, 2023**. The Institute will be held on beautiful Jekyll Island off the coast of Georgia. Swaying live oak trees and the beautiful Atlantic Ocean will serve as the perfect backdrop for a week of inspiration, leadership growth, and community-building with fellow urban foresters.

MFI is the only leadership program focused on the people who make or support daily tree planting and care decisions. Learn and network with the people who know and understand your work, all while building skills and confidence to lead your urban forestry program to the next level!

General information about what MFI covers can be found below on this page. For more detailed information and logistics about MFI 2024, and to apply, click [here](#).

An informational flier is also available [here](#).

USFS in coordination with state forestry agencies, protects environmentally significant forest areas that are otherwise threatened by conversion to non-forest use. By helping to prevent the loss and fragmentation of working forests, the program encourages sustainable forest management and supports sustainable markets for forest products.

The FLP has two funding sources, Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) allocated by Congress, and funding that has been made available through the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). As a result, there are now two separate annual application cycles for LWCF and IRA funding.

To learn more about the FLP program and access the funding announcements click [here](#). For a complete list of FY23 projects, or to learn how states can apply for FY24 funding, click [here](#).

USFS CWDG Program

The USFS is now accepting applications for funding through Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) program (second round) from units of local governments, Native tribes, non-profit organizations, state forestry agencies, and Alaska native corporations. The program is authorized by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and prioritizes at-risk communities in an area identified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential, are low-income or have been impacted by a severe disaster that affects the risk of wildfire.

The program provides funding to communities for two primary purposes: to develop and revise Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) and implement projects described in a CWPP that is less than ten years old. To apply, follow the instructions in the Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and use the grant opportunity number specific to your notice by finding the specific NOFO [here](#). Interested parties are encouraged to visit the [CWDG Dashboard](#) for more information and links on the datasets used to determine whether the community is eligible or gets priority for this funding. Applicants must register on the [System for Award Management](#) which will generate a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). Creating a SAM registration may take several weeks or more to complete. Therefore, ensure application for SAM registration is done promptly.

Webinar recordings to assist the application process are available on the [CWDG webpage](#). Applications will be accepted until **October 31, 2023**. To learn more about this funding opportunity, click [here](#).

NIHHIS FY2024 Funding Opportunity

The Climate Program Office (CPO) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in partnership with the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) and the Department of Commerce is seeking applications for two individual competitions in FY24 to set up two new National Integrated Heat Health Information System ([NIHHIS](#)) Centers of Excellence. Letters of intent were due on August 14, 2023. Full applications are due on **October 16, 2023**. To learn more about this funding opportunity, and application procedure, click [here](#).

USFS Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) Grant Program

The USDA Forest Service is now accepting applications for FY24 LSR grant program.

LSR proposal submissions are administered by three regional processes. Please visit the following websites for specific regional information about the application process, including the annual request for applications:

- [Northeast/Midwest](#)

CALENDAR

October 16-20 2023 [World Forum on Urban Forests](#) | Washington, DC

Oct. 25-28, 2023 [National Association of American Foresters Convention](#) | Sacramento, CA

Feb 10-14, 2024 [NACD Annual Meeting](#) | San Diego, CA

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1

June 21st event: [National Association of Conservation Districts 75th Annual Conference](#)

Submit an event

Add your conservation district's tree sale, state association meeting, field day or celebration to NACD's calendar!

Click the button above to submit an event. Events will be reviewed by the website administrator and published to [NACD's online calendar](#) when approved.

- [West](#)
- [South](#)

October 5, 2023: Applicants submit draft project narrative and budget spreadsheet to relevant State Forester(s) for sponsorship consideration.

November 30, 2023: Applicants submit applications, including State Forester sponsor letter(s), to [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

USFS Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Grant Program

The USFS is now requesting applications for the FY23 [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative \(GLRI\) Grant Program](#). This program will support reforestation, ecosystem restoration and forest health improvement in the Great Lakes Basin through an agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This year, the GLRI is announcing and awarding funding through two grant opportunities at the same time: (1) Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA); and (2) Forest Restoration (FR). It is anticipated that up to \$1.25 million in new funds will be available for the CWMA grant, and up to \$5.3 million for the FR grant.

Submit applications by **October 23, 2023** to [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) through two separate Requests for Applications:

- 1) The [Cooperative Weed Management Areas](#) (CWMA) Request for Applications funds partnership work to address invasive plant species that pose significant ecological threats in the Great Lakes Basin.
- 2) The [Forest Restoration](#) (FR) Request for Applications funds projects that
 - Mitigate Forest Insect and Disease Impacts through targeted reforestation and forest protection
 - Reduce Runoff from Degraded Sites through Green Infrastructure that includes trees, or
 - Restore and Connect Coastal and Riparian Forest Habitats.

Applicants can be State agencies, sovereign Tribal Nations, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and local governments that work within the U.S. portion of the Great Lakes Basin. Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) funding requests must be submitted through a CWMA or similar organized partnership that manages invasive plants across jurisdictional and land ownership boundaries in a defined area.

Full instructions and all other application materials are available through [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) by searching opportunity number USDA-FS-GLRI-CWMA23 (for CWMA) or USDA-FS-GLRI-FR23 (for Forest Restoration).

\$150 million available USFS Inflation Reduction Act Forest Landowner Support

[Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced](#) that USFS is making \$150 million from the IRA available to support participation of underserved and small acreage forest landowners in emerging markets for climate mitigation and forest resilience. The application package has been [published on Grants.gov \(Opportunity #USDA-FS-2023-IRA-FLS-01\)](#).

To access this funding opportunity, visit [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). For more information, including an FAQ document that will be updated regularly, and links to webinar recordings, [please visit the Forest Service website](#).

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