

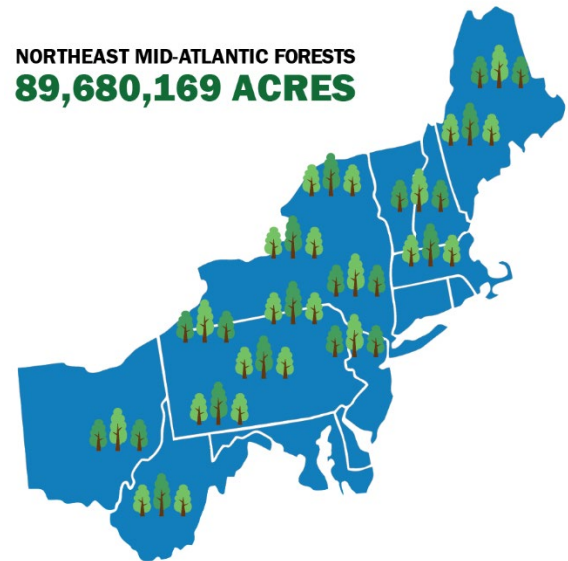


NORTHEAST MID-ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP FOR FORESTS & WATER

January 2026

BACKGROUND

The Northeast Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forests and Water (“the Partnership”) is an interagency, multi-partner collaborative to enhance concerted, science-based **restoration of priority forest landscapes to improve water quality and quantity in 13 states in the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic United States**. The Partnership’s footprint encompasses Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio. The region’s numerous streams, lakes, and reservoirs provide drinking water to 66 million people, or around 40% of the American population. Approximately 25% of U.S. forests are located in the Northeast and Midwest regions, with a total of **89,680,169 forested acres within the Partnership area**.



Forests filter sediments and other pollutants before they reach water sources, providing clean water that is vital to communities and habitats. Regional collaboration helps mitigate the multiple pressures that threaten forests (e.g., fragmentation, invasive species, abiotic disturbances) and highly effective coordination across states, multiple levels of government, and non-governmental partners is essential given the multitude of entities with management responsibility related to forests and water. **The Partnership creates a space for collaboration and alignment** between the forest and water sectors to maximize investments and improve program delivery and outcomes across the region. It also includes and supports regional and state-led efforts that work to restore and protect forested lands and priority watersheds.

VISION:

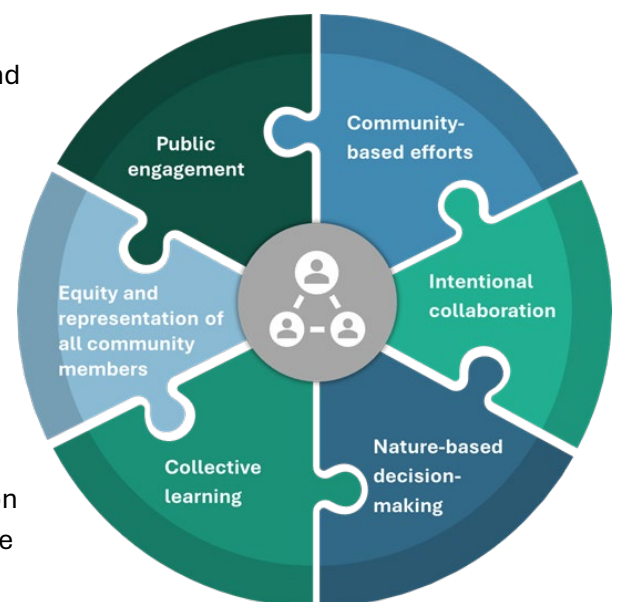
Resilient and well-managed forests that improve water resources and create healthy watersheds.

MISSION:

To create a collaborative network that leverages resources to manage, restore, and conserve forests and protect water resources.

VALUES IN ACTION:

The values of the Partnership (see graphic to the right) create the framework for making governing and operational decisions. We are committed to creating respectful spaces for intentional collaboration that allow for equitable input. In making all voices heard, we produce outcomes that are both community-informed and focused.



WHAT'S NEW IN 2025?

In Summer 2025, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) received the second Landscape Scale Restoration grant for the Partnership. This new grant is enabling us to increase collaborative efforts, expand the partnership, develop and disseminate additional resources, and implement new projects in West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Looking ahead in 2026, we will further build the programmatic structure for the sustainability of the Partnership and create unified messaging materials for elevating and expanding the Partnership. Members will begin regional scoping for partner alignment to build on work that enhances the Partnership without duplicating efforts previously undertaken.

2025 Regional Partnership efforts included:

- Updating the Partnership website and communication tools.
- Growing the Partnership network to over 250 members.
- Organizing meetings and creating tools to engage landowners and align partners.
- Supporting state-led efforts and implementation of on-the-ground projects in the region.

WHAT ARE STATE IMPLEMENTORS DOING THIS YEAR?

In 2026, the Partnership plans to support implementation activities through several projects across the Northeast Mid-Atlantic region.

Ohio moved from outreach to implementation by launching a cost-share program for loggers and foresters, finalizing an application process, and promoting the program at statewide forestry and watershed events. The first payment to a logger is expected in late 2025, which will mark a key milestone for BMP adoption. The program will continue into 2026.

Connecticut advanced nature-based solutions through new legislation, launched a riparian buffer task force, and secured funding for supplemental cost-share programs to help landowners implement resilient forest practices. The state also initiated Technical Service Provider training for foresters starting in 2026.

West Virginia is initiating implementation efforts, leveraging partnerships with Trout Unlimited and conservation districts to restore riparian areas and stream banks. Planned activities include at least 5 acres of riparian restoration, 1 mile of agricultural exclusion fencing, and protection of 0.65 miles of in-stream habitat.

Pennsylvania is preparing to launch outreach and demonstration projects to promote riparian buffer restoration. They will establish at least four demonstration sites and engage over 5,000 private forest landowners and stakeholders through education and state program connections.