Forest Carbon Report: Kentucky

Carbon Definitions

Carbon pool: a component of the forest that can gain or lose carbon over time.

Carbon storage: the amount of carbon retained in a forest and/or carbon pool.

Carbon sequestration: the process by which trees and plants use carbon dioxide and photosynthesis to store carbon as biomass.

Units: Forest carbon is typically expressed in US tons per acre or metric tons (1 metric ton = 1.10 US tons).

Quick Facts on Forest Carbon

- Kentucky has 12.4 million acres of forests and is 49% forested.
- Kentucky forest carbon stocks have increased by 18% from 1990 to 2019.
- Average carbon density in aboveground trees across Kentucky forests is 29.6 US tons per acre.

In Kentucky, forests, urban trees, and harvested wood products:

- Remove 13% of all CO₂ emissions in the state. (Across the US, this value is 14%)
- Store the equivalent of 28 years of all CO₂ emissions produced in the state.