



ILLINOIS

FOREST SERVICE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

STATE FUNDING HISTORY	Enacted FY 2003 (\$)	Enacted FY 2004 (\$)	Pres. Budg. FY 2005 (\$)
EVANSTON			
NC-4902 Natural Environment for Urban Pop	1,413,000	1,391,000	1,406,000
ILLINOIS TOTAL	1,413,000	1,391,000	1,406,000

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT, a division of the USDA Forest Service (FS R&D), strives to be the "go to" organization for information and solutions to sustain forests and rangelands and the values they provide people. FS R&D has the flexibility to address today's issues effectively and to respond to tomorrow's needs. Among the world's leaders in forest conservation research, scientists contribute to the stewardship of land, real property and society by providing research results that help create jobs and affordable homes, and improve the health of trees, forests and forest ecosystems. Innovative research products permit the Forest Service and other public and private land managers to monitor and manage forest responses to environmental change, contributing significantly to the sustainability of the nation's forests and rangelands and improving human health.

FS R&D operates six research stations, the Forest Products Laboratory, and the International Institute of Tropical Forestry located in Puerto Rico. It employs over 500 scientists and hundreds of technical and support personnel at 67 field sites throughout the nation. The FY 2005 President's

Budget includes \$280,654,000 for Forest and Rangeland Research.

The **North Central Research Station**, headquartered in St. Paul, Minnesota, currently has research and development programs in six Midwestern states (Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Michigan, and Wisconsin). The FY 2005 President's Budget is \$22,200,000, an increase of \$1,308,000 above FY 2004.

EVANSTON

NC-4902, Natural Environments for Urban Populations. Improve understanding of how people in cities, towns, and developing areas influence and are influenced by natural spaces. This information supports policies, programs, and guidelines for designing, planning, and managing these areas. As urban centers grow and diversify, huge pressures are placed on natural lands. By understanding the role of people in these landscapes, research helps communities anticipate and respond to widespread changes from the increasing pressures affecting natural environments. <http://www.ncrs.fs.fed.us/4902/>

FIRE RESEARCH IN ILLINOIS SUPPORTS THE NATIONAL FIRE PLAN.

The Station expects to receive additional research funds to support the National Fire Plan in FY 2005.

The Evanston Field Office will receive \$458,000.

- Atmospheric, environmental, and social factors all play critical roles in the efficient implementation of hazardous fuels reduction projects. Station researchers are working hand-in-hand with managers in the Region to help meet fuel reduction targets by developing new products and accelerating their delivery. A novel effort underway at the Station involves taking the latest research tools and technologies “on the road” to deliver and demonstrate them in person and interactively with Regional staff.

FY 2005 PROGRAM CHANGES:

- The FY 2005 President’s Budget directs increased spending on three priority research areas: Invasive species, watershed, and science application technology. It also includes increases for fixed costs.
- FS R&D continues the research at Evanston, which has:
 - Produced a definitive guide to public perceptions and use of Chicago area rivers, now used by community groups to execute more effective river enhancement projects.
 - Mapped housing density trends in the North Central United States, which allows community planners to anticipate and respond in areas of likely future growth.
 - Completed a major national assessment of urban and community forestry that highlights the significance, diversity, and dynamics of urban forests and key steps to

maintain them. This report continues to be widely used by community planners and others.

- Forest Service Research and Development will lead an Agency-wide effort to optimize the delivery and practical use of research findings. This is essential to successful implementation of Forest Service priorities, including the President’s Healthy Forest Initiative. Opportunities have been identified that leverage current science and technology applications efforts in healthy forests applied science, watershed management, invasive species, hazardous fuels utilization and management, and community preparedness. New funds in FY 2005 will be targeted to leading-edge technical assistance on a competitive basis.

SIGNIFICANT RESEARCH PRODUCTS:

Work continues at Evanston toward developing and delivering the following products:

- Guidelines that help local communities plan for people’s needs and preferences for natural areas and biodiversity in urban areas.
- Guidelines that help local communities restore urban parks and forests by identifying the social values such projects must address.
- A model that will help communities effectively balance ecological needs, public values, and economic constraints as they select the optimal mix of natural areas to protect in urbanizing regions.

SOME CLIENTS/COLLABORATORS:

Chicago Wilderness

City of Chicago

Forest Preserve District of Cook County

Friends of the Chicago River

Illinois Natural History Survey

National Park Service

Nature Conservancy

Openlands Project

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

