

Department of Natural Resources

MISSION

The Department of Natural Resources leads Maryland in securing a sustainable future for our environment, society, and economy by preserving, protecting, restoring, and enhancing the State's natural resources.

VISION

In a sustainable Maryland, we recognize that the health of our society and our economy are dependent on the health of our environment. Therefore, we choose to act both collectively and individually to preserve, protect, restore, and enhance our environment for this and future generations.

KEY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Goal 1. Healthy Terrestrial Ecosystems.

- Obj. 1.1** Establish scientifically supported sustainable harvest strategies for game species populations through a variety of survey methods.
- Obj. 1.2** Restore 2,000 acres of critical plant and wildlife habitat by June 30, 2018.
- Obj. 1.3** Preserve and protect Maryland's aquatic and wildlife habitats and populations by increasing the number of conservation inspections conducted to 150,000 by 2017.
- Obj. 1.4** Restore 2,000 miles of riparian forest buffers (RFBs) in Maryland by 2025.
- Obj. 1.5** Provide multiple ecosystem benefits by annually achieving integrated resource management covering 25,000 acres of non-industrial private forest lands and guiding 700 forest landowners in natural resources management that meets their needs.

Performance Measures	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Est.	2020 Est.
Number of deer hunting participants	66,000	66,000	62,000	70,471	60,000	60,000	60,000
Number of bear hunting participants	750	1,060	1,730	1,708	1,683	1,840	2,000
Number of deer harvested	95,800	86,900	84,000	85,193	86,542	85,000	85,000
Number of bear harvested	94	69	95	167	131	150	160
Cumulative number of acres of habitat restored since 2004	1,800	1,855	1,905	2,805	3,796	4,500	5,200
Cumulative acres of early successional habitat created	N/A	N/A	676	1,101	1,503	1,900	2,300
Number of Park Service acres restored to preserve biodiversity	120	120	180	210	160	180	180
Number of conservation inspections conducted	131,268	154,854	161,585	208,587	191,247	158,598	175,241
Number of conservation inspections per officer	763	927	878	1,092	1,301	979	979
Acres of RFBs established	263	251	258	118	167	180	180
Miles of RFBs restored in Maryland	15	17	16	8	14	15	15
Cumulative miles restored in Bay Watershed since 1996	1,369	1,386	1,402	1,410	1,424	1,439	1,454
Number of acres covered by Forest Stewardship Plans	17,651	19,112	32,203	28,123	28,226	25,000	25,000
Total acres of management practices implemented	15,964	23,349	28,948	25,835	29,389	30,000	30,000
Number of wildfires suppressed	135	135	131	126	97	130	130
Acres of wildfires suppressed	1,733	1,061	185	2,255	398	1,000	1,000

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Goal 2. Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems.

- Obj. 2.1** Utilizing the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund, annually reduce coastal non-point source pollution from entering Chesapeake, coastal, and ocean waters. Report on the status of key Chesapeake Bay resources as government, commercial, and citizen efforts to restore water and habitat quality of the Bay and its watershed continue through 2025.
- Obj. 2.2** Annually produce technical assessments on Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) distribution and prevalence for Maryland's waters, develop new management strategies, and provide timely information to the public and agencies charged with protecting public health.
- Obj. 2.3** Assess ecosystem components within non-tidal waters to evaluate critical fisheries and habitat elements for protection and/or restoration.

Performance Measures	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Est.	2020 Est.
Cumulative pounds of coastal non-point sources of nitrogen reduced through annual and structural land use change Best Management Plans (BMPs)	1,576,706	2,104,961	1,678,254	1,937,574	1,614,316	1,863,310	2,060,263
Cumulative pounds of coastal non-point sources of phosphorus reduced through annual and structural land use change BMPs	104,624	165,179	168,531	198,202	218,525	243,655	264,639
Cumulative pounds of coastal non-point sources of sediment reduced through annual and structural land use change BMPs (millions)	367.169	370.729	373.057	373.061	373.071	371.870	371.880
¹ Number of tributaries with Harmful Algal Blooms	12	11	7	10	8	10	10
¹ Number of fish or human health advisories events reported/responses	7	4	6	2	0	3	3
¹ Acres of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (goal=114,034)	39,400	53,783	59,131	62,356	65,263	68,170	71,077
¹ Number of sites where Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS) benthic, fish, herpetofauna, and habitat samples are collected	165	219	220	232	230	166	166
¹ Number of volunteer benthic samples collected and processed	306	240	99	61	49	50	50
¹ Number of freshwater watersheds with data available	43	65	60	63	55	36	36

- Obj. 2.4** Complete comprehensive reviews of local Critical Area Programs to assure consistency with law and regulations.
- Obj. 2.5** Maximize the preservation and protection of living resources and aquatic habitat by providing annual, comprehensive surveys, charts, and accurate markings of State waterways.

Performance Measures	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Est.	2020 Est.
Percentage of Critical Area Programs reviewed and completed during the six-year cycle as required by law, and fully consistent with the Critical Area law and regulation	16%	4%	8%	0%	6%	27%	32%
¹ Number of monitoring stations reporting water quality trends	N/A	196	196	221	222	226	227
Number of oyster habitat and oyster location surveys completed	735	109	147	190	196	101	102
Number of waterway violation cases supported	132	66	65	134	179	101	102

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- Obj. 2.6** Annually achieve fishery sustainability objectives (target fishing level and/or biomass threshold) for blue crab, striped bass and oyster fisheries.
- Obj. 2.7** Restore native oyster habitat and populations in 10 tributaries (5 in Maryland) by 2025 and ensure their protection.
- Obj. 2.8** Facilitate the development of the Maryland aquaculture industry through collaboration with the Maryland Aquaculture Coordinating Council.
- Obj. 2.9** Annually achieve statewide finfish population restoration and enhancement Sportfish Restoration objectives through 2020.

Performance Measures	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Est.	2020 Est.
¹ Number of fisheries being tracked/reviewed annually in accordance to a management plan	20	22	26	26	26	26	27
¹ Harvest rate (exploitation fraction) of female blue crabs relative to target harvest rate (25.5 percent)	17%	15%	16%	21%	25%	25%	25%
¹ Crab winter dredge survey index of stock size (density-crabs/1000m)	32	50	58	47	41	50	50
¹ Striped bass juvenile index (abundance of young of the year fish)	11.0	24.2	2.2	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7
¹ Number of bushels of oysters harvested	422,382	393,588	385,000	224,685	181,329	200,000	200,000
¹ Oyster biomass index (1994 base =1; goal = 10)	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.2
¹ Number of hatchery oysters planted (millions)	511	550	796	840	453	500	500
¹ Acres of oyster habitat rehabilitated through planting of shell or non-shell habitat	82	127	164	106	56	60	60
Number of new or expanded aquaculture businesses	57	54	68	53	46	50	50
¹ Stock hatchery-cultured finfish to support population restoration, population enhancement, corrective stocking, put-and-take fishing, outreach, education, and research (millions)	7.1	5.7	6.6	7.5	5.2	5.0	5.0

Obj. 2.10 Certify five additional Clean Marinas annually.

Obj. 2.11 Screen 20 applications per year to provide grants for the purchase and installation of marine sewage pumpout stations.

Performance Measures	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Est.	2020 Est.
¹ Clean marinas certified	6	3	5	2	3	4	4
¹ Cumulative number of clean marinas in State adopting best management practices (including those decertified over time)	154	155	156	154	149	150	152
Total number of pumpout stations operating in the State	350	350	340	359	360	360	362
New pumpout stations installed	2	1	1	1	2	1	1
Pumpout stations replaced or upgraded	14	9	9	5	4	4	5

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Goal 3. Fiscal Responsibility: Efficient Use of Energy & Resources and Support of Long-Term Economic Prosperity.

Obj. 3.1 Protect Maryland's ecologically-valuable lands and waters through effective project review, including permit applications, and policy strategies.

Obj. 3.2 Protect high value natural resources and outdoor recreational opportunities on public and private lands by reviewing more than 2,500 proposed projects and permits, on an annual basis, to minimize environmental harm and preserve investments in public lands.

Performance Measures	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Est.	2020 Est.
Number of requests for new critical maintenance capital projects on DNR lands	71	92	116	74	81	90	100
Number of requests for new major capital development projects on DNR land (not including critical maintenance projects)	45	27	43	24	52	57	63
Number of projects on DNR lands initiated or completed	260	349	258	234	240	264	290
Percent of major capital development projects on DNR lands initiated or completed	94%	86%	86%	88%	74%	80%	85%
Number of project proposals reviewed for impacts to threatened and endangered species and other species of concern	2,181	2,848	1,989	1,871	1,948	2,000	2,000

Obj. 3.3 Increase the number of State and local governments prepared for the impacts of future storm-events, shoreline changes, and sea level rise.

Obj. 3.4 Annually issue assessments and recommendations to minimize the environmental, public health, and socioeconomic impacts of electric energy facilities.

Performance Measures	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Est.	2020 Est.
Cumulative number of Maryland's state agencies and coastal communities who have incorporated sea level and climate considerations into planning and management strategies	4	8	8	14	6	5	5
¹ Number of new power plant/transmission line projects under review	44	35	41	30	26	34	34

Goal 4. Citizen Stewardship, Outdoor Recreation, & Opportunities to Take Action.

Obj. 4.1 Annually increase the number of youth conservation program participants and projects.

Performance Measures	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Est.	2020 Est.
Additional number of youth participants in corps programs	359	369	383	498	519	450	450
Number of stewardship projects completed by youth corps	2,473	2,388	2,400	2,755	2,787	2,500	2,500

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- Obj. 4.2** Increase attendance of Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) sponsored workshops and trainings.
- Obj. 4.3** Contribute to achieving State education mandates and goals for environmental literacy by providing a combination of workshops, training, and educational opportunities that support schools (through professional development for educators and classroom and outdoor experiences for students), parks, and partner environmental education providers.
- Obj. 4.4** Annually provide outdoor recreational, historical, and cultural resource experiences for over 10 million visitors to State Parks.
- Obj. 4.5** Annually increase customer service satisfaction rating and improve fiscal sustainability.

Performance Measures	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Est.	2020 Est.
MET Workshop and conference attendance	287	253	377	360	314	350	375
Number of educators trained	1,985	2,006	1,978	1,920	764	780	790
Number of students participating in classroom, field and other activities	54,556	63,978	69,102	61,729	45,812	53,000	56,000
Number of DNR social media followers	86,500	90,000	125,000	215,000	217,000	298,000	325,000
² Number of State Park acres available to the public	140,500	138,015	138,270	137,716	140,761	140,000	141,000
² Acres of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)	112,575	119,808	123,530	123,790	125,122	126,294	126,294
Number of visitors using parks (millions)	10.30	11.26	12.94	13.99	13.78	13.50	13.50
Number of trail miles available	591	880	919	1,020	957	984	1,010
Number of Park Service interpretive and environmental education program participants	N/A	100,135	245,547	248,901	266,382	267,000	268,000
Percent of visitors rating their park experience as excellent or above average	92%	91%	90%	90%	91%	92%	92%

- Obj. 4.6** Annually reduce the number of accidents and injuries through education programs, to include public relations outreach efforts targeted at the prior years boating and hunting accident stats for causal factors.

Performance Measures	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Est.	2020 Est.
Number of reportable boating accidents	120	130	150	154	164	173	185
Number of hunting accidents	8	7	16	18	9	11	14

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Obj. 4.7 Ensure safe and enjoyable recreational opportunities for boaters, hunters, park visitors, and others participating in outdoor recreation activities by providing effective law enforcement services as a public safety agency.

Obj. 4.8 Conduct and perform daily patrols and activities that support Maritime Homeland Security designed to provide a safe and secure environment for Maryland citizens and visitors alike.

Performance Measures	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Est.	2020 Est.
Number of hunters checked	13,425	16,561	16,501	16,614	15,395	14,418	15,753
Number of boating inspections	23,271	34,405	43,281	38,897	14,115	28,188	31,146
Number of law enforcement officers	172	167	184	191	147	162	179
Number of law enforcement contacts	237,955	294,075	309,427	270,877	101,930	227,286	251,137
Number of law enforcement citations/warnings	35,603	31,489	31,239	29,826	21,991	28,026	30,967
Hours spent on Waterway Patrols	29,517	39,736	42,018	40,457	31,912	40,176	44,392
Hours spent on Public Land Patrols	58,741	59,647	62,544	63,272	63,405	51,678	57,101
Uniform Crime Report data – Part 1 crimes	253	227	149	163	121	182	182
Number of Homeland Security patrol checks	4,589	6,681	12,142	15,054	14,423	12,960	14,320

Obj. 4.9 Coordinate with Departmental units and other Federal, State and local agencies to develop assessments of existing and potential boating access sites and maps for the general boating public and annually provide new or enhanced public boating access sites throughout the State.

Obj. 4.10 Support the Maryland State Boat Act Advisory Committee in reviewing and implementing regulations affecting the equipment and operation of vessels in Maryland waters. Ensure that State-owned and State-leased marina facilities remain viable. Oversee the completion of capital projects at these facilities to maximize slip occupancy and public access.

Performance Measures	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Est.	2020 Est.
¹ Potential public access boating sites identified	5	5	5	10	12	12	12
Number of projects provided technical assistance	24	25	25	66	108	110	110
¹ Number of public boating sites enhanced or created	23	30	52	61	68	60	60
Number abandoned vessels removed from State waters	19	16	23	26	27	25	28
Cumulative miles of water trails established in State	709	737	745	753	782	850	875
Number of waterway projects funded annually	25	35	59	60	49	57	58
Amount of funding awarded for waterway projects (\$)	4,740,000	4,000,000	6,000,000	10,500,000	10,500,000	12,500,000	13,500,000
Number of projects incorporating sustainable components	6	24	40	39	40	40	40
Number of dredge projects funded annually	1	8	15	14	12	17	18
Amount of funding awarded for dredge projects (\$)	97,000	1,575,272	2,949,847	4,279,975	4,409,475	5,722,248	6,000,000
¹ Number of long-term slip leases realized	331	300	325	223	250	265	285
¹ Number of transient slip leases realized	823	550	555	575	585	625	650

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Goal 5. Vibrant Communities & Neighborhoods.

Obj. 5.1 Annually meet Departmental land conservation goals to protect strategic natural resources while providing recreational and economic opportunities.

Obj. 5.2 Protect an additional 1,000 acres annually with MET conservation easements, and seek to visually inspect (monitor) each property once annually.

Performance Measures	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Est.	2020 Est.
Program Open Space (POS) acquisition acres approved by the Board of Public Works (BPW)	4,124	4,425	5,596	2,222	6,578	6,900	6,900
Rural Legacy easement/fee simple acres approved by the BPW	3,114	2,862	3,533	3,778	4,850	5,000	6,000
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) permanent easement acres approved by the BPW	0	830	259	1,123	632	500	500
Number of acres protected annually by MET easements	2,438	763	808	1,465	1,246	1,000	1,000
Number of acres of protected lands	9,676	8,880	10,196	8,588	13,305	13,400	14,400
Percent of POS Stateside acquisition acres approved by the BPW located within a Targeted Ecological Area	93%	91%	97%	88%	95%	85%	85%
Percent of all easements monitored and under compliance with easement conditions	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of MET easements monitored by volunteers	191	145	40	53	26	200	200
Number of MET easements monitored by local land trusts	189	137	101	124	106	140	150

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- Obj. 5.3** Annually fund more than 100 projects to assist local subdivisions in the planning, acquisition, and/or development of recreation land or open space area.
- Obj. 5.4** Annually, 80 percent of acquisition contracts negotiated by Land Acquisition and Planning (LAP) are below the highest appraised value for acquisitions.
- Obj. 5.5** Work with communities and jurisdictions to conserve existing tree canopy and expand it by 45 acres annually.

Performance Measures	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Est.	2020 Est.
Number of local POS projects	110	138	131	107	118	110	110
Number of community parks and playgrounds projects	31	32	55	29	27	26	25
Number of negotiations conducted annually by LAP	48	30	26	24	31	35	38
Percent of approved contracts negotiated by LAP with contract price below the highest appraised value	88%	80%	81%	100%	96%	85%	85%
Acres of trees planted in developed areas	N/A	100	81	136	139	140	140
Acres of trees planted in rural areas (non-buffer)	N/A	326	292	85	100	200	200
Acres reforested for Forest Conservation Act (FCA) mitigation	312	318	759	589	569	600	500
Acres conserved through FCA long-term protection	2,280	2,040	4,503	2,729	5,155	5,000	4,000
Number of roadside tree permits issued	732	1,043	1,190	1,632	1,616	1,600	1,600
Acres of practices on Municipal Watersheds	130	120	127	230	292	300	300
Acres of restored forest land (afforestation and reforestation)	N/A	1,136	1,007	734	796	800	800

- Obj. 5.6** Preserve and restore the protective functions of near shore tidal habitats such as marshes, beaches, dunes, and wetlands.

Performance Measures	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Est.	2020 Est.
Square feet of near shore habitat created or protected	150,000	150,000	66,000	33,615	45,000	93,800	318,000

NOTES

¹ Data for 2018 is estimated because it is reported on a calendar year basis.

² Acreage declines in 2017 due to resolution of errors in State Park acreage data.