

# 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 and/or maintain 5,000 acres of critical plant and wildlife habitat by June 30, 2022.
- Obj. 1.3** Preserve and protect Maryland's aquatic and wildlife habitats and populations by increasing the number of conservation inspections conducted to 170,000 by 2021.
- 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	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.
Number of deer hunting participants	60,000	70,400	70,500	62,000	62,000	62,000	62,000
Number of bear hunting participants	1,683	2,059	2,375	2,643	1,870	2,300	2,300
Number of deer harvested	86,542	77,382	79,457	81,729	70,845	75,000	75,000
Number of bears harvested	131	135	145	117	54	100	100
Cumulative number of acres of habitat restored since 2004	3,796	4,196	4,446	7,632	11,867	16,217	20,717
Cumulative acres of early successional habitat created	1,503	2,549	3,632	5,130	5,381	5,630	5,880
Number of Park Service acres restored to preserve biodiversity	160	606	131	39	155	200	250
Number of conservation inspections conducted	144,507	146,210	170,789	114,965	154,025	170,520	179,375
Number of conservation inspections per officer	983	949	959	653	1,007	1,015	1,025
Acres of RFBs established	167	145	213	169	226	250	275
Miles of RFBs restored in Maryland	14	7	17	10	10	14	16
Cumulative miles restored in Bay Watershed since 1996	1,424	1,431	1,448	1,458	1,468	1,482	1,498
Number of acres covered by Forest Stewardship Plans	28,226	24,781	23,449	33,989	22,802	22,000	22,000
Total acres of management practices implemented	29,389	29,175	28,220	17,507	25,015	25,000	25,000
Number of wildfires suppressed	97	47	158	77	124	100	100
Acres of wildfires suppressed	398	1,223	1,678	1,153	3,067	1,500	1,500

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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	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.
Cumulative pounds of coastal non-point sources of nitrogen reduced through annual and structural land use change Best Management Plans (BMPs)	1,614,316	3,509,111	4,591,551	4,330,106	4,464,554	4,684,834	4,810,735
Cumulative pounds of coastal non-point sources of phosphorus reduced through annual and structural land use change BMPs	218,525	193,764	199,538	213,318	220,550	225,863	233,200
Cumulative pounds of coastal non-point sources of sediment reduced through annual and structural land use change BMPs (millions)	373.071	376.006	370.758	370.766	373.039	374.499	370.768
<sup>1,2</sup> Number of tributaries with Harmful Algal Blooms	8	8	18	18	18	18	18
<sup>1,2</sup> Number of fish or human health advisories events reported/responses	0	3	4	4	4	4	4
<sup>1</sup> Acres of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (goal=114,034)	56,994	39,264	35,266	35,194	49,900	58,000	63,500
<sup>1</sup> Number of sites where Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS) benthic, fish, herpetofauna, or habitat samples are collected	230	152	162	171	179	170	170
<sup>1</sup> Number of volunteer benthic samples collected and processed	49	64	0	0	0	0	0
<sup>1</sup> Number of freshwater watersheds with data available	55	46	41	84	84	84	84

- 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	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 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	6%	3%	3%	9%	6%	18%	3%
<sup>1</sup> Number of monitoring stations reporting water quality trends	207	162	221	221	223	226	229
Number of oyster habitat and oyster location surveys completed	196	285	104	97	27	27	27
Number of waterway violation cases supported	179	103	71	16	8	8	8

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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 2021.

Performance Measures	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.
<sup>1</sup> Number of fisheries being tracked/reviewed annually in accordance to a management plan	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
<sup>1</sup> Harvest rate (exploitation fraction) of female blue crabs relative to target harvest rate (25.5 percent)	23%	25%	23%	26%	28%	28%	28%
<sup>1</sup> Female crab winter dredge survey index of stock size (density-female crabs/1000m)	16.7	19.8	14.5	16.5	10.6	15.0	15.0
<sup>1</sup> Striped bass juvenile index (abundance of young of the year fish)	14.8	3.4	2.5	3.2	5.4	11.4	11.4
Number of bushels of oysters harvested by the public fishery	183,176	145,336	274,325	346,698	542,888	300,000	300,000
Oyster biomass index (1994 base =1; goal = 10)	1.4	1.8	1.7	2.0	2.7	2.6	2.5
<sup>1</sup> Number of hatchery oysters planted in large-scale restoration sanctuaries (millions)	605	24	164	697	247	600	600
<sup>1</sup> Acres of oyster habitat restored in large-scale restoration sanctuaries	59	11	12	66	41	100	100
Number of new or expanded aquaculture businesses	46	42	41	26	23	31	36
Stock hatchery-cultured finfish to support population restoration, population enhancement, corrective stocking, put-and-take fishing, outreach, education, and research (millions)	5.2	6.4	5.2	5.0	6.5	6.0	6.0

**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	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.
<sup>1</sup> Clean marinas certified	3	0	3	1	0	2	1
<sup>1</sup> Cumulative number of clean marinas in State adopting best management practices (including those decertified over time)	149	148	152	150	146	150	150
Total number of pumpout stations operating in the State	360	358	352	349	350	352	350
New pumpout stations installed	2	1	2	0	2	2	1
Pumpout stations replaced or upgraded	4	4	8	11	8	8	10

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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	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.
Number of requests for new critical maintenance capital projects on DNR lands	81	95	84	75	60	66	73
Number of requests for new major capital development projects on DNR land (not including critical maintenance projects)	52	47	58	47	33	41	51
Number of projects on DNR lands initiated or completed	240	108	96	76	56	59	68
Percent of major capital development projects on DNR lands initiated or completed	74%	86%	90%	72%	75%	90%	90%
Number of project proposals reviewed for impacts to threatened and endangered species and other species of concern	1,948	2,080	2,296	2,025	1,974	2,100	2,300

**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	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.
Cumulative number of Maryland’s state agencies and coastal communities who have incorporated sea level and climate considerations into planning and management strategies	6	6	7	46	59	76	93
<sup>1</sup> Number of new power plant/transmission line projects under review	26	24	8	4	8	7	11

**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	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.
Additional number of youth participants in corps programs	519	350	387	85	56	96	100
Number of stewardship projects completed by youth corps	2,787	2,517	2,621	101	198	200	200

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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	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.
Number of people attending MET educational and outreach events	314	235	151	270	438	270	270
Number of educators trained	764	731	410	650	438	210	210
Number of students participating in classroom, field and other activities	45,812	22,252	16,259	9,154	19,131	35,000	35,000
Number of DNR social media followers	217,000	282,000	331,000	363,173	401,182	393,159	385,296
Number of State Park acres available to the public	140,761	141,020	141,180	141,568	142,228	142,500	143,000
Acres of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)	125,122	126,609	128,714	129,101	129,160	129,475	129,600
Number of visitors using parks (millions)	13.78	13.56	17.49	21.66	19.35	19.35	19.35
Number of trail miles available	957	1,088	1,134	1,153	1,170	1,179	1,190
Number of Park Service interpretive and environmental education program participants	266,382	248,600	126,000	90,000	171,509	210,000	210,000
Percent of visitors rating their park experience as excellent or above average	91%	92%	94%	93%	93%	94%	94%

- 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	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.
Number of reportable boating accidents	164	170	148	151	138	140	145
Number of hunting accidents	9	12	14	12	7	6	5

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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.

<b>Performance Measures</b>	<b>2018 Act.</b>	<b>2019 Act.</b>	<b>2020 Act.</b>	<b>2021 Act.</b>	<b>2022 Act.</b>	<b>2023 Est.</b>	<b>2024 Est.</b>
Number of hunters checked	15,395	15,276	19,312	13,014	19,338	20,885	22,556
Number of boating inspections	14,115	17,015	34,504	23,253	33,809	36,514	39,435
Number of law enforcement officers	147	154	178	176	153	168	175
Number of law enforcement contacts	101,930	115,743	116,635	110,669	118,737	128,236	138,495
Number of law enforcement citations/warnings	21,991	27,477	27,077	30,427	25,175	27,189	29,364
Hours spent on Waterway Patrols	31,912	28,572	43,395	44,348	86,892	88,892	90,892
Hours spent on Public Land Patrols	63,405	40,222	55,554	36,653	74,416	76,416	78,416
Uniform Crime Report data – Part 1 crimes	121	137	127	194	104	103	102
Number of Homeland Security patrol checks	14,423	14,691	14,529	10,444	17,801	19,225	20,763

- 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.

<b>Performance Measures</b>	<b>2018 Act.</b>	<b>2019 Act.</b>	<b>2020 Act.</b>	<b>2021 Act.</b>	<b>2022 Act.</b>	<b>2023 Est.</b>	<b>2024 Est.</b>
<sup>1</sup> Potential public access boating sites identified	12	12	12	10	10	10	10
Number of projects provided technical assistance	108	30	114	122	98	100	100
<sup>1</sup> Number of public boating sites enhanced or created	68	48	38	31	38	35	30
Number abandoned vessels removed from State waters	27	38	67	39	27	30	30
Cumulative miles of water trails established in State	782	788	788	788	800	805	810
Number of waterway projects funded annually	49	57	58	43	60	58	48
Amount of funding awarded for waterway projects (\$)	10,500,000	12,500,000	13,500,000	13,500,000	15,081,254	16,000,000	15,960,000
Number of projects incorporating sustainable components	40	40	32	28	30	30	26
Number of dredge projects funded annually	12	17	16	5	12	14	14
Amount of funding awarded for dredge projects (\$)	4,409,475	5,722,248	6,012,000	2,232,603	4,240,900	4,000,000	6,000,000
<sup>1</sup> Number of long-term slip leases realized	250	261	253	278	284	304	324
<sup>1</sup> Number of transient slip leases realized	585	640	507	554	793	833	957

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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	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.
Program Open Space (POS) acquisition acres approved by the Board of Public Works (BPW)	6,578	5,203	4,444	3,763	2,980	4,400	4,900
Rural Legacy easement/fee simple acres approved by the BPW	4,850	5,400	6,249	4,793	3,825	5,000	5,000
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) permanent easement acres approved by the BPW	632	687	322	343	528	500	500
Number of acres protected annually by MET easements	1,246	940	1,217	1,260	1,421	1,000	1,000
Number of acres of protected lands	13,305	12,231	12,231	10,159	8,754	10,900	11,400
Percent of POS Stateside acquisition acres approved by the BPW located within a Targeted Ecological Area	95%	96%	67%	61%	88%	70%	70%
Percent of all easements monitored and under compliance with easement conditions	100%	100%	100%	100%	98%	100%	100%
Number of MET easements monitored by volunteers	26	147	127	212	174	200	200
Number of MET easements monitored by local land trusts	106	338	337	378	397	400	400

**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	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.
Number of local POS projects	118	152	139	175	131	150	150
Number of community parks and playgrounds projects	27	27	19	20	31	39	23
Number of negotiations conducted annually by LAP	31	43	39	33	24	30	30
Percent of approved contracts negotiated by LAP with contract price below the highest appraised value	96%	86%	93%	100%	79%	80%	80%
Acres of trees planted in developed areas	139	128	53	26	42	50	50
Acres of trees planted in rural areas (non-buffer)	100	109	229	169	368	400	450
Acres reforested for Forest Conservation Act (FCA) mitigation	569	345	580	445	467	550	550
Acres conserved through FCA long-term protection	5,155	3,462	3,747	3,645	3,644	3,650	3,650
Number of roadside tree permits issued	1,616	1,584	1,575	1,298	1,424	1,450	1,450
Acres of practices on Municipal Watersheds	292	527	201	235	163	200	200
Acres of restored forest land (afforestation and reforestation)	796	520	780	627	737	750	775

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

Performance Measures	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.
Square feet of near shore habitat created or protected	45,000	20,000	11,000	0	25,000	20,000	20,000

**NOTES**

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<sup>1</sup> Data for 2022 is estimated because it is reported on a calendar year basis.

<sup>2</sup> Data for 2021 is estimated.