

Department of Natural Resources

MISSION

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources leads the state toward a resilient future by using data, partnerships, and an innovative spirit to improve ecological, social, and economic outcomes for all communities.

VISION

Inspired by nature and rooted in science to improve and grow stewardship for Maryland's natural resources.

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, 2027.
- 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.
- Obj. 1.6** Protect and improve water and soil quality to create healthier environment.

Performance Measures	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Act.	2026 Est.	2027 Est.
Number of deer hunting participants	62,000	62,000	59,692	52,783	57,740	57,643	57,643
Number of bear hunting participants	2,643	1,870	1,889	1,848	1,843	1,863	1,863
Number of deer harvested	81,729	70,845	76,687	72,642	84,201	77,221	77,221
Number of bears harvested	117	54	103	103	125	110	110
Cumulative number of acres of habitat restored since 2004	4,235	4,350	5,200	7,098	9,795	10,795	11,795
Cumulative acres of early successional habitat created	5,130	5,381	5,632	5,830	6,269	6,520	6,770
Number of Park Service acres restored to preserve biodiversity	39	155	376	327	266	250	300
Number of conservation inspections conducted	114,965	154,047	142,521	133,441	136,110	138,882	141,660
Number of conservation inspections per officer	653	1,007	885	691	547	536	527
Acres of RFBs established	169	226	206	341	387	325	350
Miles of RFBs restored in Maryland	10	10	9	23	17	18	18
Cumulative miles restored in Bay Watershed since 1996	1,458	1,468	1,477	1,500	1,517	1,535	1,553
Number of acres covered by Forest Stewardship Plans	33,989	22,802	22,047	21,489	22,260	23,000	22,620
Total acres of management practices implemented	17,507	25,015	22,639	23,200	24,799	22,600	23,600
Number of wildfires suppressed	77	124	183	167	225	156	156
Acres of wildfires suppressed	1,153	3,067	4,658	956	8,291	3,301	4,055
Number of acres of land protected to increase access for Marylanders	2,658	2,284	1,623	1,873	3,457	3,000	3,000
Number of restoration projects awarded for implementation that improve shallow water habitats and address community needs.	31	27	30	26	39	56	40

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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	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Act.	2026 Est.	2027 Est.
Cumulative pounds of coastal non-point sources of nitrogen reduced through annual and structural land use change Best Management Plans (BMPs)	4,330,106	4,464,554	4,683,602	5,038,497	4,830,571	4,644,482	3,214,052
Cumulative pounds of coastal non-point sources of phosphorus reduced through annual and structural land use change BMPs	213,318	220,550	228,377	235,094	254,153	269,376	186,412
Cumulative pounds of coastal non-point sources of sediment reduced through annual and structural land use change BMPs (millions)	370.766	373.039	370.779	370.780	370.801	370.817	256.611
¹ Number of tributaries with Harmful Algal Blooms	18	N/A	3	4	8	8	4
¹ Number of fish or human health advisories events reported/responses	4	4	6	6	4	4	8
¹ Acres of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (goal=114,034)	35,194	37,738	38,188	36,794	37,162	37,534	37,909
¹ Number of sites where Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS) benthic, fish, herpetofauna, or habitat samples are collected	171	189	137	139	159	160	160
¹ Number of freshwater mussel surveys	30	36	46	38	40	40	35
¹ Number of freshwater watersheds with data available	84	84	84	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	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Act.	2026 Est.	2027 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	9%	6%	3%	3%	8%	16%	14%
¹ Number of monitoring stations reporting water quality trends	198	199	197	197	206	208	208
Number of oyster habitat and oyster location surveys completed	97	27	30	68	83	94	106
Number of waterway violation cases supported	16	8	16	18	N/A	N/A	N/A

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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	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Act.	2026 Est.	2027 Est.
¹ Number of fisheries being tracked/reviewed annually in accordance to a management plan	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
¹ Harvest rate (exploitation fraction) of female blue crabs relative to target harvest rate (28 percent)	29%	31%	25%	22%	28%	28%	28%
¹ Female crab winter dredge survey index of stock size (density-female crabs/1000m)	16.5	10.6	15.5	13.5	11.7	15.0	15.0
¹ Striped bass juvenile index (abundance of young of the year fish)	3.2	3.6	1.0	2.0	4.0	7.0	7.0
Number of bushels of oysters harvested by the public fishery	346,549	550,236	722,923	423,455	319,986	400,000	380,000
Oyster biomass index (1994 base =1; goal = 10)	2.0	2.7	2.4	2.2	2.3	2.6	2.4
¹ Number of hatchery oysters planted in large-scale restoration sanctuaries (millions)	697	511	940	376	535	566	496
¹ Acres of oyster habitat restored in large-scale restoration sanctuaries	66	41	174	64	63	216	30
Number of new or expanded aquaculture businesses	26	23	43	23	27	30	33
Stock hatchery-cultured finfish to support population restoration, population enhancement, corrective stocking, put-and-take fishing, outreach, education, and research (millions)	5.0	6.5	4.9	5.0	1.9	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 pump out stations.

Performance Measures	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Act.	2026 Est.	2027 Est.
¹ Clean marinas certified	1	0	3	3	3	3	3
¹ Cumulative number of clean marinas in State adopting best management practices (including those decertified over time)	150	148	146	149	145	148	148
Total number of pumpout stations operating in the State	349	350	350	333	340	345	350
New pumpout stations installed	0	2	1	1	0	2	1
Pumpout stations replaced or upgraded	11	8	8	12	16	8	9

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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	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Act.	2026 Est.	2027 Est.
Number of requests for new critical maintenance capital projects on DNR lands	75	60	202	673	168	176	180
Number of requests for new major capital development projects on DNR land (not including critical maintenance projects)	47	33	37	35	34	35	37
Number of projects on DNR lands initiated or completed	76	56	195	236	210	214	218
Percent of major capital development projects on DNR lands initiated or completed	72%	75%	92%	78%	76%	80%	80%
Number of reviews for projects on public lands	354	340	310	325	340	384	390
Number of external permits and projects reviewed for impacts	2,210	2,148	2,043	2,120	2,240	2,194	2,200
Total number of proactive measures developed that afford additional protection to Maryland's natural resources	12	11	14	15	16	13	10
Number of project proposals reviewed for impacts to threatened and endangered species and other species of concern	2,025	1,974	2,021	2,241	2,527	2,650	2,750

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	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Act.	2026 Est.	2027 Est.
Cumulative number of Maryland's state agencies and coastal communities who have incorporated sea level and climate considerations into planning and management strategies	46	59	11	14	17	8	10
¹ Number of new power plant/transmission line projects under review	6	7	8	28	48	65	85

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	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Act.	2026 Est.	2027 Est.
Additional number of youth participants in corps programs	85	56	76	52	42	20	50
Number of stewardship projects completed by youth corps	101	198	202	210	86	100	125

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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 and enhance outdoor recreational, historical, and cultural resource experiences for over 10 million visitors to public lands.

Performance Measures	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Act.	2026 Est.	2027 Est.
Number of trainings, training materials, and technical assistance offered to land managers, outdoor recreation providers, and the public on enhancing outdoor recreation	N/A	N/A	N/A	24	87	85	90
Number of communication, mapping and wayfinding planning efforts or projects to improve the visitor experience for outdoor recreation.	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	40	40	45

Obj. 4.5 Annually increase customer service satisfaction rating and improve fiscal sustainability.

Performance Measures	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Act.	2026 Est.	2027 Est.
Number of people attending MET educational and outreach events	270	438	524	361	150	300	300
Number of educators trained	650	438	276	262	485	352	350
Number of students participating in classroom, field and other activities	9,154	19,131	27,049	13,417	8,151	8,000	8,000
Number of DNR social media followers	180,380	184,267	197,165	200,988	247,970	297,970	327,988
Number of State Park acres available to the public	141,568	142,228	142,433	142,815	143,806	144,366	144,926
Acres of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)	129,101	129,160	127,587	127,831	128,624	129,024	129,424
Number of visitors using parks (millions)	21.66	19.35	17.76	17.40	16.89	17.00	17.20
Number of trail miles available	1,153	1,170	1,173	1,177	1,183	1,192	1,204
Number of Park Service interpretive and environmental education program participants	90,000	171,509	166,853	221,884	137,232	90,000	90,000
Percent of visitors rating their park experience as excellent or above average	93%	93%	92%	92%	92%	92%	92%

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Obj. 4.6 Public Safety: Deliver efficient and effective law enforcement services and public outreach efforts to create safe, enjoyable, and inclusive environments for all citizens and visitors engaging in outdoor recreation activities.

Performance Measures	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Act.	2026 Est.	2027 Est.
Number of vessel crashes	151	138	122	132	112	95	81
Number of hunting accidents	12	7	19	20	17	14	12
Number of law enforcement calls for service	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	89,796	91,591	93,423
Number of educational community outreach programs	N/A	15,579	11,645	16,594	19,804	20,200	20,604

Obj. 4.7 Waterways: Reduce the number of vessel crashes and related injuries through enforcement, inspections, education, and public outreach efforts focused on the leading causes identified in the previous year's crash statistics.

Obj. 4.8 Hunting & Wildlife: Reduce the number of Hunting Accidents, Hunting related injuries, and Wildlife Violations through enforcement, compliance checks, education, and public outreach efforts focused on the leading causes identified in the previous year's statistics.

Performance Measures	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Act.	2026 Est.	2027 Est.
Number of law enforcement officers	176	153	161	193	249	259	269
Number of officer vessel safety inspections conducted	23,253	33,809	31,662	29,318	29,904	30,502	31,112
Number of reserve officer vessel safety inspections conducted	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	188	197	202
Number of enforcement actions: Operating vessel while under the influence of or impaired by alcohol and/or drugs	52	56	45	52	39	40	41
Number of enforcement actions: Operating in reckless or dangerous manner	487	557	375	378	301	256	252
Number of vessel operating hours	44,348	86,892	84,577	99,612	101,604	103,636	105,709
Number of negligent and/or careless hunting enforcement actions	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
Number of hunting calls for service (CFS)	N/A	N/A	N/A	9,051	9,028	9,209	9,393
Number of wildlife related inspections	N/A	N/A	N/A	157	132	135	139
Uniform Crime Report data – Part 1 crimes	194	104	100	138	135	132	130
Number of Homeland Security patrol checks	10,444	17,801	14,968	11,471	11,700	11,934	12,172

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Obj. 4.9 Fisheries: Protect and achieve sustainability of the State's Commercial and Recreational Fisheries through enforcement actions and education.

Performance Measures	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Act.	2026 Est.	2027 Est.
¹ Cumulative number of public access points	493	496	508	520	527	524	524
Number of projects provided technical assistance	122	98	125	150	175	175	175
¹ Number of public boating sites enhanced or created	31	38	21	39	38	35	32
Number abandoned vessels removed from State waters	39	27	32	41	44	45	50
Number of commercial fishery vessel inspections	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,768	1,804	1,840
Number of commercial fishery market inspections	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	95	97	99
Number of community outreach programs (fisheries)	N/A	24	28	27	46	48	50
Cumulative miles of water trails established in State	788	800	800	800	810	815	820
Number of waterway projects funded annually	43	60	45	47	62	42	32
Amount of funding awarded for waterway projects (\$)	13,500,000	15,081,254	13,500,000	21,500,000	21,500,000	21,500,000	21,000,000
Number of projects incorporating sustainable components	28	30	18	22	32	24	16
Number of dredge projects funded annually	5	12	14	15	21	12	6
Amount of funding awarded for dredge projects (\$)	2,232,603	4,240,900	4,751,713	5,817,060	6,400,845	7,164,465	5,000,000
¹ Number of long-term slip leases realized	278	284	282	257	288	350	360
¹ Number of transient slip leases realized	554	793	686	679	652	730	750

Obj. 4.10 Public Lands: Provide efficient and effective law enforcement services and public outreach efforts to create a safe, enjoyable, and inclusive environment for all citizens and visitors utilizing our public land resources and facilities.

Performance Measures	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Act.	2026 Est.	2027 Est.
Number of public land calls for service (CFS)	20,802	20,478	20,396	24,460	28,248	28,813	29,389
Number of closing against entry enforcement actions	1,092	992	991	1,058	1,208	1,232	1,257
Number of traffic enforcement actions	3,505	2,671	2,312	2,633	2,569	2,620	2,672
Number of parking enforcement actions	1,718	1,501	618	1,009	340	347	354
Number of intoxicants enforcement actions	641	773	827	1,096	1,214	1,190	1,167
Number of disorderly conduct enforcement actions	112	81	77	85	59	62	64
Number of community outreach programs (public lands)	N/A	N/A	67	66	79	83	87

Obj. 4.11 Investigation Services: Employ Task Forces, Covert Operations & Investigative Units to collect intelligence and conduct enforcement actions that identify, prevent, and combat criminal acts as well as conservation and natural resource violations.

Performance Measures	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Act.	2026 Est.	2027 Est.
Number of specialized unit investigations	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	185	189	193

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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	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Act.	2026 Est.	2027 Est.
Program Open Space (POS) acquisition acres approved by the Board of Public Works (BPW)	3,763	2,980	2,090	1,884	4,488	4,800	4,500
Rural Legacy easement/fee simple acres approved by the BPW	4,793	3,825	5,437	3,764	5,573	4,500	3,000
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) permanent easement acres approved by the BPW	343	528	243	242	263	700	400
Number of acres protected annually by MET easements	1,260	1,421	1,255	1,084	334	1,000	1,000
Number of acres of protected lands	10,159	8,754	9,025	6,974	10,658	11,000	8,900
Percent of POS Stateside acquisition acres approved by the BPW located within a Targeted Ecological Area	61%	88%	94%	53%	67%	70%	70%
Percent of all easements monitored and under compliance with easement conditions	100%	98%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of MET easements monitored by volunteers	81	171	69	3	7	70	70
Number of MET easements monitored by local land trusts	386	409	437	617	294	500	500

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	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Act.	2026 Est.	2027 Est.
Number of local POS projects	175	131	136	117	126	100	100
Number of community parks and playgrounds projects	20	31	40	20	29	26	26
Number of negotiations conducted annually by LAP	33	24	23	15	45	39	40
Percent of approved contracts negotiated by LAP with contract price below the highest appraised value	100%	79%	86%	78%	90%	80%	80%
Acres of trees planted in developed areas	26	42	78	126	116	120	120
Acres of trees planted in rural areas (non-buffer)	169	368	718	583	742	750	800
Acres reforested for Forest Conservation Act (FCA) mitigation	445	467	518	582	515	505	517
Acres conserved through FCA long-term protection	3,645	3,644	3,611	3,723	3,949	3,714	3,728
Number of roadside tree permits issued	1,298	1,424	1,250	1,353	1,209	1,307	1,309
Acres of practices on Municipal Watersheds	235	163	65	160	26	130	150
Acres of restored forest land (afforestation and reforestation)	627	737	923	1,026	1,273	1,300	1,300

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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	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Act.	2026 Est.	2027 Est.
Square feet of near shore habitat created or protected	-	25000	5,110	-	4,375	7,115	9,238

NOTES

¹ Data for 2025 is estimated or not available because it is reported on a calendar year basis.