

application of technical forestry to individual forest acreages have a long history in the Service, urban and community forestry is, in part, a new program, where the main emphasis will be on working with developers, builders, architects, and city and county planners in careful developmental planning and large-scale forestry projects. Supervision of utility trimming and municipal tree care programs continues to be an important facet of urban and community forestry. The urban forestry concept includes individual shade tree consultations to private landowners, as time permits.

Forty-two percent of Maryland's land area is in forests—a total of 2,653,200 acres in the hands of 95,800 private owners. The Service offers advice and assistance to all landowners in the multiple use development of their woodlands. This service is available to individuals, municipalities, and developers. Timber marking, timber stand improvement, wildlife habitat, tree design for subdivisions, and overall environmental aesthetics are all covered in the Service's Cooperative Forest Management Program (formerly the Technical Forestry and Reforestation Program). The Program also is concerned with the establishment of trees in the environment and to this end operates and maintains the Buckingham Forest Tree Nursery, which produces approximately 7,000,000 seedlings and 3,000 to 5,000 roadside trees annually for distribution in Maryland.

Prevention and control of wildfire in the forests of the State is an important function of sound forest management. Federal and State programs provide for a cooperative effort in this activity. The program is vital not only to the continuance and expansion of the forest industry, but also to the general welfare of the public by providing protection for watersheds, wildlife, park and recreation areas, farms, industries, homes, and the air. The Department is a member of the Mid-Atlantic Forest Fire Compact, which provides for mutual assistance among the states in the event of a fire emergency.

Fire preparedness involves maintenance of a forest fire organization of forest wardens and volunteer fire companies, and the provision of training and equipment to combat these emergencies.

The State Forest System (formerly State Forest Management) serves to develop the multiple use and sustained yield of all forest resources. It provides timber production, watershed protection, wildlife habitat, and natural beauty.

Since proper management of forest resources represents a long-term investment, State forests

serve as examples to local woodland owners in the management of their lands. They provide timber products for local industry, public hunting and fishing areas, open spaces for hikers and campers, and a place to appreciate the natural environment (Code Natural Resources Article, secs. 5-101 through 8-1318).

There are nine State forests administered by the Department, located at Savage River, Cedarville, Doncaster, Elk Neck, Green Ridge, Pocomoke, Potomac-Garrett, Wicomico, and Seth. These multiple-use forest areas produce wood fiber for industry and provide hunting, fishing, camping, picnicking, wildlife habitat, soil and water protection, and areas for research and demonstration. Forest Service studies encompass projects on insects and diseases, plant genetics, site studies, and various elements of timber management.

The main goal of the Service's Resource Utilization Program is to extend Maryland's decreasing forest resources through the improved use of recreational, aesthetic, environmental, and economic resources. Centered in Annapolis, the Program works with forest products manufacturers on a request basis.

Forestry boards were created by the enactment of the Forest Conservancy District Act of 1942. There is a five-member forestry board in each of Maryland's twenty-three counties. The volunteer members are private citizens who work cooperatively with the Maryland Forest Service to promote sound forestry practices and conservation.

Maryland's State Park system comprises scenic, historic, and natural environment areas located in all regions of the State. Land presently owned by the State and managed as parks totals 80,000 acres.

Thirty-five State parks are operational, most of them providing a wide variety of interests from day-use activities such as picnicking and hiking to camping and cabin occupancy, which permit more extended enjoyment of these unique areas. Swimming, fishing, nature study, and sightseeing are also popular.

Each year more than six million people visit the State parks in Maryland. Construction activities are under way at many of these areas where new facilities are being installed to improve recreational opportunities.

Interpretive programs designed to increase visitor awareness are conducted in 25 parks serving more than 200,000 people each year.