

Department of Forests and Parks

09.04.00.01

Established By: Md. Code Ann., art. 66C, §§ 343-357A.

Head: Director, appointed by the governor with advice and consent of the Senate.

Chairman of Commission designated by Commission from its membership. Commission of Forests and Parks is advisory only.

Members: 7-member Commission appointed by the governor. One member recommended by the Maryland Farm Bureau; one recommended by the Maryland State Grange; one experienced in lumbering business; 4 general interest in state parks and recreation; one must be a resident of Garrett County.

Term: 5 years for Commission members. Director—indefinite at governor's pleasure.

Removal: Director serves at governor's pleasure. Governor has power to remove Commission member for cause.

Employees: No salary for Commission members. Part-time employees exempted from merit system. Director can appoint game wardens for two-year terms who are exempt from merit system. At present there are 259 merit and 311 unclassified employees.

Function: The department promotes, administers, and manages all State owned or leased forests, parks, scenic preserves, historic monuments and recreation areas; and is responsible for the administration of all laws, rules, and regulations relating to these areas.

The Commission advises the director on the operations and administration of the department.

Gunpowder River Valley Park Advisory Committee

Function: Created by the governor in 1959 to advise the Department of Forests and Parks on all aspects of the acquisition and development of Gunpowder River Valley State Park system. 20 members.

Patapsco State Park Advisory Committee

Function: Created by the governor in 1951 to advise the Department of Forests and Parks on the acquisition of land for the Patapsco State Park. 11 members.

Susquehanna State Park Advisory Committee

Function: Created in 1960 by the governor to advise the Department of Forests and Parks on the acquisition of land for Susquehanna State Park. 11 members.