

A forestry department was first organized in 1906 under the State Board of Forestry. The present Department, associated with the Board of Natural Resources was organized in 1941, and is the successor of the first department. The Department of Forests and Parks administers the tree marketing program under which woodland owners who plan to dispose of their timber may secure a free marking service to yield maximum return in saw timber and other forest products, with due provision made for a sustained yield of successive timber crops. To supplement the timber cropping program and provide adequate planting stock for reforestation, the State maintains a nursery with a potential capacity of ten million trees. The Department also administers the Forest Conservancy Districts Act designed to ensure the practice of forestry on privately owned woodlands throughout the State (Code 1947 Supp., Art. 39A, secs. 52-64). The district foresters of the Department serve as executive officers and secretaries of local forestry boards set up under the Act. Another responsibility of the Department is the protection from fire of 2,700,000 acres of public and private woodland. To carry out this assignment, the Department maintains a specially trained fire control force, which is supplemented by 600-700 forest wardens commissioned by the Governor. The protection of approximately 3,000,000 trees along the State highways is also a responsibility of the Department. A force of wardens is employed to supervise tree trimming operations by the public utility companies along their pole-line right of ways.

The Department administers ten State Forests with a total area of 120,766 acres. These forests serve as demonstration areas in forestry management. Recreational areas have been developed in several of them, notably, Herrington Manor on the Swallow Falls and New Germany on the Savage River. Parallel to this is the administration of twelve State Parks of scenic or historic interest totaling 7,897.5 acres. The State Forests and Parks and their areas are as follows:

STATE FORESTS

Name	County	Area
Swallow Falls	Garrett	7,458
Savage River	Garrett	52,672
Potomac	Garrett	12,057
Mt. Nebo	Garrett	1,791
Green Ridge	Allegany	25,451
Cedarville	Prince George's & Charles	3,510
Doncaster	Charles	1,464
Pocomoke	Worcester	12,377
Seth Demonstration	Talbot	124
Elk Neck	Cecil	3,762
State Forest Nursery	Anne Arundel	100

STATE PARKS

Washington Monument	Washington	96
Fort Tonolway	Washington	20
Fort Frederick	Washington	279
Gambrill	Frederick	1,088
Gathland	Frederick	101
Patapsco	Howard	1,564
Wye Oak	Talbot	1.5
Elk Neck	Cecil	995
Sandy Point	Anne Arundel	725
Dan's Mountain	Allegany	100
Seneca Creek (projected)	Montgomery	2,000
The Rocks (projected)	Harford	928