

The Commission of Forests and Parks consists of five members appointed by the Governor. One is recommended by the Maryland Farm Bureau and one by the Maryland State Grange; one must have had practical experience in the lumbering business; and two must have an interest in the advancement of State parks and recreation. The members serve for five-year terms with overlapping tenure of office. They select their chairman and appoint the Director of the Department of Forests and Parks (Code 1957, Art. 66C, secs. 343-44).

A forestry department was first organized by Chapter 294, Acts of 1906 under the State Board of Forestry, but was succeeded in 1941 by the present Department, which is associated with the Board of Natural Resources. 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 while making due provision for a sustained yield of successive timber crops. The Department licenses all persons engaged in cutting and selling timber. 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 1957, Art. 66C, secs. 343-410). The district foresters of the Department serve as executive officers and secretaries of local forestry boards set up under the Act. The Department provides fire protection for 2,700,000 acres of public and private woodland. To this end it maintains a specially trained fire-control force supplemented by 600-700 forest wardens commissioned by the Governor. The Department also protects approximately 3,000,000 trees along the State highways. It employs a force of wardens to supervise tree-trimming operations by the public utility companies along their pole-line right of ways. It also examines and licenses tree experts operating within the State.

The Department administers ten State Forests with a total area of 119,184 acres. These forests serve as demonstration areas in forestry management. The Department has developed recreational areas in several of them, notably, Herrington Manor on the Swallow Falls and New Germany on the Savage River. Parallel to this responsibility is the administration of the seventeen State Parks of scenic or historic interest totaling 18,619.5 acres. The State Forests and Parks and their areas are as follows:

STATE FORESTS

| <i>Name</i> | <i>County</i> | <i>Area</i> |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Cedarville..... | Prince George's and Charles..... | 3,520 |
| Doncaster..... | Charles | 1,464 |
| Elk Neck..... | Cecil..... | 2,742 |
| Green Ridge..... | Allegany..... | 25,631 |
| Pocomoke..... | Worcester..... | 12,250 |
| Potomac..... | Garrett..... | 12,052 |
| Savage River..... | Garrett..... | 52,708 |
| Seth (Demonstration)..... | Talbot..... | 125 |
| Swallow Falls..... | Garrett..... | 7,453 |
| Wicomico..... | Wicomico..... | 1,110 |
| Nursery..... | Anne Arundel..... | 129 |