

District IV—18 Office Street, Bel Air

(Baltimore, Cecil, Harford, Kent, and Queen Anne's Counties)

Henry E. Stasiak, Forester III
 John E. Michel, Forester I
 Ronald G. Antill, Forester I
 James J. Burtis, Jr., Forester I
 Robert P. Ford, Forester I
 Warren Spencer, Forester I
 Osmar G. Hebert, Superintendent III
 L. R. Bettinger, Supervisor Fire Control
 Paul H. Seward, Supervisor Fire Control
 Eugene Bowers, Superintendent II, Elk Neck State Park
 W. Dale Beaston, Superintendent I, The Rocks State Park
 Guy Wells, Superintendent II, Gunpowder State Park
 William H. Sigmore, Superintendent I, Susquehanna State Park

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 had 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 is legally responsible for all phases of forest, park and recreational activities. The forestry phases consist of forest fire control and advice to landowners on timber management, including detailed plans of management and the furnishing of seedlings for reforestation purposes. In order to demonstrate correct forestry practices, the Department manages on a sustained yield basis ten state forests on which multiplane use is demonstrated. This includes timber management, watershed protection and recreation. Four developed recreational areas are maintained on state forests which are extensively used by the public.

The Roadside Tree Law is administered by this Department. This provides for supervision of all tree care within the right-of-ways of all public roads and streets in the state. This program is financed by charges to public utility companies and others who require this service.

The Department provides a well-distributed and accessible system of parks and other recreational areas which include scenic, historic and geological sites that are of State-wide significance. The Department also provides a variety of informal types of outdoor recreational activities and interests, facilities and accommodations for camping, picnicking, swimming, fishing and hiking which generally brings the public into contact with natural forces and resources so that they may learn to enjoy and help conserve them.

State parks are located in wooded areas which are maintained in their natural condition for the enjoyment of the general public. The one exception is Sandy Point State Park near the Bay Bridge. This is principally a bayside swimming area although picnicking facilities are provided.

The Department administers fourteen developed park areas with a total acreage of 17,105 and seven areas in various stages of acquisition and development with a total acreage of 9,409, as of June 30, 1963. The Department also administers eleven State Forests with a total of 119,204 acres.