

and advisory services; (2) State park management and administration; and (3) Grants-in-aid administration.

While forest fire prevention and control is an important aspect of the Department's over-all program, increased emphasis is now being placed on more intensified management of the State's forests.

Because most of the woodlands of the State are in small, privately-owned forest land areas, this work is being expanded as urban areas of the State become more widespread and the need for working in these areas on problems connected with roadside trees, shade trees and other urban forestry needs increase.

Population growth of the State continues to lead to increased demand for more State Park and Recreation areas and sharply increased use of existing developed areas. Such parks must be well planned, properly located, and efficiently operated.

The Department is directly and intensively concerned with administration of several Grants-in-Aid programs to assist local governments in providing recreation for their constituents. The Land and Water Conservation Fund grants are administered by the Department in cooperation with the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation of the U. S. Department of the Interior. These Federal funds are used by the State and its political subdivisions for the acquisition and development of open space lands. Both State funds and those for the political subdivisions are managed under the direction of the Department of Forests and Parks. Program Open Space State funds for acquisition of recreational or open space lands are administered by the Department. This administration involves approval of projects submitted by the political subdivisions and the preparation of manuals containing guidelines to local governments participating in the program. There is also considerable liaison work with localities in the furtherance of their own public recreational programs. In addition to these two programs, the Department has represented the State in its participation with the Federal Government in projects financed with matching funds available through the Housing Act of 1961, administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and those available from the Small Watershed Program, administered by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The General Administration Division ties the other six divisions into a cohesive, coordinated unit and provides the services required for their support. All divisions are interwoven in their scope of operations, and General Administration is concerned with every phase of departmental activities. The four district offices at La Vale, Laurel, Salisbury, and Bel Air are a part of this Division and function as arms of the office of the Director.

Staff services, such as legal, land and property, construction engineering, personnel, planning, and public information are provided within the scope of the General Administration Division's program.

Some 2,600,000 acres of forest land are located in Maryland. About 125,000 acres of this total are State-owned, and comprise the ten State forests administered by the Department at Savage River, Cedarville, Doncaster, Elk Neck, Green Ridge, Pocomoke, Potomac, Swallow Falls, 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. Such studies encompass projects on insects and diseases, plant genetics, site studies, and various elements of timber management.

Maryland's forest acreage is distributed among the three topographic regions. The Appalachian Province of the State contains 588,000 acres. The Piedmont Province has 515,000 acres, and the Coastal