

lands. They provide timber products for local industry, public hunting and fishing areas, open spaces for hikers and campers and a place just to enjoy and appreciate the natural environment (Natural Resources Article, 5-101 to 8-1318).

Staff: 164.

PARK SERVICE

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Maryland's State Park system comprises forty-seven scenic, historic, and natural environment areas located in all regions of the State. Acreage presently owned by the State in park areas totals 56,000.

Thirty-five State Parks are operational, most of them serving a wide variety of interests from such day-use activities as picnicking, hiking, swimming, fishing, nature study and sightseeing, to camping and cabin occupancy, permitting more extended enjoyment of these unique areas.

Each year, approximately ten million people visit State Parks. Extensive construction activities are under way at many of these areas where new facilities are being installed to improve recreational opportunities.

Interpretive programs are underway at 21 parks. The programs serve a total of 158,000 people each year.

The following State Parks are presently operational: Assateague, Big Run, Calvert Cliffs, Casselman, Cedarville, Cunningham Falls, Dan's Mountain, Deep Creek, Rocks, Elk Neck, Fort Frederick, Fort Tonoloway, Gambrill, Gathland, Greenbrier, Gunpowder, Herrington Manor, Janes Island, Martinak, Milburn Landing, New Germany, Patapsco, Point Lookout, St. Clements, Sandy Point, Seneca, Shad Landing, Smallwood, Susquehanna, Swallow Falls, Washington Monument, Wills Mountain, and Wye Oak.

Staff: 199.

WATER RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION

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The Water Resources Administration, created by Chapter 348, Acts of 1972, replaced the Department of Water Resources, created by Chapter 73, Acts of 1964, upon the recommendation of State Planning Department and on the basis of recommendations made in 1961 as a result of a study of the future administration of Maryland water resource activities. The water pollution control functions of the predecessor agency, the Water Pollution Control Commission, originally created by Chapter 697, Acts of 1947, were transferred in their entirety and without substantial change to the new Department. The Administration at that time also took over certain powers and duties previously exercised by the Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources (which itself was reorganized and renamed Maryland Geological Survey). The Administration, then the Department, replaced the abolished Water Pollution Control Commission as a member department of the Department of Natural Resources.

This agency is concerned with the protection enhancement and management of the water resources of the State.

Program activities are divided into three basic categories, Enforcement, Permits and Certification, and Technical Services.

The Enforcement program is responsible for the inspection, investigation and enforcement activities of the Administration and encompasses two primary projects: watershed control, which applies prevention oriented enforcement procedures to those activities directly related to geologic and hydrologic processes occurring in watershed areas. The water quality control activity is responsible for enforcement of the provisions of Article 96A of the code, relating to industries and other point-source discharges (Natural Resources Article, secs. 8-801 to 8-813).