

Local Government Steering Committee

Marvin R. Long, *Chairperson*

The Committee was established under the State Energy Conservation Plan to respond to the needs of local jurisdictions. Appointed by the Energy Office Director, the Committee assists with conferences and roundtables and advises on literature and programs (Code Natural Resources Article, sec. 11-102).

FOREST, PARK AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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The Forest, Park and Wildlife Service was created in 1984 by combining the Forest and Park Service and the Wildlife Administration (Chapter 136, Acts of 1984). The new Service works to serve the forest management and recreational needs of the people of Maryland. It also is responsible for the maintenance, management, and protection of birds, land-based reptiles and amphibians, and mammals. This includes game species, non-game species, and threatened and endangered wildlife. The Service manages Maryland's natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources through four programs: General Direction, Cooperative Forestry, Forest and Park Management, and Wildlife Management.

The *General Direction Program* provides direction, administrative support, and services to the other three programs. Budget, personnel, purchasing, training, fleet management, radio communications, safety, equal opportunity, and public information functions directly serve the cooperative forestry, forest and park, and wildlife management programs.

The *Cooperative Forestry Program* provides assistance to private forest landowners, municipalities, and other governmental units in the management of their forests and individual trees. The goal of the program is to improve and maintain the economic, aesthetic, recreational, and environmental contributions of trees, forests, and forest related resources for the benefit of people. The program has five major elements: cooperative forest management, resource utilization, resource planning, resource protection, and urban and community forestry.

The Cooperative Forestry Program provides forest management expertise to private landowners and the political subdivisions of the State. Forest fire prevention and control, forest insect and disease control, forest land management, forest watershed management, reforestation, and urban and community forestry represent the main thrusts of the program. While such programs as fire prevention and control, reforestation, and the application of technical forestry to individual forest acreages have a long history in the Service, urban and community forestry is, in part, new. The new program emphasizes working with developers, builders, architects, and city and county planners in careful developmental planning and large-scale forestry projects. Supervision of utility trimming and municipal tree care programs continues to be an important facet of urban and community forestry. The urban forestry concept includes individual shade tree consultations to private landowners, as time permits.

The *Forest and Park Management Program* administers and manages Maryland's State forests, parks, scenic preserves, historic monuments, and natural environment areas. While providing recreational opportunities throughout the State, the Management Program preserves the natural resources, and ensures multiple use and a sustained yield of forest resources.

The program is comprised of fifty-three management projects, including four State forests, ten multi-use parks, fourteen general recreation parks, seven waterfront parks, six natural environment areas, ten historic or scenic sites, one roadside picnic area, and three natural resource management areas.

Parks and recreational activity brochures are available at each park and upon request from the Forest, Park, and Wildlife Service.

The *Wildlife Management Program* applies modern professional wildlife management techniques to both control and assure continuing wildlife production while affording a maximum of public recreational opportunities compatible with the welfare of those resources. The Service engages in field surveys and research projects to evaluate public demands on wildlife resources, wildlife populations, harvesting parameters, and relevant environmental factors. It constructs ponds (primarily waterfowl habitat) and plants food and cover vegetation.

Among the Service's projects and programs are the development and management of thirty-two state-owned Wildlife Management Areas (Public