

FOREST, PARK AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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The Forest, Park and Wildlife Service originated in 1906 as the Board of Forestry (Chapter 294, Acts of 1906). The Board was replaced by the Department of Forests and Parks in 1941 (Chapter 508, Acts of 1941). In 1969, the Department of Forests and Parks became part of the Department of Natural Resources (Chapter 154, Acts of 1969). The Department of Forests and Parks divided into two units in 1972: the Park Service and the Forest Service (Chapter 348, Acts of 1972). These Services were recombined in 1982 to form the Forest and Park Service (Chapter 184, Acts of 1982). In 1984, the Forest and Park Service merged with the Wildlife Administration to form the present Forest, Park and Wildlife Service (Chapter 136, Acts of 1984).

The Forest, Park and Wildlife 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 five programs: General Direction, Cooperative Forestry, Forest and Park Management, Wildlife Management, and Natural Heritage Program.

The *General Direction Program* provides direction, administrative support, and services to the other four 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* helps private forest landowners, municipalities, and other governmental units manage 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 includes cooperative forest management, urban and community forestry, and resource use, planning, and protection.

The Cooperative Forestry Program provides forest management expertise to private landowners and the political subdivisions of the State. Forest fire prevention and control, insect and disease control, land management, watershed management, as well as reforestation, and urban and community forestry represent the main thrusts of the program. Urban and community forestry emphasizes work 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 is 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 while affording a maximum of public recreational opportunities compatible with the welfare of wildlife 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 Hunting Areas) located throughout the State. The