



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tree-Planting Blitz Takes DPSCS Over 200,000 Tree Mark

TOWSON, MD (May 21, 2009)---A five-week tree-planting blitz in partnership with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has carried the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) above the 200,000 mark in number of trees planted by inmates since last spring.

DPSCS Secretary Gary Maynard pledged last Arbor Day that his department would plant one million trees within four years. This spring, in partnership with DNR, DPSCS inmates planted an astonishing 152,000 trees in five weeks in state parks across Maryland. It's part of the Governor's Smart Green Growing/Marylanders Plant Trees effort. This takes to over 200,000 the total number of trees planted by inmates since last spring.

Notable plantings include restoration of the West Woods and a Civil War-era orchard at historic Antietam Battlefield (Maryland Correctional Enterprises inmates); more than 10,000 trees planted on the mid-Shore (Eastern Pre-Release Unit inmates); and thousands upon thousands planted in state parks, along trails, and along state highways in all corners of Maryland.

Most of the plantings have been done by inmates in the Division of Correction's Pre-release system. Many Hagerstown, Baltimore, Jessup, Southern Maryland, and Eastern Shore-based inmates have contributed to this effort.

Inmates from Western Correctional Institution in Cumberland have also accomplished dozens of tree-planting projects throughout Western Maryland.

"These projects contribute to a better quality of life for all Marylanders, and protecting our state's treasured natural resources," says DPSCS Secretary, whose projects also include inmate-built oyster cages, inmate-grown wetlands grasses, and an inmate-tended thoroughbred horse rescue farm.

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