

Press Release

State of Maryland
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services



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DPSCS Fall Tree Planting Underway

As part of 17,200 to be planted around the state, Anne Arundel County will receive 425 for park beautification project

TOWSON, MD (December 4, 2009)---As Maryland heads into the final weeks of fall, the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) is planting more than 17,000 trees across the state. The trees will liven up state parks, roadways and local communities.

Contributing to the *Marylander's Plant Trees* effort, DPSCS Secretary Gary Maynard pledged that this department would plant one million trees by 2011. The effort began in 2008 with a kick-off on Arbor Day; prior to the fall tree planting the Department had more than 200,000 trees and saplings in the ground.

Most of the plantings have been done by inmates in the Division of Correction's Pre-release system, as well as Patuxent Institution. Offenders are given an opportunity to learn environmental job skills, while also giving back to the society they victimized.

425 of the trees planted this fall will be at Anne Arundel County's General's Highway Corridor Park as part of a beautification project.

The planting will begin at the park on Monday, December 7, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. Media is invited to the planting site, for video and interviews. Staff from the Department of Public Safety and Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks will be available. *Please contact the DPSCS Communication Office to coordinate.*

"Planting trees and other inmate works projects not only benefits the sustainability of our natural resources, but builds partnerships to get things done for Maryland where resources may otherwise have not been available," says DPSCS Secretary Gary Maynard. Other environmentally friendly inmate works projects have included harvesting, growing and planting bay grasses on the Chesapeake Bay, building oyster cages and cleaning spat for *Marylander's Grow Oysters* and many community clean-up activities.

17,000 + Trees To Be Planted Fall 2009:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># of Trees</u>	<u>Partner Agency</u>	<u>Location of Plantings</u>
MCTC/MCE	15,842	SHA	Various MD Roadways
MCIJ	487	DNR	Patapsco State Park
MCPRS/JPRU	426	AA Co. Gov.	General's Highway Corridor Park
MCPRS/CMCF	150		DOC's Second Chances Farm – Sykesville
WCI	150	SHA	MD 36
NBCI	50		Institutional Grounds
MCPRS/BCF	93	SHA	MD 32

DPSCS' tree planting effort is part of [Smart, Green and Growing](http://www.dpscs.state.md.us), an initiative of the O'Malley Administration designed to help create a more sustainable future for our State. The goal is to involve every Marylander in reducing our carbon footprint, preserving our most valuable resource lands and restoring the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

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The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services protects the public, its employees and the detainees and offenders under its supervision.