

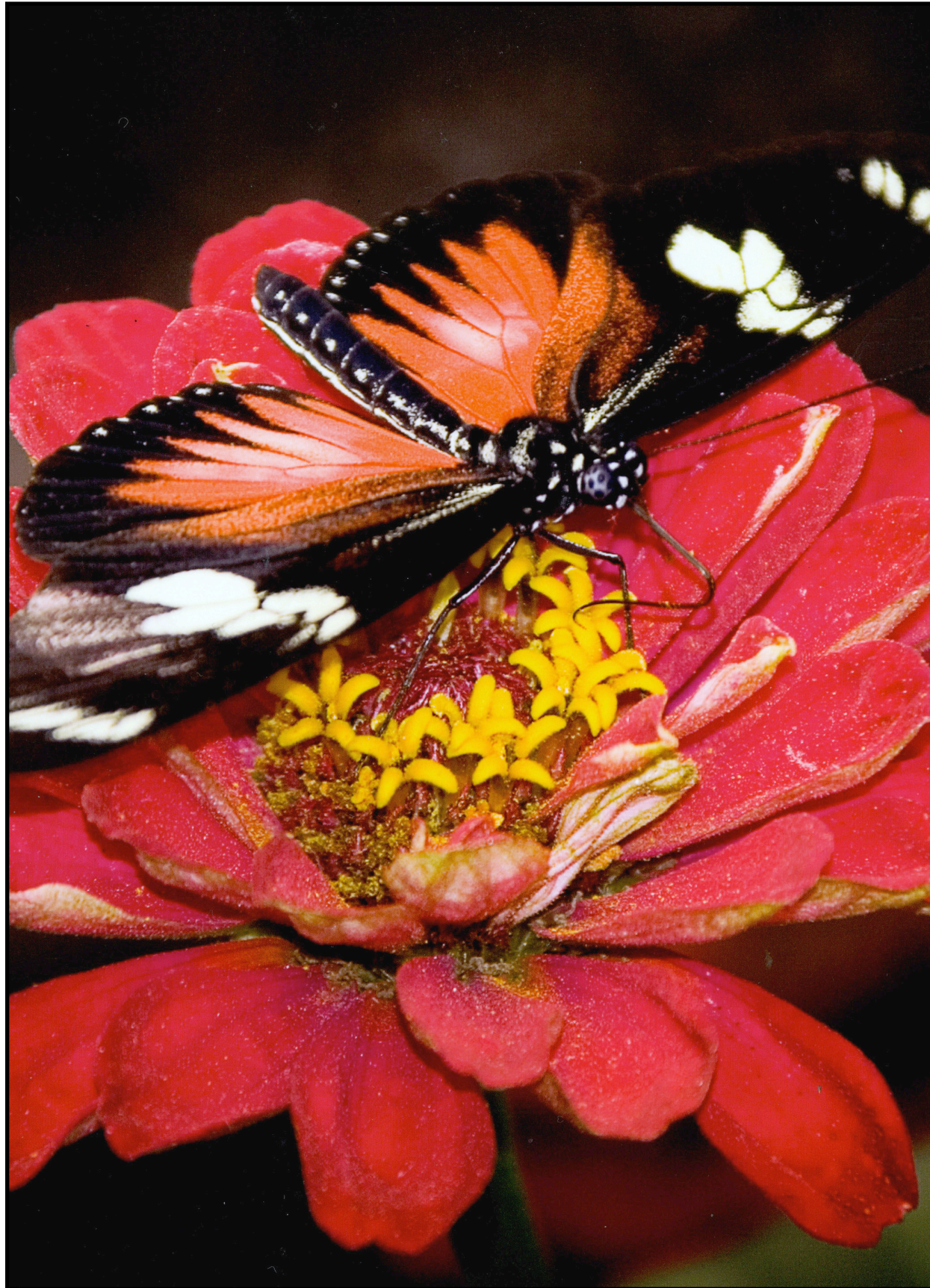


# DNR @ Work Annual Report 2010-2011



**MARYLAND**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES





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## Our Mission

The Department of Natural Resources leads Maryland in securing a sustainable future for our environment, society and economy by preserving, protecting, restoring and enhancing the State's natural resources.

## Our Vision

In a sustainable Maryland, we recognize that the health of our society and our economy are dependent on the health of our environment. Therefore, we choose to act both collectively and individually to preserve, protect, restore and enhance our environment for this and future generations.





*"Heaven and Earth never agreed better to frame a place for man's habitation." –Captain John Smith*

## Restoring the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays

The Chesapeake Bay is a vital part of Maryland's economy, history and values. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is the lead agency for the restoration and protection of the Bay and its tributaries in Maryland. A healthy Chesapeake Bay benefits Maryland's tourism, recreation and fisheries industries; improves the value of our homes, farms and businesses; and creates green jobs. The Bay's problems are man-made; so too are its solutions.

### **Watershed Implementation Plan**

In December of 2010, Maryland submitted the Final Phase I of its Watershed Implementation Plan to the Environmental Protection Agency. In 2011, Maryland submitted Phase II of the Plan, which is designed to meet specific targets for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment reductions statewide by 2025.

### **2-Year Milestones**

In 2010, DNR led development of 2-Year Milestones throughout the Bay Watershed. This represents a significant change to our decades-long Bay restoration efforts, ensuring that we are making short-term progress toward our ultimate goal, holding ourselves — and not future administrations — accountable. In 2011, the Department made solid progress toward milestone goals.

### **Enhancing Technology**

In June of 2010, DNR released Maryland's Coastal Atlas, an online mapping and planning tool that allows users to visually analyze and explore data for coastal and ocean planning activities, including renewable offshore energy exploration. In July of 2010, DNR and the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office deployed a "smart buoy" (pictured) to monitor water quality at the surface and the bottom of the Bay. In 2011, the Maryland Natural Resource Police launched a new effort to educate the public on the economic impact of State maritime activities and how to report suspicious activity.

### **Chesapeake and Coastal Bays Trust Fund**

Authorized for up to \$50 million annually, the fund supports projects and programs to reduce nonpoint source pollution in Maryland waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. In its first three years (2009-2011), the Trust Fund targeted more than \$33 million in priority watersheds resulting in an estimated total reduction of 3.5 million pounds of nitrogen, 570,000 pounds of phosphorus and 234,000 tons of sediment. The Trust Fund also supports key nutrient-reduction activities including 16 Soil Conservation District staff positions, new nonpoint source reduction technologies, and local economies through Maryland's Innovative Technology Fund.



# Preserving Maryland's Landscape

By redirecting our growth patterns and preserving our open space, we are protecting human health and well-being along with the very foundation of Maryland's social and economic prosperity: productive forests and farms, critical wildlife habitat, opportunities for recreation and tourism, our culture and our history. In a world becoming more dependent on parking lots and highways, DNR is working to protect the landscape of our great State for public access and conservation.

## Land Conservation

In 2010 and 2011, DNR permanently protected 21,692 acres of Maryland's landscape through Program Open Space, the Rural Legacy Program and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

Through the Rural Legacy Program alone, the State has funded 1,049 local recreational projects in total during the O'Malley-Brown Administration — about 18 percent of the 5,900 projects funded since the program's inception in 1969.

## Healthy Forests

In 2010, the Maryland Forest Service completed the first-ever comprehensive suite of Statewide Forest Resource Assessments and Strategies as part of a national effort toward protecting and sustaining healthy forests. This assessment addresses State and national forestry goals, including slowing forest loss, mitigating the effects of climate change, protecting communities from wildfire, creating jobs and supporting markets for forest products. Its release marks the beginning of an ongoing and dynamic process of resource management and planning that will be revisited annually and updated every five years.

In 2011, DNR signed a groundbreaking Memorandum of Understanding with six other federal and State agencies dedicated to keeping healthy and productive forests throughout Maryland. Under this agreement, the agencies will work together to be more effective in providing forest owners and managers with technical and financial assistance to improve the health, diversity and production of forests on privately owned lands — 76 percent of all forests in Maryland.



*"We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children." –Native American Proverb*





*"If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles." –Doug Larson*

## Managing Maryland's Fisheries

DNR biologists manage Maryland's fish and shellfish to achieve and maintain healthy, abundant, self-sustaining populations for ecological, economic and cultural benefits. These experts work with industry representatives, recreational anglers and neighboring jurisdictions to ensure the health of our aquatic species.

### **Crab Stock Improving throughout the Bay**

Based on recommendations from the 2011 Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab Advisory Report, Maryland continued to rebuild its stock to sustainable levels. The bay-wide crab harvest in 2010 was in the 90 million-pound range, a 60% increase over 2009. These results indicate that 2008 management measures, put into place through a historic collaboration with Virginia and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, are continuing to pay dividends.

### **Oyster Restoration Records**

In 2010, Maryland adopted Governor O'Malley's Oyster Restoration Aquaculture Development Plan, a multi-faceted effort to rebuild Maryland's native oyster population. The plan — designed to enhance oyster restoration for ecological purposes and encourage the development of aquaculture businesses — continues to support a more targeted and sustainable public oyster fishery.

As a result of the Plan, in 2010 the number of spat (baby oysters) in Maryland waters was at its highest level since 1997. Additionally, the survival rate for young oysters was up, and more Marylanders were looking to start up or expand aquaculture businesses. At nearly 80 spat per bushel, the 2010 spatfall was about 5 times the 25-year average of 16. In 2011, DNR rehabilitated hundreds of acres of habitat by increasing the amount of viable oyster bars in the Bay through the Watermen Work Program.

### **Encouraging Fishing in Our Waterways**

In 2010, DNR kicked off the sixth annual Maryland Fishing Challenge, encouraging participants to enjoy the State's recreational fishing opportunities and compete for cash and prizes.

In 2011, DNR expanded the Seafood Marketing Advisory Commission, continuing to promote increased consumption and distribution through the launch of the *From the Bay, For the Bay* week-long celebration. Also in 2011, DNR created an online resource to assist anglers who dream of catching a record fish. The State Records timeline tool allows anglers to scroll through lists of Maryland's 90 fishing records and pinpoint the time and location of catches.

### **Improving the Health of Our Fish and Waters**

In March 2010, DNR developed a strategy to improve largemouth bass population in the Choptank River, which has seen a decline in reproduction in recent years. Also in March, as a part of the Waterman Work Program, DNR supported efforts to pull nearly 1,500 abandoned crab pots from the Chesapeake Bay's waters. Efforts to better the health of our aquatic ecosystems continued in 2011.

### **Enhancing Enforcement**

In 2010, NRP launched the Maritime Law Enforcement Information Network to enhance conservation law enforcement and response. In 2011, legislation was passed to protect Maryland's fisheries and encourage shellfish aquaculture: deterring harmful fishing activity by increasing penalties for oyster, blue crab and striped bass poachers; authorizing NRP officers to inspect commercial fishing business's storage areas; and streamlining penalty imposition processes.



# Managing Maryland's Wildlife & Heritage

Our relationship to land and wildlife is an undeniable part of our natural heritage. Wildlife management, conservation and habitat preservation are some of the major resource challenges we will face in the next century. Through DNR's Natural Heritage Program, the Wild Acres Program and management opportunities for citizens, DNR strives to regulate and protect the rare and endangered species that call Maryland home.

## Wildlife Conservation

In February 2010, the Board of Public Works approved the purchase of two Worcester County conservation easements: the 500-acre Bassett property outside of Berlin and 209 acres of the Allen property. The Bassett property provides critical wildlife conservation benefits; it contains upland forest, prime agricultural fields and extensive sensitive wetlands, including vital waterfowl habitats. The heavily forested Allen property provides essential habitat for numerous local and national rare species, including the Swainson's warbler, Delmarva fox squirrel and bald eagle.

## Record Deer and Turkey Harvest

In 2011, Maryland deer hunters experienced a range of weather for the two-week firearm season and harvested an estimated 41,421 deer — a 2 percent increase from the 2010 harvest of 40,694 deer for the same period. The early portions of the bow and muzzleloader seasons resulted in an estimated harvest of 24,324 deer during September and October 2011, down 4 percent from the 2010 harvest of 25,324 deer for the same period.

Turkey hunters reported harvesting 167 wild turkeys during the one week 2011 fall season that ended on November 5. The harvest is similar to the 171 turkeys taken in 2010 and to the average harvest over the last 10 years.

## Conservation Design Contests

In 2010 and 2011, DNR held its ever-popular annual Maryland Black Bear Conservation and Maryland Game Bird Stamp Design Contests. Proceeds are used to compensate farmers throughout the State experiencing agricultural damage caused by black bears, and fund migratory game bird research and habitat enhancement on public lands.



*"A real hunter never returns empty handed.  
Spending time in the wilderness temporarily satisfies the soul,  
but leaves us longing for more." –Fred Bear*





*"Nature is not a place to visit. It is home."  
—Gary Snyder*

## Serving Maryland's Communities and Connecting Children with Nature

By connecting citizens with their natural world, putting park improvements into place and drafting new policies to combat climate change, we can ensure that Maryland's communities not only survive, but also grow and thrive, to ensure a better future for our children.

### **Conservations Jobs Corps**

In 2010 and 2011, more than 550 underserved youth graduated from the Maryland Conservation Corps Summer Jobs Program. During the 5-week program, Corps members worked in State Parks, completing natural resource and park restoration projects, and learning job and team building skills. The program not only teaches young people important life and jobs skills, but also helps them build a connection with and an appreciation for the natural world, creating the next generation of stewards.

### **State Parks Improvement**

During the fall of 2010, DNR announced the creation of a new Trails Development Office, which is working to make Maryland's trails system second to none in the nation. Also introduced was a Geographic Information Systems mapping system, allowing citizens to see where trails are located throughout the State.

In 2011, the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded the State \$8.5 million in Federal Transportation Enhancement Program funding for construction of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center in Dorchester County — the final funding component necessary for the \$21 million project of national significance to move forward.

Also in 2011, the State announced the results of the first-ever comprehensive Maryland State Parks Economic Impact and Visitor Study. According to the study, they have an estimated benefit to State and local economies of more than \$650 million annually.

### **Leading By Example**

In November of 2010, DNR took the lead among State agencies in researching, encouraging and overseeing activities to impede Maryland's vulnerability to climate change with a new policy: *Building Resilience to Climate Change*. DNR will maintain an account of its overall resource consumption, including waste discharge and greenhouse gas emissions produced through electricity, fuel consumption and vehicle emissions.

In 2011, the Maryland Commission on Climate Change released a Phase II report detailing strategies to reduce the impacts of sea level rise, increased temperature and changes in precipitation.

### **Genuine Progress Indicator**

In February of 2010, DNR led the State's launch of a comprehensive application of the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI). In addition to measuring our economic standard of living, the GPI allows the State to factor in environmental and social costs of problems like pollution, crime and income inequality, as well as the values of benefits like clean water, education and volunteerism.

Results compiled in 2011 for 2010 show the actual Gross State Product (GSP) was \$295.3 billion, a 1.23 percent increase over 2009. Maryland's Genuine Progress, however, increased only 0.25 percent to \$146.9 billion. This means that while Marylanders spent more money, they were not necessarily seeing comparable social and environmental benefits.



## Inspiring Citizen Stewardship

To provide citizens opportunities to get involved in environmental restoration projects, DNR works with private and public partners on many stewardship programs. A variety of services — from volunteer opportunities to contests and challenges — are aimed at enhancing the natural resources stewardship ethic of all Maryland citizens.

### Backyard Fishing Program

DNR's Fisheries Service selected three community ponds as test sites for a Backyard Fishing Program that launched in 2010. The program creates youth fishing opportunities for kids in easily accessible areas and provides learning experiences to inspire natural resource stewardship.

### Marylanders Grow Oysters Program

In 2010 and 2011, Marylanders Grow Oysters, which relies solely on citizen volunteers, was expanded with various partners. About 8,000 cages, tended by approximately 1,500 growers, are now located in 18 tributaries.

### Marylanders Plant Trees

The Marylanders Plant Trees program, launched in 2009, met its goal of planting 50,000 new trees by 2010. Marylanders took action, planting and registering 50,089 new trees from the program's inception through December 2010.

In 2011, the State doubled its goal for the Program, targeting to plant 100,000 new trees by 2013. Also in 2011, in partnership with the Department of Corrections and Public Safety, the State surpassed their goal to plant 1 million trees on State lands, using inmate labor.

### Environmental Literacy

In 2011, Maryland became the first state in the nation to adopt an environmental literacy requirement, under which public schools are required to infuse core subjects with lessons about conservation, smart growth and the health of our natural world. This is another step toward keeping Maryland's education system in the forefront, developing green jobs and creating the next generation of stewards.



*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." –Margaret Mead*



# BUDGET SUMMARY

FY'10, FY'11  
Budget Summary  
(\$ in millions)

	FY'10 Actual	FY'11 Actual
<b>Appropriations</b>		
General Funds	45.2	43.5
Special Funds	118.9	107.9
Federal Funds	34.4	36.5
Reimbursable Funds	9.6	12.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>208.2</b>	<b>200.4</b>
<b>Units</b>		
Boating Services	9.9	6.3
Capital Grants and Loan Administration	N/A	N/A
Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission	1.9	1.9
Engineering & Construction	5.1	4.9
Fisheries Service	22.9	26.9
Land Acquisition and Planning	28.8	11.1
Licensing & Registration Service	3.2	3.4
Maryland Environmental Trust	0.77	0.7
Maryland Forest Service	10.1	10.7
Maryland Natural Resources Police	37.8	37.4
Maryland Park Service	34.8	34.8
Office of the Secretary, et. al.	12.7	16.1
Public Lands, Policy & Planning	N/A	N/A
Resource Assessment Service	17.2	17.1
Watershed Services	12.3	19.1
Wildlife & Heritage Service	10.1	9.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>208.2</b>	<b>200.4</b>
<b>Positions</b>		
Authorized	1,343.5	1,289.0
Contractual	378.8	401.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,722.3</b>	<b>1,690.3</b>



Martin O'Malley  
Governor

John R. Griffin  
Secretary

Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
Office of the Secretary  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Toll free in Maryland: 1-877-620-8DNR  
Out of state call: 410-260-8021

[dnr.maryland.gov](http://dnr.maryland.gov)

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