

Maryland Park Service 2018 Annual Report



Photo by Susanne Weber - Sandy Point State Park

TABLE OF CONTENTS



I. Who We Are.....	3-4
II. What We Did by the Numbers	
Financial Overview.....	5
Park Operations.....	6
Customer Service	7
Natural Resource preservation;.....	8
Cultural and Historic Conservation.....	9
Interpretive Programming and Education.....	10
Signature Events.....	11-12
Maryland Conservation Corps.....	13
Conservation Jobs Corps.....	14
Capital and Critical Maintenance Improvements.....	15
Trail Improvements	16
Park Planning and Conservation.....	17
Employee Development and Administration.....	18
III. Our Partners	19
IV. More Information	20

WHO WE ARE



OUR 75 STATE PARKS

Assateague	Greenwell	Sandy Point
Belt Woods	Gunpowder Falls	Sang Run
Big Run	Harriet Tubman URR	Sassafras
Bill Burton Fishing	Hart-Miller Island	Seneca Creek
Black Walnut Point	Herrington Manor	Severn Run
Bohemia River	Janes Island	Smallwood
Bush Declaration	Love Point	Soldiers Delight
Calvert Cliffs	Martinak	South Mountain
Casselman River Bridge	Mattawoman	South Mountain Battlefield
Cedarville	Merkle	St. Clements Island
Chapel Point	Monocacy	St. Mary's River
Chapman	Morgan Run	Susquehanna
Cunningham Falls	New Germany	Swallow Falls
Cypress Branch	Newtowne Neck	Torrey C. Brown
Dans Mountain	North Point	Tuckahoe
Deep Creek Lake	North Point Battlefield	Washington Monument
Deep Creek Lake NRMA	Palmer	Western Maryland
Elk Neck	Patapsco Valley	Weverton-Roxbury
Fair Hill	Patuxent River	Wills Mountain
Fort Frederick	Patuxent River NRMA	Wolf Den Run
Fort Tonoloway	Pocomoke River	Woodmont
Franklin Point	Point Lookout	Wye Oak
Gambrill	Rocks	Wye Island
Gathland	Rocky Gap	Youghiogheny Wild River
Greenbrier	Rosaryville	Zekiah Swamp

Our Dedicated Workforce

Managers...**53**
 Maintenance...**64**
 Rangers...**85**
 Administrative...**38**
 Long-term contractual...**34**
 Seasonal...**803**
TOTAL CLASSIFIED...240



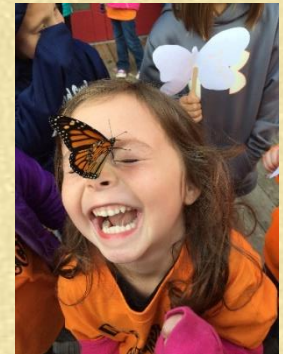
WHO WE ARE



“The mission of the Maryland Park Service is to manage the natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources to provide for wise stewardship and enjoyment by people.”

Our Brand Promise

- Nourish the well-being of children in ways that only nature can provide.
- Connect people to the beauty and serenity of nature in safe and welcoming places that feel like they belong to them.
- Reveal historical sites and relics that tell inspiring stories that give context and meaning to our lives today.
- Leave people feeling stress-free, even revitalized, and with happy memories to sustain them.
- Create places to relax in the reassuring presence of a friendly and dedicated park ranger who inspires and supports a desire to be a good steward of the Earth.

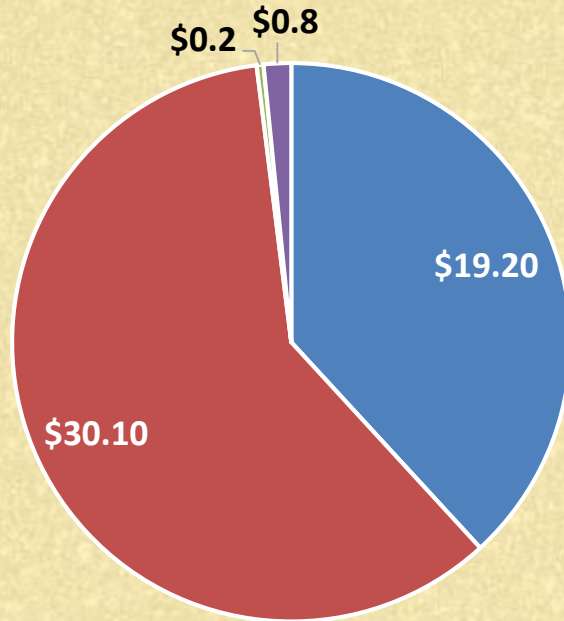


FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

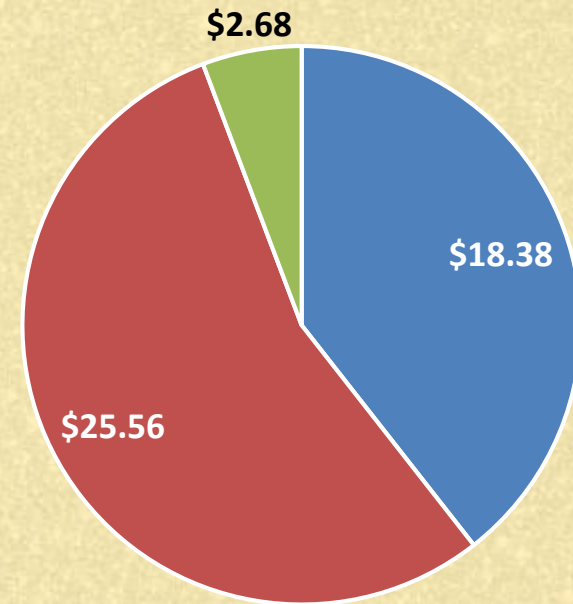


Maryland Park Service Operations

FY 2018 Revenues - \$50.3 Million



FY 2018 Expenditures - \$46.6 Million



■ Park-Generated ■ Property Transfer Tax ■ Federal ■ Reimbursable

■ Salaries ■ Operations ■ Grants

PARK OPERATIONS



MPS and NRP staff responded to **429** incidents ranging from minor rules infractions to missing persons to medical emergencies



Park lifeguards participated in **11** rescues of distressed swimmers or boaters



During peak season, **14** parks were filled to capacity and temporarily closed to new visitors **66** times

6,000+ volunteers donated over 90,000 hours worth in excess of \$1 million



Over **13.4 million** visitors enjoyed the amenities of 75 of Maryland's State Parks

CUSTOMER SERVICE



Introduced the new rolling **365-Day Annual Park Passport**, which is now valid one year from the time of purchase, rather than the end of the year

“Rocky Gap staff always make you feel welcome. We visit several times a year, and they are always happy to see us.”



“Tuckahoe State Park keeps nature at the forefront of any visit. I love the simplicity! Also, keep blowing the leaves out of campsites before campers arrive. That was a top notch surprise this trip.”

“Even though we stayed in a cabin I used the campground bathrooms which were very clean and well-stocked. It had all the amenities. The staff kept the park clean and was very friendly, helpful and knowledgeable when we asked questions.”

“We absolutely love this place...I once saw a couple of what looked like river otters while I was there, and that is a treasured memory.”



95% of visitors who answered our **Customer Service Survey** said that visiting parks is "one of the best ways to spend time with family"

Customer Service issued **6,909** Annual Park Passports and **6,638** Golden Age Passes

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION



Rain Garden at Rosaryville State Park

Implemented **stormwater projects** in cooperation with the State Highway Administration to improve water remediation and to improve overall quality



Sassafras NRMA Quail Preserve

Planted, conserved, and managed **804 acres** of pollinator habitat across the state, including a quail preserve, in cooperation with Washington College



Treating Ash Trees

The Maryland Conservation Corps treated **3,747** hemlocks and **613** ash trees in **21** parks to protect against woolly adelgid and the emerald ash borer

The **Safe Skies** project was completed by the Conservation Jobs Corps using dozens of fabricated cords at the Department of Natural Resources Headquarters to prevent bird strikes on windows



CULTURAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION



Formed a partnership with Preservation Maryland to advance planning for South Mountain State Battlefield and Fort Tonoloway State Park



Reenactors at South Mountain State Battlefield



Historic African-American Schoolhouse at Fort Frederick State Park

Secured a \$100,000 African American Heritage Preservation Program grant to renovate and cosmetically preserve the **Historic African-American Schoolhouse** at Fort Frederick State Park

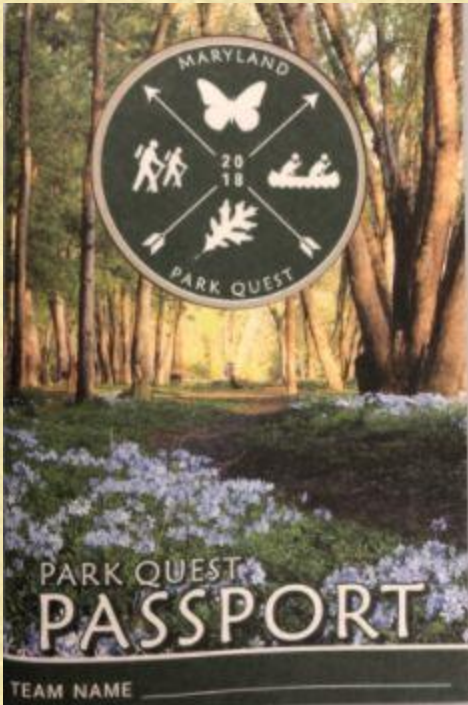
Initiated development of a **new Historical Sites database** of ranked assets within the parks with a detailed catalog of condition assessments and project needs

Filled the position for a new **Historic Sites Planner** as part of an increased emphasis on preserving and cataloging our increasing inventory of historic resources



Ivy Hill at Patapsco Valley State Park

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMMING AND EDUCATION



Over **1,000** family teams participated in Park Quest in **23** parks across the state. This program has filled to capacity every year since its inception

Park staff and volunteers tagged and released **1,347** Monarch butterflies as a part of state park citizen science programs



Forged a partnership with **Park RX America** to promote health initiatives throughout the state via a including collaboration between park and public land agencies, healthcare providers, and community partners

Park staff provided interpretive and educational programs to over **266,000** participants



SIGNATURE EVENTS



"Es Mi Parque" events for Latino visitors at various parks throughout the state, attracted over **1,200** participants as a part of our continuing emphasis on inclusion



The 24th Annual Market Fair at Fort Fredrick State Park is the single-largest living history event on the East Coast



The 48th Annual Maple Syrup Festival, held over two weekends in March at Cunningham Falls State Park, drew almost **5,000 people**, making it one of the park's most popular events



The Greeting of the Geese tradition was revived at Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary in partnership with the Piscataway Tribe, who consider this site to be of significant cultural importance

SIGNATURE EVENTS



JANUARY

First Day Hikes – throughout Maryland State Parks

MARCH

Maple Syrup Festival – Cunningham Falls State Park

APRIL

Egg Hunts – throughout Maryland State Parks

Colonial Market Fair – Fort Frederick

MAY

Youth Fishing Rodeos – throughout Maryland State Parks

JUNE

National Trails Day – throughout Maryland State Parks

Great American Backyard Campout – throughout Maryland State Parks

Blue & Gray Days: Civil War Re-enactment– Point Lookout State Park

JULY

Art in the Park – Deep Creek Lake State Park

Old Time Jams: Bluegrass Music– New Germany State Park

AUGUST

French & Indian War Muster – Fort Frederick State Park

SEPTEMBER

Harriet Tubman Emancipation Celebration – Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State

National Public Lands Day – throughout Maryland State Parks

NOVEMBER

Greeting of the Geese – Merkle Wildlife Natural Resource Management Area

DECEMBER

Holiday Open Houses & Lights Displays – throughout Maryland State Parks



MARYLAND CONSERVATION CORPS



The Maryland Conservation Corps planted **7,708** trees and shrubs, plus **22,850** bay grasses and other native plants and removed invasive species from parks across the state



MCC members mentored over **400 underserved youth** through the Conservation Jobs Corps (CJC), leading them in projects consisting of trail work, invasive species removal and sign construction.

Maryland Conservation Corps crews provided environmental education programs to **49,811** park visitors



MCC crews responded to 4 disaster areas in Maryland from floods to wildfires, including the Ellicott City Flood in May, which required large-scale cleanup efforts and trail assessments along the Patapsco River

CONSERVATION JOBS CORPS (CJC)



465 youths and young adults participated in Conservation Jobs Corps programs and completed **133** stewardship projects ranging from trail work to invasive plants removal



13 former CJC members were employed to return and work as program staff to mentor incoming participants



308 CJC participants were first-time campers who learned how to set up a campsite, explore their natural surroundings and leave no trace, once they left



CAPITAL AND CRITICAL MAINTENANCE IMPROVEMENTS



Herrington Manor State Park

A full **renovation of historic cabins**, including a **conversion to ADA accessibility** was completed in seven full-service cabins at Herrington Manor State Park as a part of our continuing emphasis on inclusion and customer service



Assateague Island State Park

The first phase of the Assateague State Park **dune repair project** was completed, shifting five campground loops up to 100 feet in order to migrate the dune westward to respond to the measured effects of sea level rise



Bloede Dam at Patapsco Valley State Park

The **Bloede Dam** removal project commenced at Patapsco Valley State Park to return the Patapsco River to its natural state and flow, and enhance fish migration and passage

TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

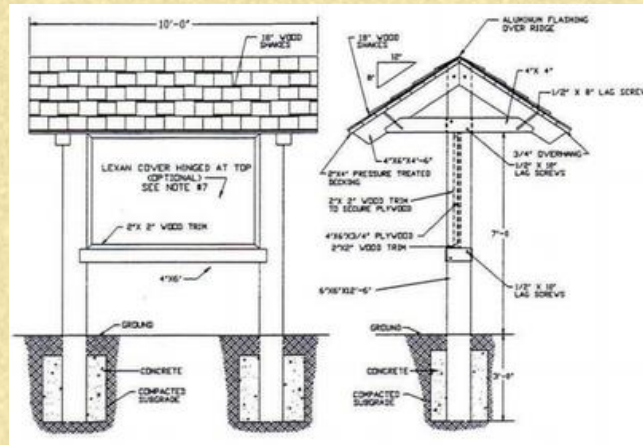


Commenced work on the final phase of the **Western Maryland Rail Trail expansion** in Hancock, which connects the trail with Green Ridge State Forest



MCC built, re-routed and blazed over **225 miles of trails** to improve recreational opportunities and protect wetlands

A new, comprehensive and standardized **Trail Signage and Wayfaring Guide** was implemented for **900+ miles** of trail system



Maintained **957** miles of trails in parks and created **16 new miles** of trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding



PARK PLANNING AND CONSERVATION



Chapel Point State Park

Completed the strategic management strategy for **Chapel Point State Park** to work cooperatively with Charles County to jointly manage the park and complete improvements



Wolf Den Run State Park

Acquired **1,986 acres** in Garret County to create **Wolf Den Run State Park**, which features approximately three miles of frontage on the Potomac River's North Branch, three brook trout streams, 1,700 acres of mixed forest and unique rocky bluffs rising 900 feet above the Potomac River



Bohemia River State Park

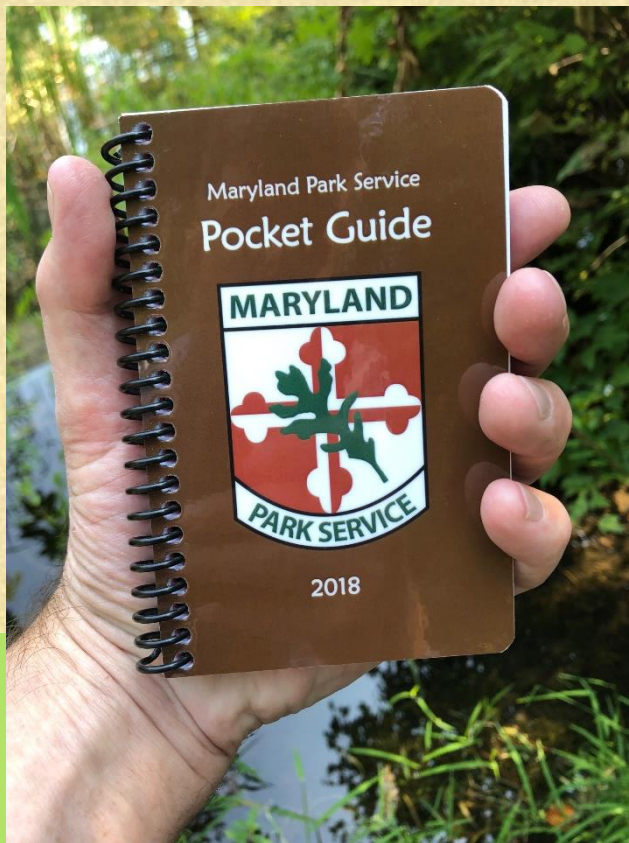
Acquired **460 acres** in southern Cecil County, for **Bohemia River State Park**. The property includes approximately 225 acres of upland and hydric forest, 195 acres of cultivated land and 14,000 feet of frontage on Great Bohemia Creek and tidal inlets

Increased the number of parks from 73 to **75** for a total of **140,761 acres** managed by the Maryland Park Service

EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION



In 2018, Maryland Park Rangers initiated and developed a **"Ranger Pocket Guide"** to serve as a ready job aid in the field



20 new Rangers graduated from **Ranger School** at Janes Island State Park after an intensive four-week training led by our training division and park leadership



Superintendent initiated **Town Hall Listening Sessions** throughout the spring for all employees in all four regions to seek their input and feedback on park operations and innovations.

The Training Division offered dozens of training opportunities throughout the park system including close quarters defense, civilian firearms, basic water rescue, small craft operations, various first aid and CPR disciplines, among others.

OUR PARTNERS



Our friends groups are invaluable sources of support. These independent nonprofit organizations are dedicated to, among other things, assisting a particular park, helping with special events and programs and park maintenance.

- Governors Park Advisory Commission
- Friends of Assateague State Park
- Friends of Maryland State Forests and Parks
- Friends of Janes Island State Park
- Friends of Martinak State Park
- Friends of New Germany
- Western Garrett County State Park Volunteers
- Friends of Cunningham Falls State Park
- Volunteer Team
- Dan's Mountain Park Association.
- Friends of Fort Frederick State Park
- Save Fair Hill
- North Point State Park Volunteers
- Soldiers Delight Conservation
- Friends of Calvert Cliffs State Park
- Friends of Point Lookout State Park
- Point Lookout Lighthouse Preservation Society
- Friends of Seneca Creek Stone Cutting/Benjamin Harrison Society
- Gunpowder United Mountain Bike Operators
- Percy Lee Dairy Farm Foundation
- Graham Equestrian Center
- West/Rhode Riverkeeper
- Friends of Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden
- Piscataway Conoy Tribe
- Friends of the Patapsco Valley State Park
- National Steeplechase Foundation
- Turkey Point Light Station
- Catoctin Forest Alliance
- Maryland OHV Alliance
- West Rhode Riverkeeper
- Rosaryville Conservancy

MORE INFORMATION



For more information about parks: dnr.maryland.gov/Publiclands/Pages/default.aspx

To make a park reservation: parkreservations.maryland.gov/

To purchase an annual Park or Golden Age pass: shopdnr.com

To get updates: public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MDDNR/subscriber/new?qsp=MDDNR_3

For the latest news and information about your favorite state park, like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!



www.facebook.com/MDStateParks
www.twitter.com/MDStateParks



Larry Hogan, Governor | Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary



Maryland Park Service
580 Taylor Avenue, E-3
Annapolis, MD 21401

HEADQUARTERS 800-830-3974

dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands
customerservice.dnr@maryland.gov

The facilities and services of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources are available to all without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin or physical or mental disability. This document is available in an alternative format upon request from a qualified individual with disability.