

BY THE NUMBERS



MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

2014

ANNUAL REPORT





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MISSION

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

VISION

In a sustainable Maryland, we recognize that the health of our society and 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.

OBJECTIVES

- Sustainable populations of living resources and aquatic habitat
- Healthy Maryland watershed lands, streams and non-tidal rivers
- Natural resources stewardship opportunities for Maryland's urban and rural citizens
- Sustainable natural resource-based economies — forestry, fisheries, recreation
- Conserved and managed statewide network of ecologically valuable private and public lands
- Diverse outdoor recreation opportunities for Maryland citizens and visitors
- Diverse workforce and efficient operations



The Maryland Forest Service restores, manages and protects

200,000

acres of trees, forests and forested ecosystems on public lands.

Bird & wildlife watching, recreational fishing & boating, hunting, park visitation, seafood industry & the forest products industry generate

\$8 BILLION

in economic impact annually.



DNR programs and services are conducted by

1,301

dedicated permanent employees.



66

State Parks on 137,814 acres host 11 million visitors annually.



EVERY MARYLANDER IS A DNR STAKEHOLDER

With less than 1% of the State's annual budget, the agency serves...

11 MILLION

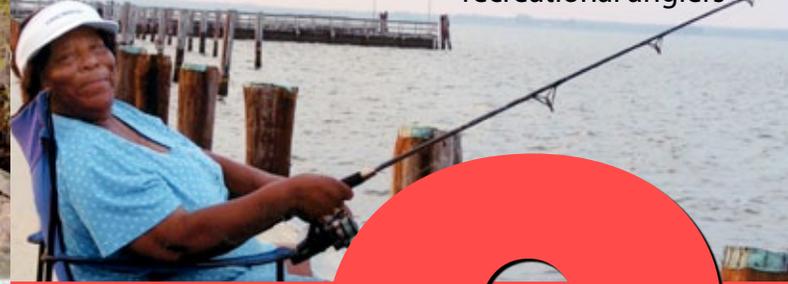
annual visitors to public lands

400,000+

recreational anglers

184,000+

registered boaters



Nearly
1.5 MILLION
bird watchers

400 charter
boat
captains



120,000+
hunters

5,500
commercial watermen





DURING 2014...



DNR provided funding for
151
local recreational projects
across Maryland through
Program Open Space.

17,000

customers downloaded DNR's
new **mobile app**, AccessDNR.



1,200
people participated in the 7th annual
Park Quest, a team competition that
encourages exploration of Maryland
State Parks' hidden treasures.

35

State Parks joined the **Maryland Green Travel** program, which promotes and recognizes partners who employ sustainable business practices in the tourism industry.

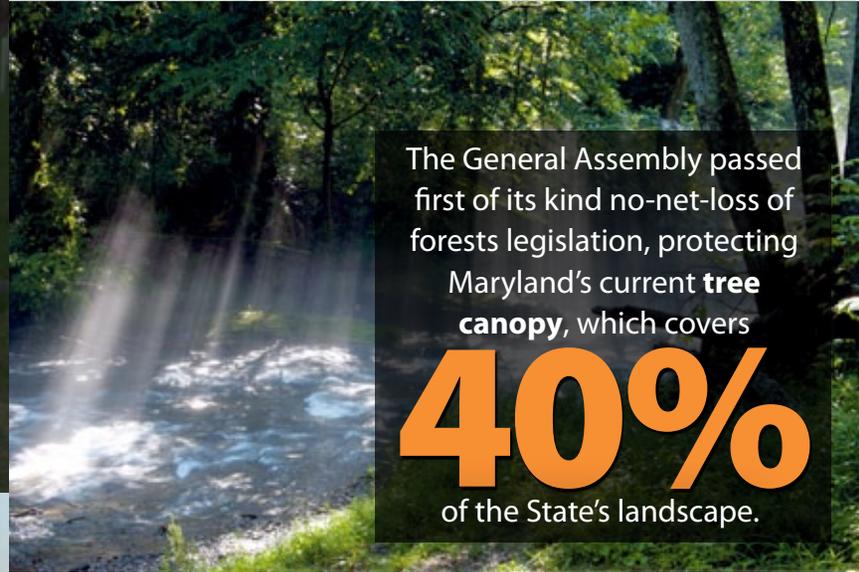




12

landowners participated in the new **Lawn to Woodland**

pilot program, which helps Marylanders who own one to four acres of land convert unused lawn to forest cover at no cost. The program is expected to grow more than **7x** in 2015 with **88** participants.



The General Assembly passed first of its kind no-net-loss of forests legislation, protecting Maryland's current **tree canopy**, which covers

40% of the State's landscape.



DNR awarded

39

grants to Volunteer Fire Departments in **15** Maryland counties for a total of **\$90,000** to help provide resources to better fight wildfires in rural communities.



White-tailed deer, black bears and Canada geese are among the

638

species actively managed by the Wildlife and Heritage Service.

Thanks to concerted efforts by DNR, landowners and other partners, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed removal of the **Delmarva fox squirrel** from the Endangered Species list, one of

134

rare, threatened or endangered species listed in Maryland.



Hunters harvested

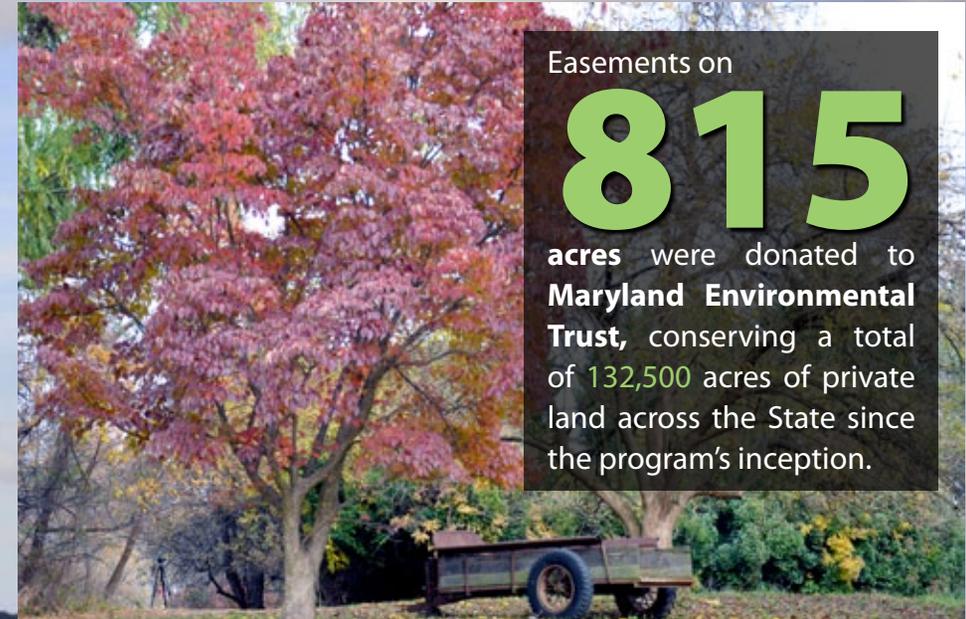
3,325

wild turkeys during the spring turkey season, close to the 2013 record-setting harvest of 3,344, and well above the 10-year average of 2,982.

Through **Program Open Space**,
DNR permanently protected

3,851

acres of land for public use,
bringing the program total acreage
to **323,000** acres.



Easements on

815

acres were donated to
**Maryland Environmental
Trust**, conserving a total
of **132,500** acres of private
land across the State since
the program's inception.

The Maryland General Assembly passed legislation
expanding Maryland's **Wildlands system** by 50
percent, permanently protecting the wilderness
character of

22,000

acres of sensitive State-owned lands, for a
total of **65,666** acres.

The **Rural Legacy Program** added

2,528

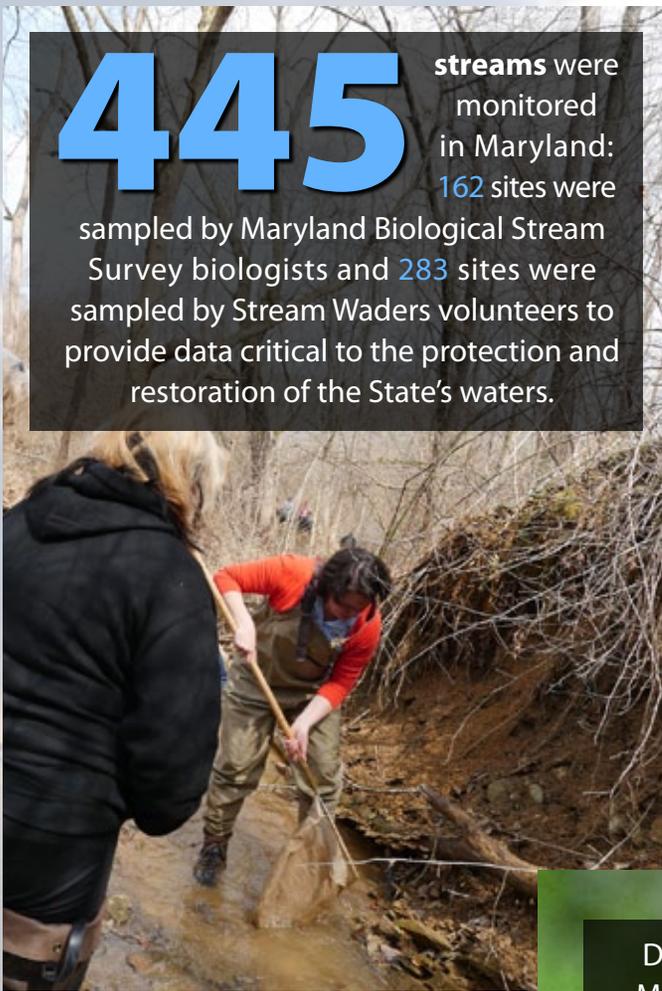
acres to its designated areas,
resulting in a total of **81,583** acres
of working farms and significant
rural lands preserved.

The **Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund** awarded

\$64 MILLION

in grants for local projects that reduce harmful nutrient and sediment runoff into the Bay; this innovative financing program has directed to **\$256 million** for support of **1,000** local projects over 7 years.

445 streams were monitored in Maryland: **162** sites were sampled by Maryland Biological Stream Survey biologists and **283** sites were sampled by Stream Waders volunteers to provide data critical to the protection and restoration of the State's waters.



With the addition of

6

new Clean Marinas, 157 Maryland marinas now voluntarily practice a series of pollution reduction strategies.



To aid local governments in coastal hazard preparedness, planning, and outreach, DNR issued

\$239,796

in grants for CoastSmart projects in Baltimore City, the City of Annapolis, Prince George's County, Calvert County, Talbot County, and the Town of Snow Hill.

DNR and the State of Maryland helped lead development of the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, which includes

10 goals for restoring the Bay and protecting its surrounding landscapes.



40

officers joined the ranks of the Maryland Natural Resources Police, after 30 weeks of classroom and field training during the agency's 55th and 56th Basic Recruit Classes.



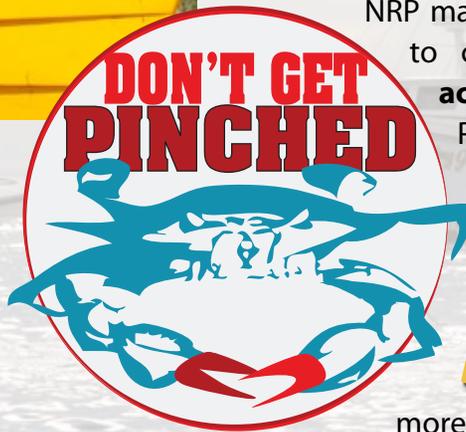
In March, a recreational fisherman was found guilty in Annapolis District Court for possessing

228 undersized striped bass.



In August, two fishing vessel captains, both of Tilghman Island, pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court to conspiring to violate the Lacey Act and to defraud the United States through their illegal harvesting and sale of

185,925 pounds of striped bass.

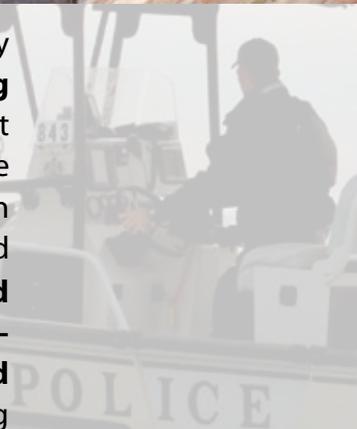


NRP made good on its promise in late July to crack down on **illegal crabbing activities** as part of the "Don't Get Pinched" campaign. During the first weekend of the conservation effort, NRP patrols checked

50

recreational and commercial crabbers, and seafood markets, issuing

more than a dozen citations and nearly two dozen warnings.



DNR's Fisheries Service manages

83

tidal and nontidal species for conservation, recreation and economic benefits.



Results from the 2013 Fall Oyster Survey revealed an oyster survival rate of survival rate —

92%

— the highest since 1985 when these measurements began.

\$3 MILLION

was the dockside value of farm-raised oysters

23

shellfish aquaculture leases were approved, bringing the total leases in place to 327 — many of them held by watermen.



6

Anglers set new Maryland Fishing Records, with the DNR certification of two northern snakeheads, one cobia, one white perch, one wahoo and the first gray triggerfish.



DNR biologists counted

60,000+

fish of 56 different species in 22 Maryland sites across the Bay as part of the annual survey of juveniles. The survey included 1,454 striped bass, noting a healthy level of reproduction, near the 61-year average.



261 young people graduated from the **Conservation Jobs Corps**, a 6-week summer jobs program where members enhance park land while gaining green jobs experience and an appreciation for nature. To date, the program has graduated approximately **2,000** youth.

1,200+

students, teachers and administrators attended the 2014 **Maryland Green School Youth Summit**, an annual event held at Sandy Point State Park that celebrates the State's **450** green schools and showcases hands on environmental learning and restoration activities conducted by students throughout the year.



The Maryland Environmental Trust issued a total of **\$35,000** in **Keep Maryland Beautiful Grants** to **26** schools and non-profit organizations across the State to restore streamside habitats, create community gardens and educate citizens about the environment.

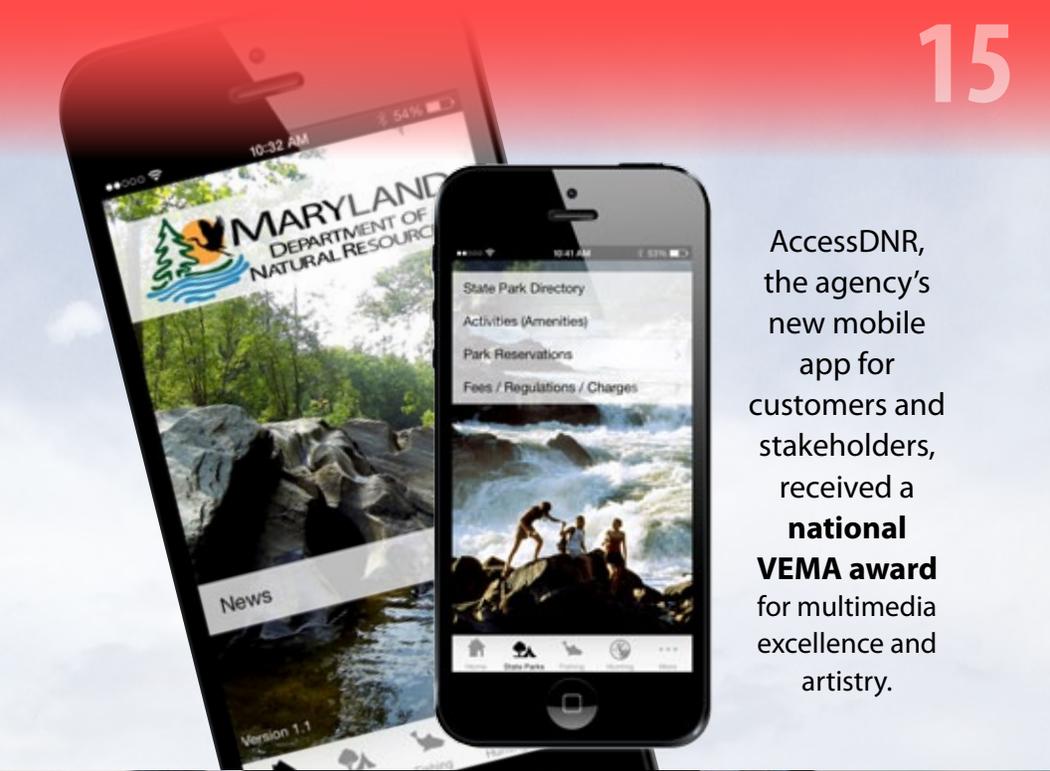
100,000



friends and followers are communicating with DNR through **social media** platforms.



Competing with nearly 12,000 entries from all 50 states and numerous countries, the **Maryland Park Service** was a bronze winner in the **35th Annual Telly Awards** for their video, *Gratitude for Maryland State Parks*.



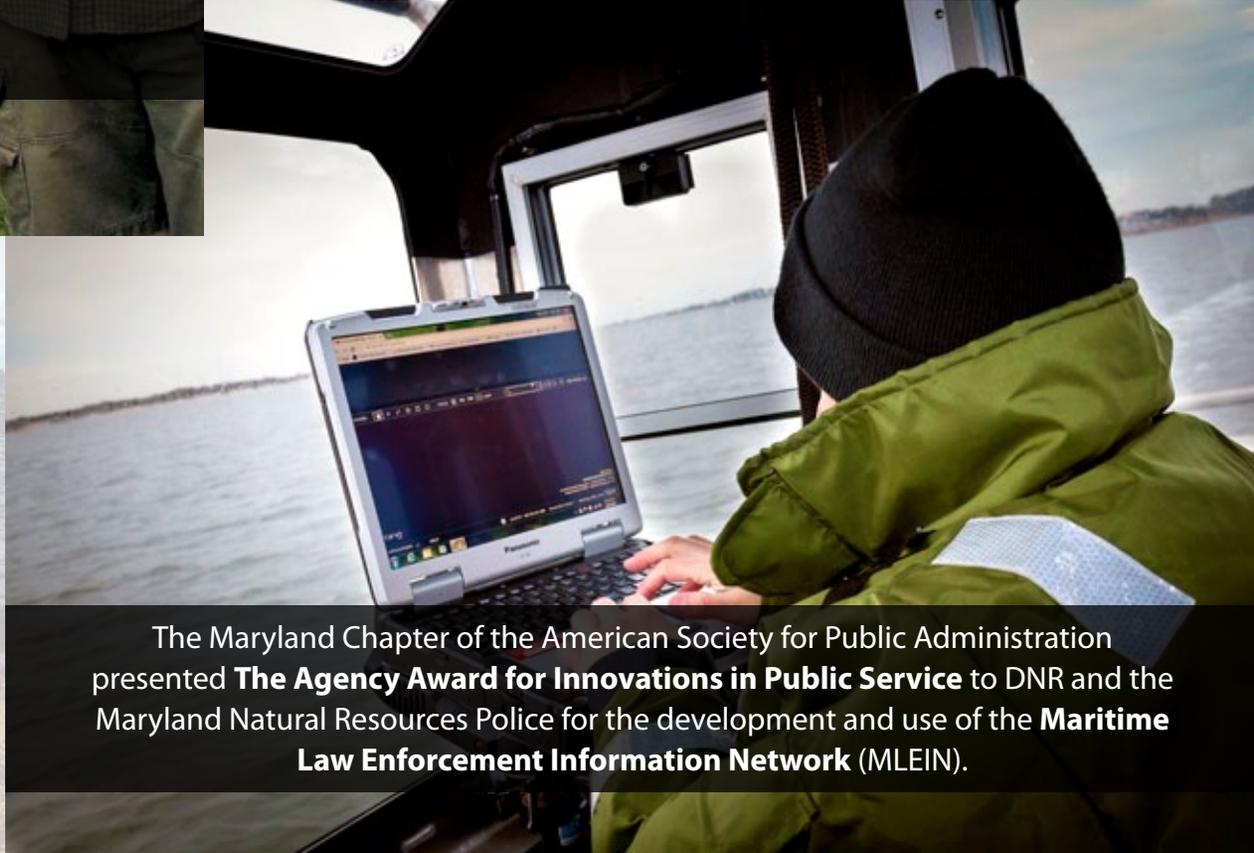
AccessDNR, the agency's new mobile app for customers and stakeholders, received a **national VEMA award** for multimedia excellence and artistry.



DNR earned

3

prestigious awards in recognition of outstanding programs.



The Maryland Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration presented **The Agency Award for Innovations in Public Service** to DNR and the Maryland Natural Resources Police for the development and use of the **Maritime Law Enforcement Information Network (MLEIN)**.