



DNR @ Work
Annual Report
2009



MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES



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Message from the Governor



In 2009, the State of Maryland continued to make tough choices to protect and restore resources that define our culture, support our economy and provide green jobs. With Secretary John Griffin leading the way, the hardworking men and women at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources promote sustainable policies that enhance quality of life for Maryland's families.

I have developed a deep respect and appreciation for the invaluable, challenging work of those professionals and the passion they show for their mission. Together we have developed new and innovative ideas, not only to make progress in our natural resources agenda, but to engage Marylanders in taking part as well.

Through Baystat, we developed and adopted new 2-year milestones in order to set realistic goals, hold ourselves accountable and make true progress in the effort to restore the Chesapeake Bay by meeting our nutrient reduction goals by 2020.

Using GreenPrint, we have preserved more than 13,500 acres of our sensitive land through Program Open Space. Based on six years of scientific study, we developed the Oyster Restoration and Aquaculture Development Plan to restore our decimated native oyster population. Our Bay blue crab population has begun to rebound, our bay grasses have increased by 20 percent from 2008, and many water quality stations are showing reduced nitrogen pollution.

We published the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights and developed Maryland's Children in Nature Action Plan to advance environmental literacy and help connect Maryland's young people with their natural world, creating our future environmental stewards.

Everything we do, from planting trees and conserving energy, to recycling and picking up after pets, is part of the solution to improving the health our beautiful State. Working together as One Maryland, we are creating a smarter, greener, more sustainable future for Maryland families and our treasured Chesapeake Bay.

Handwritten signature of Martin O'Malley in black ink.

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Message from the Secretary

The past year brought a number of changes designed to help focus management of Maryland's vast natural resources in a more sustainable way.

Under the leadership of Governor Martin O'Malley, Maryland Department of Natural Resources employees have led the way toward securing a sustainable future for our State, researching and making decisions based on sound science to better protect and restore our State's natural and living resources.

In 2009 Maryland and its partners returned 750 million oysters to the Chesapeake Bay, a new record in the State's efforts to restore this important resource. Governor O'Malley released his Oyster Restoration and Aquaculture plan to further our restoration efforts by increasing sanctuaries, encouraging aquaculture and maintaining a more targeted, sustainable and scientifically-managed public oyster fishery.

Our blue crab population increased this year and we launched a buy back program, targeting more than 3,500 inactive commercial limited crab catcher licenses. Retiring these licenses will allow our scientists to more effectively manage our crab fishery.

Our wildlife management efforts continue to be successful, with increased harvests of deer and black bears in 2009. We were able to remove the bald eagle from the endangered list and we opened 5,000 additional acres of wildlife management areas.

The *Marylanders Plant Trees* program continued its success with more than 26,000 trees planted and registered by citizens. And more than 200,000 trees were planted by inmates through the Department of Public Safety and Corrections Forest Brigade.

Though we have seen tremendous progress, our work is far from done. We look forward to building upon these successes as we continue our work to protect and manage the landscapes, waterways, fish and wildlife that have been entrusted to our care by our fellow citizens.



Handwritten signature of John R. Griffin in black ink.

John R. Griffin
Secretary



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.



Restoring the Chesapeake & Coastal Bays

DNR is the lead agency for the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries — an ecologically fragile watershed of 64,000 square miles that stretches from Virginia to New York.

2-year Milestones Revolutionize Bay Restoration

During calendar year 2009, DNR led the finalization of Maryland's 2-year Chesapeake Bay milestones. By accelerating on-the-ground efforts, Maryland will meet nutrient reduction goals by 2020, our voluntary deadline, which is a full four years earlier than the other Bay states. Track our progress on Maryland's Baystat website at baystat.maryland.gov.

Bay Grasses Increase

In 2009, bay grasses, a favorite home to the blue crab, increased 20 percent in Maryland's portion of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The majority of the 7,221-acre increase resulted from a continued expansion on the Susquehanna Flats, home of the largest underwater grass beds in the Chesapeake Bay.

Clean Marinas Expand

DNR recognized 12 new Clean Marinas in 2009, bringing the total to 25 percent of Maryland's estimated 600 marinas. DNR's exciting Clean Marina Initiative recognizes and promotes marinas, boatyards and yacht clubs of any size that meet legal requirements and voluntarily adopt pollution prevention practices. Boaters are encouraged to patronize certified Clean Marinas and to adopt clean boating habits.

Trust Fund Supports Local Projects

Established in November 2007, the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bay Trust Fund was created to provide a dedicated source of funding to accelerate Bay restoration by focusing financial resources on the most effective nonpoint source pollution control projects. Local watershed implementation grants totaling \$3.3 million, generated from rental car and motor fuel tax revenue, were awarded to help reduce nutrients and sediment in the Bay and its tributaries during calendar year 2009.

Wade-Ins Engage Stakeholders

DNR's Tributary Teams and partners conducted 13 wade-in events across the State, attended by approximately 1,000 citizens as well as state and local elected officials. A wade-in is a popular, but unscientific check of water clarity. Participants walk into the water until they can no longer see the tops of their sneakers, then measure and record the depth. While wade-ins provide a one-day snapshot of water clarity, these annual measurements are important because they raise public awareness of water quality issues.

Preserving Maryland's Landscape

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has been a national leader in land conservation for more than 40 years. Other states have modeled Maryland's initiatives, such as Program Open Space and the Rural Legacy Program, to achieve success in their own land conservation efforts. In 2009, the O'Malley-Brown Administration surpassed the 25,000 acre landmark in preservation of natural areas for public recreation, watershed and wildlife protection through Program Open Space.

POS Protects Province Properties...

In 2009, DNR worked with partners across the State to acquire and protect 12,708 acres of land through Program Open Space. This included the Province and Foster properties, collectively protecting nearly 10,000 acres and 20 miles of shoreline. Program Open Space funds are allocated to purchase land for state parks, forests, wildlife habitat, natural, scenic and cultural resources for public use. A portion of funds are also dedicated to capital improvements, critical maintenance, and operations in state parks.

... and Expands Local Recreation Projects

Local-side Program Open Space makes funds available to local governments to help them buy land and build park facilities to meet their specific goals of Land Conservation and Recreation for their citizens. These funds also support Maryland's Community Parks & Playgrounds Program, which invests in the future of established communities by revitalizing parks and playgrounds statewide. To date, more than 5,000 local grants projects have either acquired land or built facilities for Maryland's conservation and recreation needs. In 2009, DNR partnered with local governments to secure approval of 217 local-side Program Open Space projects, including 62 community parks & playgrounds projects.

CREP Makes Protection Permanent

Maryland's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a federal-state conservation partnership that pays landowners attractive land rental rates to voluntarily take environmentally sensitive cropland and pastureland out of production for 10 to 15 years. Participants plant streamside buffers, protect highly erodible land or establish wetlands to protect the water quality and wildlife habitat of local streams. Beginning in 2010 a new federal program will allow for permanent protection.

Maryland Environmental Trust Celebrates Protection of 1,000 Properties

The Maryland Environmental Trust is a statewide land trust that works with landowners and citizen land trusts to protect Maryland's treasured landscapes and natural resources as a legacy for future generations. In 2009, MET celebrated the protection of 1,000 properties, consisting of over 125,000 acres of open space, forest and farmland. MET staff, together with volunteers and local land trust partners, monitored a total of 180 conservation easements comprising 23,250 acres in 2009, including MET's largest easement ever on the 2,918-acre Andelot Farm in Kent County.





Managing Maryland's Fisheries

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

Governor Releases Oyster Plan

In December, DNR coordinated the Governor's announcement of the Proposed Oyster Restoration and Aquaculture Development Plan, a new multi-faceted effort to rebuild Maryland's decimated native oyster population. The plan, based on six years of scientific study, will increase Maryland's network of oyster sanctuaries from 9 percent to 25 percent of remaining quality habitat; increase areas open to leasing for oyster aquaculture and streamline the permitting process; and maintain 75 percent of the Bay's remaining quality oyster habitat for a more targeted, sustainable, and scientifically-managed public oyster fishery.

NRP Accelerates Enforcement

A new penalty system was proposed to deter natural resource violations, including commercial poaching. The new system will impose penalties on first time offenders, based on the severity of their crime, as well as repeat offenders. A noteworthy part of this program is the launch of increased enforcement initiatives. DNR enacted its right to suspend or revoke commercial fishing licenses. In 2010, DNR's enforcement efforts will be aided by a network of radar and camera units in sensitive areas that are prone to poaching.

Maryland Plants a Record Number of Oysters

In 2009, the State and its partners reached an oyster planting landmark, returning nearly 750 million hatchery-reared oysters to the Bay in 2009. This marks a new record in the State's Chesapeake Bay oyster restoration efforts.

Blue Crab Population Increases

The Chesapeake Bay's adult population of blue crabs increased substantially in 2009, indicating management measures put into place in 2008 to address population declines are working. The results of the Bay-wide winter dredge survey estimated the total number of crabs overwintering in the Chesapeake Bay during 2008-2009 increased from 280 million in 2007-2008 to just over 400 million.

Blue Crab License Buy Back Program Underway

In an important effort toward effective management of Maryland's blue crab population, DNR began offering to permanently buy back 3,676 commercial limited crab catcher (LCC) licenses. DNR implemented this buy back program in response to public feedback offering solutions for reducing the number of inactive crabbing licenses. Support for the program came from \$15 million in Federal Crab Disaster Funds obtained through the efforts of U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski and the Maryland Delegation to help watermen and to foster restoration solutions for the crabbing industry in Maryland.

Managing Maryland's Wildlife & Heritage

DNR manages the State's diverse wildlife resources, protecting Maryland's rare, threatened and endangered species, mitigating or eliminating the effects of exotic, nonnative and invasive species and conserving game birds and mammals and their native habitat.

Record Deer Harvest

A new harvest milestone of 100,437 deer taken was reached during the 2008-09 season, a 9 percent increase over 2008. With 65 percent of the harvest consisting of antlerless deer, a harvest of this magnitude is necessary to achieve management goals for a stable or decreasing deer population in most parts of the State.

Black Bear Hunt a Success

DNR held a successful black bear hunt, with 552 participating hunters taking 68 bears, up from 56 harvested in 2008. The harvest goal for the season was 60-85 bears. Additionally, a record number of applications were received for the Black Bear lottery permit process.

Bald Eagle Recovers

The bald eagle population continued to thrive in 2009, prompting DNR to remove the bird from the State's list of threatened species. Only 44 breeding pairs of bald eagles were found in Maryland in 1977. In 2004, 390 breeding pairs were found, and by 2009, more than 500 nesting pairs were calling Maryland home.

DNR Launches Herp Atlas

In 2009, Maryland initiated the first-ever statewide reptile and amphibian atlas project to survey these species over a five-year period.

New Wildlife Management Properties Open

DNR's Land Acquisition and Planning, Engineering & Construction and Wildlife & Heritage divisions teamed up to open 5,000 additional acres of wildlife management area properties statewide. This included the Cedar Point Wildlife Management Area, which now provides opportunities to hunt upland and forest game, migratory game birds, waterfowl and deer, as well as activities such as bird watching, fishing and hiking.





Serving Maryland's Communities & Citizens

From efforts to restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries to careful stewardship of wildlife and forests, DNR programs have a direct impact on the quality of life of every Marylander and every visitor to our State. The Maryland Park Service serves millions of Marylanders every year who come to enjoy our beautiful State parks and the Natural Resources Police ensure that our resources are protected so that future generations can enjoy them.

Parks and Policies Improve

The Maryland Park Service (MPS) served 10.7 million visitors in 2009, including 6 million visitors in the 100 days between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The Park Service improved the environmental sustainability of state parks by planting 259 acres of trees and expanding the use of green technologies, such as compact fluorescent lamps, waterless urinals, tankless water heaters, rain gardens and rain barrels, recycling and propane motors. MPS also adopted new policies to expand access to more State parks and campgrounds for owners and their pets and expanded its premier family summer programs, Park Quest, to 14 State parks and 300 families.

Citizen Stream Tracking Tool Debuts

Maryland launched the StreamHealth web tool. Based on the Maryland Biological Stream Survey and volunteer Stream Waders program, StreamHealth allows citizens to assess the health of their local streams. DNR trained 190 volunteers for the Maryland Stream Waders Program. These "citizen scientists" sampled 540 stream sites that helped fill gaps in DNR's ability to assess the quality of the State's streams.

New NRP Communications Center Opens

The Maryland Natural Resources Police, through Homeland Security/Port Security Grants and matching State funds, completed construction of a new communications center with the technological infrastructure to host a variety of advanced communications and information sharing systems. NRP continued to develop the Maritime Law Enforcement Information Network (MLEIN), a technology which will identify and track vessels on Maryland's waterways.

Forest Brigade Inmates Plant Trees

As part of the Marylanders Plant Trees program, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections Forest Brigade planted 204,000 trees using inmate labor in 2009. DPSCS has set a goal of planting one million trees throughout Maryland.

Connecting Children with Nature

Created by Governor Martin O'Malley in 2007, the Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature continues to make sure all Maryland young people have the opportunity to learn about their environment, connect with their natural world and grow to become responsible stewards.

Children in Nature Action Plan Released

Nearly 100 education and recreation specialists worked together to develop the 2010 Children in Nature Action Plan. Highlights of the plan include identifying acquisitions that will connect children to nature, expanding the Civic Justice Corps summer work program, pursuing a recommendation to the State Board of Education that environment education be a high school graduation requirement and identifying funding from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to support both K-12 environmental education as well as hands-on environmental projects.

Environmental Programs Educates Youth

DNR offers a host of programs that provide an outlet for Maryland children and families to get outdoors and learn about their natural world. This year, TEAM DNR held 25 environmental education programs on streams, the Chesapeake Bay watershed, watermen, horseshoe crabs and oysters in 25 schools throughout the State, reaching more than 750 elementary and middle school students.

Maryland is proud to be a part of the national program, Hooked On Fishing, Not On Drugs. Sponsored by the Sportfish Restoration Fund and the Future Fisherman Foundation, DNR offers free fishing clinics throughout the year to Maryland youth. DNR's Aquatic Resources Education staff teaches these clinics to over 1,000 students a year. The concept began in 1986 after the Foundation received a letter from a teen who said he turned to fishing instead of drugs to cope with problems.

Bay Game Turns 12

DNR published the 12th Annual Bay Game Activity Booklet celebrating Children in Nature. DNR distributed 200,000 of these booklets to libraries, welcome centers and schools which were enjoyed by children state-wide.





Inspiring Citizen Stewardship

Citizen action and commitment are key to the health of Maryland's natural resources. DNR works with public and private partners to develop and support programs aimed at inspiring citizens to become better stewards and provide the opportunities, experiences and information to do so.

Marylanders Plant Trees

DNR launched the citizen component of the Marylanders Plant Trees Program. DNR provided coupons worth \$25 off the purchase of a Maryland native tree at participating nurseries and encouraged planters to register their trees online. The website allows participants to calculate economical and ecological benefit of their trees online. 75 nurseries participated and citizens registered 26,664 on the public site in 2009.

Citizens Oyster Growing Effort Expands

DNR continued to expand the Marylanders Grow Oysters program in 2009, with 11 new tributaries and over 5,000 cages being tended by citizen stewards. The program helps hundreds of waterfront property owners grow millions of young oysters in cages suspended from their private piers for protection during their vulnerable first year of life so they may be planted on local sanctuaries to enrich the ecosystem and oyster population. There is no charge to participants. Governor O'Malley launched "head start for oysters" in 2008 with nearly 900 oyster cages along the Tred Avon River. Since then, with help from the Oyster Recovery Partnership, about 20 program sponsors and DNR's Fisheries Service, the program continues to thrive and expand.

Maryland Conservation Corps Celebrates 25th Anniversary

The Maryland Conservation Corps, an award-winning AmeriCorps program that engages young adults in extensive natural resource management and park conservation projects, celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2009. The program graduated 35 members, having completed 1,700 hours of service each at 8 locations throughout the State; 12 members signed up for another year of service.

Civic Justice Corps Employs At Risk Youth

The Maryland Park Service provided 6-week summer jobs and outdoor enrichment activities for 264 youth participating in the Civic Justice Corps, including 200 youth from Baltimore City. More than 200 graduated from the program. The participants completed projects at Patapsco Valley, Gunpowder Falls, Susquehanna and Assateague State Parks, and Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary. Two graduates were selected to help expand the program for 2010. The CJC was created by Governor O'Malley in 2008 to offer a summer job and environmental education to at-risk youth.

Celebrating Milestones & Success

DNR's employees are its greatest resource and 2009 brought well-deserved recognition to our programs and the people behind them.

[Steve Koehn](#), Director of the Maryland Forest Service, was named President of the National Association of State Foresters for a one year term. He was also presented with the Outstanding Forestry Legislation of 2009 Award for the Sustainable Forestry Act of 2009.

NRP Superintendent [Colonel George F. Johnson, IV](#), was sworn in as President of the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association for 2010. Johnson is the first law enforcement official to serve as president of both the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association and the Maryland Sheriff's Association

The Izaak Walton League of America selected DNR Wildlife Biologist [Linh Diem Phu](#) to receive the 2009 National Honor Roll award.

The Society of American Foresters selected long-time DNR Forest Manager [Francis Zumbrun](#) to receive its coveted Presidential Field Forester Award.

The Maryland Park Service awarded Rangers [Chris Anderson](#) and [Rick Lewis](#) the Edmund Prince Award for distinguished service.

DNR Education Program Manager [Elena Takaki](#) was named President of the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) for a two-year term. This non-profit organization is responsible for providing thousands of Maryland environmental educators with exciting, engaging programs that promote sustainability and environmental health for children and their families.

The Maryland Park Service graduated 36 [new Maryland State Park Rangers](#).

Eighteen [new officers](#) graduated from the Natural Resources Police Academy.

[Swallow Falls State Park](#) was voted one of the top five activities to enjoy while vacationing in Garrett County determined by a WVU tourism survey.

DNR received LEED Silver certification of the new [Hammerman Beach Services building](#) at Gunpowder Falls State Park, the first DNR structure to be LEED certified.



BUDGET SUMMARY

FY '09, FY '10

Budget Summary
(\$ in millions)

	FY'09 Actual	FY'10 Actual
Appropriations		
General Funds	57.7	45.2
Special Funds	173.4	118.9
Federal Funds	30.8	34.4
Reimbursable Funds	8.1	9.6
Total	270.0	208.2
Units		
Boating Services	25.7	9.9
Capital Grants and Loan Administration	N/A	N/A
Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission	2.2	1.9
Engineering & Construction	4.6	5.1
Fisheries Service	19.4	22.9
Land Acquisition and Planning	76.1	28.8
Licensing & Registration Service	3.8	3.2
Maryland Environmental Trust	0.73	0.77
Maryland Forest Service	10.5	10.1
Maryland Natural Resources Police	36.4	37.8
Maryland Park Service	35.3	34.8
Office of the Secretary, et. al.	13.1	12.7
Public Lands, Policy & Planning	N/A	N/A
Resource Assessment Service	17.8	17.2
Watershed Services	13.3	12.3
Wildlife & Heritage Service	10.4	10.1
Total	270.0	208.2
Positions		
Authorized	1358.50	1,343.5
Contractual	400.7	378.8
Total	1,759.2	1,722.3



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