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.

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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
Bird & wildlife watching, recreational fishing & boating, hunting, park visitation, seafood industry & the forest products industry generate $8 billion in economic impact annually.

The Maryland Forest Service restores, manages and protects 200,000 acres of trees, forests and forested ecosystems on public lands.

DNR programs and services are conducted by 1,301 dedicated permanent employees.

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

184,000+
registered boaters

400,000+
recreational anglers
STAKEHOLDERS & ECONOMIC IMPACT

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.

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

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

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.
Hunters harvested 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.

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.
Through Program Open Space, DNR permanently protected 3,851 acres of land for public use, bringing the program total acreage to 323,000 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.

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.

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 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.

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.

$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.

WATER QUALITY

To aid local governments in coastal hazard preparedness, planning, and outreach, DNR issued $239,796.
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 recreational and commercial crabbers, and seafood markets, issuing more than a dozen citations and nearly two dozen warnings.
Results from the 2013 Fall Oyster Survey revealed an oyster survival rate of 92% — the highest since 1985 when these measurements began.

DNR biologists counted 60,000+ tidal and nontidal species for conservation, recreation and economic benefits.

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’s Fisheries Service manages 83 tidal and nontidal species for conservation, recreation and economic benefits.

FISHERIES

$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.

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.

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.
$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.

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.

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.

100,000 friends and followers are communicating with DNR through social media platforms.
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).

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

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.

DNR earned prestigious awards in recognition of outstanding programs.

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