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 alternative format upon request from a qualified individual with a disability.
**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.

**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.

**OBJECTIVES**
- Sustainable populations of living resources and aquatic habitat
- Healthy watershed lands, streams and non-tidal rivers
- Natural resources stewardship opportunities for rural and urban citizens
- Conserved and managed statewide network of ecologically valuable private and public lands
- Diverse outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and visitors
- Diverse workforce and efficient operations
FOREST PRODUCT OPERATOR LICENSING FEE
Reduced from $30 to $20 a year. This license is required in order to engage in a forest products business, including sawmills, firewood dealers, and pulpwood and logging contractors.

CERTIFIED TREE EXPERT LICENSING FEE
Reduced from $25 to $20. These licenses are required in order to advertise or practice tree care services.

FOREST CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT PROGRAM PROPERTY FEE
Simplified fee for landowners participating in the conservation program.

GOLDEN AGE PASS
Eliminated fee to use state park boat launches or ramps. The pass entitles Maryland adults ages 62 and older to a lifetime of free day-use entry into all state parks, as well as half-price camping Sunday through Thursday.

GAME HUSBANDRY LICENSING FEE
Reduced from $10 to $5 a year. This license is required for anyone who raises, breeds, protects or sells game birds.

FOREST PRODUCT OPERATOR LICENSING FEE
Reduced from $30 to $20 a year. This license is required in order to engage in a forest products business, including sawmills, firewood dealers, and pulpwood and logging contractors.
**CHESAPEAKE BAY RESTORATION** Utilized the most cost-effective and efficient technologies to reduce nonpoint source pollution (runoff containing nutrients and sediment) from the bay, while also creating jobs. To date, 24 Maryland companies have developed 26 technologies supporting roughly 100 jobs. The state’s $3.6 million investment has been matched with $2.7 million from companies participating in the program.

**SUSTAINABLE FORESTS** Efforts to sustainably manage more than 200,000 acres of state forests were validated by another successful certification audit from the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. These forests provide raw material for the forest products industry, habitat for game and non-game wildlife species, and recreational opportunities.

**STREAM RESTORATION** Provided $750,000 to help fund a research grant for stream restoration projects. Four projects were selected to rigorously evaluate the effectiveness of water quality and habitat enhancement practices and efforts.

**WORKING WATERFRONTS** Provided $143,000 through a federal grant to support the revitalization of working waterfront communities and economies dependent on fishing, boating and various marine trades.

**HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES** The department bid out 55 critical maintenance projects worth more than $3.5 million, which goes directly to small businesses and contractors throughout the state.
DURING 2015...
Provided guidance to landowners in the planting of more than 1,000 acres of trees through programs such as Lawn to Woodland, Marylanders Plant Trees and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

Assisted 17 jurisdictions with strategies and treatments to combat the deadly emerald ash borer—an invasive insect that feeds on and eventually kills ash trees—and drafted a Protected Lands Plan for the state.

Responded to the fire emergency caused by extreme heat and drought on the west coast by mobilizing three 20-person crews, 12 specially trained individuals and two engines to various fires in Alaska, California, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

Here in Maryland, crews responded to 158 fires that burned 1,058 acres.
Added nearly 11,000 acres to the department’s portfolio for public recreation and wildlife management, bringing total Wildlife Management Area acreage to approximately 123,000.

With partners, completed efforts to eradicate the invasive nutria population to near zero.

Removed the Delmarva Fox Squirrel from the list of threatened and endangered wildlife after working cooperatively with landowners and the partners for past 10 years.

Reduced the invasive mute swan population to fewer than 20 birds statewide (from a high of 4,000 less than 10 years ago).

Reduced the estimated statewide deer population by 100,000—from a high of 300,000.
Provided funding for **153 local recreational projects** through Program Open Space-Local and the Community Parks and Playgrounds Program.

Permanently protected an additional **3,159 acres of natural areas** through Program Open Space-Stateside for public recreation as well as watershed and wildlife protection, bringing the program’s total acreage to **326,000**.

The Rural Legacy Program added **3,043 acres** to its designated areas, resulting in a total of **84,626 acres** of working farms and significant rural lands preserved.

**11 easements** on **763 acres** were donated to the Maryland Environmental Trust, conserving a total of **132,923 acres** of private land across the state since 1967.
Secured **$39.4 million** for local projects that reduce harmful nutrient and sediment runoff into the bay. The Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund has restored **185,442 linear feet of stream** and **601 acres of wetlands** as well as removed more than **32 acres of impervious surface**.

Issued **five grants** to aid local governments in coastal hazard preparedness, planning and outreach: Baltimore City, Calvert County, Kent County, Queen Anne’s County and the Town of Oxford.

Mallows Bay became well-positioned to be one of the first **National Marine Sanctuaries** in **more than 15 years**. If designated, it will become the **first** within Maryland waters as well as the first **in the Chesapeake Bay region**.

Trained **140 volunteers** and sampled **238 freshwater streams**.
Chesapeake Bay Submerged Aquatic Vegetation continues to show improvement in response to better water quality conditions.

To date, Maryland has attained 35% of its 2025 acreage goal for the bay.

Completed the second of three years of water quality monitoring at stations to describe baseline water quality conditions within Maryland’s Marcellus shale region.

Collected nearly 6,000 water quality samples during more than 3,500 events to evaluate the quality of Maryland’s streams, rivers and estuaries at sites that have been sampled monthly since 1972.
Determined the abundance of **spawning-age female blue crabs** was **101 million**—a substantial rise from 2014 when adult females were considered depleted—via the Blue Crab Winter Dredge Survey results.

Results from the 2014 Fall Oyster Survey revealed an oyster survival rate of **89%**—the 5th highest since measurements began in 1985.

Approved **56 new shellfish aquaculture leases**, bringing the total leases in place to **370**—many of them held by watermen. Aquaculture activities produced more than **500,000 bushels of oysters**.

**$80 million** in dockside values: **$5.3 million** for striped bass, **$58.9 million** for blue crabs and **$15.1 million** for oysters.

Certified **7 new recreational Maryland Fishing Records**: 1 chain pickerel, 2 snakeheads, 1 tautog, 1 triggerfish, 1 white perch and 1 winter flounder.

Counted more than **70,000 fish** of **50 different species** in **22 sites across** the bay as part of the annual survey of juveniles. It included **3,194 striped bass**, noting a healthy level of reproduction—the eighth highest on record.
Provided funding and manpower to remove 20 abandoned vessels obstructing Maryland’s waterways, including the 70-foot New Hope deserted in the West Ocean City commercial harbor. Its steel remains have been donated to an artificial reef program.

Broke up iced waterways with Hydrographic Operations vessels over a 6-week period to ensure fuel, food and people could reach the communities of Smith and Tangier islands, as well as to assist marine commerce, industry and fishing vessels.

Completed the $2.1 million Fort Smallwood boat ramp project using a Boating Access Grant.

Awarded $6 million in Waterway Improvement funds to 59 public boating projects in 20 counties. These funds had an economic impact of $11.2 million.

Boating Services fosters the sustainable development and enjoyment of Maryland waterways for more than 181,000 registered boaters and 600 marinas.
Received above average or excellent ratings from 85% of visitors surveyed.

Sold more than 7,000 park passports and more than 6,600 Golden Age passes.

Completed major park improvements—including a walking trail and interpretive wayside exhibits that tell the story of Maryland’s militia during the War of 1812—at North Point State Battlefield, which sees approximately 250 visitors per week.

Initiated a construction project on the department’s first solar photovoltaic project at Sandy Point State Park.

PARK SERVICE manages 72 parks across the state.
Provided **35** trail maps online utilizing a brand new geospatial format compatible with mobile devices.

Broke ground on **five** miles of new, natural surface trails in Garrett County.

Renovated **10** shower, bathhouse and comfort stations, which totaled approximately **12,000 square feet** of updated facilities.

Experienced a **9%** increase in camping, cabins and picnic shelter reservations.
Inspected vessels in the bay, on lakes and rivers and the Atlantic Ocean.

42,200 vessels

Conducted nearly homeland security checks of power plants, bridges, the Port of Baltimore and other vital waterfront areas.

7,000 homeland security checks

Graduated officers from the academy in October after seven months of instruction.

22 officers

Talked to more than residents and visitors this year as they kept watch over public lands and waterways.

260,000 residents and visitors

NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE
more than 260 officers enforce conservation law, educate the public and provide emergency assistance.
youth—including 161 from Baltimore City—graduated from the Conservation Jobs Corps, learning job skills and connecting with nature during a 5-week summer job in state parks.

The department completed design of 10 new nature-based playgrounds and initiated construction valued at $1.7 million.

Boating education and hunter safety staff taught nearly 9,000 people in 273 classroom and online settings.

Citizens and school children experienced interpretive and environmental education programs and events at state parks.

The department provided more than 50 professional development workshops for 2,000 educators, gave nearly 200 classroom presentations and supported more than 500 field experiences—which will ultimately reach an estimated 64,000 students from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade.

248,061 citizens and school children experienced interpretive and environmental education programs and events at state parks.

5,934

260 youth—including 161 from Baltimore City—graduated from the Conservation Jobs Corps, learning job skills and connecting with nature during a 5-week summer job in state parks.