

CJC 2017 Annual Report



The Maryland Conservation Jobs Corps

About Us

The Maryland Conservation Jobs Corps Program (CJC) is a five-week summer employment program for youth. Operated by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, CJC offers job and life skills training, while engaging youth in conservation service projects that restore Maryland State Parks and other public lands. CJC uses outdoor experiential activities and the power of nature to enrich the lives of youth and prepare them for future success in the workforce

CJC began in 2008, as a special initiative of the Maryland Park Service, and today it has base operations in six state parks: Assateague State Park, Gunpowder Falls State Park, Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary, Patapsco Valley State Park, Seneca Creek State Park and Susquehanna State Park. CJC also partners with Baltimore City Recreation and Parks to have bases in 3 city parks: Clifton Park, Cylburn Arboretum and Gwynns Falls Park.

Corps members (age 14 - 17) report to work each day and engage in habitat and facility restoration projects at these parks, as well as in nearby city or county parks. CJC youth plant trees, repair hiking trails, paint nature centers, build footbridges, and other projects that clean up the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.



Mission

To provide disadvantaged youth with opportunities for skills training, empowerment, and employment and to restore natural and recreational resources in Maryland State Parks, public lands in general, and the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.



Goals

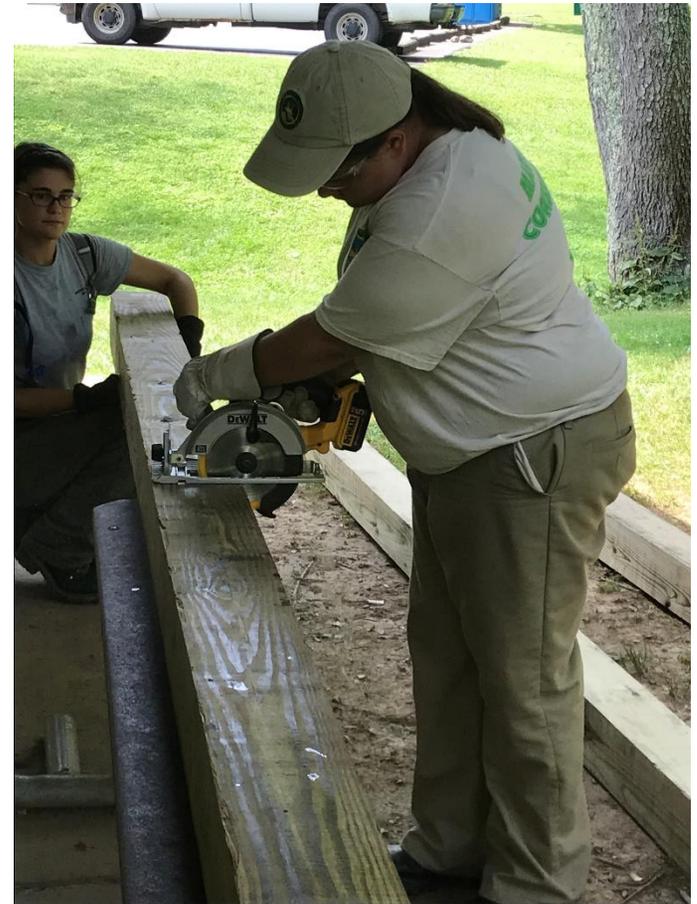
1. Teach job skills and life skills through conservation service.
2. Restore natural and cultural resources in Maryland State Parks and other public lands.
3. Develop environmental citizenship through the introduction and application of environmental stewardship principles.
4. Build personal connections to nature through outdoor recreation and nature interpretation.

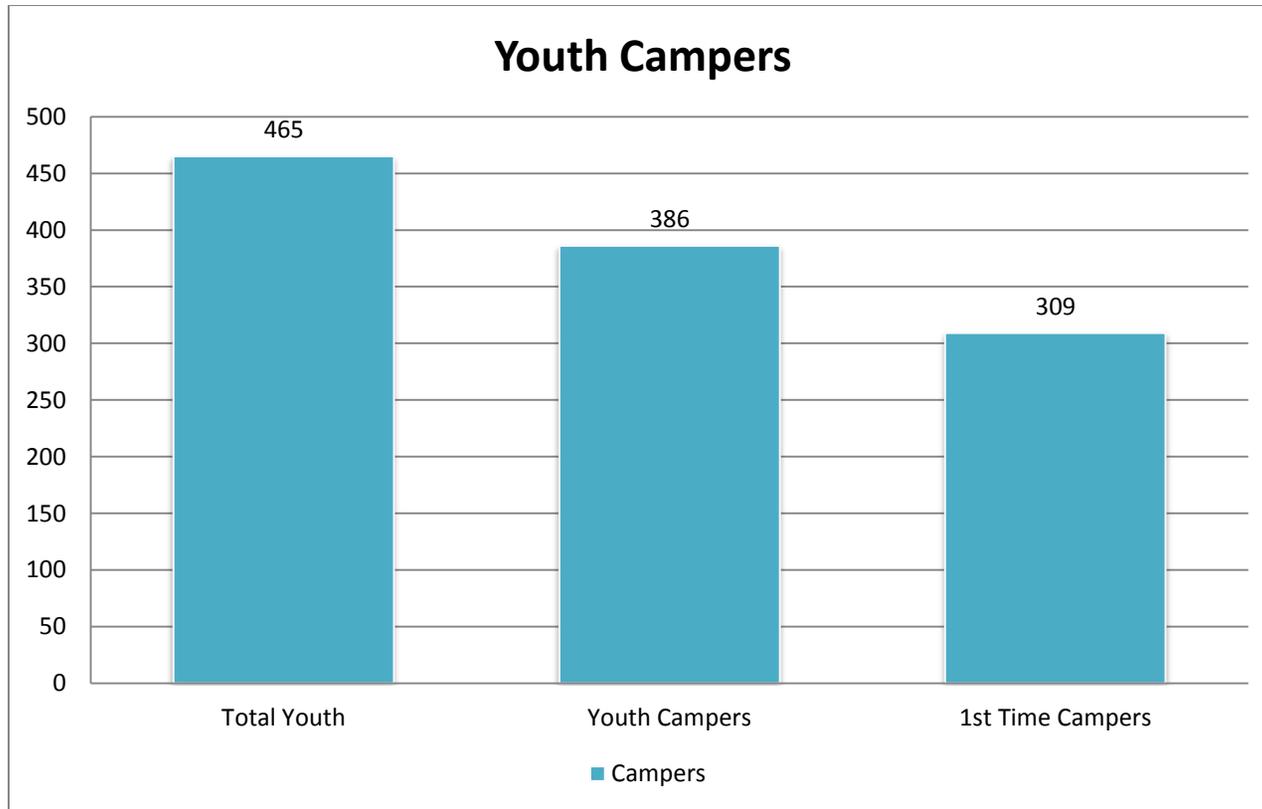
Camping and Environmental Enrichment

Corps Members can participate in an overnight, three day - two night camping experience during their summer experience with the Maryland Conservation Jobs Corps. The purpose of camping is to expose youth to a wide range of outdoor recreational activities and to teach concepts such as "Leave No Trace." The Corps Members are challenged to step outside of their comfort zones and asked to leave

the conveniences of modern life behind. While camping, youth learn to pitch a tent, what necessities to bring on a

camping trip, to identify wildlife, and proper camping etiquette. Youth also participate in a challenge course, canoeing, night hikes, camp fires, s'more making, and swimming during their time at camp. There were three camping locations during the 2017 CJC season, Greenbrier, Rocky Gap and Tuckahoe State Parks. Camping provides youth an opportunity to see the benefits of preserving natural spaces for recreation and relaxation. Camp Staff members are trained for fun and innovative ways to engage youth in outdoor recreation and orienteering. Each summer we discover the impact camping has on changing perspectives of youth who have never been camping before. The experience breeds comradery among corps members and an appreciation for nature that hopefully last a lifetime. At the close of each program year, camp staff selects those youth who not only challenge themselves by eagerly engaging in every activity but also had a great attitude. Almost every youth, when asked about the highlight of their summer points to camping as that time being the most fun they have ever had.





MD CJC provides a three day – two night camping trip for youth corps members to a MD State Park

Environmental enrichment has been a continuing priority of the Maryland Conservation Jobs Corps, as outlined by its mission, goals, and core values. In 2017 CJC's enrichment program continued to challenge youth to build on their understanding of their role in improving the environment and addressing environmental ethics as a major concern for their generation. Youth participated in the following enrichment activities during their five weeks:





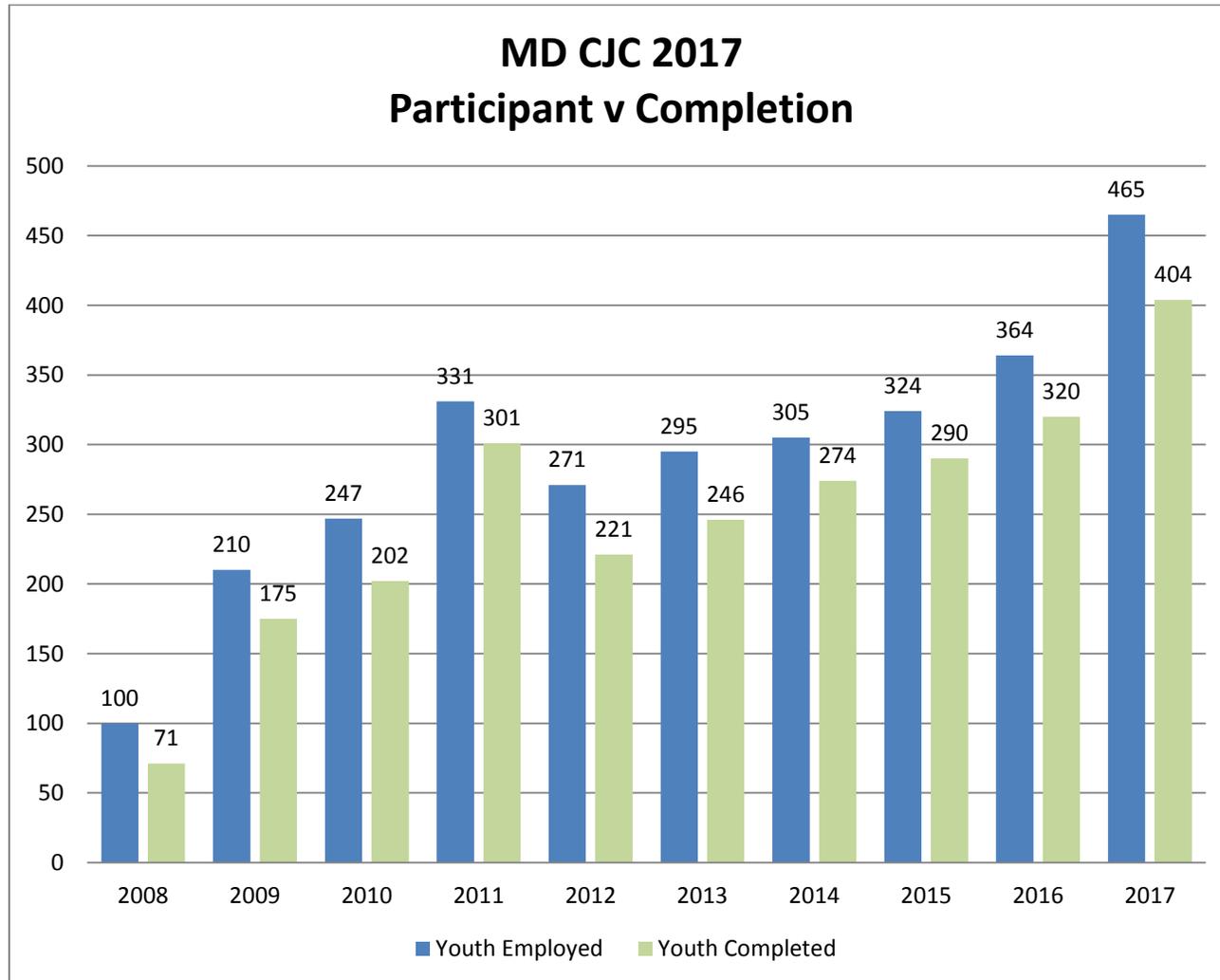
Archery and Wildlife Identification

Kayaking and Macro Invertebrates Identification

Fishing and Stream Survey and Water Testing

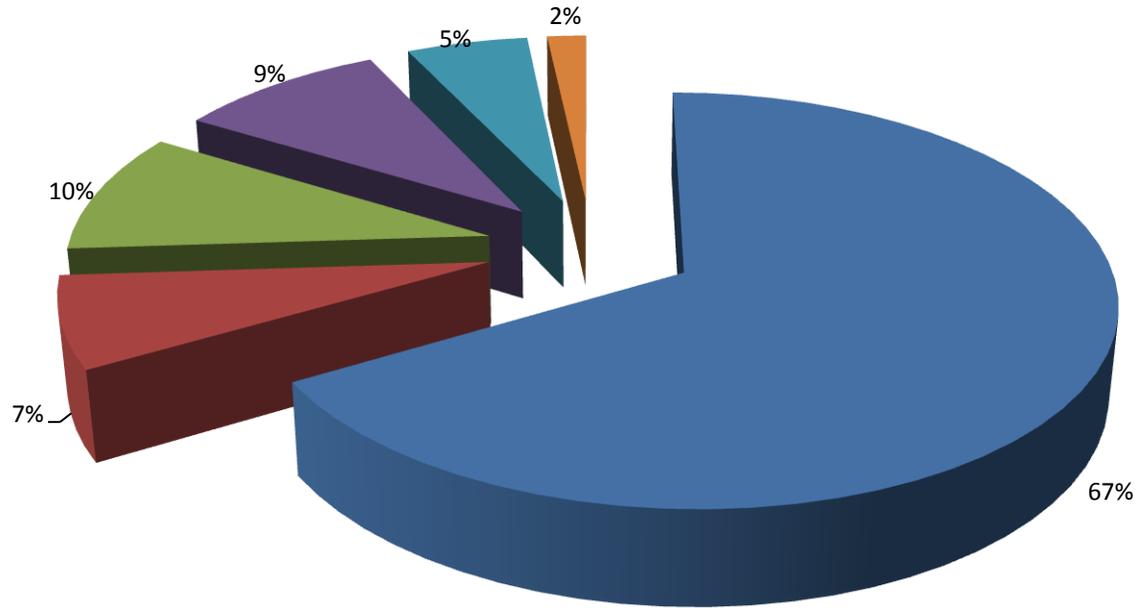
These activities were geared to provide youth with authentic outdoor recreational experiences and attempt to inspire youth to care for the environment by exposing them to the benefits of an unpolluted natural world. Each activity also introduced CJC participants to a variety of environmental issues including pollution, human impacts, biodiversity loss, and invasive species.

2017 CJC Program Results

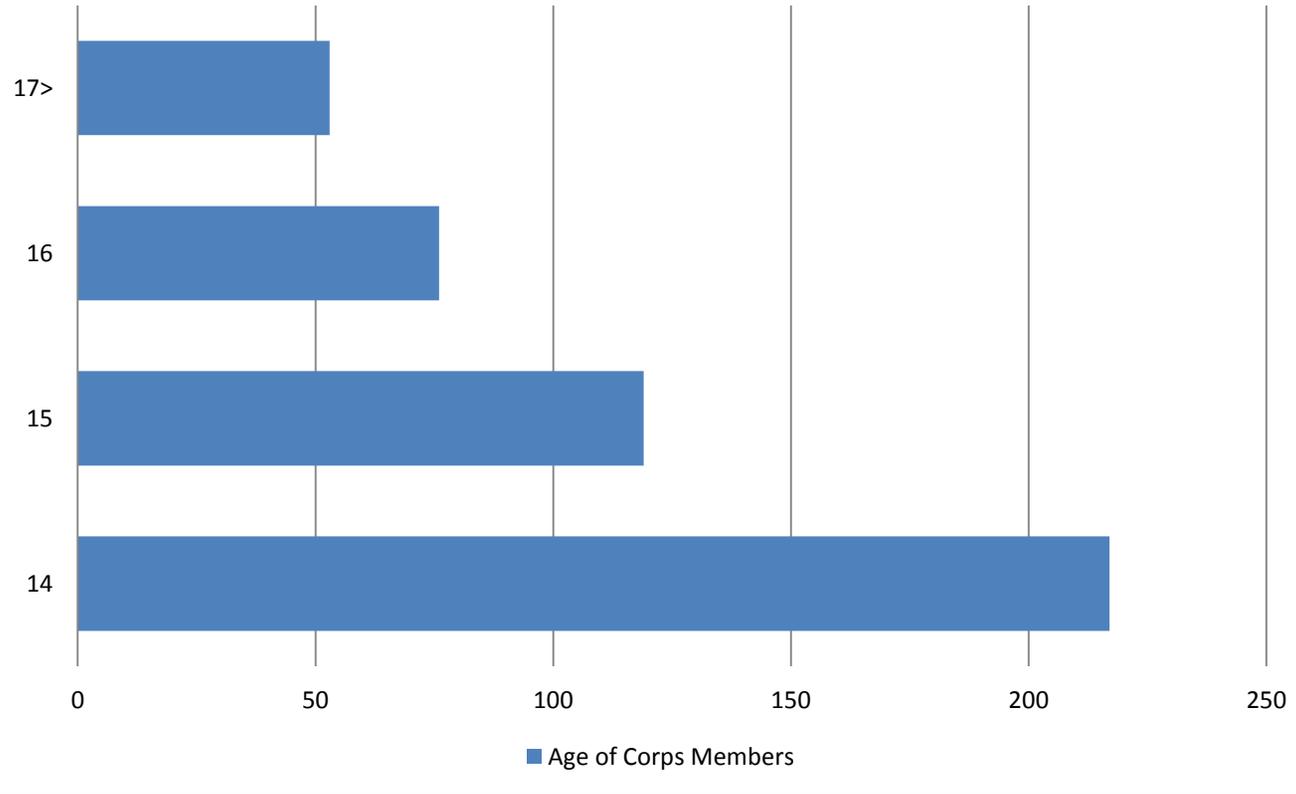


CJC 2017 Youth by Maryland County

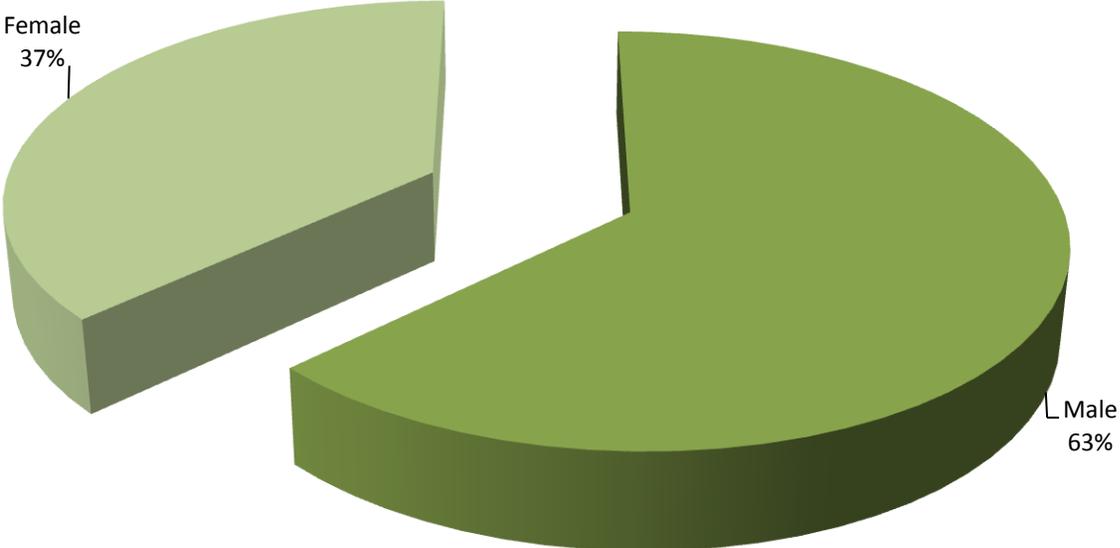
■ Baltimore City ■ Worcester ■ Prince Georges ■ Montgomery ■ Harford ■ Anne Arundel



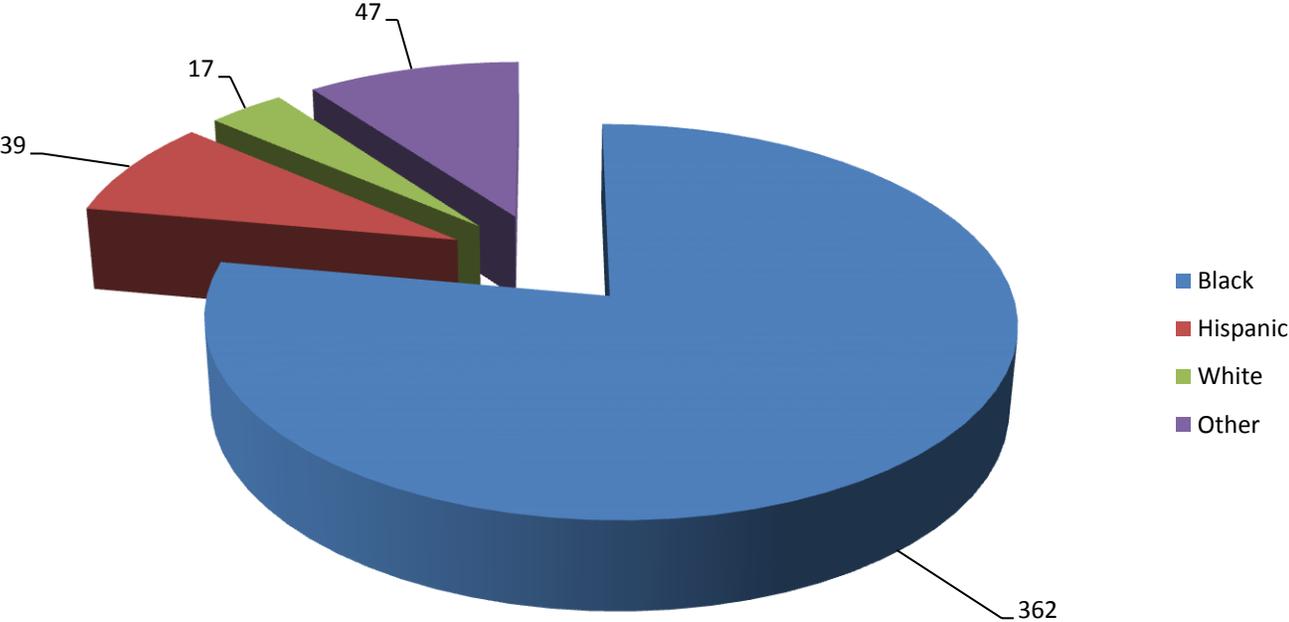
Age of CJC Corps Members 2017



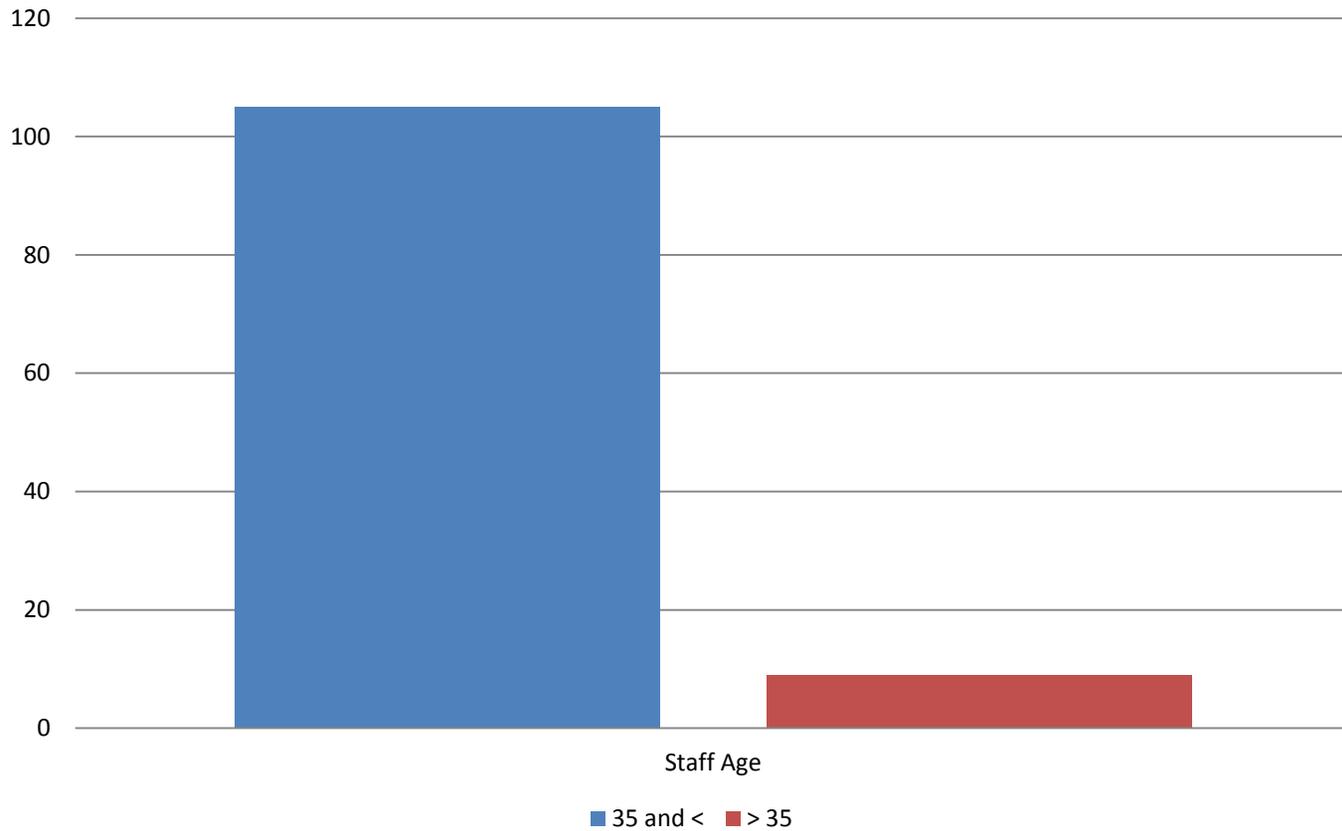
2017 CJC Corps Member by Gender



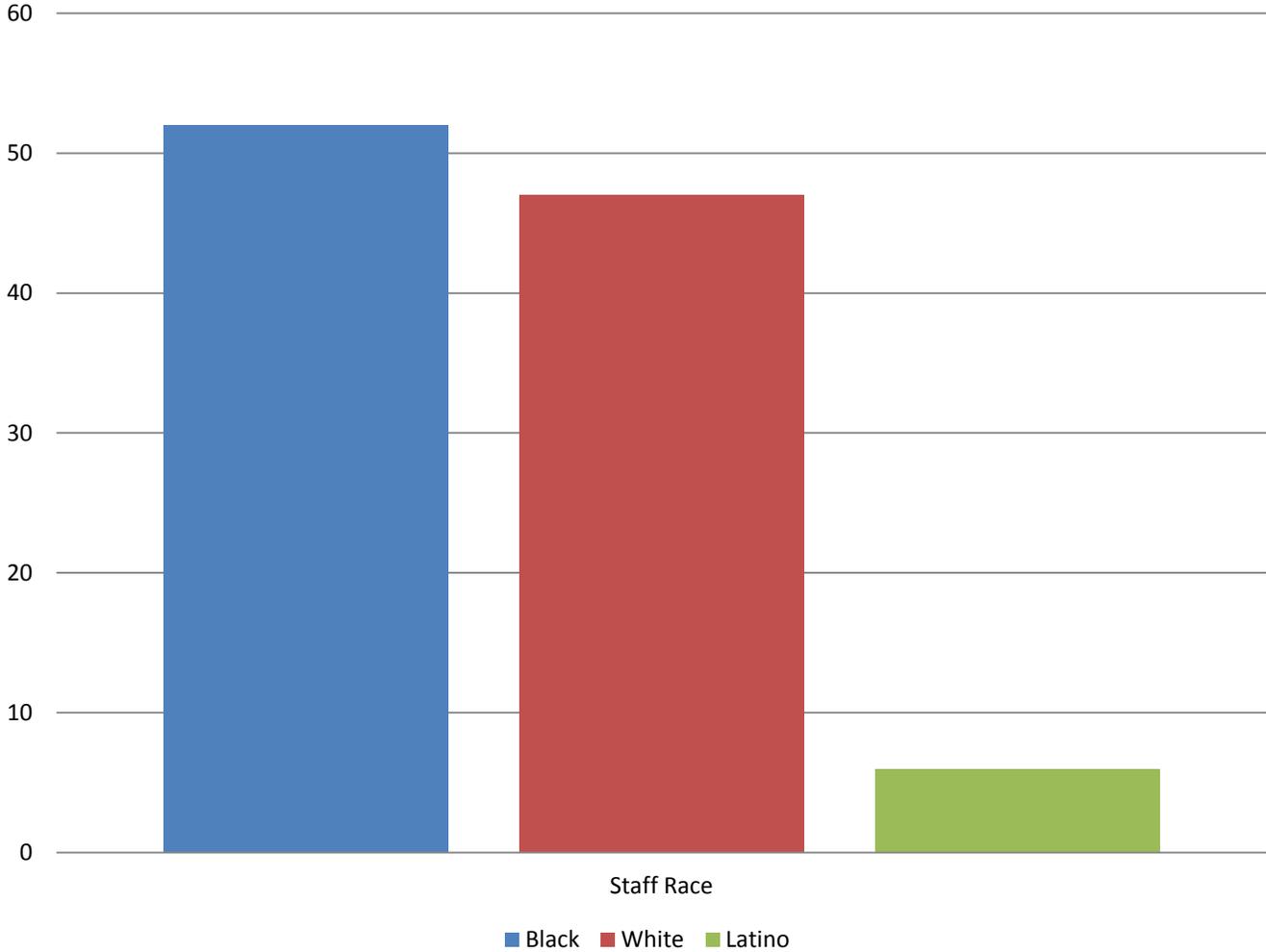
2017 Corps Member by Race

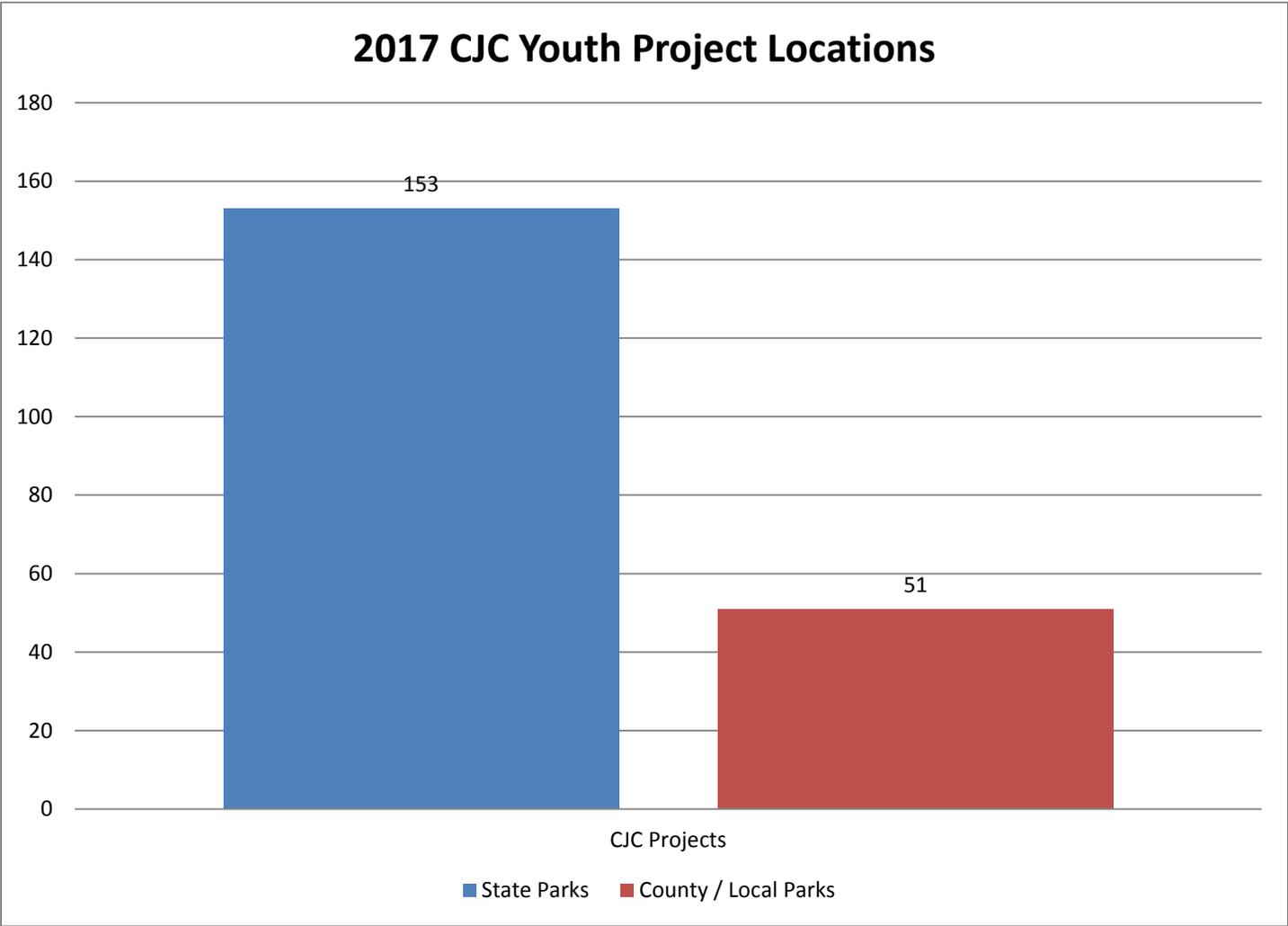


2017 CJC Staff by Age



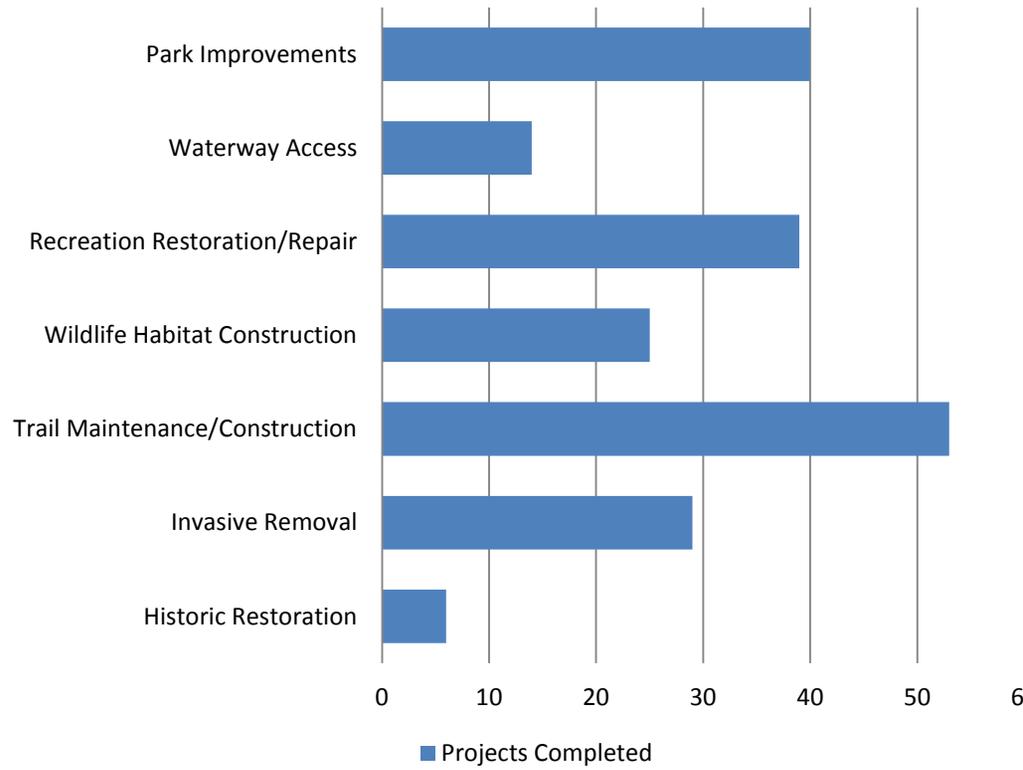
2017 CJC Staff by Race

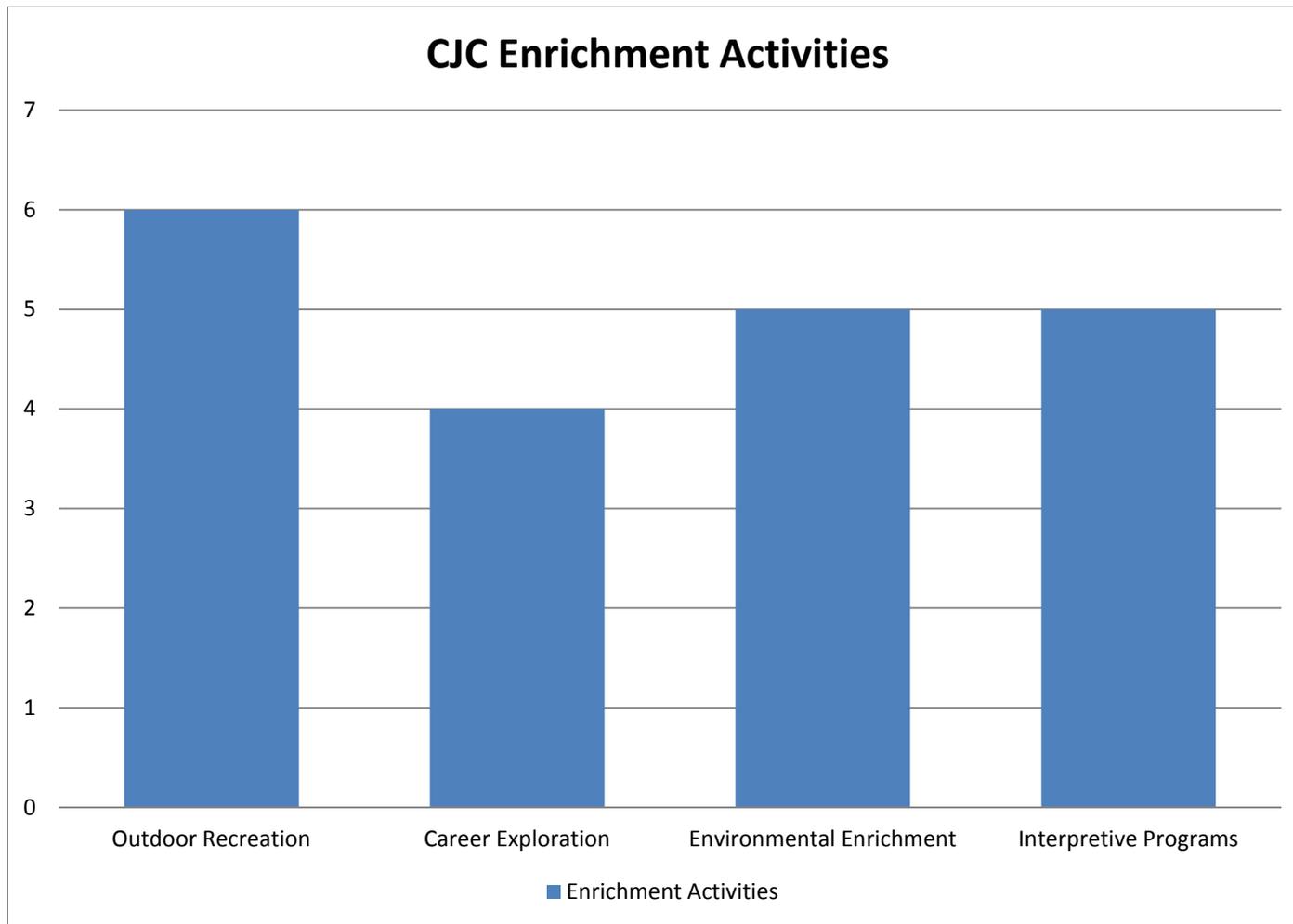




All CJC Projects include only projects in MD State Parks and MD Counties and local park systems

2017 Projects Completed





- CJC Youth perform work activities from Monday through Thursday. Fridays are reserved for Enrichment Activities. The above chart shows the type of activities youth participated in on Fridays.

Maryland CJC

- Assateague
-
youth in
- Merkle
Sanctuary -
45
- Seneca Creek

youth in
- Susquehanna

youth in
- Gwynns
(Baltimore
50



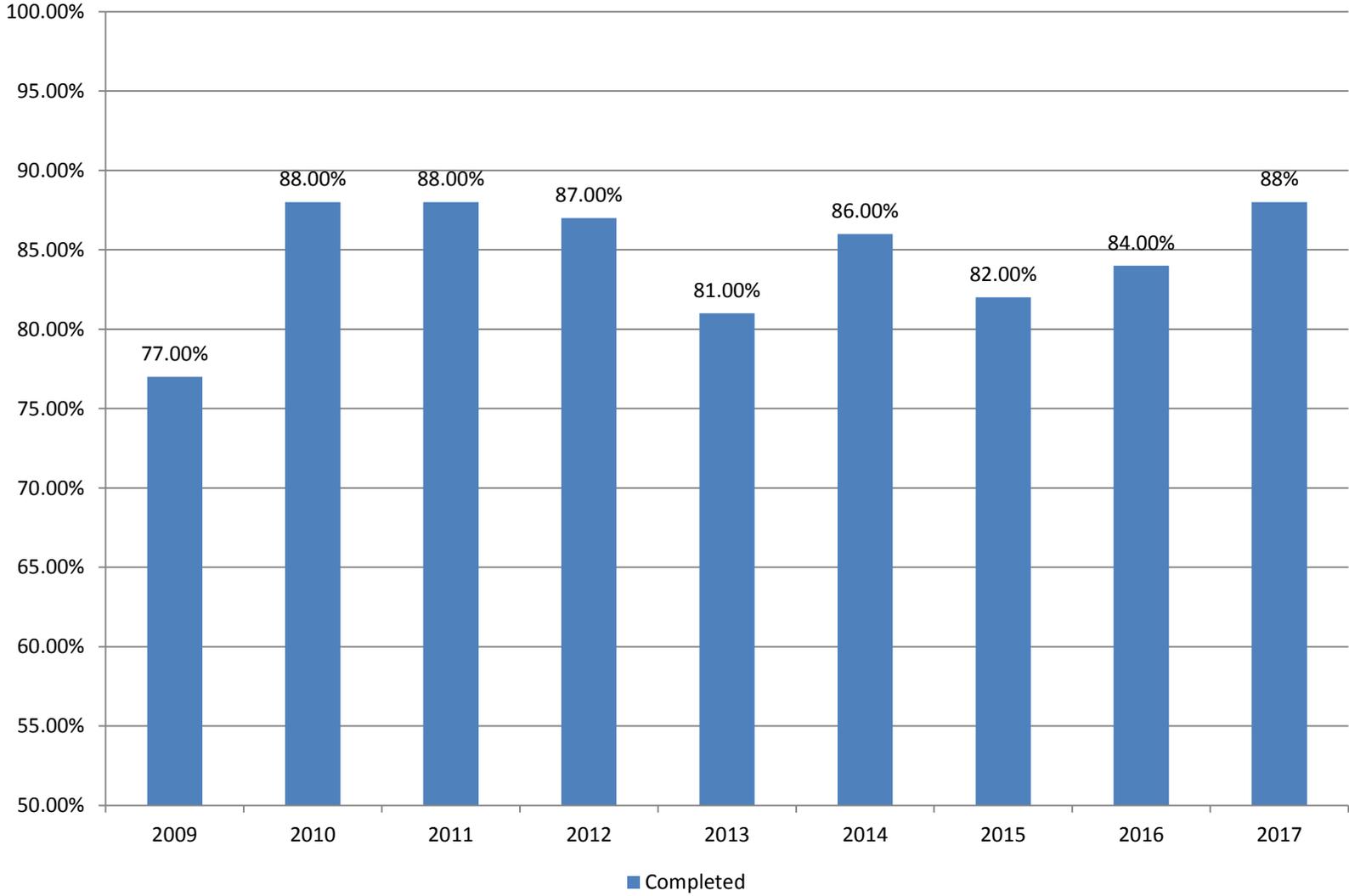
Locations

- Island State Park
40
- 2017
Wildlife

youth in 2017
- State Park -
43
- 2017
State Park -
25
- 2017
Falls Park
City Park) -
youth in 2017

- Cylburn Arboretum (Baltimore City Park) - 33 youth in 2017
- Clifton Park (Baltimore City Park) - 27 youth in 2017
- Gunpowder Falls State Park - 98 youth in 2017
- Patapsco Valley State Park - 104 youth in 2017
- Rocky Gap State Park - Campsite for 143 youth in 2017
- Greenbrier State Park - Campsite for 115 youth in 2017
- Tuckahoe State Park - Campsite for 128 youth in 2017

Corps Members Program Completion



Maryland CJC Facts

From 2008 to 2017

- CJC has maintained over 150 miles of trails in MD's State, County and local Parks
- CJC has employed over 2900 youth ages 14-17
 - Over 1738 different youth have worked for CJC since 2008
- CJC has removed over 29 tons of debris and trash from Maryland Parks
- CJC Youth have planted over 1000 trees in Maryland Parks
- CJC has constructed 170 Wildlife Enclosures to protect native wildlife
- CJC youth has planted over 7500 native plants and shrubs in Maryland's Parks
- CJC has taken over 2000 youth on their first Camping Trip
- Over 2500 youth have caught their first fish while in CJC
- Over 2000 youth have canoed/kayaked for the first time with CJC
- 2700 youth have had their first job as a CJC Corps Member
- Over 2500 youth have visited a Maryland State Park for the first time through CJC
- Over 200 youth have continued to work in the field of Natural Resource Management and Conservation
- 41 former CJC Corps Members have returned to the program to work as staff

Maryland CJC Partners

- Baltimore City Mayor's Office for Employment Development
 - Youthworks
- Baltimore City Recreation and Parks
- Civicworks
- Harford County Dept. of Social Services
- Maryland Department of Transportation
- Maryland Dept. of Human Services
- Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning
- Montgomery County Dept. of Recreation
- Montgomery County Parks
- National Park Service
- Parks and People Foundation
- Prince George's County Dept. of Social Services
- Prince George's County Parks
- Worcester County Board of Education









