



Maryland Forest Service

Photo credit: Melissa Nash DNR

Forestry Board Summit

June 11, 2024



New Funding for Sustainable Forestry – Urban and Rural

- **Community Forestry Catalyst Fund**
 - IRA USFS Urban and Community Forestry Grants for Underserved Communities
 - \$1.2 million in first round to 6 organizations; 22 applications requesting \$6.6 million
- **Community Wildfire Defense Grants**
 - Designated for Wildland Urban Interface communities (Dakota Albers)
- **New forest stewardship funding**
 - Designated for underserved and small landowners (Dan Rider)
- **NRCS funds, Regional Conservation Partnership Programs (NRPP)**
 - for tree planting and maintenance/management – details coming soon (Elliott Campbell, CCS)



Photo credit: Cara Dudzic DNR

Expanded State Funding

Despite tightening state budget outlook:

- **5 Million Trees - Capacity & Impl. Grants**
 - Expanding planting acreages
- **MDOT Urban Forestry Pgm & MUCFC grants**
- **\$1 Million in Woodland Incentive Fund (\$500K in FY25)**
 - Workforce and Training
 - Evergreen Heritage Center - HS & College
 - Wor-Wic forestry certifications
 - TSI/invasive crews
 - Urban Forestry Camp - UMD, 2024 pilot
 - White Oak Initiative support
 - Enhanced MARBIDCO industry grants
 - First Forest Health Emergency funding used for critical Spongy moth spray support
 - met identified need, in combination with federal and other state funds
 - critical timing for control, especially W MD, from 0 acres needed in 2023 to almost 30K in 2024



Photo credit: Melissa Nash DNR

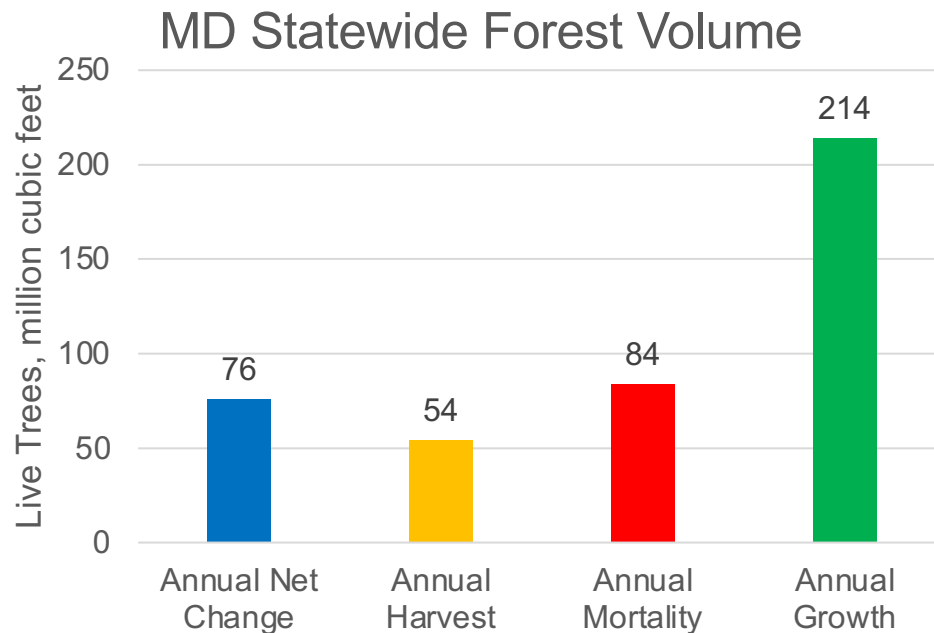
Land Conservation and Climate Announcements

- Land Conservation
 - **30% of Md land conserved before 2030 – 6 years ahead!**
 - Next goal from Legislature: 40 X 40
 - Program Open Space – purchase or easement
 - Rural Legacy – easement, locally sponsored
 - CREP Easements – eligible statewide
 - Forest Legacy – working forest easements
 - Land Trust Partnerships
- Governor's Climate Executive Order 6/4/24– “Growing Opportunity”
 - Agencies submit Climate Implementation Plan to the governor by November 1
 - Clean Heat Standard (hopefully to include woody biomass)

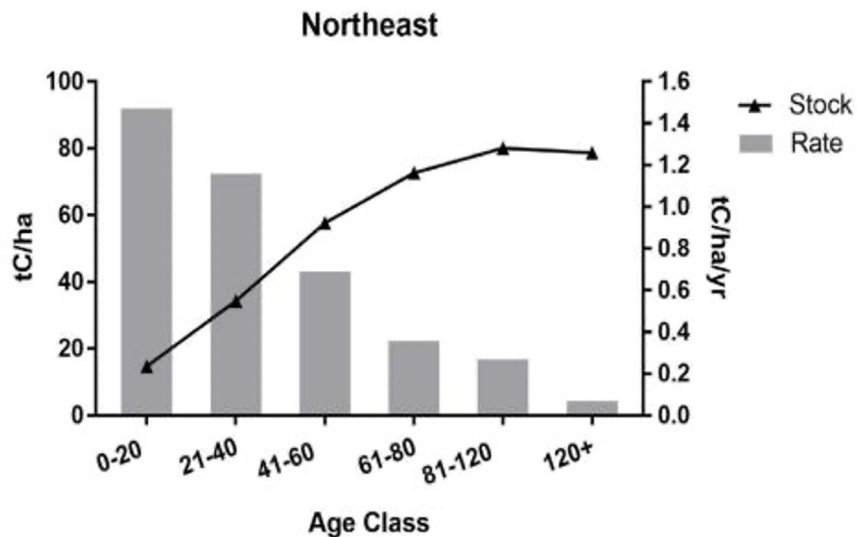


Growth exceeds harvest and natural mortality combined, but is declining

- 2.4 million acres of forest
- 39% of non-water acres
- Ownership
 - 73% privately owned
 - 24% state and local
 - 3% federal



Balancing storage and growth rate: diversifying the carbon portfolio



Carbon stock (tonnes of carbon per hectare [tC/ha]) and rate (tonnes of carbon per hectare per year [tC/ha/yr]) by age class (years) for Northeast forests.

US Forest Service Northern Research Station

November 2023 Rooted in Research

- <https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/nrs/products/rooted-research/effects-stand-age-aboveground-live-tree-carbon-stock-and-change>
- Effective forest management strategies can optimize carbon storage while addressing other objectives, such as reducing wildfire risk, preserving ecosystem services, and promoting sustainable timber production.

Maturing Forests in Maryland

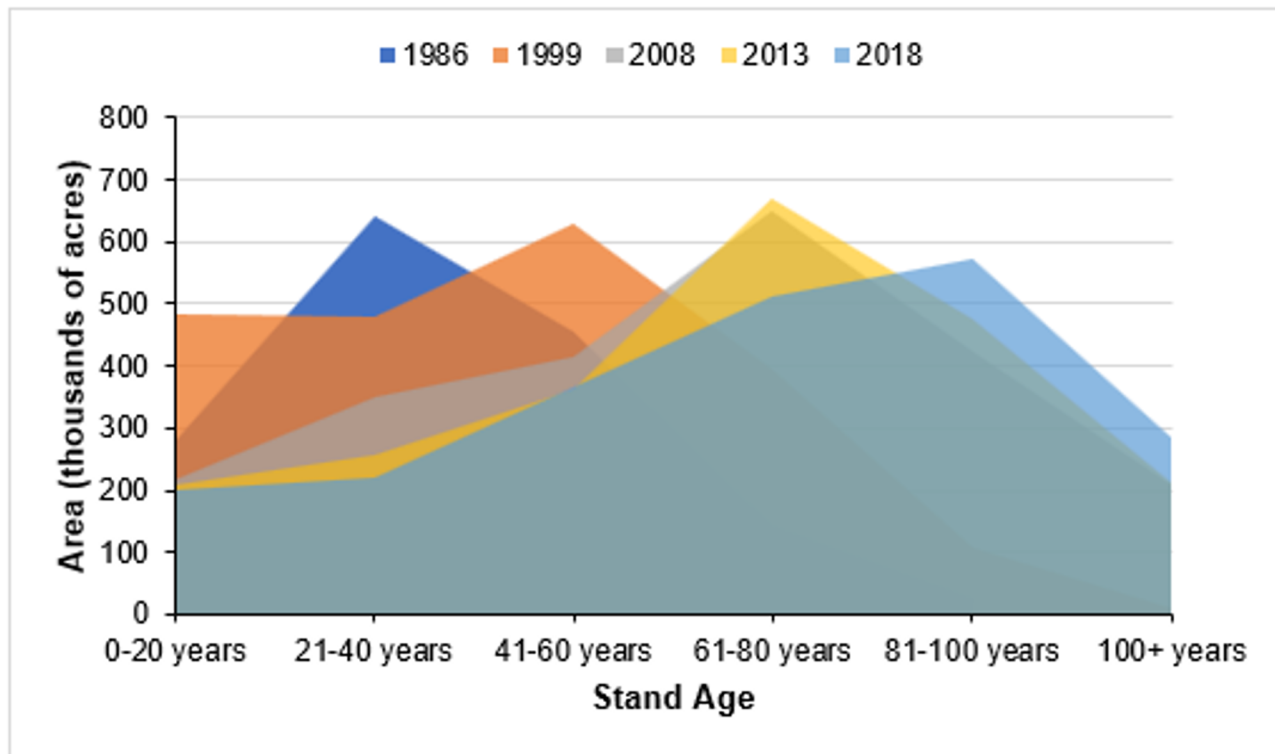


Figure 3. Acres of timberland by stand age and inventory year, Maryland.

Source: US Forest Inventory and Analysis, 2018 report

The Modern Ecological Context: Changed Disturbance Regimes



- Deer population rise
 - Problems with seedling survival
- Fire Suppression
 - Species shifts with loss of fire
- Invasive species
 - Plants
 - Pests
 - Diseases
- Changing temperature and moisture regimes (extremes and averages)

Active management for native forests

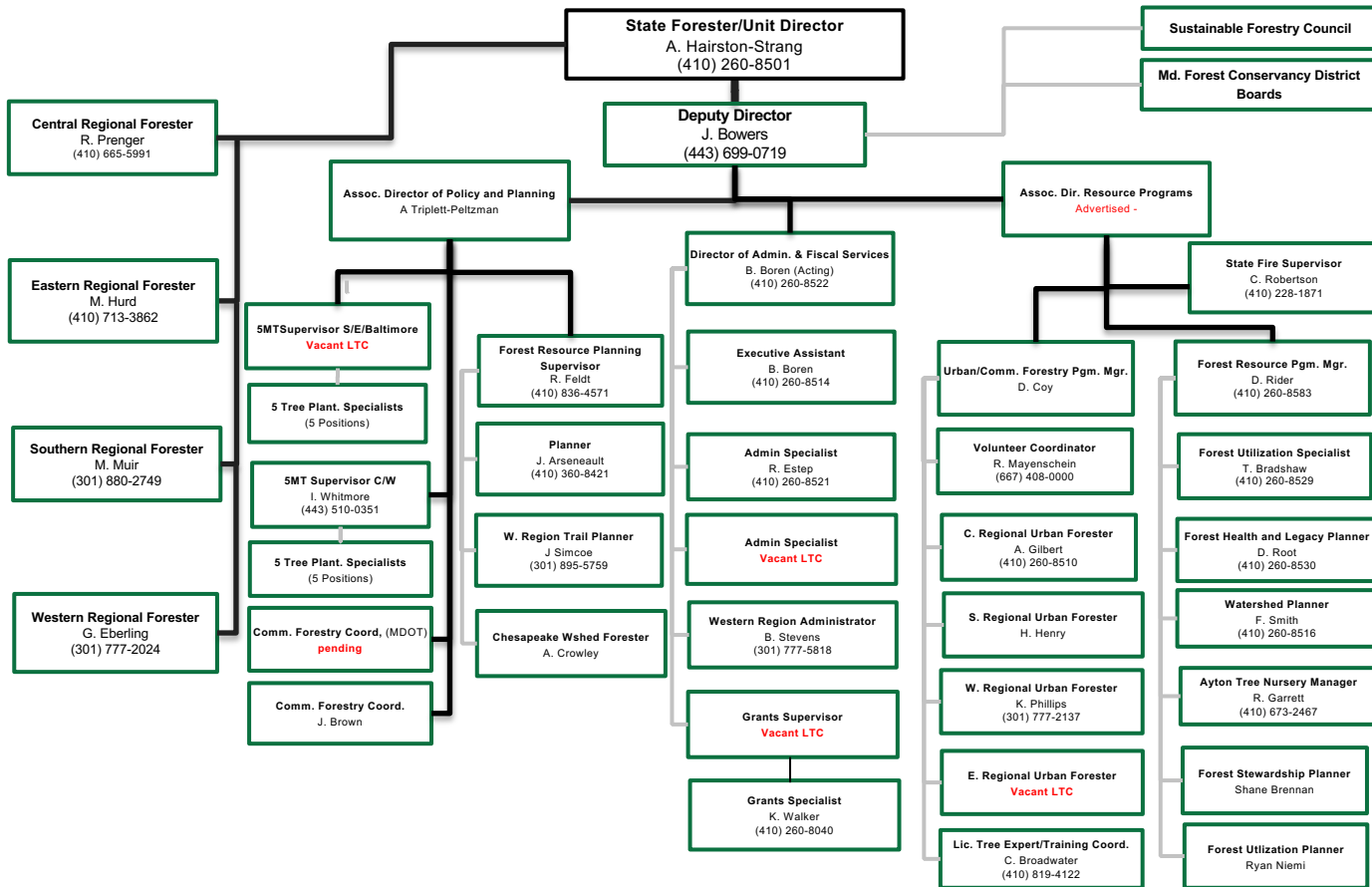
Thinking lifecycle and landscape

- **Cradle to Cradle**, turning waste into resources for sustainability, growing what you use
- **Diverse Markets for Diverse Forests**
 - Updating for Gov. Moore's State Plan and Implementing Maryland Forestry Economic Adjustment Strategy
<https://maryland-forestry-resources-salisburyu.hub.arcgis.com/pages/maryland-forest-economic-adjustment-strategy>
 - Right-sizing for MD forest resources
 - Sourcing local for resiliency
- **Dynamic Forest Blocks**- interspersed diversity of habitats for declining species <https://abcbirds.org/new-habitat-forest-birds/>
- **Forest Health** – Investing BIL funding – techniques, workforce
- **Carbon Modelling (US Climate Alliance, American Forests)**
 - Forest Management Carbon Outcomes
 - Economic Consequences of Forest Carbon Management (e.g., Agroforestry, Extended Rotations, No Harvest)

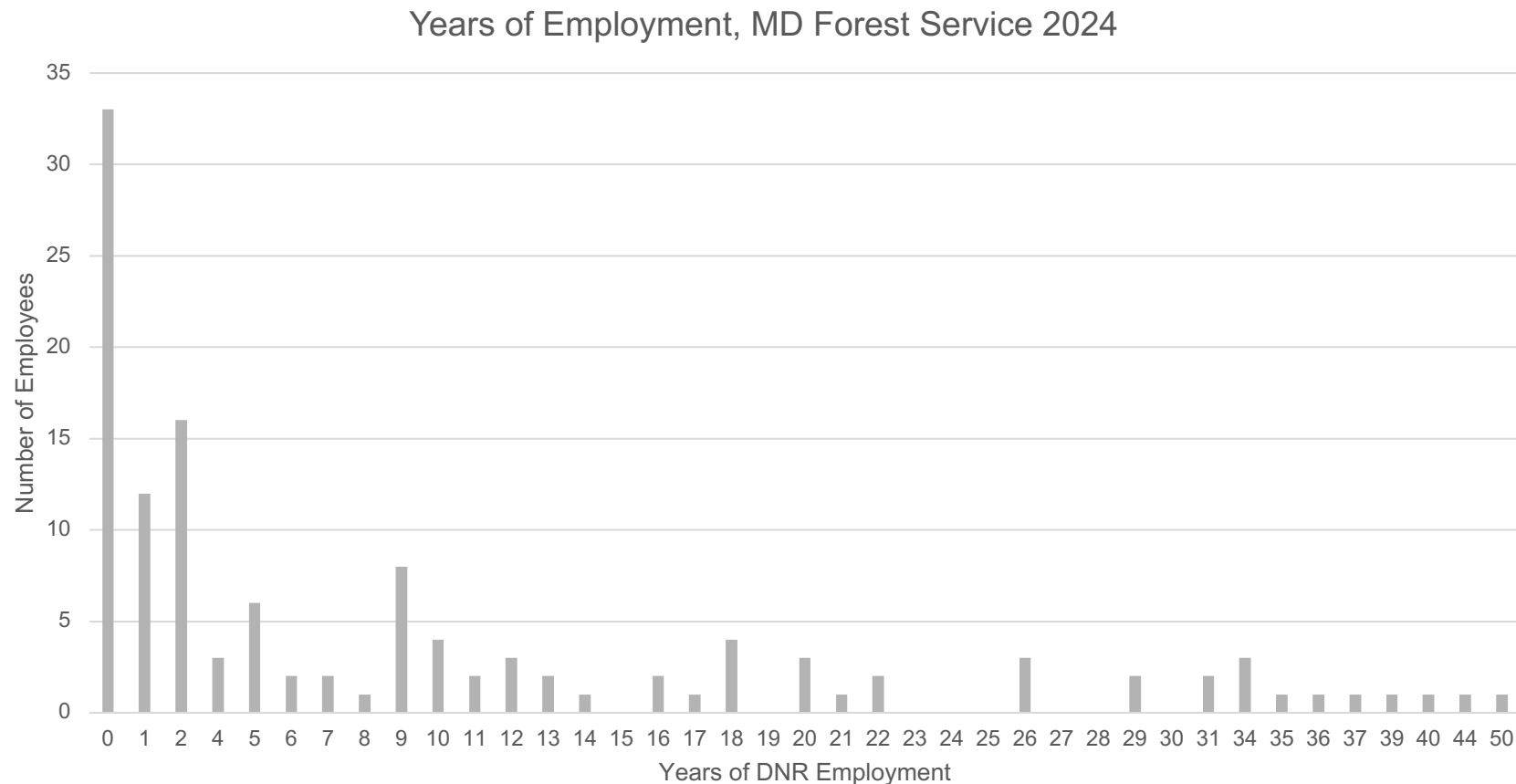


Effective 1/24/2024

Forest Service Leadership



Maryland Forest Service Personnel – Years of Service Distribution



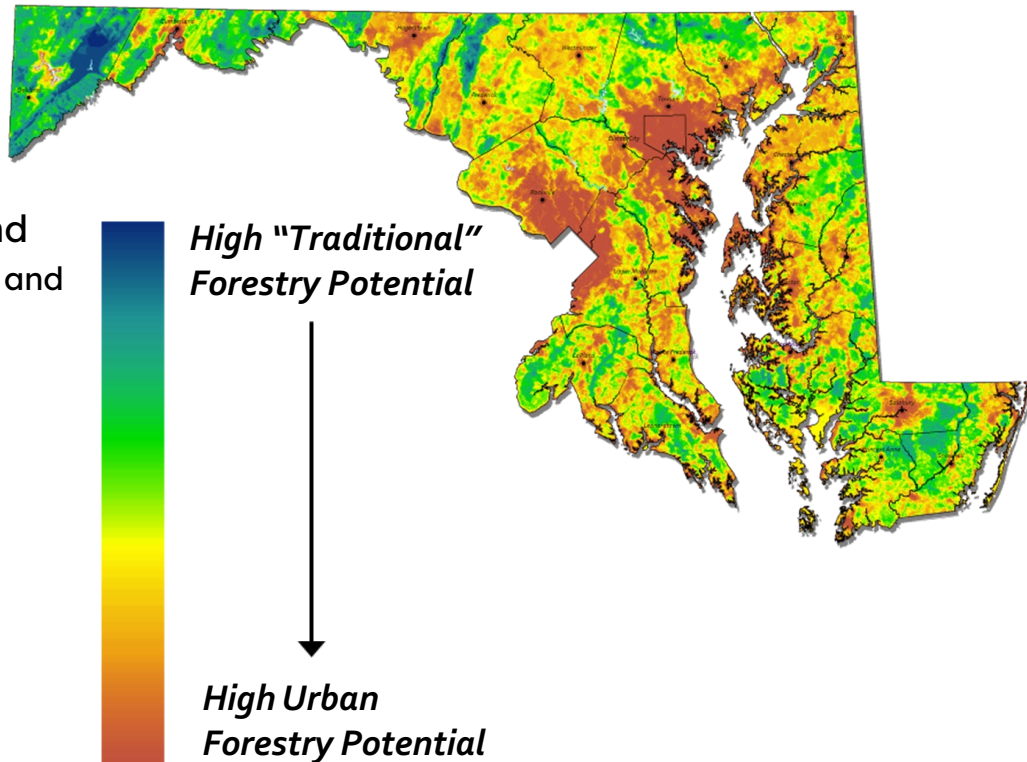
2023 Maryland Forest Service Awards!!!

- **Fred W. Besley Forester of the Year:** Jamie Weaver, Central Region
- **Wye Oak Award for Distinguished Service:** Romcesa Estep, HQ
- **Acorn Award for Early Professionals:** Katherine Phillips, Western Region Urban Forester
- **Technician of the Year:** William “Buddy” Parler, Fire Staff
- **Specialist of the Year:** Anna Twigg, 5 Million Trees Staff



Farm Bill Requirement (and Good Planning)

- **Assessment**
 - State of the Forest
 - Multi-State Priority Areas
 - Coord. With Wildlife Action Plan
- **Strategy – Currently 5 goals for Maryland**
 - Goal I. Grow Forests, Habitats, Markets, and Jobs
 - Goal II. Manage Forest Health and Fire
 - Goal III. Provide Clean Water
 - Goal IV. Create Healthy, Livable Communities with Trees and Forests
 - Goal V. Respond to Climate Change



Goal I. Grow Forests, Habitats, Markets, and Jobs

- **Objective I.A.** Keep Forests as Forests
- **Objective I.B.** Manage for Resilient Forest Landscapes, Habitats, and Partnerships
- **Objective I.C.** Invest in Forest Management for a Renewable Rural Economy
- **Objective I.D.** Demonstrate Sustainable Forest Management on Public Lands
- Example tactics:
 - Economic Adjustment Strategy for Forest Products Sector
 - Dual Sustainable Forest Certification on State Forests
 - Forest stewardship assistance to landowners in priority woodlands
 - Expand Forest Legacy and other working forest easements



Goal II. Manage Forest Health and Fire

- **Objective II.A.** Provide Emergency Response to natural resource threats.
- **Objective II.B.** Develop approaches to reduce threats from long-term stressors to forests



Maryland Goal III. Provide Clean Water

- **Objective III.A.** Revitalize the Chesapeake Bay and other priority waters
- **Objective III.B.** Manage Forests for High-Quality Drinking Water
- **Objective III.C.** Advance use of forest harvesting best management practices

MORE TREES AND BETTER BMPs



Maryland Goal IV. Create Healthy, Livable Communities with Trees and Forests

- **Objective IV.A.** Connect people to trees and forests for healthy lifestyles
- **Objective IV.B.** Support Livable Green Communities
- **Objective IV.C.** Improve health and survival of urban forests



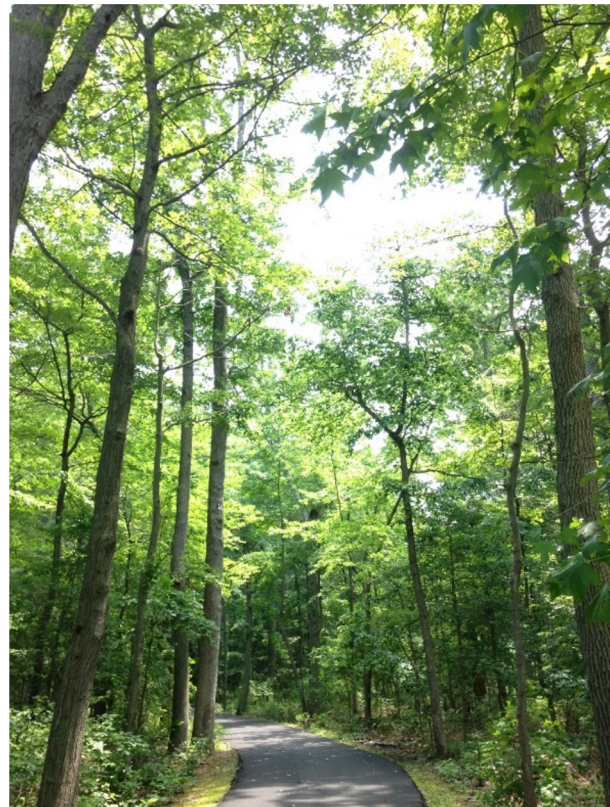
Maryland Goal V. Respond to Climate Change

- **Objective V.A.** Plant and Care for Trees and Forests to Mitigate for Climate Change and Natural Hazard Impacts
- **Objective V.B.** Innovate forest management for climate-adapted future forests
- **Objective V.C.** Diversify forests and develop markets to optimize carbon sequestration and long-term carbon storage



A path forward with **forests** for:

- **Communities**, rural and urban
 - Social context
 - **Equity**
- Resource-based **economy and jobs**
 - Products
 - Services and Experiences, Recreation
 - Ecosystem Markets
- Sustainable **environment**, including:
 - Water quality
 - Air and **Climate**
 - Diverse habitats and prescribed burning
 - Shelter and fiber needs
- Expand outreach through Forestry Board connections and more
- Join us tonight to kick off Forest Action Plan outreach for the 2025 Updated Plan



Leave No One Behind by...

1. Ending Child Poverty in the State of Maryland
2. Setting Maryland's Students Up for Success
3. Creating an Equitable, Robust, and Competitive Economy
4. Connecting Marylanders to Jobs
5. Creating Safer Communities
6. Making the State of Maryland a Desirable and Affordable Home for All Residents
7. Advancing Infrastructure to Better Connect All Marylanders to Opportunities and Each Other
8. Ensuring World-Class Health Systems for All Marylanders
9. Making Maryland a Leader in Clean Energy and the Greenest State in the Country
10. Making Maryland a State of Service



Leading for a Welcoming Culture

- Fairness
- Honesty
- Transparency
- Data driven
 - Physical and Biological Science
 - Social Sciences too
- Innovation
 - New tools, expanding techniques
- Empowerment
 - Informed decision making
- Strategic
 - understand where we're going and why - not just doing a "task list"
- Partners Focused
 - Large responsibilities but finite resources, we need partners to help achieve our Mission
- Workshops for Outreach:
 - EDUCATION
 - DIVERSITY
 - STEWARDSHIP

