



2018 Annual Report



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AWARDED FUNDING FOR
49 PROJECTS THROUGH THE
WATERWAY IMPROVEMENT FUND

Enrolled more than 200 local government, infrastructure and business leaders in Maryland's Climate Leadership Academy - the nation's first state led program to provide critical training on climate preparedness and risk management.

Designed six climate resiliency projects through Maryland's Building Resiliency through Restoration initiative that will help local partners become better prepared and more resilient to climate and weather-related risks.



TARGETED
\$52.9M



FOR ON-THE-GROUND RESTORATION
PROJECTS THROUGH THE
CHESAPEAKE AND COASTAL BAYS

Completed a major new project to restore floodplain connectivity to a nine-mile stretch of the Pocomoke River in one of the largest ecological restoration projects in Maryland's history.



EXPANDED WATER ACCESS
OPPORTUNITIES FOR MARYLANDERS
THROUGH THE CREATION OF **10** MILES OF
WATER

Brought together more than 250 local officials, business and industry leaders, resource stakeholders and users, scientists, and federal and state agency experts for Maryland's inaugural State of the Coast Conference.



5 MILES OF NEW TRAILS
CONSTRUCTED AT DEEP
CREEK LAKE STATE PARK

PARK FACILITY RENOVATIONS

ADA renovations at Elk Neck State Park to the campground, beach and park office were completed. A new bathhouse and comfort station and four cabins were built.

Herrington Manor State Park renovations included 10 cabin renovations.

Five shower buildings were renovated (Cedarville State Forest, Martinak State Park, Janes Island State Park).

Completed four day-use comfort station renovations at Rocky Gap State Park and one at Greenwell State Park.



The Point Lookout State Park Lighthouse Restoration Project started in June.



Bloede Dam
REMOVED

Bloede Dam Project

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources(DNR) is currently conducting a feasibility study to evaluate Bloede Dam's negative impact on the ecology of the Patapsco River and issues related to public safety.

The dam is an obstacle for fish passage, and it fragments aquatic habitat.

Bloede Dam is owned by the DNR. The Department is currently taking public comment on this project.

The Point Lookout project includes the historical restoration of the lighthouse complex, including the lighthouse, buoy shed, coal shed and smokehouse, upgrading of associated utilities and miscellaneous site improvements.



COMPLETED NEW
PLAYGROUND
CONSTRUCTION AT **5** STATE PARKS

On September 11, 2018, the Bloede Dam was breached. This explosive blast was the first step in removing the dam entirely. The project wrapped up in 2019.



Maryland had the wettest year in recorded state history. As the Conowingo Dam floodgates opened all summer, calls for removal of navigational hazards grew with each rain event.



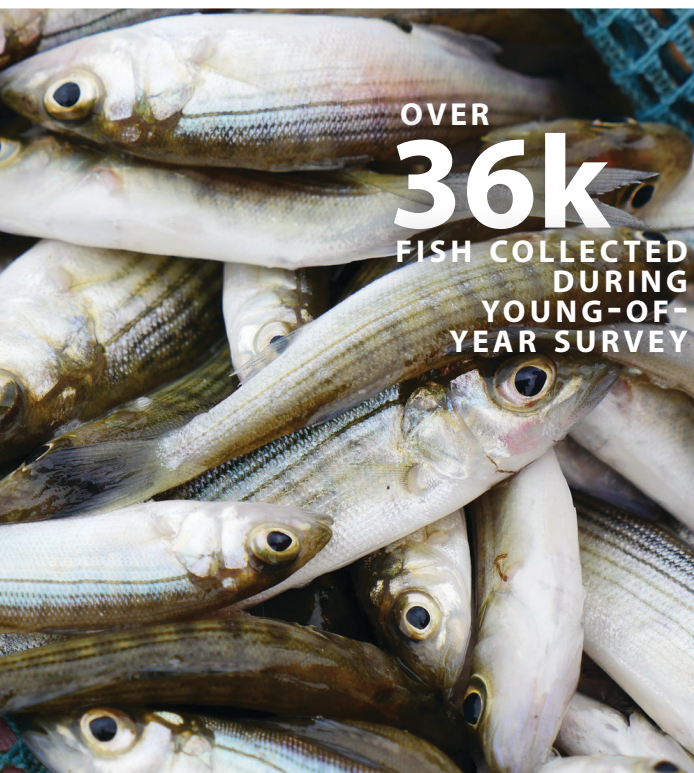
Worked with the Coast Guard to develop a work plan to improve the Aids to Navigation reporting system. The system issues permits for and monitors the condition of Maryland's network of over 4,000 markers.



Areas that received services included Kent Narrows, Rock Hall, Choptank River, Annapolis Harbor, Back Creek, Spa Creek, South River Severn River, Tangier Sound, Wicomico River, and Smith Island.



Worked with the Natural Resources Police to complete the process required to have commercial contractors and state personnel remove 27 derelict or abandoned boats.

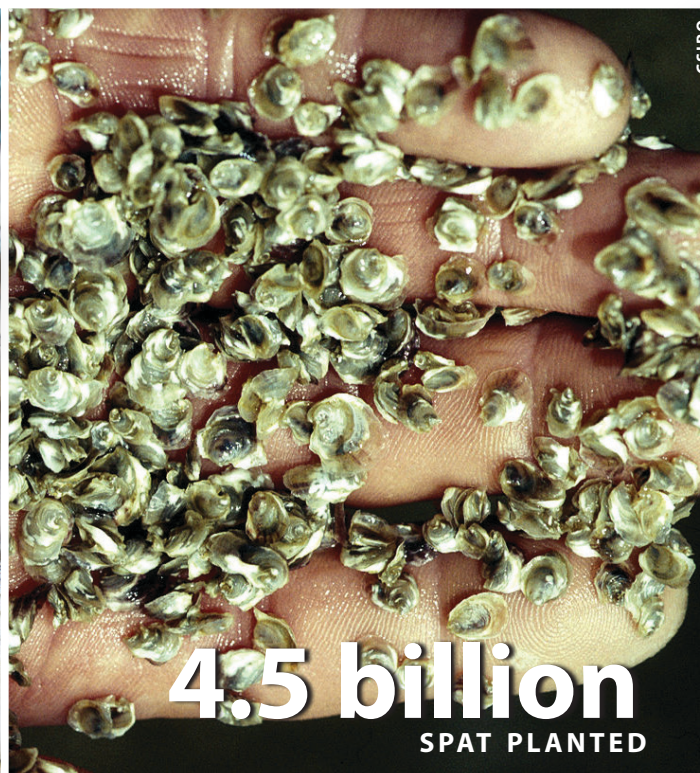


OVER
36k
FISH COLLECTED
DURING
YOUNG-OF-
YEAR SURVEY

The annual young-of-the-year striped bass survey in the Chesapeake Bay documented healthy reproduction of the state fish. The 2018 young-of-year index (14.8) was higher than the 65-year average (11.8). During the 2018 survey, department biologists collected more than 36,000 fish of 55 species, including 1,951 young-of-year striped bass.



Estimated dockside value of \$8 million from oyster harvested in 2017-2018 harvest season.



CSIRO

4.5 billion
SPAT PLANTED

4.5 billion spat planted on 771 acres within the large-scale oyster restoration areas since 2011.



PRODUCED & STOCKED
2.8M
TROUT

Stocked more than 2.8 million American shad and hickory shad larvae and 620,000 juveniles for restoration purposes in the Choptank and Patapsco rivers. State hatcheries also produced and stocked 471,000 adult and juvenile trout, and 1.4 million fish of nine other species.



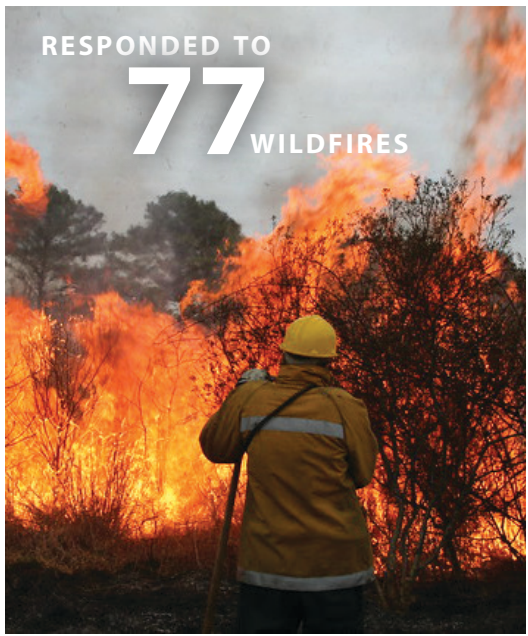
**Somers
Cove
Marina**

In Somers Cove Marina, aggressive advertising, a new Tiki Bar and a focus on boater-directed events on the weekends produced an increase in annual and transient boaters to the facility and more advanced reservations for the summer of 2019.



GREW
2.9M
SEEDLINGS

The John S. Ayton State Tree Nursery produced 2.9 million seedlings for lawn reduction, stream buffers, timber and wildlife habitat. More than 1.7 million were hardwood trees or shrubs. Seedlings continue to generate positive customer feedback.



RESPONDED TO
77
WILDFIRES

Responded to 77 wildfires that burned 359 acres in Maryland. Assisted nationally on wildfires with two 20-person crews, nine single resources, seven Type 6 Engines, two Type 4 engine crews and two Type 2 dozer crews.



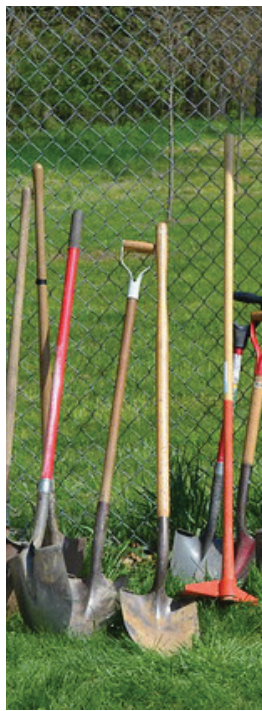
71
TREETREMENDOUS
ORDERS

Provided residents access to affordable trees to plant on their public lands through Tree-Mendous Maryland. Citizens placed 71 orders for 3,211 trees and shrubs. Over 500 trees were donated by Gift of Trees.



ACQUIRED
1,808
ITEMS

Acquired 1,808 items through federal excess programs (FEPP/FPP) with an acquisition value of \$2,343,000 for use by the Forest Service and volunteer fire departments.



PLANTED OVER
3,600
ACRES

Restoration and Management: Performed 59 prescribed burns on 1,300 acres. Planted over 3,600 acres of riparian forest.

DESIGNATED
OVER

28k

ACRES AS THE HARRIET
TUBMAN RURAL LEGACY AREA

Received approval for 44 Program Open Space-Stateside projects from the Board of Public Works totaling \$18 million and notecting over 3,700 acres. Two acquisitions will establish new Wildlife Management Areas providing both conservation and recreation benefits: the 1,172 acre Ben Lee property in Queen Anne's County and the 522 acre Turneill property in Charles County.

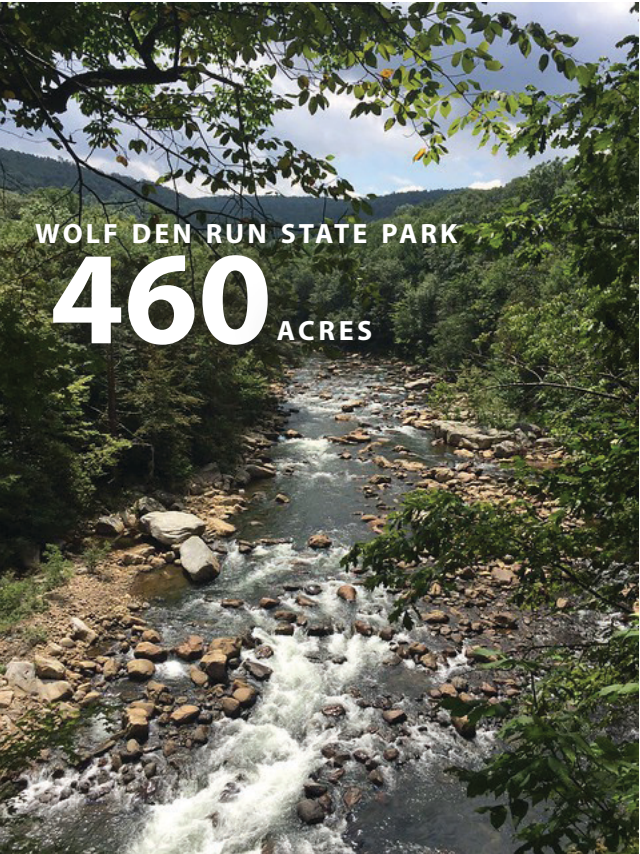
Provided \$38 million for 125 local park and recreation proejects across Maryland through Program Open Space Local.



Long Green Farm, conservation easement,
Cecil County

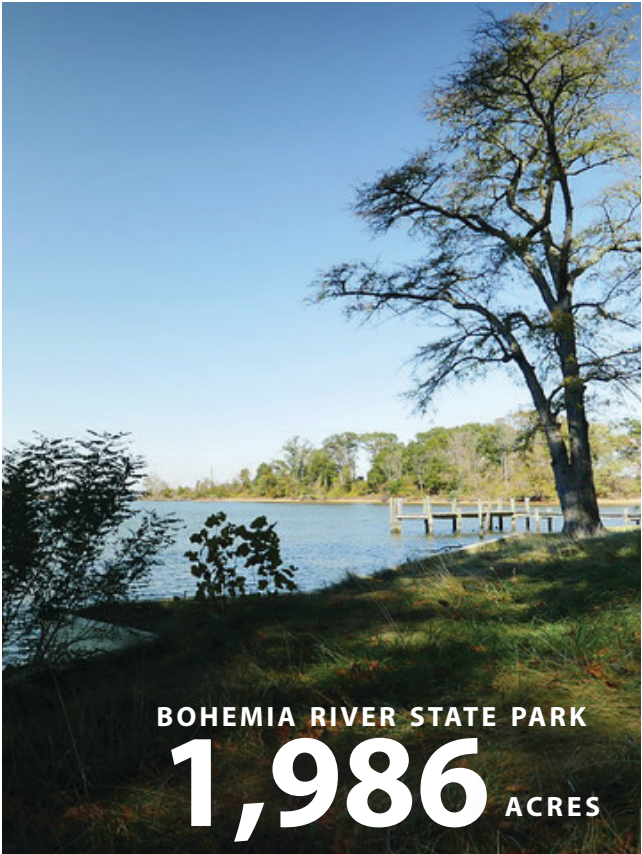


Provided \$15.4 million in Rural Legacy Program grant funds to protect over 4,700 acres and designated the new 28,300-acre Harriet Tubman Rural Legacy Area in Dorchester County to protect working and historic landscapes associated with the legacy of Harriet Tubman.



WOLF DEN RUN STATE PARK

460 ACRES



BOHEMIA RIVER STATE PARK

1,986 ACRES

In 2018, the Maryland Park Service increased total acreage by 2,746 acres, bringing the total acreage in state parks to 140,761 acres.



ADDED
2,746 ACRES

Built 16 miles of new trails, bringing the total to 957 miles of trails in Maryland state parks.

Added two new parks, bringing the Maryland total to 75 state parks.



HOSTED
13.4M VISITORS

Maryland state parks hosted 13.4 million visitors last year. Out of 75 state parks, 12 parks filled to capacity 66 times. Annual revenue increased 7 percent to bring the 2018 total revenue to \$2.13

91% of visitors rated their park experience as “excellent” or “above average.”



91% ABOVE AVERAGE RATINGS

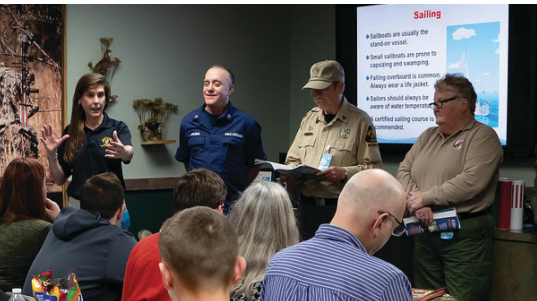


CONDUCTED
14k
HOMELAND SECURITY CHECKS

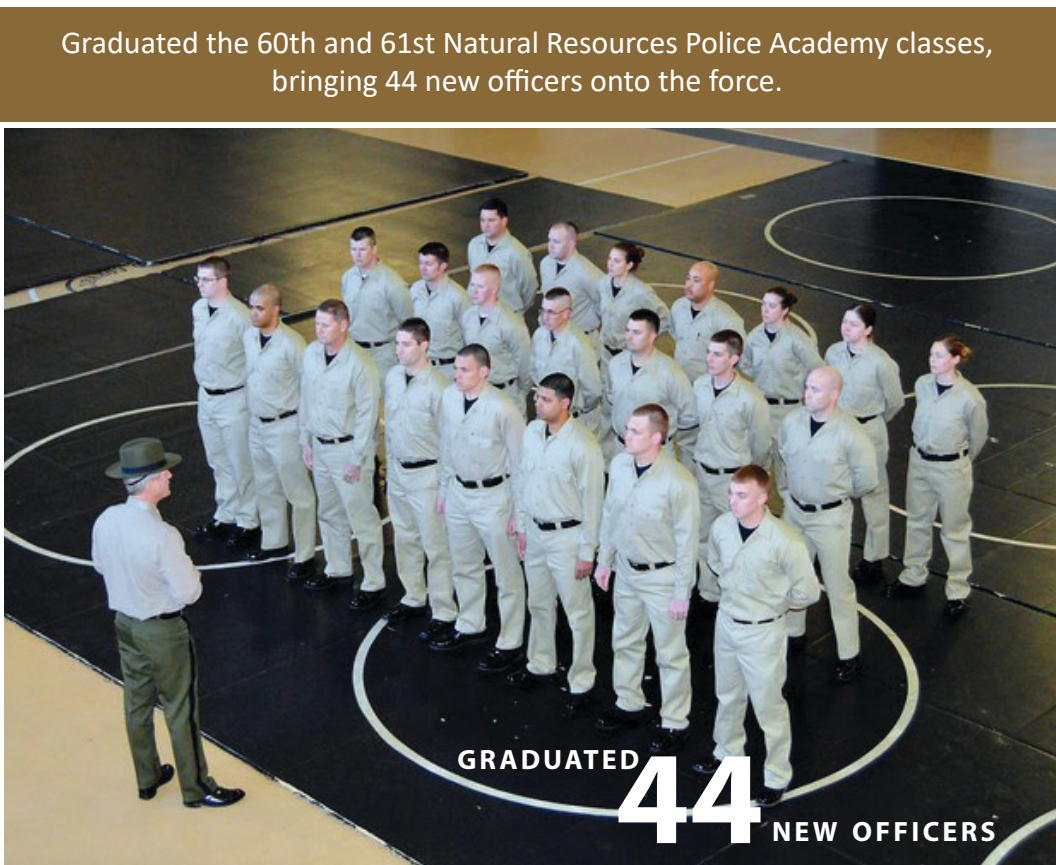
Conducted over 14,000 homeland security checks of power plants, bridges, the Port of Baltimore and other waterfront areas.



Natural 1, the aviation unit, flew 204 search-and-rescue, conservation and damage surveillance missions. K-9 units responded to 106 calls to track missing people, detect wildlife violations and assist in finding crime evidence and murder victims.



Issued 5,907 hunting safety certificates and 11,603 boating safety certificates. Spent 63,405 hours patrolling waterways and conducted 14,115 vessel safety inspections.



GRADUATED
44
NEW OFFICERS



SPENT
63k
HOURS PATROLLING WATERWAYS

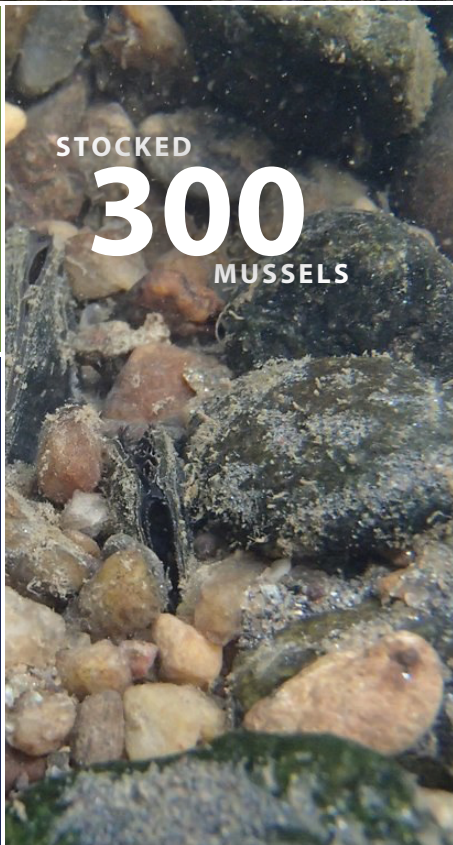
14k
VESSEL SAFETY INSPECTIONS



REVISITED OVER
400
STREAM SITES

The Maryland Biological Stream Survey completed a five-year resampling process at over 400 sites that were originally sampled 20 and 14 years ago. These data will be analyzed to evaluate changes in Maryland stream conditions over time.

Staff stocked 300 adult eastern elliptio freshwater mussels into the Patapsco River. The stocking effort is part of a collaboration between Fishing and Boating, Wildlife and Heritage and Resource Assessment Services to restore the freshwater mussel to the Patapsco River. This was the first freshwater mussel stocking in Maryland.



STOCKED
300
MUSSELS



COLLECTED
283
WATER
QUALITY
SAMPLES

The Water Quality Monitoring Program collected more water quality samples (283) from non-tidal streams and river sites around Maryland during the 2018 record high flows than ever before. The data are collected as part of a collaborative effort between state, local and federal partners to measure nutrient and sediment loads to the Chesapeake Bay from tributaries. It has been estimated that 80% of the total yearly load comes from high flows, so sampling during events like these is critical.



MAPPED
1,000
ACRES

Mapped 1,000 acres of Chesapeake Bay bottom to identify habitats and possible artificial reef construction sites.

ANALYZED
479
WELLS

to ensure
citizens and
wildlife have
clean and
abundant
drinking water.

Technical staff provided 1,887 searches of the rare, threatened and endangered species database.

1.9k
DATABASE SEARCHES



Approximately 2,000 acres were added to the wildlife management area system in 2018. Included was the first wildlife management area in Queen Anne’s county.

ADDED
2k
ACRES OF WMA LAND



BANDED
2k
MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS



Wildlife professionals banded more than 2,000 migratory game birds (Canada geese, mallards, black ducks, wood ducks and mourning doves) as part of Atlantic Flyway monitoring programs.



ISSUED
10k
HUNTING PERMITS

Staff issued more than 10,000 public hunting permits and more than 20,000 individual hunters secured hunting reservations for public hunting areas.

POLLED
800
MARYLAND RESIDENTS



Worked with the University of Delaware to conduct an intensive Public Opinion Survey about Deer and Deer Management in Maryland. 800 Maryland residents were polled and the results of this survey will be used to help develop the next 15-year Whitetail Deer Management Plan.



ANSWERED
1,500
WILDLIFE CALLS

Responded to wildlife situations dealing with sick, injured or nuisance wildlife; nearly 200 of these responses involved black bears.





266k PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

The Maryland Project Green Classrooms Initiative partners developed a new online Story Map, “Get Kids Outside in Maryland” to help improve awareness of and access to nature for schools, families and others. The map can also be used to help make decisions on where we need to fill gaps in green space.



200 BOW PARTICIPANTS

Park staff provided interpretive and educational programs to more than 266,000 participants statewide.



Es Mi Parque

Approximately 200 people participated in Becoming an Outdoors-Woman programs, including overnight backpacking trips, fishing and shooting tutorials and a variety of outdoor skills workshops.



State parks hosted three Es Mi Parque events in the summer of 2018.

Sandy Point State Park in June: 300 people stopped by to learn about fishing and boating regulations, pollinators, native animals with Scales & Tales and “leave no trace.”

Point Lookout State Park in July: 500 people enjoyed Scales & Tales, seine netting and photo opportunities with Splash the Water Safety Dog.

Cunningham Falls State Park in August: 400 people stopped by. Visitors enjoyed a history component in the program.

The Aquatic Resources Education Program is nurturing more anglers in Maryland through new after-school fishing clubs at several schools, tackle loaner kits available at an expanded number of libraries across the state and youth fishing programs.

The Maryland Project Green Classrooms Initiative launched the Chesapeake Youth & Young Professionals Portal, through the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's Chesapeake Network site, to serve as a one-stop-shop for green career opportunities and resources in Maryland -- especially for youth and people seeking entry-level positions, internships, volunteer opportunities, training. events such as job fairs and other resources to build awareness, knowledge, skills, experience and preparedness to enter the green career field.