



Maryland the Beautiful Act : Protect 30% of Maryland Lands by 2030

SB791/HB1031



DID YOU KNOW?

- The International 30 x 30 Conservation Agenda and a Federal Executive Order call on our nation to preserve 30% of its lands and waters by 2030.
- We need to meet the challenge of climate change and provide space for wildlife and communities to thrive.
- In the last half of the century, urban development in Maryland has replaced an estimated 7,200 acres of forest land per year.
- One million species are at risk of extinction worldwide. In the last 40 years, wildlife populations have declined by 60 percent because of habitat loss, climate change, and other environmental factors.
- Flourishing natural areas and parks are indispensable to people's health, prosperity, cultural traditions, and enjoyment.

What This Bill Will Do:

- This bill responds to a national and international movement to conserve 30% of earth's lands and waters by 2030 to preserve nature and mitigate impacts on nature from global climate change
- The bill sets a goal for Maryland to conserve **30% of its lands by 2030** and **40% by 2040**.



- The bill would also enhance and accelerate conservation efforts through a series of programs:
 - New program: The **Greenspace Equity Program** would provide funding for private land trusts to conserve open space in underserved communities across Maryland for urban and pocket parks, community gardens and urban farms, forests and trails, etc.
 - New program: The **Land Trust and Local Government Revolving Loan Fund** would accelerate conservation efforts by creating a bridge loan opportunity for private land trusts
 - Existing program: The **Mel Noland Woodland Incentives Fund** would receive a mandated appropriation annually to support stewardship of private forestland in Maryland (the majority of forestland in MD is privately owned).
- Maryland has conserved around 27% of its lands and critical habitats.

What are the Bill's Benefits? This bill will:

- Move Maryland closer to the 30x30 and 40% by 2040 Land Conservation Goals
- Conserve more open lands and parks near communities of color and economically disadvantaged communities.
- Establish Maryland as a conservation leader among other states.
- Help prevent further damage from Climate Change.

Ask your legislators to support the Maryland the Beautiful Act!

Maryland Sierra Club

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<https://www.sierraclub.org/maryland/preserving-natural-places>

