

Josh Kurtz
Secretary, Department of Natural Resources
State of Maryland



Josh Kurtz is a lifelong outdoor enthusiast and conservationist, passionate about the beauty of our state and all of the natural resources it offers. Governor Wes Moore nominated him to serve as the 12th Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources on Jan. 18, 2023.

As a cabinet partner in the Moore/Miller administration, Secretary Kurtz leads teams across the state to improve water quality and Chesapeake Bay resilience, restore and conserve forested land, expand access to state parks, monitor and slow the spread of invasive species, and ensure the state maintains sustainable fisheries.

Kurtz previously served as the Maryland executive director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, where he provided key strategic vision and leadership for the policy/advocacy, litigation, science and terrestrial restoration programs. Kurtz was the primary relationship strategist for key state and federal stakeholders and partners, including the Governor's Administration, Maryland General Assembly, Chesapeake Bay Commission, University System of Maryland, private restoration firms, conservation finance entities and various coalitions.

In his role as policy and government relations director for The Nature Conservancy in Maryland, Kurtz created and led advocacy campaigns leveraging strong relationships with partners and industry leaders to build support for policies regarding conservation and climate change in both the Maryland General Assembly and the DC City Council. Appointed by the secretary of the U.S. Department of the Environment, Kurtz served on the Maryland Climate Change Commission Mitigation Working Group from 2020 - 2022.

Kurtz holds a master's degree in public policy from George Mason University and a bachelor's degree in wildlife conservation from the University of Delaware. He lives in Crownsville, Maryland with his wife, Samantha, and infant son, River.