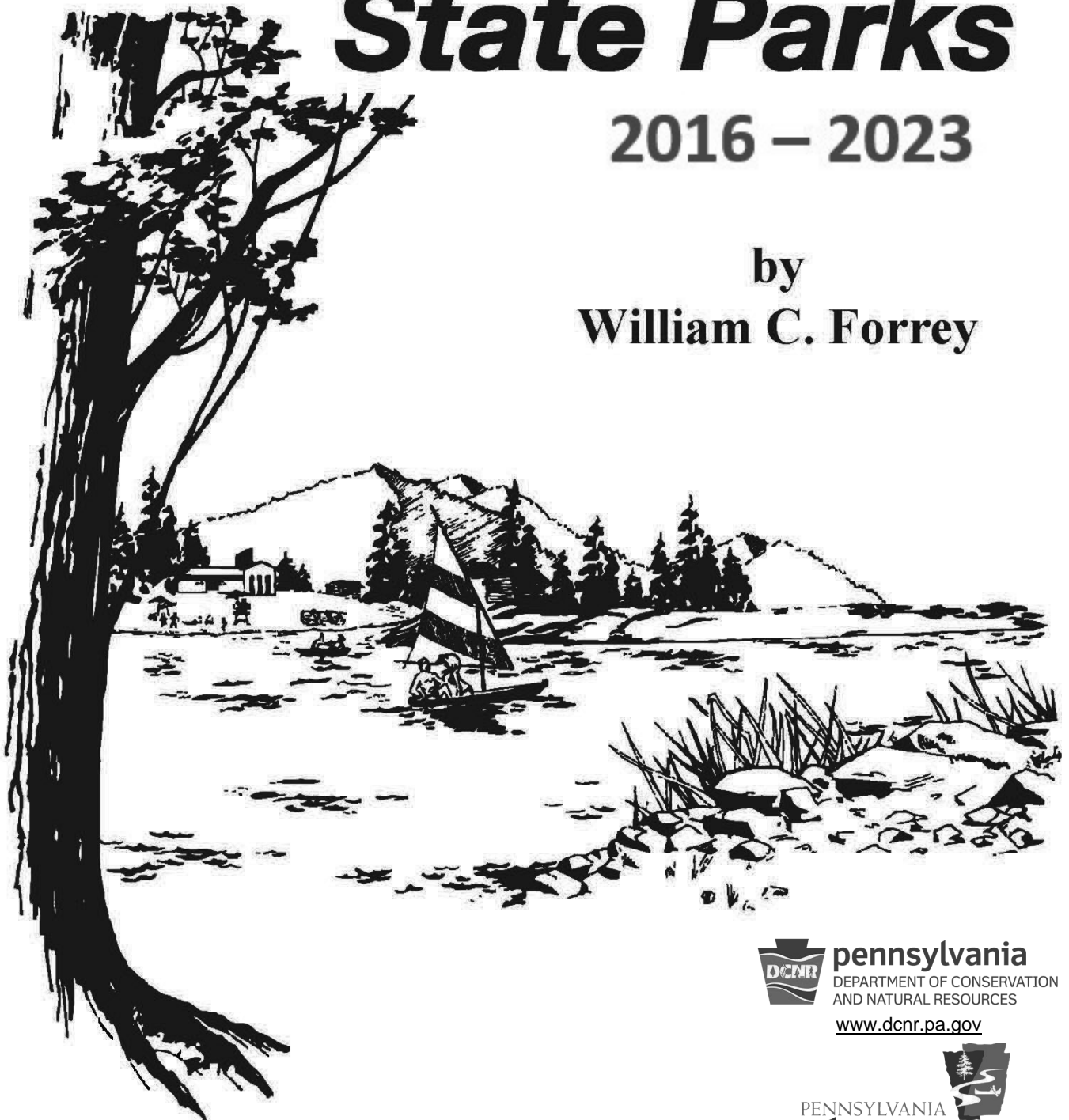


# ***History of Pennsylvania's State Parks***

**2016 – 2023**

by  
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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writers express their appreciation to the many colleagues who provided guidance, suggestions, and constructive criticism throughout the several years of history gathering involved in this project: Cindy Adams Dunn, Secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR); John Norbeck, Deputy Secretary of Parks and Forestry in DCNR; John Hallas, Director, and Ryan Dysinger, Assistant Director for the Bureau of State Parks; DCNR staff members – Chris Novak, Terri Kromel, and Wes Robinson.

In addition, Marci Mowery, President of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, provided her expertise in reviewing and revising this document.

Special acknowledgement is given to Jessica Aiello, a freelance writer/editor working for PPFF, among other clients, for her time writing, proofreading, and editing document content.

This book can be downloaded from [PaParksAndForests.org](http://PaParksAndForests.org) under the “Publications” tab and from the [PaConservationHeritage.org](http://PaConservationHeritage.org) website.

# INTRODUCTION

The Pennsylvania State Park System began in 1893 with the authorization of the acquisition of land for Valley Forge. By 2023, the system has grown from one park to 124, and from 250 acres to nearly 298,623 acres. Two previous books, *History of Pennsylvania's State Parks: 1893-1983* and *History of Pennsylvania's State Parks: 1984-2015*, written by William C. Forrey, set the tone for what follows in this third edition.

Across the United States, every state operates and maintains a state park system. Over the years, even with challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, these park systems continue to see increases in visitation and expansion of the outdoor recreational opportunities available, and Pennsylvania is no exception. In good budgets years and lean, Pennsylvania's state parks provide a wide variety of healthy and educational experiences for its visitors.

For example, nearly 9 out of 10 respondents to a recent Penn State poll said they participated in some form of outdoor recreation activity, and according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, outdoor recreation generated \$563.7 billion across the United States in 2022 and made up nearly two percent of Pennsylvania's gross domestic product (GDP) that year. These funds are generated when park and forest visitors rent bikes or kayaks from a local shop, book a hotel room for a night or a week, and grab some dinner from a nearby restaurant.

In the National Association of State Park Directors annual report for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, statistics show that there were 9,817 state park units across the United States totaling greater than 20 million acres, with 867,275,937 total visits recorded. These parks employed 48,332 total people, which includes 18,417 full-time employees, 4,505 part-time employees, and 25,410 seasonal staff. New construction costs for the time period were \$551,317,050.

# CHAPTER 1: HISTORY OF PENNSYLVANIA'S STATE PARKS – 2016 to 2019

The Pennsylvania state park system kicked off 2016 with John S. Hallas as the Director, having been appointed in December 2015. His responsibilities included 121 state parks covering almost 300,000 acres with a statewide staff of more than 600 salaried employees. His background included 15 years as a park manager, regional park manager, and assistant director with the Bureau of State Parks.

That year, the bureau launched its outdoor activities with 28 state parks offering invigorating free, guided hikes on New Year's Day. The First Day Hikes were initiated in 2010 in Pennsylvania state parks. The hikes were part of America's State Parks First Day Hikes initiative that took place in all 50 states. The concept was promoted by the National Association of State Park Directors.

On January 20, 2016, State Park Director Hallas chaired a public discussion relative to Denton Hill State Park's ski facilities. The original ski slopes were designed by state parks' landscape architect C. Ray Olweiler, and the bureau operated the ski area from 1958 to 1979. In 1983, the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) signed a 35-year agreement with a concessionaire for the operation and maintenance of the facility. In 2014, the concessionaire served notice that it could no longer operate the facility. The ski area was closed from 2014 to 2019 and a consultant was chosen to prepare a feasibility study for the future operation and maintenance of four-season recreational opportunities at Denton Hill.

A few days later, on January 26, 2016, DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn and Seven Springs Mountain Resort Chairman Robert Nutting participated in a ceremonial groundbreaking to mark the progress on major renovations at Laurel Mountain State Park, also known as Laurel Mountain Ski Resort. DCNR committed \$6.5 million to improvements that were completed in time for the 2016-2017 ski season. In 2018, Seven Springs Mountain Resort signed a 35-year concession lease agreement to operate the ski area.

On March 18, 2016, Presque Isle State Park beaches placed first in a national competition. The park won in the "Best Freshwater Beach" category of an online voting travel award contest sponsored by USA Today. The first-place finish acknowledged the beauty and unique qualities found at Pennsylvania's only seashore.

Little Pine State Park in Lycoming County has been the site of a shooting range since the 1970s. With a nationwide effort to address the impacts of lead bullets and the concentrated accumulation of lead around these ranges, DCNR invested a total of \$500,000 in remediation between 2012 and 2016. As a result, a usage fee was instituted that year to help offset the annual maintenance costs of the shooting range. Resident fees were set at \$30 for individual permits and \$40 for family permits. Also, a consecutive 30-day permit was offered at \$15 per individual and \$20 for family permits. Higher-cost permits were established for non-residents. Fee income was dedicated to continued maintenance, such as the creation of earthen embankments surrounding the range, new backstops, new shooting benches partially covered by a pavilion, improved parking, and a new restroom.

In the spring of 2016, Pennsylvania earned top honors for its five-year Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan: 2016-2019 (SCORP). The National Park Service and the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals chose Pennsylvania for the second time in a row, which was the first time any state had received the honor for back-to-back five-year plans. DCNR Secretary Dunn noted that the plan included 20 recommendations and 83 action steps. She also stated that Pennsylvania offers four seasons of outdoor recreation, millions of acres of public lands, thousands of miles of trails, and 5,700 local parks.

May 2016 was designated as National Bike Month. DCNR Secretary Dunn said that bicycling is one of the best activities to cover most of the outdoor terrain. She pointed out that DCNR offers a calendar of guided outings that

include tech support and riding tips to help you get back on your wheels. Pennsylvania has more than 11,000 miles of bikeable trails, including more than 100 former rail lines turned into trails across the state, making for a relatively flat, family-friendly trip.

On May 19, 2016, DCNR officials and hiking group leaders met to invite hikers, anglers, bikers, and local residents to visit the newly renovated Poe Paddy Tunnel and trestle and the Mid State Trail section on the Centre-Mifflin county line. Stretching almost 100 yards through West Paddy Mountain, the Poe Paddy Tunnel is very popular with visitors to Poe Paddy State Park in Centre County, as it serves as access for the Mid State Trail and for the high quality fishery of Penn's Creek..

The William W. Scranton Swimming Pool in Lackawanna State Park, Lackawanna County, was dedicated on May 24, 2016, in honor of Pennsylvania's late governor, William W. Scranton, who served from 1963 to 1967. The late governor and his family have been ardent supporters of Lackawanna State Park and the naming is a testament to their longtime interest. Lackawanna is one of Pennsylvania's more popular state parks, drawing more than 360,000 visitors a year.

Memorial Day weekend of 2016 marked the beginning of more state park areas open to pets, more smoking restrictions on swimming beaches, and a revamped reservation system that made it easier to make reservations at Pennsylvania's 121 state parks. The new reservation system utilized digital technology that made it easier for state park users to plan ahead when using camping, cabins, and other facilities. With the system, reservations could be made 24 hours a day, seven days a week. More than 82 percent of advanced reservations were made online that year.

New state park pet camping sites were added in the following state parks: Hyner Run, Clinton County; Sinnemahoning, Cameron County; and Pymatuning, Crawford County. Pet cabins were provided at Bald Eagle State Park, Centre County, and at Nockamixon State Park, Bucks County. The success and park visitor approval of "no smoking" beaches prompted DCNR to add smoking restrictions at the following 12 state parks (a total of 21 state parks had "smoke-free" beaches in 2016): Hills Creek, Tioga County; Lyman Run, Potter County; R.B. Winter, Union County; Presque Isle, Erie County; Pymatuning, Crawford County; Laurel Hill, Somerset County; Whipple Dam, Huntingdon County; Gifford Pinchot, York County; Cowans Gap, Fulton County; Gouldsboro, Monroe County; Ricketts Glen, Luzerne County; and Worlds End, Sullivan County.

DCNR and the Department of Labor and Industry joined in launching the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps on June 13, 2016. The new program offered paid work experience and educational opportunities to young people who completed recreation and conservation projects at state parks, forests, and other Pennsylvania lands. A crew of 10 high school-age students from southcentral Pennsylvania began work at Gifford Pinchot State Park in York County. The Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps was financed through DCNR and the Department of Labor and Industry's Reemployment Fund and was coordinated with the Student Conservation Association. The Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps consisted of two phases: phase one was a six-week summer program for youth between the ages of 15-18, and phase two, which began in 2017, was a 10-month program for young adults between the ages of 18-25.

On August 16, 2016, the official opening of the new Patrick J. Solano Environmental Education Center was celebrated at Frances Slocum State Park in Luzerne County. Previously, the park's old environmental education center was dedicated to Solano on December 6, 2013, but funding was provided so that a new center could be constructed to honor Solano, whose name was synonymous with environmental leadership.

DCNR Secretary Dunn dedicated a new solar array at the Tom Ridge Environmental Education Center at Presque Isle State Park on September 14, 2016. She noted, "This installation marks the start of exciting and innovative things to come in our state parks. We hope this renewable energy demonstration not only highlights

the 10-kWh solar array providing energy for the center but also offers the public a chance to learn how to replicate this system in their homes." The fixed, ground-mounted array was installed at a cost of \$27,950 to offset the center's electric utility charges.

The following day, DCNR dedicated the new park office and visitor center at Kinzua Bridge State Park in McKean County. The \$7 million structure includes 2,800 square feet of space in two exhibit halls and a lobby; park administrative offices; and classroom space. The new facility adds to the attraction of the skywalk on the former railroad bridge. The skywalk and glass bottom observation area were constructed on the remaining half of the railroad bridge after a tornado blew down the center section of the bridge in 2003. Themes for the exhibits include the geography of the area; the viaduct as a symbol of engineering advances that supported the Industrial Revolution; an inspiring reminder of the inventiveness, resourcefulness, and "can-do" spirit of the people of the late 1800s; and the unique opportunities for experiencing natural beauty, observing wildlife, and participating in recreational activities at Kinzua Bridge State Park.

Former State Senator Franklin Kury was honored with the naming of the point and observation area in Shikellamy State Park in Northumberland County as "Kury Point," on September 23, 2016. Senator Kury authored the amendment to the state constitution known as the Environmental Rights Amendment. Article 1, Section 27 says, "The people of have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, historic, and aesthetic values of the environment." At the ceremony, DCNR Secretary Dunn said, "As the author and catalyst for the passage of the Environmental Rights Amendment while serving in the House of Representatives, Franklin Kury is a monumental leader in Pennsylvania's rich conservation history. In addition to establishing rights for citizens, the constitutional amendment made the state the trustee of its public natural resources and responsible for conserving them."

State Park Director Hallas sent a memorandum to all state park managers in central office, the state park regions, and individual state parks, as well as to executive staff members on October 11, 2016. The purpose of the memorandum was to inform the staff of two organizational changes in the Bureau of State Parks. The first subject was the field organizational structure that had been organized into four regions, with each region having appropriate staff members. That structure was created by the former Department of Forests and Waters Secretary Maurice K. Goddard in 1962. On July 15, 2014, former State Park Director David L. Kemmerer sent an e-mail to the state parks staff giving his rationale for reorganizing the field operations into five regions. In State Park Director Hallas' memorandum, he explained his reasoning for returning to the four-region structure. His reasons consisted of the cost of additional staffing, capital costs of infrastructure, and the difficulty in securing additional complement. The bureau was advancing a reorganization to create a new division in central office in Harrisburg, PA. However, due to complement controls, budget, etc., the Office of Administration's Human Resources unit did not advance the Bureau of State Parks' request.

Laurel Hill State Park in Somerset County was expanded by 184 acres with the addition of the property known as Scenic View, enlarging the total acreage to more than 4,200 acres on dedication day (November 3, 2016). At the dedication, DCNR Secretary Dunn praised the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the Colcom Foundation for their efforts in acquiring the \$1.024 million property.

December 20, 2016 was a significant day in the history of Laurel Mountain State Park. It was the day when the ski area was re-opened after a 10-year closure. On January 19, 2017, DCNR joined Seven Springs Mountain Resort in celebrating the completion of \$6.5 million in improvements to the site. The facilities included a new chair lift, a doubling of the snowmaking capacity, trail improvements, and a renovated ski lodge. The lodge improvements included an expansive heated concrete terrace and staircase leading to the entrances, an outdoor fireplace, and new interior furniture and carpeting. The snowmaking operation was updated with the installation of a new pump house, pond connection piping, installation of water and air lines for snowmaking guns, ski lift foundations, ski lift installation, and electrical work. A new feature included the use of the Highlands Season Pass at Laurel Mountain

as well as at Seven Springs and Hidden Valley ski areas.

In 2017, the Bureau of State Parks continued its policy of restricting smoking at swimming beaches as it added 16 more state park beaches to the "no smoking" list. The list included Bald Eagle, Centre County; Beltzville, Carbon County; Chapman, Warren County; Canoe Creek, Blair County; Greenwood Furnace, Huntingdon County; Hickory Run, Luzerne County; Little Pine, Lycoming County; Moraine, Butler County; Ole Bull, Potter County; Poe Valley, Centre County; Prince Gallitzin, Cambria County; Pymatuning (Jamestown Campground and Linesville beaches), Crawford County; Promised Land (main beach), Pike County; Tobyhanna, Monroe County; and Tuscarora, Schuylkill County.

The Bureau of State Parks announced in the spring of 2017 that there would be more opportunities for pet owners to take their animals to state park campgrounds. The program, which began in 2001, was increased to include the following state parks: Codorus, York County; Colonel Denning, Cumberland County; Greenwood Furnace, Huntingdon County; Shawnee, Bedford County; and Sizerville, Potter-Cameron counties.

On April 12, 2017, Governor Tom Wolf announced that DCNR was equipping its park and forest rangers, managers, and assistant managers with life-saving naloxone to minimize opioid overdose fatalities, especially in rural settings such as state parks and state forests where state police and first responders may not be readily available. This action was taken in response to the opioid overdose epidemic occurring throughout the Commonwealth. From 2015 to 2017, there were seven drug-related deaths on DCNR lands.

April 22, 2017 marked the completion of the Mountain Creek Trail Bridge in Pine Grove Furnace State Park. The bridge was unique in that it was the result of the great efforts of the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace. At the dedication, DCNR Deputy Secretary of Parks and Forestry John Norbeck complimented the Friends Group for its exceptional work in raising funds and performing work in preparing the site for the bridge abutments. The new bridge is an integral part of the trail that connects Laurel and Fuller Lakes.

Memorial Day weekend 2017 began another year of swimming in the state park system. In addition to lake swimming, state parks offered 14 swimming pools to choose from. The following state parks had swimming pools available from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend: Bendigo, Elk County; Blue Knob, Bedford County; Caledonia, Franklin-Adams counties; Codorus, York County; Frances Slocum, Luzerne County; French Creek, Berks-Chester counties; Hyner Run, Clinton County; Lackawanna, Lackawanna County; Little Buffalo, Perry County; Marsh Creek, Chester County; Mount Pisgah, Bradford County; Neshaminy, Bucks County; Nockamixon, Bucks County; and Sizerville, Potter-Cameron counties.

Pymatuning State Park in Crawford County dates to 1934, when the dam was dedicated by Pennsylvania Governor Gifford Pinchot and Ohio Governor George White. The total lake acreage is 17,088 acres, with 13,716 acres in Pennsylvania and 3,372 acres in Ohio. Staff determined that the gatehouse, which was built in the mid-1930s, was not functioning properly. DCNR received approval to replace the gatehouse on the original site at a cost of \$9 million. The primary purpose of the dam and reservoir is to regulate flows in the Shenango and Beaver rivers and the secondary roles are recreation and flood control. The restored dam and new gatehouse were dedicated by DCNR Secretary Dunn on June 9, 2017.

DCNR's Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council (CNRAC) was authorized when DCNR was created by Act No. 18 of June 28, 1995. The act created the council to advise the department and make recommendations relative to conservation and natural resource laws of the Commonwealth; consider, study, and review the work of the department; and report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly. CNRAC has 18 members; six appointed by the Governor, six appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and six appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate. In each group of six members, no more than three can be from the same political party. The term for the members is three years. The council members must include



people knowledgeable in fields related to the work of the department.

October 30, 2017 marked the restoration and rededication of the George B. Stevenson Dam at Sinnemahoning State Park in Cameron County. The dam dates to 1955, when it was among four dams placed specifically to control flooding on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. The George B. Stevenson Dam is the only one not operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Before the dam was built, the surrounding valley and downstream watershed saw several catastrophic floods, claiming life and land. DCNR's work at Sinnemahoning and other state park impoundments across the state was recognized at the national level when state dam safety officials presented the 2017 ASDSO Northeast Regional Award for Merit to DCNR for "outstanding work done in improving the condition of high-hazard dams." In addition to dam safety, the George B. Stevenson Dam and surrounding parklands provide the recreational benefits of picnicking, boating, fishing, and camping.

In 2001, George Kaufman, retired State Park Operations Division Chief, and Bill Forrey decided to invite retirees from the Bureau of State Parks to lunch to create an ongoing relationship with fellow employees of the departments of Forests and Waters and Environmental Resources. The first gathering brought 16 retirees together at Capones Restaurant near Harrisburg. The group decided that it was a good idea and should continue. The concept grew from a small number to more than 100 retirees. The attendees now encompass retirees from the departments of Forests and Waters, Environmental Resources, Environmental Protection, and Conservation and Natural Resources. The Christmas luncheon at Colonial Country Club in Harrisburg on December 8, 2017 had 100 attendees, including DCNR Secretary Dunn and former DCNR Acting Secretary Patrick J. Solano. The conservation departments' retirees continued to celebrate 17 years of enjoyable reunions two times a year at Kings Gap Environmental Education Center and once a year at Colonial Country Club in Harrisburg. In previous years, the Christmas luncheons were held at Blue Ridge Country Club and Harrisburg Country Club.

The year 2018 began with DCNR and the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF) scheduling celebrations commemorating 125 years of preserving, creating, and managing Pennsylvania's state parks. Starting with Valley Forge in 1893, the system grew to 121 state parks encompassing almost 300,000 acres. These open space acres provide numerous benefits to the state park system such as environmental services, recreation opportunities, and healthy outdoor exercise.

Washington Crossing State Park was picked as the first celebration site because it was the most recent addition to Pennsylvania's state park system. Rich in historical buildings and environmental education programs, the park is the site of George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River during the American Revolution and is a National Historic Landmark. Many other state parks scheduled similar celebrations throughout the calendar year of 2018.

DCNR celebrated a first at Mt. Pisgah State Park on May 7, 2018, with the completion of a solar shingle installation. Coincidentally, Mt. Pisgah was the first state-managed facility with a solar installation in the 1970s. In the spring of 2018, Big Pocono State Park's historic fire tower was relocated to the U.S. Forest Service's National Historic Site, Grey Towers. A fire tower was constructed at Big Pocono in 1919 and the 35-foot tower had been used for many years as a vantage point for spotting forest fires. After the Big Pocono fire tower was relocated, it was converted for educational and interpretive purposes. A new fire tower was built at Big Pocono to replace the 1919 tower. Grey Towers was Gifford Pinchot's summer residence. The conversion to educational purposes honors Pinchot's service as PA Forestry Commissioner and his two terms as Governor of the Commonwealth.

On June 11, 2018, DCNR Secretary Dunn and other state officials joined D&L Trail officials in dedicating the new Mansion House Bridge spanning the Lehigh River in Jim Thorpe. Funded by DCNR and the PA Department of Transportation (PennDOT), the bridge is a key component in the trail that stretches more than 60 miles from Bristol, Bucks County, north to Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County. The Mansion House Bridge, so named for the

original span that once stood not far downstream from the new bridge, is owned by Carbon County and the bridge-trail project is managed by the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. The Mansion House Bridge cost \$3.3 million to design and build. Secretary Dunn noted that the primary goal of her department is to provide a trail within 15 minutes' travel of all Pennsylvanians.

On July 2, 2018, the Commonwealth celebrated the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Keystone Recreation, Park, and Conservation Fund (also referred to as Key 93). On July 2, 1993, the Keystone Fund was established with a near-unanimous vote in the state legislature. The act created permanent and dedicated funding in Pennsylvania for recreation, parks, libraries, historical preservation, and education.

Electric Zero Motorcycles were added to the vehicle fleets in Presque Isle and Delaware Canal state parks on November 26, 2018. They were purchased to be used to patrol the parks. The vehicles had a range of approximately 110 miles and a recharge cost of \$1.50. The two motorcycles were added to reduce carbon emissions and decrease fuel costs. At the time, DCNR had 20 energy-efficient vehicles and four hybrid electric vans in its fleet.

In 2018, the opioid drug problem continued throughout the Commonwealth, and, to reduce overdoses, DCNR joined with the PA Department of Health to provide first responders with naloxone, which is a medicine that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose. On December 14, 2018, DCNR announced that it would begin equipping more than 300 state park and state forest rangers, managers, and assistant managers with the life-saving naloxone. Between 2014 and 2018, more than 20,000 people were revived with naloxone by police officers and EMS providers in Pennsylvania.

The Bureau of State Parks worked with the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control from 2017 to 2019 to launch a small pilot program to install sunscreen dispensers within selected state parks. Each park was shipped a kit that included two dispensers and pole mounts and six cases of SPF 30+ eco sport sunscreen from a company named Brightguard. There was also an educational training session for the staff at each location. All the costs were covered by the Department of Health's "Cancer Fund." The pilot Sunscreen Dispenser Program was held at the following state parks:

2017: Codorus State Park swimming pool (2016 attendance = 60,521) and Pine Grove Furnace State Park Fuller Lake (2016 attendance = 28,009)

2018: Nockamixon State Park swimming pool (2017 attendance = 34,451), Bald Eagle State Park swimming area (2017 attendance = 10,964), and Gifford Pinchot State Park swimming area (2017 attendance = 55,253)

2019: Caledonia State Park swimming pool (2018 attendance = 13,229), Laurel Hill State Park swimming area (2018 attendance = 29,092), Little Buffalo State Park swimming pool (2018 attendance = 43,089), Presque Isle State Park swimming area - Beach 8 and Beach 11 (2018 attendance = 219,554)

The Bureau's Outdoor Programming Services Division expanded its environmental education reach in 2019, with the addition and reclassification of several positions. This included the reclassification of an Environmental Interpretive Technician (EIT) position to and Environmental Education Specialist (EES) at Caledonia, Colonel Denning, Sam Lewis, and Shawnee state parks; the addition of a new wage EES position at Trough Creek; the restoration of a vacant EES position at Leonard Harrison; two wage EES positions converted to salaried positions at Laurel Hill and Codorus; new EIT positions at Black Moshannon and Little Buffalo; and a new wage EES position at Pymatuning.

The rehabilitation of the dam and spillway at Chapman State Park was completed in the summer of 2019. The project involved armoring the earthen dam with rolled, compacted concrete, and improving the spillway to handle the maximum flow possible.

On July 12, 2019, DCNR Secretary Dunn dedicated new campground facilities at Colonel Denning State Park in Perry County. The new shower house, comfort station, and sanitary dumping station were completed to serve the 49-site tent and trailer area. The state park has 273 acres of woodland and a 3.5-acre lake.

The completion of a new park office and environmental learning center at Bald Eagle State Park was completed in the fall of 2019. The new facility includes two meeting rooms and places for all park administration, law enforcement, and environmental education under one roof.

DCNR provided Class 3 and 4 whitewater opportunities for boating enthusiasts over the November 2-3, 2019 weekend at Nockamixon State Park in Bucks County. In the past, the event was scheduled on a semi-annual basis, usually occurring on the third weekend in March and the first weekend in November. The whitewater releases from Lake Nockamixon provided suitable boating conditions downstream through Ralph Stover State Park. The water releases are eagerly awaited by whitewater paddling enthusiasts, drawing skilled kayakers, canoeists, and rafters from throughout the northeastern United States.

## CHAPTER 2: 2020 to 2023 – COVID IMPACTS AND NEW PARKS

On March 6, 2020, the first “presumptive positive” cases of COVID-19 were recorded in Wayne and Delaware counties. At that time, there was no evidence of any community transmission of the virus, however it was spreading in other states by that time. To reduce the risk of spread, Governor Wolf issued stay at home orders for four counties – Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery. On March 13, DCNR closed all state parks in Montgomery County, followed by those in Bucks and Chester counties on March 14. Just two days later, DCNR issued a press release announcing the closure of all state park and forest facilities across Pennsylvania for 14 days starting on March 17. Members of the public were still able to access trails, lakes, parking areas, and other outdoor spaces for dispersed recreation like hiking, but all overnight and facility reservations were canceled. In no other time in history had Pennsylvania’s state parks and forests been challenged with such immediate and sweeping changes to the way they operated.

Governor Wolf issued statewide “stay at home” orders that directed all state residents to shelter at home and limit their movements outside of the home beyond essential needs for the next two weeks, effective March 19, 2020. Restaurants were ordered to close their dine-in facilities but allow takeout services. All schools were closed. His administration strongly urged all non-essential businesses to act accordingly, warning that they could compel closures, if needed. Over the next weeks and months, stay at home orders, business closures, and telework remained the norm. Counties were marked as red (high level of hospitalization for COVID), yellow (medium level), and green (low level), which determined what businesses could be open and what types of restrictions were in place.

April 22, 2020 marked 50 years of Earth Day. To celebrate this momentous occasion, state parks across Pennsylvania had organized special events, such as a daylong celebration at Beltzville State Park and a volunteer work day at Sinnemahoning State Park. However, due to continuing concerns related to the spread of COVID-19, DCNR decided to cancel all public programs, events, and trainings through April 30.

As the pandemic continued onward, construction was stopped on all state park projects unless a contractor was able to get an exemption from the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), or if a project needed to be completed for emergency purposes. One exemption was issued for emergency repairs on the dam at Shikellamy State Park. Three other contractors were advised to apply for emergency work exemptions. A halt to construction lasted until the end of April.

The pandemic brought about new DCNR guidance for law enforcement personnel on how to ensure park visitors were following social distancing guidelines, guidance for staff on the proper protocols to maintain their safety through the use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), staggered work schedules, etc., and standard operating procedures for lifeguards. DCNR also released outdoor safety guidance to the public on April 2 that focused on social distancing outdoors and Leave No Trace principles.

Once people got over the initial shock of a global pandemic, they flocked to state parks and forests for safe, socially-distanced outdoor recreation. During March 2020, the state park system saw an increase of more than 500,000 visitors, which was a 29 percent increase over March 2019. Seventeen parks experienced a greater than 100 percent increase in visitation and another 22 increased by more than 50 percent. While visitation calmed in April, with an average of just 10 percent higher than normal, some parks still saw double- or triple-digit increases. Places like Ricketts Glen State Park reported wait times of up to 10 minutes to start the ascent of the trail staircases due to so many visitors. Over the Memorial Day weekend, the park was filled to capacity by noon and people began parking illegally along State Route 118 just to get into the park. Statewide, park attendance jumped 1.5 million visitors in May, an increase of 36 percent over the previous year.

With the increase in visitors across Pennsylvania's state parks came overflowing trash cans and illegal dumping, over-full parking lots, an increase in graffiti, more illegal ATV use, and greater need for law enforcement in some areas. To counter this, DCNR brought back more maintenance workers, and some PPFF Friends Groups also lent a hand, to manage the larger-than-normal crowds.

Members of PPFF Friends Groups and PPFF volunteers, as well as members of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps and the Stitchers Corps of Central PA, also got together to make masks for DCNR staff, as supplies of N95 masks became harder to find. More than 40 individuals made up the Mask Brigade, as they were called, sewing 2,000 masks over just a few weeks and donating the cost of the mask material and their time to the worthy cause.

The impacts of the pandemic had a positive side as well. In the first three months of the lock-down, DCNR's Twitter account added an average of 491 new followers (the usual gain is 100 per month), overall visitor traffic to the DCNR website was up 49 percent, and more than 11,000 new followers were added to the DCNR Facebook account.

On April 28, 2020, DCNR issued a six-week, four-phase approach to reopening the parks, contingent on the return of its wage complement. Phase 1 saw the reopening of day use restrooms and reservable boating facilities on May 8. Phase 2 reopened family campsites and offices on May 15. By the end of May, the first seventeen counties in Pennsylvania transitioned from the "yellow phase" to the "green phase," which meant that most restrictions and stay-at-home orders there were lifted. Some playgrounds reopened on June 1, all beaches were to reopen on June 6, and most pools on June 13 as part of Phase 3. Beaches and pools were limited to 50 percent of capacity and other safety measures were put in place to protect visitors. In Phase 4, cabins, cottages, and yurts would be reopened for weeklong rentals starting June 12. Any special events would still not be allowed through June 15, when they could then resume in green counties, with the mandatory use of face coverings and limits to fewer than 25 individuals.

By June 26, 2020, all state parks were open except for Memorial Lake and Swatara state parks in Lebanon County. Special event guidance was issued on June 30 to run through September 7, 2020, unless otherwise modified. The guidance includes social distancing and safety measures requirements for events with 250 people or fewer. No events with more than 250 people were allowed on DCNR lands.

In the summer of 2020, the Ohiopyle Multimodal Gateway Project was completed. This \$12.4 million project that began in fall 2018 and was delayed due to the pandemic involved the realignment of Sugarloaf Road with the lower falls parking area, construction of a new parking area, construction of a pedestrian tunnel under Route 381 to connect the upper parking area with the park office, the widening of Route 381 to include a bike lane, and rehabilitation of the bridge that carries Route 381 over the Youghiogheny River.

Dedicated on October 19, 2020, the new visitor center at Hickory Run State Park is 13,000 square feet of exhibits, office space, restrooms, and classrooms. The building was designed to resemble a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built structure, paying homage to the CCC heritage of the park. Rain gardens with native plants and new nature trails are included in the project as well. Incorporating DCNR sustainability guidelines throughout, including the use of reclaimed timbers and paneling from a nearby park shed, the project was awarded LEED Silver Certification.

In November 2020, the Friends of Pine Grove opened the bridge connecting the Koppenhaver Trail to other trails within Pine Grove Furnace State Park.

Also in 2020, Evansburg State Park was moved under the complex headquarters of Fort Washington State Park, new interpretive exhibits were installed at Bald Eagle and Hickory Run state parks, and virtual environmental education programming for the public and schools increased in number and frequency.

These virtual programs continued into 2021 and included self-guided options for park visitors, which included Do it Yourself DiscoverE activities, story book walks, equipment loans, videos, and book clubs.

The Bureau of State Parks continued its sunscreen dispenser program in 2020-21 at the following state parks:

2020: Mt. Pisgah swimming pool, Cowans Gap Lake, Beltzville Lake, Marsh Creek swimming pool, and Presque Isle Beach #6

2021: French Creek pool, Tuscarora beach, Ricketts Glen beach, Tobyhanna beach, Shawnee beach, Canoe Creek beach, Poe Valley beach, and Black Moshannon beach

2022: the pools at Neshaminy, Lackawanna, Frances Slocum, and Blue Knob; the beaches at Keystone, Moraine, Raccoon Creek, Greenwood Furnace, Hills Creek, and Chapman; and several locations at Ohiopyle and Shikellamy

State parks began additional outreach to the Spanish speaking population in 2021, with a welcome factsheet in Spanish for Beltzville State Park (the park's mini-map was translated into Spanish in 2022) and the Neshaminy State Park mini-map translated and printed in Spanish.

The following areas were dedicated into the Old Growth Forest Network in 2021: McConnells Mill State Park (April), White Clay Creek Preserve (May), Fall Brook Natural Area in Salt Springs State Park, Henry's Woods in Jacobsburg State Park, and Worlds End State Park (June). The Old Growth Forest Network is the only national network in the country of protected old-growth forests. The network's goal is to designate at least one protected forest in every county in the United States that can sustain a native forest.

After a 16-month large-scale rehabilitation project, Whipple Dam State Park was re-opened in late January 2021. The project involved repaving of all paved surfaces, a wheelchair-accessible fishing pier, dredging of 40,000 cubic yards of sediment from the lake bed, structural improvements to the dam, and the addition of various fish habitat structures and turtle nesting platforms.

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Environmental Rights Amendment (ERA) to the Pennsylvania Constitution took place on May 18, 2021. The ERA was written in 1971 by Franklin Kury and it states that "The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustees of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people." Unfortunately, due to the pandemic no in-person events could take place to celebrate this milestone. However, there was a virtual event on the anniversary, sponsored by WITF, StateImpact Pennsylvania, and PPFF, that featured clips from several documentaries followed by a panel discussion with Kury and others representing a host of environmental organizations.

Severe weather was in the news over the summer of 2021. On July 11, a microburst hit Poe Valley State Park and the surrounding area in Centre County. Winds over 100 miles per hour - equivalent to an EF1 tornado - and torrential rains caused downed trees and other significant damage to the area. Later that month a severe storm and EF1 tornado ripped through Laurel Hill State Park in Somerset County, leading to the park's closure.

In August 2021, Governor Wolf and DCNR Secretary Dunn unveiled a new long-term plan to make improvements to the state's aging state park system. Known as "Penn's Parks for All," the plan will serve as a blueprint for park staff over the next two decades. The plan aims to address long-term issues such as accessibility, infrastructure improvements and repairs, and climate change through 87 strategies that include improving transportation options to state parks to broaden access; ensuring state parks are adequately funded; and identifying the need for additional trails and trail connectivity from state parks to local communities.

During the summer of 2021, a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) era camp at Laurel Hill State Park was restored. “Camp Tree Army” was transformed into a space for educational programs and special events. With approximately 200 structures, Laurel Hill has the largest collection of intact CCC structures in the state park system.

In September 2021, DCNR partnered with the Department of Health to hold COVID-19 vaccine clinics at five state parks across the commonwealth: Beltzville, Shikellamy, Codorus, Keystone, and Nockamixon. There was no cost for the vaccine. “The outdoors have been important in helping Pennsylvanians maintain their physical and mental health,” said DCNR Deputy Secretary Michael Walsh, “and these vaccine clinics are yet another way we can help people get through this pandemic.”

On September 7-10, 2021, Pennsylvania hosted the annual conference of the National Association of State Park Directors at Sevin Springs Mountain Resort. State park directors from across the country gathered to learn, network, and experience field trips across the Laurel Highlands region.

The fall of 2021 brought about the long-awaited expansion and electrification of the campground at Ricketts Glen State Park. The Small Loop now contains 22 full service, 7 modern electric, and 35 modern non-electric sites that are pet-friendly.

In October 2021, officials from PennDOT, DCNR, DEP, and DGS highlighted a pilot project to pave part of a Ridley Creek State Park roadway with an asphalt and recycled plastic mixture. The material being tested supports interagency goals to increase the state’s sustainability in operations. The pilot project involves a 1.5-mile reconstruction project from the park’s entrance to Pavilion 14. The rest of the roadway is being paved with a standard asphalt mixture to provide a comparison for the new material over a five-year evaluation period.

After many years of private investment through funding raised by the PPFF, and with the assistance of state park staff, the Historicorps program, and the Pa Outdoor Corps, the newly restored Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) barracks at French Creek State Park were unveiled in December 2021. The building had languished for years, becoming a storage space until it was so damaged it was unusable. The newly restored building will be used for interpretive programming and public events.

Also in December 2021, Sunoco agreed to pay more than \$4 million in fines to DCNR for spilling thousands of gallons of drilling fluids while installing a pipeline in August 2020. The spill occurred at Marsh Creek State Park. The spill contaminated wetlands, tributaries, and part of the park’s 535-acre lake. Secretary Dunn said “Southeast Pennsylvania lost a significant recreational resource when the impacted area of the lake was closed due to the drilling fluid impacts, and many residents and community members expressed the need to restore those opportunities.” Sunoco will also dredge the lake, replace all wildlife habitat structures, and restore the shoreline. The company was also required to post a \$4 million bond to ensure they complete the cleanup.

Early December 2021 also brought about a change of management for the ski lifts and lodge at Laurel Mountain Ski Area, which is owned and operated by DCNR. Pittsburgh Pirates owner Bob Nutting sold his three ski resorts in the Laurel Highlands to Vail Resorts Inc. of Colorado. Nutting had signed a 35-year contract with DCNR in October 2018, which will be transferred to Vail Resorts.

DCNR’s investments in high performance buildings dates back to 2004 with the completion of the Sproul State Forest Resource Management Center. The most commonly used high performance building rating system is LEED. As of 2021, DCNR has 17 LEED-certified buildings with nine under state park management:

Pre 2015:

- Tom Ridge Environmental Center at Presque Isle State Park - LEED Silver certified
- The Nature Inn at Bald Eagle State Park - LEED Gold certified

- Elk Country Visitor Center - LEED Gold certified
- The Wildlife Center at Sinnemahoning State Park - LEED Silver certified

Certified since 2015:

- Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center - LEED Silver Certified 2015
- Ohiopyle State Park Office (Laurel Highlands Falls Area Visitor Center) - LEED Gold Certified 2015
- Kinzua Bridge State Park Visitor Center and Park Office - LEED Silver Certified 2017
- Frances Slocum SP Patrick J. Solano Environmental Education Center - LEED Silver Certified 2017
- Hickory Run State Park Visitor Center - LEED Silver Certified 2021

In recent years, the Bureau of State Parks enhanced its awareness of the necessary role forest plays to increase the health and resilience of the Bureau's forest land in the face of losses of natural disturbance regimes, changing climate, and nonnative species introduction, thus conserving the state park forest resources for the benefit of future generations. The Bureau will continue to plan for and implement forest stewardship practices to improve and maintain forest health, resiliency, and habitat structure at within-stand and landscape scales. Management will be guided by ecosystem metrics, not tree size or rotational age, and will utilize appropriate tools, from prescribed fire and invasive species control, through various silvicultural management practices. These efforts include some large projects at Ohiopyle State Park and within the Laurel Highlands.

In January 2022, Boyd Big Tree Preserve Conservation Area and Joseph Ibberson Conservation Area were moved from under the administration of Little Buffalo State Park to the Memorial Lake State Park Complex.

Early in 2022, DCNR appointed its first-ever Director of Outdoor Recreation, Nathan Reigner. A native Pennsylvanian, Reigner's background includes a BS in Anthropology and Sociology from Gettysburg College, an MS in Forestry from Virginia Tech, and a Doctorate in Natural Resource Management from the University in Vermont. Prior to joining DCNR, Reigner worked in dozens of national parks across the country and was a professor in Penn State's Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management Department. His purpose is to raise awareness of the connections between having fun outdoors, the health of people and communities, and the outdoor industry.

On April 13, 2022, a new park office and visitor center at Cook Forest State park was dedicated. The building had opened in 2019, but due to the pandemic, a dedication ceremony was delayed. The 4,000-square-foot building includes 700-square-feet of classroom and meeting space, as well as exhibit space and public restrooms. "This park is a special place," said park manager Ryan Borcz, "and having this new park office and visitor center will provide new opportunities to educate and improve the visitor experience." Other improvements to the park included \$2 million roadway funding and \$140,000 for trail bridges. Future plans include expanding the parking lots and installing an electric vehicle charging station newar the new office.

Boyd Big Tree Preserve Conservation Area in Dauphin County was inducted into the Old-Growth Forest Network in late April 2022. The Network is a national organization working to preserve ancient forests. The old-growth area of Boyd Big Tree is approximately 80 acres on the western boundary of the preserve. "It's hard to describe the sense of awe that comes from taking a walk among ancient, old-growth trees," said DCNR Secretary Dunn during the dedication ceremony. "This designation reminds all Pennsylvanians of the forest heritage of Penn's Woods and spotlights the unique and exciting opportunities that are offered for outdoor recreation and experiencing nature in their state parks and forests." Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center was designated later that year, in December.

On June 10, 2022, the Friends of Tuscarora and Locust Lake celebrated the 50th anniversary of Locust Lake State Park with an evening celebration that was open to the public. The event featured food trucks, games, face painting, music, and other family-friendly activities.



The 2022-23 budget passed by the Pennsylvania Senate and House, with leadership from Governor Wolf, included \$696 million in federal recovery funds as the largest new investment in conservation, outdoor recreation, clean water, and preservation in several decades. These funds included \$100 million to an Outdoor Recreation Program for state park and forest infrastructure, conservation, and recreation projects, including upgrades to failing dams and wastewater treatment plants in state parks and forests, among other uses.

In July 2022, the Friends of Cook Forest, one of PPFF's many chapters, converted a one-quarter-mile paved trail into a Sensory Trail that will enable individuals with visual or physical impairments to experience the wonders of Cook Forest in an entirely new way. This trail was the first of its kind in the Pennsylvania state park system.

A new swimming pool at Ryerson Station State Park opened to visitors over the Memorial Day weekend and a ribbon cutting ceremony took place on July 8, 2022. The pool boasts a splash pad and a zero entry pool with a twisty slide. The original pool had been closed since the end of the summer 2019.

The restroom and shower house replacement project within the Jamestown Campground at Pymatuning State Park, which involved a new structure and paving, was completed in time for the summer 2022 camping season.

Repairs to Shikellamy State Park's Adam T. Bower Memorial Dam, which initially began in August 2021, were delayed until the summer of 2022 due to high river levels from tropical storms Ida and Henri, as well as issues with the materials used for the repairs. Work included replacing bag six, one of the large inflatable bags that make up the artificial dam. The work was completed in August 2022, allowing for a few months of boating on Lake Augusta for the season.

As with the past several summers, many state park pools had to close early during the summer of 2022 due to a lack of certified lifeguards in Pennsylvania and across the country. In addition, the swimming pool at Caledonia State Park was forced to close a week before the Fourth of July holiday weekend because of maintenance and repair needs to bring the pool up to DCNR standards and protect the safety of pool patrons.

In August 2022, the Ridley Creek State Park Complex was created and includes Ridley Creek, White Clay Creek Preserve, and the newly acquired Big Elk Creek State Park. Also that month, a new complex titled the Lower Susquehanna State Park Complex was created and consists of Sam Lewis State Park, Susquehannock State Park, and the newly acquired Susquehanna Riverlands State Park. Previously, Sam Lewis and Susquehannock were under the administration of the Gifford Pinchot State Park Complex.

Two "Great Gathering Friends and Family" sites opened within Shawnee State Park in the fall of 2022. These full hookup sites allow tents and two camping units per site, accommodating up to 15 people. This is a new prototype camping experience for the state park system.

With \$56 million from the 2022-23 budget, Pennsylvania celebrated the addition of three new state parks to the system on September 27, 2022. Potentially temporary working names for the parks are Susquehanna Riverlands in York County, Big Elk Creek in Chester County, and Vosburg Neck in Wyoming County – the first state park for that county. Susquehanna Riverlands covers 1,100 acres of mostly wooded land where Codorus Creek flows into the Susquehanna River. The new park is adjacent to two Lancaster Conservancy-owned nature preserves, making this the last large wooded area along the Susquehanna between Harrisburg, York, and Lancaster. Big Elk Creek covers 1,712 acres and features 3.5 miles of Big Elk Creek, which is a tributary of the Elk River and the Chesapeake Bay. The creek is historically significant for its roles with indigenous peoples and freedom seekers on the Underground Railroad. Vosburg Neck is 669 acres and will provide scenic hiking opportunities and public access to the North Branch of the Susquehanna once it is developed. These parks, which are expected to be fully operational by the end of 2026, bring the total to 124 Pennsylvania state parks.

The Friends of Ridley Creek State Park encouraged people to come to the park to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, with events taking place on October 5, 8, and 9, 2022. Volunteer members of the friends group gave tours of the mansion, held historical talks about the park and Delaware County, organized a fun run, nature walk, and hike, held a volunteer workday to construct picnic tables and pick up trash, and provided free refreshments for participants.

On October 13-14, members of the National Association of State Park Foundations (NASPF) gathered virtually for their annual conference, which was hosted by the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation. Attendees learned how to build strong and inclusive park systems from a variety of national speakers and had time to network too.

In November 2022, Secretary Dunn and Department of General Services Acting Secretary Joe Lee visited the worksite for a future fish passage at Shikellamy State Park's Adam T. Bower Memorial Dam. The inflatable dam creates the 3,000-acre Lake Augusta for the annual summer boating season from May to October. A fish passage will provide a much-needed pathway for aquatic life to safely migrate around the dam during that time of year. The project, estimated to cost \$3.3 million, was completed in fall 2023.

As a result of a lawsuit that was settled by DCNR in April 2019, DCNR agreed to pay \$299,000 to deal with lead contamination on land within Black Moshannon State Park that had been leased to a gun club for a shooting range. Along with the fine, DCNR was tasked with cleaning up the lead contamination, which was completed in the fall of 2022.

In December 2022, DCNR released its first electric bike policy for trails within state parks and forests. Allowable e-bikes must weigh no more than 100 pounds, cannot move at more than 20 miles per hour (and must obey all posted speed limit signs), the motor cannot exceed 750 watts, and the bike must have fully functional pedals. E-bikes may be used on any DCNR-managed trail where traditional bikes are also allowed but must only use the pedals for propulsion on non-motorized trails. The final policy took into consideration the more than 640 public comments that DCNR received on the draft policy. The use of e-bikes has been growing as older individuals and those with physical limitations want to enjoy the outdoors.

Also in December 2022, the long-awaited rehabilitation project at Washington Crossing Historic Park was completed. This \$8.7 million project kicked off in May 2021 and took approximately one and a half years to complete. The project included the rehabilitation of 11 buildings with new roofs, painting, internal plumbing, and electrical work. It also included the renovation of the restrooms near Washington Pavilion and repaving the road to Bowman's Hill Tower.

One of the many roles of PPFF and its Friends Groups is to support the operation of gift shops within Pennsylvania state parks. In 2022, PPFF assumed operation of the gift shop at Ohiopyle State Park and in 2023, the Friends of R.B. Winter State Park assumed operation of that park's gift shop.

Beginning in 2021, all new state park concession contracts included updated language to increase the sustainability of their operations. Provisions in the new contract focused on the reduction of single-use waste, food recovery, and composting. Concessionaires are now required to eliminate the use of plastic straws, plastic utensils, and plastic bags, replacing each of these items with their plant fiber, wooden, and compostable alternatives. Additionally, concessionaires are required to work with DCNR to compost all food waste and products as opportunities become available.

2021: Four new state park concession contracts were executed at Keystone, Sizerville, Francis Slocum, and Beltzville state parks.

2022: Seven new state park concession contracts were executed at Codorus, Black Moshannon, Gifford Pinchot, Mt. Pisgah, Point, Presque Isle, and Prince Gallitzin state parks.

2023: Four new state park concession contracts were executed at Pine Grove Furnace, Moraine, Presque Isle, and Tobyhanna state parks.

Josh Shapiro was sworn in as the 48<sup>th</sup> governor of Pennsylvania on January 17, 2023, replacing Governor Tom Wolf after his two terms had expired. Prior to this, Shapiro held the position of attorney general from 2017-2023. Governor Shapiro is a strong supporter of DCNR and the Bureau of State Parks, saying “Let’s invest in our entire park system and give the people what they want – more opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and spend time with their friends and families.”

Later that month, the Mount Jewett to Kinzua Bridge Trail was named Pennsylvania’s 2023 Trail of the Year by the Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee. This 7.8-mile-long section of the larger Knox and Kane Rail Trail in McKean County runs through a portion of Kinzua Bridge State Park, which uses the trail for nature walks and naturalist events throughout the year.

In March 2023, Shawnee State Park complex was broken into two separate, standalone state parks: Shawnee State Park and Blue Knob State Park.

In early May, DCNR’s Director of Outdoor Recreation, Nathan Reigner, announced a proposal to create the state’s first Office of Outdoor Recreation. The office would establish the outdoor recreation industry within Pennsylvania’s government and connect it with other essential government entities. “There is no entity right now pulling all of those interests together in state government to transform the outdoors into a real opportunity for Pennsylvania,” said Reigner. DCNR will deliver a set of recommendations to Governor Shapiro’s office in the summer of 2023. Pennsylvania would become the 19<sup>th</sup> state in the country to establish such an office, should the governor concur.

On May 2, 2023, a groundbreaking ceremony took place at Pymatuning State Park for a new and improved campground at Tuttle Point. The point had been closed since 2009 as a cost-cutting measure. The \$8-million project, which will be completed in the spring of 2024, will feature 112 campsites spread out over two loops, a new main restroom and shower building for the campground, a smaller restroom for the beach at Tuttle Point, a new handicapped-accessible fishing pier, and a new boat launch at the campground.

Key infrastructure improvements began at Leonard Harrison State Park on May 15, 2023 and are expected to continue through the summer months. Work to be done includes improvements to the park entrance, pedestrian walkways, and expanded parking areas. Four electric vehicle charging stations will be added to the parking lot as well as part of a statewide initiative to support electric vehicle infrastructure in state parks and forests.

Back in 2015, Erie County submitted a nomination to make Lake Erie a national marine sanctuary. On May 19, 2023, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced it is considering this sanctuary designation to protect the region’s maritime heritage resources, including those off the shores of Presque Isle State Park and Erie Bluffs State Park. A formal designation could take several years to come to fruition.

The free sunscreen pilot project in state parks that began in 2007 was expanded on May 23, 2023, ahead of National Sunscreen Day (May 27). New locations included the beaches at Parker Dam, RB Winter, Yellow Creek, Presque Isle, Promised Land, and Worlds End state parks, the pool at Sizerville State Park, as well as Clear Creek, Prince Gallitzin, Memorial Lake, Ridley Creek, Tyler, Nolde Forest, and Ralph Stover state parks. Secretary Dunn said, “As the weather warms, it is critical people take the necessary steps to protect themselves from potentially harmful ultraviolet rays when spending extended time outdoors.” Pole-mounted, battery-operated sunscreen dispensers could be found at 46 state parks that year through a partnership with the PA Department of Health.

On May 24, 2023, Governor Shapiro announced a new Lehigh Gorge State Park access point that connects the Delaware & Lehigh Trail north and south of the town of White Haven, providing a total of 59.8 miles of connected and improved trail.

A report on the successes and opportunities for the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps, funded by the Richard King Mellon Foundation in partnership with PPFF and completed by researchers at Penn State, was released to the public in July 2023. Information in the report was generated from multiple surveys, interviews, and focus groups of past program participants and staff. Between 2016 and 2022, 1,039 youth and young adult corps members completed 1,687 projects within state parks and forests across the commonwealth. Identified successes of the program include the building of enhanced leadership skills, learning more about conservation and outdoor recreation issues, and developing hands-on skills. Areas for improvement include the need for more diversity among corps members and team leaders, a more stable source of funding, better connections to conservation jobs after corps participation, and more networking opportunities.

That same month, the American Sign Language (ASL) Inclusion Crew within the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps began work on the Seneca Trail within Cook Forest State Park, completing needed trail rehabilitation to address safety concerns. The ASL Inclusion Crew was created in 2021 to expand access to outdoor opportunities to the deaf and hard of hearing community.

In August 2023, the Lancaster Conservancy partnered with DCNR to protect and care for the historic Ironmaster House and associated 21-acre property in Hellam Township, Lancaster County, which is adjacent to the Codorus Furnace. The property will be transferred to DCNR and become an addition to the Susquehanna Riverlands State Park.

DCNR and Denton Go, the new concession management team for Denton Hill State Park, agreed on a contract in September 2023 to begin renovations of the ski area and add recreation opportunities at the park, which has been closed for the past 10 years. DCNR plans to invest \$10 million out of its operating budget to modernize the property, including renovations to the long-vacant lodge. Work is expected to go out for bid in spring 2024.

In early September 2023, Presque Isle State Park made significant changes to its surfing policy. Since 2010, the park had allowed surfing at Beaches 1, 10, and 11. Now, surfing can occur along any of the park's beaches, except for near Gull Point during its normal closure period for breeding shorebirds. Some new restrictions to the policy include the requirement to be tethered to the surfboard with a leash, and during swim season you cannot surf at swim beaches while they are in operation.

Improvements at Leonard Harrison State Park continued through early fall 2023. The large scope of the project caused temporary closures of the main day-use and parking areas, including the overlook, since May 15, 2023. Work included updates to the park entrance, pedestrian walkways, and expanded parking areas. An electric vehicle charging area was added to the new parking lot with spaces for four electric vehicles. The visitor center was also renovated to include an exhibit hall, retail shopping, and outdoor seating.

On September 18, 2023, *USA Today* named Keystone State Park as the top destination for fall foliage in its 2023 Readers' Choice survey. The article noted that the park is "perfect for discovering the abundant beauty of Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands."

Also in September, the High Bridge Campground opened for bikers and hikers using the Great Allegheny Passage. Supported by a grant from the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation to PPFF, the campground was a partnership with Ohio State Park staff and volunteers. A ribbon cutting ceremony took place on August 22 to celebrate.

The next step in the long term strategy for the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps began in October 2023 when PPF received funding to assist with a three to five-year strategic implementation plan that will take the materials from the previously developed report and put those recommendations into action. The chosen proposal and firm to develop the plan were selected in November and work on plan development will run through the summer of 2024.

On October 13, the Mon Wharf connector between Point State Park and the Great Allegheny Passage was reopened. That portion of the trail had been closed since February 1, 2023, for safety reasons. The trail was rerouted to the closer to the Monongahela River, and widened and regraded so it is not as steep and is safer to navigate.

The Guaranteed Energy Savings Act (GESA) is a Pennsylvania Act passed to decrease growing utility costs by enabling upgrades to building components such as lighting, mechanical, plumbing to be performed through a budget neutral process. The traditional GESA process guarantees energy savings by replacing only the equipment that will yield the highest savings at minimal cost regardless of the age or condition of the systems. DCNR has completed many upgrades under GESA, including: Twenty-two state parks and four forest districts in the Western region completed upgrades in 2020, with savings of \$7.5 million over 20 years; 50 state parks and 12 forest districts in the Central Region completed upgrades in 2021, with savings of \$23.2 million over 20 years; and thirty-six state parks and five forest districts in the Eastern Region are in the process of completing projects for 2023/24.

Dam removal has been an important piece of aquatic habitat management for state parks over the past decade or more. There are several dam removal projects currently in the design, permitting, and/or bidding process as of late 2023. These include the dam at the group camp in Raccoon State Park, the dam at Memorial Lake State Park, the mill dam at White Clay Creek State Park, at Spring Garden in Tyler State Park, and for Tobyhanna No. 2 Dam at Tobyhanna State Park.

Other infrastructure projects in Pennsylvania state parks that have begun or soon will include a solar panel canopy over the parking area at Gifford Pinchot State Park; new parking facilities, park office, and solar array at Point State Park; a new marina facility with boat concession operation at Maurice K. Goddard State Park; a new resource center at Delaware Canal State Park; a breakwater and beach nourishment project at Presque Isle State Park; replacement of seven miles of water main lines and solar parking canopies at Presque Isle State Park; the rehabilitation of the Iron Master's Mansion at Pine Grove Furnace State Park; modern comfort stations for Hickory Run State Park; a new park office building at Hills Creek State Park; day use recreational improvements at Hyner Run State Park; restrooms, bathhouse, and sewage upgrades at Sizerville State Park; and a bridge replacement project at Delaware Canal State Park.

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

William C. Forrey graduated from The Pennsylvania State University with a B.S. degree in Landscape Architecture and a Master of Regional Planning degree. He was an adjunct professor at York College of Pennsylvania from 1980 to 2011 and at Penn State Harrisburg for two years. He served 32 years with the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks from 1960 to 1992. He was a landscape architect (1960-61), Chief of State Park Planning (1961-64), Assistant Director (1964-73), and Director (1973-92). As Director he supervised the operation, maintenance, and development of the 114 state parks (at the time) for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He retired in 1992.

He is a charter member PA Parks and Forests Foundation and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration. He has been a member of the PA Recreation and Park Society since 1961 and is an Honorary Life Member. He is an Honorary Life Member of the National Association of State Park Directors and is a Board Member of the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy.

He received the Penn State Alumni Fellow Award, Cornelius Amory Pugsley Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Park and Recreation Movement at the State Level, State Park Director Emeritus Award, Outstanding State Park Director Award (1985), the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society's Honor Award, and the PPFF CLiff Jones Keystone Legacy Award.

William Forrey is also the author of *History of Pennsylvania's State Parks – 1893 -1983*, published in 1984, and *History of Pennsylvania's State Parks – 1984 – 2015*, published in 2016.

TABLE 1 – PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARKS DIRECTORS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Years in Role</u>
Jacob M. Hoffman	1927-1931
W.E. Montgomery	1931-1935
James S. Pates	1936-1938
Eric von Hausswolff	1938-1939
John R. Williams	1939-1941
Milford Bratton	1941-1948
Walter L. Wirth	1948-1953
Wilford P. Moll	1953-1957
Joseph A. Blatt	1957-1964
Conrad R. Lickel	1964-1973
William C. Forrey	1973-1992
Roger Fickes	1992-2006
John W. Norbeck	2006-2012
David L. Kemmerer	2012-2015
John S. Hallas	2015-Present



TABLE 2 – STATE FORESTERS OF PENNSYLVANIA

<u>Name</u>	<u>Appointed</u>
Joseph T. Rothrock	September 14, 1895 February 27, 1901
Robert S. Conklin	May 28, 1904
Gifford Pinchot	March 10, 1920
Robert Y. Stuart	April 18, 1922
Lewis E. Staley	June 15, 1923
Joseph S. Illick	April 16, 1927
John W. Keller	January 22, 1931
R. Lynn Emerick	March 3, 1936
O. Ben Gipple	1946
Ralph C. Wible	June 6, 1952
Samuel S. Cobb	October 27, 1966
Richard R. Thorpe	October 20, 1977
James C. Nelson	June 22, 1989
James R. Grace	March 7, 1994
Daniel Devlin	September 5, 2007
Ellen Shultzabarger	June 11, 2018
Seth Cassell	October 4, 2023

## TABLE 3 – AGENCY SECRETARIES

### SECRETARIES OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Name

Appointed

Maurice K. Goddard	January 19, 1971
Clifford H. McConnell (Acting)	Jan. 19, 1979 – Feb. 23, 1979
Clifford L. Jones	February 23, 1979
Peter Duncan III (Acting)	Oct. 19, 1981 – Jan. 6, 1982
Peter Duncan III	January 6, 1982
Nicholas DeBenedictis (Acting)	Feb. 7, 1983 – Mar. 16, 1983
Nicholas DeBenedictis	March 16, 1983
Arthur A. Davis	January 20, 1987

### SECRETARIES OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Name

Appointed

Patrick J. Solano, Acting Secretary	July 1, 1995
John C. Oliver	Nov. 13, 1995
Michael DiBerardinis	January 21, 2003
John Quigley	April 23, 2009
Richard J. Allan	June 13, 2011
Ellen M. Ferretti (Acting)	June 13, 2013
Ellen M. Ferretti	Dec. 10, 2013
Cindy Adams Dunn (Acting)	January 20, 2015
Cindy Adams Dunn	June 2, 2015

## TABLE 4 – PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARK OPENING DATES

*\*indicates major development in the years 1971-80*

### **1893 to 1920**

Buchanan's Birthplace (1913)  
Caledonia (1903)  
George W. Childs (1912)

Mont Alto (1906)  
Pine Grove Furnace (1913)  
\*Promised Land (1919)

### **1921 to 1930**

Cherry Springs (1922)  
\*Cook Forest (1928)  
Greenwood Furnace (1925)  
Kooser (1925)  
Laurel Summit (1922)  
Leonard Harrison (1922)  
Linn Run (1924)  
McCall Dam (1922)

Ole Bull (1925)  
Patterson (1925)  
Presque Isle (1929)  
Prouty Place (1925)  
\*Pymatuning (1921)  
Ravensburg (1925)  
S.B. Elliott (1925)  
Upper Pine Bottom (1922)

### **1931 to 1940**

Big Spring (1936)  
\*Black Moshannon (1937)  
Bucktail (1933)  
Clear Creek (1934)  
Colonel Denning (1936)  
Colton Point (1936)  
\*Cowans Gap (1937)  
Fowlers Hollow (1935)  
Little Pine (1937)  
Parker Dam (1936)  
Whipple Dam (1936)

Penn Roosevelt (1935)  
Poe Paddy (1935)  
Poe Valley (1935)  
Ralph Stover (1935)  
R.B. Winter (1933)  
Reeds Gap (1938)  
Roosevelt (1931) (now known as Delaware Canal)  
Sand Bridge (1938)  
Sizerville (1931)  
Trough Creek (1936)  
Worlds End (1936)

### **1941 to 1950**

Blue Knob (1845)  
\*French Creek (1945)  
\*Hickory Run (1945)  
\*Keystone (1945)  
Laurel Hill (1945)

Point (1946)  
Raccoon Creek (1945)  
\*Ricketts Glen (1944)  
Tobyhanna (1949)

### **1951 to 1960**

Bendigo (1953)  
Big Pocono (1953)  
Chapman (1951)  
Crooked Creek (1951)  
Denton Hill (1959)  
Fort Washington (1953)  
Gouldsboro (1958)  
\*Hills Creek (1953)

Hyner Run (1958)  
Hyner View (1958)  
Lyman Run (1955)  
McConnells Mill (1959)  
Samuel S. Lewis (1955)  
\*Shawnee (1951)  
\*Shikellamy (1960)  
Sinnemahoning (1958)

**1961 to 1970**

Archbald Pothole (1961)  
\*Codorus (1970)  
\*Curwensville (1966)  
Elk (1964)  
\*Frances Slocum (1968)  
\*Gifford Pinchot (1961)  
Hillman (1969)  
Kettle Creek (1962)  
Kinzua Bridge (1970)  
Laurel Mountain (1964)

Memorial Lake (1964)  
Moraine (1970)  
\*Neshaminy (1970)  
\*Ohiopyle (1970)  
Prince Gallitzin (1961)  
Prompton (1961)  
Ryerson Station (1967)  
Susquehanna (1961)  
Susquehannock (1965)  
Warriors Path (1965)

**1971 to 1980**

Allegheny Islands (1980)  
\*Bald Eagle (1971)  
\*Beltzville (1972)  
\*Canoe Creek (1972)  
Evansburg (1979)  
Jacobsburg (1979)  
Jennings Env. Ed. Center (1980)  
Kings Gap Env. Ed. Center (1978)  
\*Lackawanna (1972)  
\*Laurel Ridge (1974)  
\*Little Buffalo (1972)  
\*Locust Lake (1972)

\*Marsh Creek (1974)  
\*Maurice K. Goddard (1972)  
Milton (1972)  
\*Mount Pisgah (1979)  
\*Nockamixon (1974)  
\*Nolde Forest (1971)  
Oil Creek (1979)  
\*Ridley Creek (1972)  
Salt Springs (1973)  
\*Tuscarora (1971)  
\*Tyler (1974)  
\*Yellow Creek (1971)

**1981 to 1990**

Lehigh Gorge (1986) (acquired in 1968)      White Clay Creek Preserve (1984) (acquired in 1984)

**1991 to 2000**

Boyd Conservation Area (1999) (acquired in 1999)  
Norristown Farm Park (1992) (acquired in 1987)  
Swatara (1993) (acquisition completed in 1987)  
Joseph E. Ibberson Conservation Area – East (1998) (acquired in 1998)

**2001 to 2010**

Erie Bluffs (2005) (acquired in 2004) Varden Conservation Area (2001)  
Nescopeck (2004) (acquired in 1969)

**2011 to 2015**

Benjamin Rush (2014) (acquired in 1975)  
Joseph E. Ibberson Conservation Area – West (2013) (acquired in 2013)  
Washington Crossing (2015) (transferred from the PA Historical and Museum Commission)

**2016 to 2023**

Susquehanna Riverlands (acquired in 2022)  
Big Elk Creek (acquired in 2022)  
Vosburg Neck (acquired in 2022)

## TABLE 5 – STATE PARKS AND STATE PARK FACILITIES OFFICIALLY NAMED AFTER PEOPLE

Bald Eagle State Park, Centre County. Family campground was named for former State Representative Russell P. Letterman.

Bendigo State Park, Elk County. Named for William Abednego Thompson (1881-1880). He was the youngest of 21 children and was a bare-knuckle fighter who had the nickname, Bendy Abednego, which evolved into Bendigo.

Benjamin Rush State Park, Philadelphia County. The state park was named for the signer of the Declaration of Independence and known as the father of psychiatry in America, Dr. Benjamin Rush.

Boyd Big Tree Preserve, Dauphin County. Named for the donor of the land for the preserve, Alexander Boyd.

Buchanan's Birthplace State Park, Franklin County. Named for the former President of the United States, James Buchanan.

Canoe Creek State Park, Blair County. Environmental Education Center was named for former Park Manager Terry Wentz.

Chapman State Park, Warren County. Named for former State Senator Dr. Leroy E. Chapman.

Colonel Denning State Park, Cumberland County. Named for William Denning, a Revolutionary War soldier.

Colton Point State Park, Tioga County. Named for a timber buyer, Henry Colton, who "probably" had a home at Colton Orchard on land that was eventually acquired by the Department of Forests and Waters.

Cook Forest State Park, Clarion County. Named for the former owner of the land that comprises the state park, A.W. Cook Co.

Cowans Gap State Park, Fulton County. Named for John Samuel Cowan, who in 1785 settled on the land that now comprises the state park.

Delaware Canal State Park, Bucks & Northampton counties. The previous name of this state park was Roosevelt State Park, named for former President of the United States Theodore Roosevelt. The popular name for the 60-mile-long state park was Delaware Canal State Park so, in 1989, the official name was changed from Roosevelt to Delaware Canal.

Frances Slocum State Park, Luzerne County. Named for a young girl who was taken by the Indians near the site of the state park, Frances Slocum. Environmental Education Center was named for the first Secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Patrick J. Solano.

Gifford Pinchot State Park, York County. Named for former Governor Gifford Pinchot. Also, the lake was named after the governor (Pinchot Lake).

Hillman State Park, Washington County. Named after the donor of the land for the state park, James F. Hillman. Model airplane airfield named for former Speaker of the House, State Representative K. Leroy Irviss.

Hills Creek State Park, Tioga County. Named for Revolution War veteran Captain William Hill who settled in the area of the state park around the year 1820.

Ibberson Conservation Area, Dauphin County. Named for the donor of the land for the conservation area, Joseph E. Ibberson.

Jennings Environmental Education Center, Butler County. Named for famed naturalist, Dr. Otto Emery Jennings.

Kings Gap Environmental Education Center, Cumberland County. The mansion was named the William C. Forrey Conference Center for former State Park Director William C. Forrey.

Kooser State Park, Somerset County. Named for John Kooser who settled in the western end of the park near what is now known as Kooser Spring.

Lackawanna State Park, Lackawanna County. In 2016, a new swimming pool complex opened and was named for former Governor William W. Scranton.

Laurel Hill State Park, Somerset County. The overnight lodge at the park was named for former Park Manager Robert Huffman. It is known as Huffman Lodge.

Leonard Harrison State Park, Tioga County. Named for Leonard Harrison who operated the land as a public picnic ground. Harrison donated 121 acres of land for the state park in 1922.

Little Buffalo State Park, Perry County. The lake was named for former State Representative Allan W. Holman, Jr. (Holman Lake). A permanent stage was named for former State Senator William J. Moore. It is known as the Moore Pavilion. The park office was named the Roger Fickes Office and Visitor Center for former State Park Director Roger Fickes.

Lyman Run State Park, Potter County. Named for Major Isaac Lyman, a Revolutionary War soldier who is believed to be the second permanent settler in Potter County.

Maurice K. Goddard State Park, Mercer County. Named for former Secretary of the Departments of Forests and Waters and Environmental Resources, Maurice K. Goddard. The lake was named in honor of Lawrence J. Wilhelm, who was a former Mercer County Commissioner and Soil and Water Conservation District Director (Lake Wilhelm). John C. Oliver Multi-purpose Loop Trail was named in honor of the first Secretary for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

McCalls Dam State Park, Centre County. Named for the former owner of the dam and surrounding area, Johnny McCall.

McConnells Mill State Park, Lawrence County. Named for Thomas McConnell who bought an existing mill and improved it to make it one of the first rolling mills in the country.

Moraine State Park, Butler County. The Region Office was named for former State Park Director Conrad R. Lickel. The lake was named in honor of Edmund Watts Arthur, a former Pittsburgh attorney, amateur geologist, and well-known nature writer (Lake Arthur). Five thousand acres of Moraine State Park were designated as a conservation area in honor of Dr. Frank W. Preston, an early proponent of the state park and a donor of land for the park.

Mount Pisgah State Park, Bradford County. The lake was named for the famous composer, Stephen Foster (Stephen Foster Lake).

Nescopeck State Park, Luzerne County. The Environmental Education Center was named for former State Senator Raphael J. Musto.

Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center, Berks County. Named for the former owner of the land and mansion, Hans Nolde. The McConnell Education Building was named for Department of Environmental Resources Deputy Secretary Clifford McConnell.

Ohiopyle State Park, Fayette and Somerset counties. A 1,300-acre forested ridge was added to Ohiopyle State Park through the generosity of the B.K. Simon family. It was named the B.K. Simon Family Forest.

Ole Bull State Park, Potter County. Named for Norwegian violinist, Ole Bornemann Bull, who was the former owner of land that comprises the state park.

Parker Dam State Park, Clearfield County. Named for William Parker who leased lumbering rights from John Otto. Parker built a splash dam on Laurel Run at the site of the present lake.

Poe Paddy and Poe Valley State Parks, Centre County. The name Poe is a familiar name in the valley. Some say that the first settler was named Poe. Others say that the poet Edgar Allen Poe wrote his literary piece, *The Raven*, while staying in the valley.

Presque Isle State Park, Erie County. The Tom Ridge Environmental Center was named for former Governor Thomas J. Ridge. The Karl Boyes Multi-Use Trail was named for former State Representative Karl Boyes. The Stull Visitor Center was named for Jean and Jim Stull for their many years of volunteer commitments to the natural integrity of the state park. Lighthouse Beach was re-named Leslie Beach in honor of park manager Harry Leslie who served as park manager from 1989 to 2015.

Prince Gallitzin State Park, Cambria County. Named for a Catholic priest, Rev. Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin.

Ralph Stover State Park, Bucks County. Named for the family that donated land for the state park.

Raymond B. Winter State Park, Union County. Named for the former District Forester, Raymond B. Winter. The state park office was named for former Assistant State Park Director Robert E. Klingman.

Reeds Gap State Park, Mifflin County. Named for Edward and Nancy Reed who were early settlers in the area of the park.

Ricketts Glen State Park, Luzerne, Sullivan and Columbia counties. Named for the former owner of the land, Colonel Robert Bruce Ricketts.

Ryerson Station State Park, Greene County. The lake was named for former Park Manager Ronald J. Duke (Duke Lake).

Samuel S. Lewis State Park, York County. Named for the former Secretary of Forests and Waters and the donor of the land for the state park, Samuel S. Lewis.

Shikellamy State Park, Union and Northumberland counties. Named for the famous Iroquois Chief Shikellamy. The inflatable dam was named for former State Representative Adam T. Bower (Adam T. Bower Memorial Dam). The Environmental Education Center was named for Basse A. Beck, a well-known supporter of the environment. The Basse A. Beck Environmental Education Center existed from 1978 to 1989. The observation area overlooking the Susquehanna River was named "Kury Point" in 2016 to honor Franklin Kury, the legislator who authored the section of the Pennsylvania Constitution popularly known as the Environmental Rights Amendment.

Simon B. Elliott State Park, Clearfield County. Named for the former State Representative and State Forest Reservation Commission member, Simon B. Elliott.

Sinnemahoning State Park, Cameron County. The dam was named for former State Senator George B. Stevenson.

Sizerville State Park, Potter and Cameron counties. Named for the Sizer family who were, according to legend, the first settlers in the area.

Swatara State Park, Lebanon County. Two trailhead signs on Sand Siding Trail and Swatara Rail Trail detail the work of the late George Kaufman, a 35-year staffer with DCNR's Bureau of State Parks, including 11 years as the chief of the Park Operations and Maintenance Division.

Tyler State Park, Bucks County. Named for the former owner of the land prior to acquisition by the Commonwealth, George F. Tyler.

Whipple Dam State Park, Huntingdon County. The state park was named for the former owner of the dam and surrounding land, Osgood M. Whipple.



TABLE 6 – PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARK ATTENDANCE

<u>Year</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Number of Parks</u>
1956	11,579,842	56
1957	12,730,020	57
1958	12,872,702	58
1959	14,710,058	59
1960	15,080,467	60
1961	15,938,076	66
1962	15,245,949	64
1963	15,576,325	68
1964	16,721,100	70
1965	18,158,283	70
1966	22,767,854	76
1967	24,506,416	78
1968	26,486,547	86
1969	28,278,441	87
1970	29,216,668	89
1971	28,529,786	90
1972	26,825,546	98
1973	31,241,299	106
1974	30,380,751	107
1975	33,845,913	107
1976	34,792,620	110
1977	38,887,513	113
1978	36,890,560	115
1979	31,251,749	115
1980	38,065,775	115
1981	32,513,912	112
1982	33,133,966	112
1983	35,178,884	109
1984	35,261,579	108
1985	38,283,297	108
1986	35,274,695	108
1987	37,044,015	108
1988	38,848,355	108
1989	36,341,738	108
1990	35,367,476	108
1991	37,423,021	108
1992	34,093,901	108
1993	35,641,183	108
1994	36,215,587	108
1995	38,134,648	108
1996	34,386,509	108
1997	34,701,031	108
1998	35,677,824	108

<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	<b><u>Number of Parks</u></b>
1999	36,712,600	108
2000	36,435,843	108
2001	36,627,267	108
2002	36,030,980	109
2003	34,692,235	107
2004	35,095,476	110
2005	36,324,430	111
2006	35,641,692	109
2007	34,554,890	109
2008	34,112,044	110
2009	38,687,616	110
2010	38,364,432	110
2011	38,889,089	111
2012	37,873,595	111
2013	37,472,426	111
2014	37,844,096	112
2015	39,855,669	112
2016	41,079,650	112
2017	39,170,428	112
2018	37,096,868	114
2019	37,046,442	114
2020	46,910,544	115
2021	42,212,217	116
2022	37,960,703	116
2023	38,494,566	124

TABLE 7 – PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARKS PERSONNEL COMPLEMENT

<u>Year</u>	<u>Salaried</u>	<u>Wage</u>
1968	425	668
1969	440	749
1970	568	924
1971	697	1,150
1972	697	1,335
1973	697	1,225
1974	729	1,420
1975	738	1,137
1976	751	1,267
1977	751	931
1978	750	1,142
1979	740	1,142
1980	702	1,142
1981	702	981
1982	674	861
1983	681	850
1984	679	1,064
1985	651	970
1986	640	971
1987	640	971
1988	644	975
1989	659	1,099
1990	665	1,500
1991	665	1,611
1992	615	1,458
1993 to 1995	Figures not available	
1996	715	1,005
1997	707	1,192
1998	715	1,203
1999	696	1,232
2000	709	1,246
2001	707	1,288
2002	701	1,251
2003	692	1,170
2004	563	1,064
2005	578	1,032
2006	611	998
2007	616	1,007
2008	616	1,007
2009	608	923
2010	616	876

<u>Year</u>	<u>Salaried</u>	<u>Wage</u>
2011	578	815
2012	578	815
2013	559	854
2014	560	865
2015	575	814
2016	584	844
2017	580	832
2018	567	823
2019	576	781
2020	591	914
2021	589	899
2022	619	812
2023	672	1,067

**TABLE 8 – PENNSYLVANIA BUREAU OF STATE PARKS BUDGET EXPENDITURES  
GENERAL FUND AND OTHER FUNDS**

<b><u>Fiscal Year</u></b>	<b><u>Amount (\$)</u></b>	<b><u>Fiscal Year</u></b>	<b><u>Amount (\$)</u></b>
66-67	3,382,300	97-98	76,174,000
67-68	4,127, 100	98-99	88,065,00
68-69	5,476,100	99-00	95,479,000
69-70	6,485,600	00-01	113,702,000
70-71	7,494,900	01-02	103,197,00
71-72	10,140,800	02-03	112,743,000
72-73	12,150,600	03-04	108,267,000
73-74	13.365,100	04-05	113,870,000
74-75	15,446,700	05-06	134,696,000
75-76	15,796,600	06-07	136,527,000
76-77	18,468,000	07-08	164,139,000
77-78	19,194,000	08-09	154,435,000
78-79	20,753,000	09-10	171,056,000
79-80	22,371,000	10-11	77,574,000
80-81	23,155,000	11-12	81,839,000
81-82	27,260,000	12-13	82,932,000
82-83	28,889,000	13-14	90,162,000
83-84	30,212,000	14-15	93,123,000
84-85	32,077,000	15-16	99,874,235
85-86	33,321,000	16-17	102,940,000
86-87	34,184,000	17-18	106,428,000
87-88	36,411,000	18-19	114,393,000
88-89	39,197,000	19-20	114,393,000
89-90	44,113,000	20-21	108,333,000
90-91	46,140,00	21-22	109,936,000
91-92	Not available	22-23	117,797,000
92-93	Not available	23-24	135,340,000
93-94	Not available		
94-95	Not available		
95-96	70,884,000		
96-97	71,475,000		

TABLE 9 – PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARK ACREAGE SUMMARY

*As of June 12, 2023*

<u>Park</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Park</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Allegheny Islands	34.00	Hillman	3,697.00
Archbald Pothole	149.16	Hills Creek	481.44
Bald Eagle	5,900.00	Hyner Run	176.90
Beltzville	2,972.39	Hyner View	40.00
Bendigo	152.26	Jacobsburg	1,166.49
Benjamin Rush	306.87	Jennings	333.92
Big Elk Creek	1,878.55	Joseph E. Ibberson	808.61
Big Pocono	1,346.00	Kettle Creek	1,793.23
Big Spring	45.00	Keystone	1,203.12
Black Moshannon	3,480.00	Kings Gap	2,583.41
Blue Knob	6,047.50	Kinzua Bridge	339.07
Boyd Conservation Area	1,062.27	Kooser	176.30
Buchanan's Birthplace	18.50	Lackawanna	1,415.97
Bucktail	16,433.00	Laurel Hill	4,511.93
Caledonia	1,130.00	Laurel Mountain	492.60
Canoe Creek	941.62	Laurel Ridge	12,430.77
Chapman	862.15	Laurel Summit	6.14
Cherry Springs	140.57	Lehigh Gorge	7,010.31
Clear Creek	1,901.29	Leonard Harrison	585.00
Codorus	3,479.79	Linn Runn	612.77
Colonel Denning	273.00	Little Buffalo	991.13
Colton Point	357.00	Little Pine	2,161.04
Cook Forest	11,772.29	Locust Lake	1,826.51
Cowans Gap	1,085.00	Lyman Run	595.00
Delaware Canal	1,134.52	Marsh Creek	1,653.62
Denton Hill	700.00	Maurice K. Goddard	2,904.56
Elk	3,192.00	McCall Dam	7.50
Erie Bluffs	621.76	McConnells Mill	2,383.58
Evansburg	3,349.05	Memorial Lake	231.00
Fort Washington	523.26	Milton	76.74
Fowlers Hollow	104.86	Mont Alto	23.70
Frances Slocum	1,081.90	Moraine	16,701.80
French Creek	7,976.93	Mount Pisgah	1,024.12
Gifford Pinchot	2,338.28	Nescopeck	3,011.00
Gouldsboro	3,124.26	Neshaminy	343.57
Greenwood Furnace	427.63	Nockamixon	5,247.60
Hickory Run	15,989.93	Nolde Forest	734.71

<u>Park</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Norristown	720.52
Ohiopyle	20,632.64
Oil Creek	6,531.48
Ole Bull	117.53
Parker Dam	968.00
Patterson	19.05
Penn Roosevelt	100.00
Pine Grove Furnace	696.00
Poe Paddy	22.73
Poe Valley	620.00
Point	36.00
Presque Isle	3,236.25
Prince Gallitzin	6,505.25
Promised Land	2,971.00
Prompton	949.30
Prouty Place	5.00
Pymatuning	17,373.24
R. B. Winter	695.00
Raccoon Creek	7,643.95
Ralph Stover	44.93
Ravensburg	78.00
Reeds Gap	220.00
Ricketts Glen	13,189.45
Ridley Creek	2,606.66
Ryerson Station	1,346.23
S. B. Elliott	318.00
Salt Springs	408.50
Samuel S. Lewis	90.92
Sand Bridge	3.00
Shawnee	3,874.36
Shikellamy	254.52
Sinnemahoning	1,911.583
Sizerville	386.00
Susquehanna	19.59
Susquehanna Riverlands	1,064.99
Susquehannock	718.28
Swatara	3,401.60
Tobyhanna	5,440.73
Trough Creek	541.00
Tuscarora	1,801.07
Tyler	1,642.49
Upper Pine Bottom	5.00

<u>Park</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Varden Conservation Area	443.837
Vosburg Neck	667.70
Warriors Path	333.37
Washington Crossing	480.00
Whipple Dam	256.00
White Clay Creek	1,351.76
Worlds End	780.00
Yellow Creek	2,981.23

**Total Acreage: 298,622.26**

TABLE 10 – PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARK SOURCES FOR LAND ACQUISITION

<u>State Park Name</u>	<u>County(s)</u>	<u>Source of Funding for Land Acquisition</u>
Allegheny Islands	Allegheny	Transferred from the Department of General Services, Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
Allegheny River	Venango	Project 70
Archbald Pothole	Lackawanna	Donated by the county, LWCF
Bald Eagle	Centre	Leased from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
Beltsville	Carbon	Leased from USACE
Bendigo	Elk	Donated by Johnsonburg Borough, Oil and Gas Fund
Benjamin Rush	Philadelphia	Created by Act 175 of December 22, 1975. Previously administered by the Department of Public Welfare
Big Elk Creek	Chester	Chester County grant, Key 93, private donations
Big Pocono	Monroe	Transferred from PA Game Commission via land trade of state forest land
Big Spring	Perry	State forest land
Black Moshannon	Centre	State forest land
Blue Knob	Bedford	Donated by the National Park Service (NPS), Oil and Gas Fund, Growing Greener II (GGII)
Boyd Big Tree	Dauphin	Donation
Buchanan's Birthplace	Franklin	Donation. Created by Act No. 23 of March 22, 1911
Bucktail	Cameron and Clinton	State forest land. Created by Act No. 301 of June 2, 1933. Oil and Gas Fund
Caledonia	Franklin and Adams	State forest land
Canoe Creek	Blair	Project 70, Oil and Gas Fund, Key 93, LWCF
Chapman	Warren	State funds, Oil and Gas Fund, Key 93, GGII
Cherry Springs	Potter	State forest land
Clear Creek	Jefferson	State forest land, Key 93
Codorus	York	Project 70, Oil and Gas, Key 93, GGII, Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Colonel Denning	Cumberland	State forest land
Colton Point	Tioga	State forest land
Cook Forest	Jefferson, Forest, and Clarion	Created by Act No. 168 of April 14, 1927; Oil and Gas, Key 93
Cowans Gap	Fulton	State forest land
Delaware Canal	Bucks	State funds, Oil and Gas, Key 93
Denton Hill	Potter	State forest land
Elk	Elk	State forest land
Erie Bluffs	Erie	Key 93, Oil and Gas, private funds
Evansburg	Montgomery	Project 70



Fort Washington	Montgomery	Created by Act No. 213 of July 25, 1917. State funds, Oil and Gas
Fowler's Hollow	Cumberland	State forest land
Frances Slocum	Luzerne	Oil and Gas Fund
French Creek	Berks and Chester	Donated by NPS, Oil and Gas, Key 93, GGII, LWCF
Gifford Pinchot	York	Oil and Gas Fund
Gouldsboro	Monroe and Wayne	State forest land and transfer from the PA Fish and Boat Commission
Greenwood Furnace	Huntingdon	State forest land, Oil and Gas
Hickory Run	Carbon	Donated by NPS, Oil and Gas
Hillman	Washington	Donation
Hills Creek	Tioga	State funds (GSA), Oil and Gas
Hyner Run	Clinton	State forest land
Hyner View	Clinton	State forest land
Ibberson	Dauphin	Donation
Jacobsburg	Northampton	Project 70, Oil and Gas, LWCF
Jennings	Butler	State funds (50%), Federal funds/LWCF (50%)
Kettle Creek	Clinton	State forest land, Oil and Gas, lease from the USACE
Keystone	Westmoreland	State funds, Oil and Gas
Kings Gap	Cumberland	Oil and Gas Fund
Kinzua Bridge	McKean	Created by Act No. 343 of August 12, 1963, state funds (GSA)
Kooser	Somerset	State forest land
Lackawanna	Lackawanna	Project 70, Oil and Gas, GGII
Laurel Hill	Somerset	Donated by NPS, Oil and Gas, Key 93
Laurel Mountain	Westmoreland	Donation
Laurel Ridge	Somerset, Westmoreland, Cambria, Indiana, and Fayette	Project 70, LCWF
Laurel Summit	Westmoreland	State forest land
Lehigh Gorge	Carbon	State funds (GSA), LWCF
Leonard Harrison	Tioga	Donation, state forest land
Linn Run	Westmoreland	State forest land
Little Buffalo	Perry	Project 70, GGII
Little Pine	Lycoming	State forest land, GGII
Locust Lake	Schuylkill	Project 70
Lyman Run	Potter	State forest land
Marsh Creek	Chester	Project 70
McCall Dam	Centre	State forest land
McConnells Mill	Lawrence	Oil and Gas, GGII

Memorial Lake	Lebanon	Transfer from the Department of Military Affairs
Milton	Northumberland	Donated by the Borough of Milton, Oil and Gas
Maurice K. Goddard	Mercer	Project 70, Oil and Gas
Mont Alto	Franklin	State forest land
Moraine	Butler	Project 70. Oil and Gas, GGII
Mount Pisgah	Bradford	Project 70, Oil and Gas
Nescopeck	Luzerne	State funds (GSA)
Neshaminy	Bucks	Donation, state funds (GSA), Oil and Gas
Nockamixon	Bucks	State funds (GSA), Project 70, Oil and Gas
Nolde Forest	Berks	Project 70
Norristown Farm	Montgomery	Transfer from the Department of Agriculture
Ohiopyle	Fayette and Somerset	Project 70, Oil and Gas, Key 93, GGII, LWCF
Oil Creek	Venango	Project 70, Oil and Gas
Ole Bull	Potter	State forest land
Parker Dam	Clearfield	State forest land
Patterson	Susquehanna	State forest land
Penn-Roosevelt	Centre	State forest land
Pine Grove Furnace	Cumberland	State forest land
Poe Paddy	Centre	State forest land
Poe Valley	Centre	State forest land
Point	Allegheny	Oil and Gas Fund
Presque Isle	Erie	General Fund, Oil and Gas
Prince Gallitzin	Cambria	Oil and Gas Fund
Promised Land	Pike	State forest land, Oil and Gas
Prompton	Wayne	Leased from USACE, Oil and Gas, Key 93
Prouty Place	Potter	State forest land
Pymatuning	Crawford	Created by legislation, Project 70, land trade with the PA Game Commission
Raccoon Creek	Beaver	Donated by NPS, Oil and Gas, Key 93, LWCF
Ralph Stover	Bucks	Two donations
Ravensburg	Clinton	State forest land
R. B. Winter	Union	State forest land, Oil and Gas
Reeds Gap	Mifflin	State forest land
Ricketts Glen	Luzerne, Sullivan, Sullivan, and Columbia	Authorized by Act No. 257, dated August 1, 1941, General Fund
Ridley Creek	Delaware	Project 70, Oil and Gas, LWCF
Ryerson Station	Greene	Oil and Gas Fund
Salt Spring	Susquehanna	Oil and Gas Fund

Samuel S. Lewis	York	Two donations
Sand Bridge	Union	State forest land
S. B. Elliott	Clearfield	State forest land
Shawnee	Bradford	General Fund, Oil and Gas
Shikellamy	Northampton	Oil and Gas, Project 70, Key 93, GGII
Sinnemahoning	Cameron	State forest land, Oil and Gas
Sizerville	Potter and Cameron	State forest land
Susquehanna	Lycoming	Oil and Gas Fund
Susquehanna Riverlands	York	ESF funds
Susquehannock	Lancaster	Oil and Gas, donation
Swatara	Lebanon	General Fund (GSA), federal land donation
Tobyhanna	Monroe and Wayne	Federal donation
Trough Creek	Huntingdon	State forest land
Tuscarora	Schuylkill	Oil and Gas Fund
Tyler	Bucks	Project 70
Upper Pine Bottom	Lycoming	State forest land
Varden	Wayne	Donation
Vosburg Neck	Wyoming	O&M funds
Warriors Path	Bedford	Oil and Gas Fund
Washington Crossing	Bucks	Authorized by Act No. 420 of 1917
Whipple Dam	Huntingdon	State forest land
White Clay Creek	Chester	Donation, Oil and Gas, Key 93

## TABLE 11 – BUREAU OF STATE PARKS AWARDS

1. Director's Award
2. Administrative Assistant Award
3. Bureau Award
4. Park Ranger Award
5. Park Maintenance Supervisor Award
6. Louis Ritrovato Environmental Education Award
7. Individual Volunteer Award
8. Group Volunteer Award
9. Special Award

## DIRECTOR'S AWARD

Candidates must have demonstrated outstanding action in accomplishing act(s) that reflect favorably upon the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and/or the Bureau of State Parks. This action may consist of sustaining outstanding performance, public relations, ingenuity, personnel management, cost-cutting effectiveness and/or dedication in accomplishing mission effectiveness. Consideration for this award will be based upon the contribution such act has made to the department, bureau or general government image.

1985	Arthur Feld
1986	Wilson Oberdorfer
1987	Michael A. Bucheit
1990	Earl Kilmer
1991	Genevieve Volgstadt
1992	Obediah B. Derr
1993	John K. Wiediger
1994	Kings Gap Environmental Education Staff
1995	Keith Taylor
1996	John T. Graham
1997	Leo Davidovich
1997	Presque Isle Partnership
1998	Steve Farrell
1999	David Hartzell
2000	Robert P. Barth
2001	Harry Z. Leslie
2002	Jim Davis
2003	Cowans Gap Park Staff
2004	Rory Bower
2005	Harry "Chip" Harrison
2006	Jeffrey Anna
2007	Wilbur Taylor
2008	Sharon Bleich
2009	Robert Bromley
2010	Yellow Creek State Park
2011	Charlie Miller
2012	Keystone State Park
2013	Danette Bixler-George
2014	Harry Z. Leslie
2015	Rick Dalton
2016	Scott Hackenburg
2017	Fred Boboige
2018	Fiscal Module Workgroup
2019	Mark Peters
2020	Moraine Search Team
2021	Terri Kromel
2022	Alexa Rose

## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AWARD

Candidates for the award - clerks, clerk typists and administrative assistants - must exhibit outstanding achievement and dedication in the fulfillment of their duties. This could include, in addition to the execution of their daily routine, training other employees; staffing information booths at public exhibitions; have the ability to recognize and propose beneficial cost reduction ideas as well as being able to implement these suggestions once approved; recommend ways and means of reducing paperwork; serve in community activities that reflect on the Bureau of State Parks; and constantly display a personable attitude when dealing with the public which will not only have a favorable impact on the bureau, but also the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

1985	Donna Fletcher
1986	Mary Ann Rimby
1988	Monica L. Ludwig
1991	Janice Manweiler
1992	Kathy J. McAulay
1993	Cynthia L. Shuman
1994	Carolyn R. Hughes
1995	Judie Grim
1996	Christine Hirzic
1997	Deborah Bowers
1998	Margaret "Peg" Lauer
1999	Toni Swain
2000	Louis Morey
2002	Lori Goodling
2003	Jenny Kovach
2004	Alison Longenecker
2006	Lisa Sitlinger
2007	Beth Ann Adams
2008	Bonnie Mundorf
2009	Robin Duke and Betty Weiland
2010	Diane Varner
2011	Mary Forsyth
2012	Deborah Bowers
2013	Tammy Seiger
2014	Kate Bowlan
2015	Janet Fantasky
2016	Tracy Cutler
2017	Barbara Marion
2018	Gail Swartz
2019	Patty Seibert-Kline
2020	Michele Winger
2021	Terra Norris-Gartman
2022	Timalea Knouse

## BUREAU AWARD

Candidates will have demonstrated outstanding action or emergency action in accomplishing act(s) that reflect favorably upon the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The action may consist of sustained administrative performance, public relations, heroism, ingenuity, and/or safety.

1980	Kenneth C. Burkholder	1996	Robert Hershey
1980	Jeffrey C. Territo	1997	Stanley Peterson
1980	Timothy R. Keech	1998	Terri Kromel
1980	Mathew R. Greene	1999	Patrick Adams
1981	Ross E. Starner	2000	Hills Creek/Lyman Run State Park Staff
1982	Edwin J. Burns	2002	Doug Hoehn
1983	Kenneth J. Boyles	2002	Dan Bickel
1984	Terrence L. Daltroff	2003	Gene Comoss
1984	Frank Keegan	2005	Keith Taylor
1985	Larry Hoffman	2006	Carl D. McElaney, Jr.
1986	John Houghton	2007	Shikellamy State Park Maintenance Staff
1986	Russell Maurer	2008	Gary Smith
1988	Mary B. Herrold	2009	Jeremy Rekich
1989	David Kemmerer	2010	Bald Eagle State Park/Region 1 Staff
1989	Ralph Barkac	2011	Codorus State Park
1989	James P. Barr	2012	Moraine State Park
1989	P.H. Glatfelter Company	2013	Canoe Creek State Park
1990	Gwendolyn Buckley	2014	Parker Dam State Park Maintenance Staff
1990	Kristen Kockler	2015	Lynn Run Maintenance Staff
1990	Brent McConnell	2016	Incident Command Team Tyler Search
1992	Jeffrey F. Anna	2017	Jared Pierce
1993	Dennis P. Stebick	2018	Presque Isle Maintenance
1994	James C. Kleeman, Jr.	2019	Gifford Pinchot Water/Wastewater Team
1995	Fred Miller	2020	POMD Law Enforcement Team
1996	Marlin Hooper	2021	Prescribed Fire Team
1996	Harry Harrison	2022	Stacie Hall

## PARK RANGER AWARD

Candidates will have demonstrated continuous action or emergency action in accomplishing act(s) that reflect favorably upon the Bureau of State Parks. This action may consist of continuous outstanding administrative performance, public relations, heroism, ingenuity, safety, training, ranger/interpretive programming, and/or operational efficiency. Only employees who have accomplishments of objectives above and beyond those normally expected in performing one's duties will be considered.

1981	Earl "Pete" Burnworth	2022	Jackie Merwarth
1982	Kenneth F. Lewis		
1983	Bill Colantoni		
1984	Robert Plum		
1984	Donna Volger		
1984	William J. Zollum		
1986	Robert G. Doleiden		
1990	Delbert Landfried		
1991	Harry "Chip" Harrison		
1992	Robert G. Doleiden		
1993	Joseph Grey		
1994	Michael J. Norris		
1995	John D. Valko		
1995	David Rankin		
1996	Bill Colantoni		
1997	Pat Schiavo		
1999	David Hartzell		
2000	R. Shawn Lynn		
2001	Hank Puhl		
2002	Bill Zollum		
2003	Kathy Isaac		
2003	Mike Isaac		
2003	Tony Mosloskie		
2004	Joseph G. Hamilton, Jr.		
2004	Bryan L. Moore		
2005	Rodney Fye		
2006	Joseph Ehrenhardt		
2007	Richard Carson		
2008	James Sleighter		
2009	Floyd Hawk		
2010	Richard Mohny		
2011	Mike Bonner		
2012	Paul Ashford		
2013	Wanda Pritulsky		
2014	Rick Brubaker		
2015	Dave Roberts		
2016	Michael Myhasuk, Jr.		
2017	Point State Park Rangers		
2018	Mike Issac		
2019	Scott Brumagin		
2020	Jose Valencia		
2021	Brian Price		



## PARK MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR AWARD

Candidates will have demonstrated continuous outstanding action or emergency action in accomplishing act(s) that reflect favorably upon the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks.

1981	Sandy Miller
1982	Dean Dunn
1983	Steven E. Mell
1984	Thomas C. Miller
1985	Karl W. Humphries
1986	William Crossley
1988	Harry "Jake" Brindle
1991	Richard Demi
1992	Leo G. Davidovich
1993	G. Merle Hawn
1994	John K. Parana
1995	Thomas Fetterman
1996	David Miller
1997	John McGehean
1998	Stan Lunsford
1999	James Smith
2001	Richard Demi
2002	H. Dennis Whipple
2004	Dennis Hann
2005	Thomas Biagetti
2006	John Chastain
2008	David I. Shriner
2009	Francis Jacobs
2010	Gary Lesniak
2011	Jim Miller
2012	James Cockerill
2013	Stephen Guinan
2014	Kevin Ravenscroft
2015	Jimmy Risley
2016	Steve Crone
2017	Kenneth Jones
2018	William Gausman
2019	Warren Baum
2020	Tom Woodworth
2021	Dan Clark
2022	John Millinder

## LOUIS RITROVATO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AWARD

Candidates have demonstrated implementation of effective environmental education and/or environmental interpretive programming that reflect favorably on the Bureau of State Parks. This action may consist of outstanding performance in the promotion, planning and facilitation of environmental education and/or environmental interpretation programming meeting the highest accepted standards, including, but not be limited to: environmental education and interpretive programming efforts related to Pennsylvania's natural, cultural, or historical resources; efforts that effectively further the environmental awareness of teachers, students and/or general public; demonstration of effectively addressing the statewide environment and ecology standards with teachers or students; intergovernmental agency education and information initiatives; or partnering efforts to meet the desired goals of a program. Actions may include development of exemplary programs, brochures, exhibits, curriculum, audiovisual presentations, publications or facilities. Only individuals or groups who have demonstrated outstanding contributions to the field of environmental education and interpretation that go beyond normal expectations will be considered.

2005	John Michael Jones
2006	Bonnie Tobin
2007	Spring Reilly
2008	Paul T. Fagley
2009	Presque Isle Environmental Education Staff
2010	Estelle Ruppert
2011	Angela Lambert
2012	Tara Gettig
2013	Kathy Kelchner
2014	Heidi Solley
2015	Ian Kindle
2016	Miranda Crotsley
2017	Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center
2018	Michelle McCloskey
2019	Jessie Kohan
2020	Onnolee Jansen
2021	Presque Isle EE Team
2022	Amy Marsch

## CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Each park may nominate two types of volunteers for the Conservation Volunteer of the Year Awards:

1. Individual conservation volunteer award (individual, husband/wife, family)
2. Group conservation volunteer award (Friends group, Nature groups, Education groups, etc.)

### *Individual Volunteer Award*

2005	Ruth Cochios
2007	Jim Stauch
2008	Orran and Ruth Kelly
2009	Regina Grey
2009	Clint Weltner
2010	Ralph Roth
2010	Suzanne Weiland
2011	Ginny Loughlin
2012	David Ravegum
2013	Margaret Higbee
2014	Dave Gobert
2015	Jim Fitch
2016	Bill Vargo
2017	Polly Shaw
2018	Sally Ray
2019	Tina Englert
2020	Jim Stauch
2021	Doug Burton
2022	Brad and Kathy Bealing

### *Group Volunteer Award*

2005	Muddy Creek Oil Field Volunteers
2007	Friends of Delaware Canal State Park
2008	Pymatuning Lake Association
2009	Disc Golf Clubs of Gifford Pinchot State Park
2010	Friends of Prince Gallitzin State Park
2011	Iron Master's Museum at Pine Grove Furnace State Park
2012	Presque Isle Partnership
2013	Halloween in the Park Committee at Codorus State Park
2014	Friends of Parker Dam
2015	Friends of Oil Creek
2016	Friends of Pine Grove Furnace
2017	Flat Rock Trail Crew Colonel Denning
2018	Friends of Washington Crossing
2019	Presque Isle Pontoon Boat Team
2020	Glendale Lake Snowmobile Club
2021	Nockamixon Trail Group
2022	Friends of Codorus

## SPECIAL AWARD

This award is typically awarded to someone who goes above and beyond their typical daily job duties. This award is given at the discretion of the Bureau Director.

2005	Ryan Dysinger	2022	Stacey Myers
2005	Mike Redding	2022	Black Moshannon Maintenance
2006	Burt Ellsworth	2022	Ken Bisbee
2006	Christine Slusarick	2022	Dave Madl
2006	Judy Patterson		
2006	David Gelnett		
2006	Jessica Holtz		
2007	Floyd Hawk		
2007	Matthew R. Greene		
2008	Raccoon Creek State Park Staff		
2009	Cook Forest/Clear Creek State Park Staff		
2009	Raymond B. Winter State Park Staff		
2010	Fred Boboige		
2010	Kathy Moczydlowski		
2010	Bryan Moore		
2011	Frank Ragan		
2011	Terry Shock and Rudy Black		
2012	Terrence L. Daltroff		
2012	Judy Deiter		
2012	Dale Margus		
2013	Chuck Mann and Barb Feathers		
2014	Curtis McDowell		
2014	William C. Forrey		
2015	Curt Ahner and Dale Fisher		
2015	Brian Zimmerman		
2016	George Calaba		
2017	Jennifer Green		
2017	William Sydor		
2018	Doug Mann		
2018	Amos Ludwig		
2019	Joe and Dee Trentini		
2019	Brett Carson		
2020	Shane Brinkley		
2020	Curtis Sherwood		
2020	Nick Decker		
2021	Amy Hill		
2021	Jessica Fischer		
2021	Poe Valley CCC Legacy Day Team		
2021	3MJC Foltz School Restoration Committee		
2021	Ohiopyle State Park		
2021	Laurel Hill State Park		

TABLE 12 – PENNSYLVANIA PARKS AND FORESTS FOUNDATION AWARDS

- 1) Cliff Jones Keystone Legacy Award
- 2) Joseph Ibberson Government Award
- 3) State Park of the Year Award
- 4) State Forest of the Year Award
- 5) Volunteerism Award
- 6) Improvement Award
- 7) Education Award
- 8) President's Award
- 9) Young Volunteer Award
- 10) Chair Award (started in 2023)

### CLIFF JONES KEYSTONE LEGACY AWARD

The top honor, given to a group, individual, or business, and chosen at the discretion of PPFF. It recognizes an outstanding contribution to the protection and/or enhancement of the park and forest system in Pennsylvania.

2007	Civilian Conservation Corps
2008	Rose Eshelman – for preserving the Goat Hill Wild Plant Sanctuary
2009	Joe Healey – for his work in building and maintaining trails across the commonwealth on public lands
2010	William C. Forrey – lifetime achievement in recreation and conservation
2011	Robert Griffith – contribution to recreation
2012	Franklin Kury – author of the environmental amendment to the state constitution
2013	Western Pennsylvania Conservancy – leadership in land protection
2014	Caren Glotfelty – leadership in conservation, planning, and partnerships
2015	Linda Boxx – driving force behind the Great Allegheny Passage
2016	Rob Wonderling
2017	Paul Felton
2018	Cindy Adams Dunn, Secretary of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
2019	Larry Williamson – for nearly 40 years of service to parks and recreation
2020	<i>There were no awards in 2020 due other projects..</i>
2021	<i>This award was not given in 2021, as the awards focused on COVID-19 Champions.</i>
2022	<i>There were no awards in 2022 due to other projects..</i>
2023	Marcus Schneck (posthumous) – for his role as an outdoors journalist

### JOSEPH IBBERSON GOVERNMENT AWARD

This award is given to a person or a department at any level of government to recognize their work in the stewardship of Pennsylvania's state park and forest systems.

2007	Secretary Michael DiBerardinis – his vision and leadership as Secretary of DCNR
2008	Jerry Walls – land preservation through planning
2009	Greg Schrum – innovation in park management
2010	DCNR Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Team – work creating an award-winning plan
2011	DCNR Forest Assessment Team – teamwork in creating the assessment plan
2012	Dr. James Grace – lifetime achievement
2013	Representative William Adolph – for preservation of funding for parks and recreation
2014	Bushkill Township, Northampton County – leader in embracing their local state park (Jacobsburg) as an asset to the community
2015	Dr. Norman Lacasse – author, forester, and volunteer for the Harrisburg Greenbelt
2016	Penn Nursery, Bureau of Forestry
2017	Maryann Haladay-Bierly
2018	Catherine “Kate” Harper
2019	Dan Devlin – for his nearly 40 year service to DCNR
2020	<i>There were no awards in 2020 due to other commitments..</i>
2021	<i>This award was not given in 2021, as the awards focused on COVID-19 Champions.</i>
2022	<i>There were no awards in 2022 due to other projects..</i>
2023	Mike Piaskowski – for his role as manager of the PA Outdoors Corps

### STATE PARK OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award is designed to recognize a park for its exemplary or innovative work in any or all of the following: customer service; education, programming (e.g., events) or recreation; stewardship of the natural, cultural, or historic assets; and/or accommodation of special needs of visitors.

2007	Pymatuning State Park
2008	Moraine State Park
2009	Sinnemahoning State Park
2010	Nockamixon State Park
2011	Pine Grove Furnace State Park
2012	Kinzua Bridge State Park
2013	French Creek State Park
2014	Prince Gallitzin State Park
2015	Point State Park
2016	Gifford Pinchot State Park
2017	Shawnee State Park
2018	Cook Forest State Park
2019	Laurel Hill State Park Complex
2020	<i>There were no awards in 2020 due to other commitments..</i>
2021	<i>This award was not given in 2021, as the awards focused on COVID-19 Champions.</i>
2022	<i>There were no awards in 2022 due to other projects..</i>
2023	R.B. Winter State Park

### STATE FOREST OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award is designed to recognize a forest district for its innovative and exemplary work in both forest management and recreation for a wide range of activities which include: the ability to provide opportunities for healthful, low-density recreation that is compatible with forest ecosystems; to provide information and assistance to the public while ensuring public safety; and to promote and effectively use volunteers.

2007	Forbes State Forest District
2008	Tioga State Forest District
2009	William Penn Forest District
2010	Michaux Forest District
2011	Susquehannock State Forest District
2012	Elk State Forest District
2013	Tiadahton State Forest District
2014	Gallitzin State Forest District
2015	Buchanan State Forest
2016	Tuscarora State Forest
2017	Weiser State Forest
2018	Rothrock State Forest
2019	Bald Eagle State Forest
2020	<i>There were no awards in 2020 due to other projects..</i>
2021	<i>This award was not given in 2021, as the awards focused on COVID-19 Champions.</i>
2022	<i>There were no awards in 2022 due to other commitments..</i>
2023	Pinchot State Forest

## VOLUNTEERISM AWARD

The group/individual attracts and nurtures volunteers and actively engages them in a wide variety of projects; the group/individual logged in significant volunteer hours in proportion to the size of the park or forest; or the group/individual has developed an innovative volunteer program.

2007	Friends of Codorus State Park
2008	Mountaineer Search and Rescue
2009	Friends of Ohiopyle
2010	Friends of Prince Gallitzin
2011	Friends of Mt. Pisgah State Park
2012	The Cavers at Forbes State Forest
2013	Nockamixon Trail Group
2014	The Promised Land State Park Arts and Nature Center
2015	Friends of Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center
2016	SONS of Lake Erie
2017	Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve
2018	Over the Hill Gang at Oil Creek State Park
2019	Don Litten
2020	<i>There were no awards in 2020 due to other projects..</i>
2021	<i>This award was not given in 2021, as the awards focused on COVID-19 Champions.</i>
2022	<i>There were no awards in 2022 due to other commitments..</i>
2023	Patti and Jamey Hutchinson

## IMPROVEMENT AWARD

The group/individual has completed capital improvement projects that benefited the park or forest and or users; provide ongoing maintenance or improvements to trails, buildings, etc; or innovatively protects the natural or cultural heritage of the park or forest.

2007	The Miller Family, Greenwood Furnace State Park
2008	Friends of the Delaware Canal
2009	Friends of Shikellamy
2010	Friends of Ridley Creek State Park
2011	Tom Scully, trail designer and maintainer
2012	Friends of the State Line Serpentine Barren
2013	Paul Yost and the Friends of Milton State Park
2014	Kathy and Gary Dugan, Pymatuning State Park
2015	Warren Renninger, Worlds End State Park
2016	The Ridge Runners of the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail
2017	Boy Scout Troop 345, Keystone State Park
2018	Gifford Pinchot Disc Golf Club
2019	Ron and Donna Hirt (individual award) Clarion North Country Trail Association (group award)
2020	<i>There were no awards in 2020 due to other projects..</i>
2021	<i>This award was not given in 2021, as the awards focused on COVID-19 Champions.</i>
2022	<i>There were no awards in 2022 due to other commitments..</i>
2023	Nittany Mountain Biking Association



## EDUCATION AWARD

The group/individual provides ongoing educational support or programming, provides a stewardship message through its events and programs, and/or organizes events that support the park and/or the gateway communities.

2007	Cherry Springs Dark Sky Fund
2008	Friends of Laurel Hill State Park
2009	Friends of Colonel Denning State Park
2010	Friends of M.K. Goddard State Park
2011	John Salvetti, Prince Gallitzin State Park
2012	Gwen and Bud Wills, PA Equine Council
2013	Pat and Carl Leinbach, Kings Gap State Park
2014	Promised Land State Park Nature Arts and Crafts Volunteers
2015	Friends of Black Moshannon State Park
2016	Pam Karhan, Cherry Springs State Park
2017	Friends of Mount Pisgah
2018	Tom and Marilyn Frye
2019	Friends of Washington Crossing
2020	<i>There were no awards in 2020 due to other commitments..</i>
2021	<i>This award was not given in 2021, as the awards focused on COVID-19 Champions.</i>
2022	<i>There were no awards in 2022 due to other projects..</i>
2023	Wayne Sierer (individual award)
	Friends of Worlds End State Park (group award)

## PRESIDENT'S AWARD

This award is chosen at the discretion of the PPFF President to recognize individuals, businesses, governments and volunteers who are making a positive difference for parks and forests and/or who lead by example.

2010	Recreation Equipment Incorporated- volunteerism in parks and forests
2011	Borough of Ohiopyle – gateway to the park
2012	Yellow Creek State Park – energy conservation
2013	John and Jan Halter – adaptive paddling at Codorus State Park
2014	Ralph Harrison – elk reintroduction/education/volunteerism
2015	Deloitte Consulting – for their work on the annual clean-up of Little Tinicum Island
2016	Greenwood Furnace State Park Complex
2017	The Graffiti Busters
2018	PA Wilds Center for Entrepreneurship
2019	United By Blue (state award) – for their measurable trash clean-up successes Recreation Equipment, Inc. (REI) (national award) – for their many campaigns that get diverse groups of people outdoors
2020	<i>There were no awards in 2020 due to other commitments..</i>
2021	<i>This award was not given in 2021, as the awards focused on COVID-19 Champions.</i>
2022	<i>There were no awards in 2022 due to other projects..</i>
2023	Cook Forest Sensory Trail (project) – creating an inclusive, multi-sensory paved trail Jack Stefferud (individual) – for protecting more than 7,700 acres of land in Pennsylvania

### YOUNG VOLUNTEER AWARD

This award recognizes a significant contribution to a park or forest by a person under the age of 25. The contribution could be in volunteer hours, a significant project, an innovative idea, or more.

2012	Paul Mickle, Ridley Creek State Park
2013	Hailey Freeman, Pine Grove Furnace State Park
2014	Eleanor Davis, PA Parks and Forests Foundation
2015	Kayce Bobnar, Sawmill Art Center, Cook Forest State Park
2016	Stephen Smetana, Nescopeck State Park
2017	Katie Gustafson, Chapman State Park
2018	Sarah Reeping
2019	N/A
2020	<i>There were no awards in 2020 due other projects..</i>
2021	<i>This award was not given in 2021, as the awards focused on COVID-19 Champions.</i>
2022	<i>There were no awards in 2022 due to other commitments..</i>
2023	Angelica Brill, PA Parks and Forests Foundation

### CHAIR AWARD

This award, created in 2023, recognizes outstanding citizens or businesses who have made a special impact on Penn's Woods through innovation and creativity.

2023	New Trail Brewing Company
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**TABLE 13 – PENNSYLVANIA ENVIROTHON – STATE COMPETITIONS**

The Envirothon is a natural resource environmental education program that combines classroom learning and outdoor activities that culminate in a competition. Students work in teams after school to gain the natural history knowledge needed to compete. At the annual Envirothon, teams of five high school students compete in field testing using their knowledge in five topic areas: Soils and Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Wildlife, and Environmental Issues.

<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Venue</u></b>	<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Venue</u></b>
1984	Shaver's Creek Environmental Center	2004	University of Pittsburgh Johnstown
1985	Shaver's Creek Environmental Center	2005	PPL Montour Preserve
1986	Shaver's Creek Environmental Center	2006	Penn State Mont Alto
1987	Shaver's Creek Environmental Center	2007	Penn State University Park Campus/Rock Springs
1988	Reeds Gap State Park	2008	Penn State University Park Campus/Rock Springs
1989	Shaver's Creek Environmental Center	2009	Bald Eagle State Park
1990	Bald Eagle State Park	2010	PPL Montour Preserve
1991	Bald Eagle State Park	2011	Shikellamy State Park
1992	PPL Montour Preserve	2012	University of Pittsburgh Johnstown
1993	Pine Grove Furnace State Park	2013	Juniata College
1994	PPL Montour Preserve	2014	PPL Montour Preserve
1995	Bald Eagle State Park	2015	University of Pittsburgh Johnstown
1996	PPL Montour Preserve	2016	Susquehanna University
1997	Shawnee State Park	2017	University of Pittsburgh Johnstown
1998	Bald Eagle State Park	2018	Susquehanna University
1999	PPL Montour Preserve	2019	University of Pittsburgh Johnstown
2000	Shawnee State Park	2020	Virtual due to the pandemic
2001	Bald Eagle State Park	2021	Virtual due to the pandemic
2002	PPL Montour Preserve	2022	Virtual due to the pandemic
2003	Penn State Mont Alto	2023	Camp Mount Luther

TABLE 14 – PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARKS ACREAGE OF LAKES

As of June 2023

<b><u>PARK</u></b>	<b><u>LAKE</u></b>	<b><u>ACRES</u></b>
Bald Eagle	Foster Joseph Sayers Lake	1730
Beltzville	Beltzville Lake	949
Black Moshannon	Black Moshannon Lake	250
Canoe Creek	Canoe Lake	160
Chapman	Chapman Lake	68
Codorus	Lake Marburg	1275
Colonel Denning	Doubling Gap Lake	3.5
Cowans Gap	Cowans Gap Lake	41
Elk	East Branch Lake	1180
Frances Slocum	Frances Slocum Lake	165
French Creek	Hopewell & Scotts Run Lakes	90
Gifford Pinchot	Pinchot Lake	370
Gouldsboro	Gouldsboro Lake	263
Greenwood Furnace	Greenwood Lake	5
Hickory Run	Hickory Run Lake	3.6
Hills Creek	Hills Creek Lake	128
Kettle Creek	Kettle Creek Reservoir	167
Keystone	Keystone Lake	78
Kooser	Kooser Lake	4
Lackawanna	Lackawanna Lake	198
Laurel Hill	Laurel Hill Lake	65
Little Buffalo	Holman Lake	86
Little Pine	Little Pine Lake	60
Locust Lake	Locust Lake	52
Lyman Run	Lyman Run Lake	42.8
Marsh Creek	Marsh Creek Lake	535
Maurice K. Goddard	Lake Wilhelm	1605
Memorial Lake	Memorial Lake	85
Moraine	Lake Arthur	3130
Mt. Pisgah	Stephen Foster Lake	75
Nescopeck	Lake Frances	9
Nockamixon	Lake Nockamixon	1450
Parker Dam	Parker Lake	20
Pine Grove Furnace	Laurel and Fuller Lakes	22
Poe Valley	Poe Lake	25
Prince Gallitzin	Glendale Lake	1601
Promised Land	Promised Land and Lower Lake	595
Prompton	Prompton Lake	289
Raccoon Creek	Raccoon Lake	82

Raymond B. Winter	Halfway Lake	5
Ricketts Glen	Lake Jean	245
Shawnee	Shawnee Lake	450
Sinnemahoning	George B. Stevenson Reservoir	140
Tobyhanna	Tobyhanna Lake	166
Tuscarora	Tuscarora Lake	96
Whipple Dam	Whipple Dam Lake	16
Yellow Creek	Yellow Creek Lake	720

**TABLE 15 – STATE PARKS ACQUIRED AND/OR COMPLETED DURING MAURICE K. GODDARD'S 24-YEAR TENURE AS SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF FORESTS AND WATERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES (1955-1979)**

1. Allegheny River: Venango County (1)
2. Archbald Pothole: Lackawanna County
3. Bald Eagle: Centre County
4. Bear Creek: Carbon, Monroe, Luzerne counties\*
5. Beltzville: Carbon County
6. Canoe Creek: Blair County (1)
7. Codorus: York County (1)
8. Curwensville: Clearfield County\*\*
9. Denton Hill: Potter County
10. Elk: Elk County
11. Evansburg: Montgomery County (1)
12. Frances Slocum: Luzerne County
13. Gifford Pinchot: York County
14. Gouldsboro: Monroe and Wayne counties
15. Hillman: Washington County
16. Hyner Run: Clinton County
17. Independence Mall: Philadelphia County\*\*\*
18. Jacobsburg: Northampton County (1)
19. Kettle Creek: Clinton County
20. Kings Gap: Cumberland County
21. Kinzua Bridge: McKean County
22. Lackawanna: Lackawanna County (1)
23. Laurel Mountain: Westmoreland County
24. Laurel Ridge: Somerset, Westmoreland, Cambria, Indiana, Fayette counties (1)
25. Lehigh Gorge: Carbon County
26. Little Buffalo: Perry County (1)
27. Locust Lake: Schuylkill County (1)
28. Lyman Run: Potter County
29. Marsh Creek: Chester County (1)
30. Maurice K. Goddard: Mercer County (1)
31. McConnells Mill: Lawrence County
32. Memorial Lake: Lebanon County

33. Milton: Northumberland County
34. Moraine: Butler County (1) (2)
35. Mount Pisgah: Bradford County (1)
36. Nescopeck: Luzerne County
37. Neshaminy: Bucks County
38. Nockamixon: Bucks County (2)
39. Nolde Forest: Berks County (1)
40. Ohiopyle: Fayette and Somerset counties (1) (2)
41. Oil Creek: Venango County (1)
42. Point: Allegheny County
43. Prince Gallitzin: Cambria County
44. Prompton: Wayne County
45. Ridley Creek: Delaware County (1)
46. Ryerson Station: Greene County
47. Salt Springs: Susquehanna County
48. Samuel S. Lewis: York County
49. Shikellamy: Union and Northumberland counties (2)
50. Sinnemahoning: Cameron County
51. Susquehanna: Lycoming County
52. Susquehannock: Lancaster County
53. Swatara: Lebanon County
54. Tuscarora: Schuylkill County
55. Tyler: Bucks County (1)
56. Warriors Path: Bedford County
57. Yellow Creek: Indiana County (2)

\*Bear Creek is no longer a state park. The lease with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Philadelphia District, was canceled circa 1977.

\*\*Curwensville is no longer a state park. The lease with USACE Baltimore District was canceled in 1981.

\*\*\*Independence Mall is no longer a state park. It was transferred to the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) to be incorporated into Independence National Historical Park in 1975. The transfer was authorized by Act 187 of July 20, 1974.

(1) State park that was initially acquired with Project 70 funds.

(2) State park that had acreage added with Project 70 funds.

## TABLE 16 – PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARKS CREATED OR DIVESTED BY LEGISLATION

### VALLEY FORGE STATE PARK, Chester and Montgomery counties

- Authorized by Act No. 130, dated May 30, 1893.
- Transfer to the PA Historical & Museum Commission authorized by Act No. 275, dated December 5, 1970.
- Transfer to the National Park Service authorized by Act No. S3, dated July 30, 1975.

### BUCHANAN'S BIRTHPLACE STATE PARK, Franklin County

- Act No. 23, dated March 22, 1911, accepted a gift of 18.5 acres for the establishment of Buchanan's Birthplace State Park.
- The gift was donated by President Buchanan's niece, Harriet Lane Johnston.

### FORT WASHINGTON STATE PARK, Montgomery County

- Authorized by Act No. 213, dated July 25, 1917.

### WASHINGTON CROSSING STATE PARK, Bucks County

- Authorized by Act No. 420, dated July 25, 1917.
- Transfer to the PA Historical & Museum Commission authorized by Act No. 275, dated December 5, 1970.
- Transfer to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for management purposes by authority of the Fiscal Code of 2013-14 and the Fiscal Code of 2014-15.

### SNYDER-MIDDLESWARTH STATE PARK, Snyder County

- Authorized by Act No. 73, dated April 12, 1921.

### THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARK AT ERIE (PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK), Erie County

- Authorized by Act of May 27, 1921, P.L. 1180. Gave control and management to the Pennsylvania State Park and Harbor Commission.
- Act No. 275, dated December 5, 1970, abolished the Pennsylvania State Park and Harbor Commission and transferred the state park to the Department of Environmental Resources.

### BUSHY RUN BATTLEFIELD, Westmoreland County

- Authorized by Act No. 398, May 4, 1927.
- Transfer to PA Historical and Museum Commission by Act No. 474, August 14, 1963.

### PYMATUNING STATE PARK, Crawford County

- Authorized by Act No. 456, dated May 2, 1929.
- Act No. 781, dated June 5, 1937, created an interstate compact where Pennsylvania and Ohio agreed to joint jurisdiction over the waters of the reservoir.

### FORT NECESSITY STATE PARK, Fayette County

- Authorized by Act No. 330, dated June 23, 1931.
- Transfer to the National Park Service authorized by Act No. 410, dated June 29, 1937, but the U.S. Congress did not authorize the transfer to the National Park Service until 1961.



BUCKTAIL STATE PARK, Cameron and Clinton counties

- Authorized by Act No. 301, dated June 2, 1933.

MOOSIC STATE PARK, Lackawanna County

- Authorized by Act No. 516, dated July 1, 1937.
- Funds were never appropriated for this state park, so it remains in private ownership.

DELAWARE CANAL STATE PARK, Bucks County

- Acquisition authorized by Acts 290 & 291, dated June 21, 1939.

RICKETTS GLEN STATE PARK, Luzerne, Sullivan and Wyoming counties

- Authorized by Act No. 257, dated August 1, 1941.

BRANDYWINE BATTLEFIELD PARK COMMISSION, Delaware County

- Authorized by Act No. 517, dated July 5, 1947.
- Created as an independent administrative commission, known as the Brandywine Battlefield Park Commission. The commission had ten members with Secretary of Forests & Waters and Chairman of the PA Historical and Museum Commission as ex officio members.
- In 1988, Act No. 517 was repealed by the History Code which reestablished the Brandywine Battlefield Park Commission and authorized the PHMC to provide funding and assistance.
- In 2009, the Brandywine Battlefield Park Association assumed management of the park.

KINZUA BRIDGE STATE PARK, McKean County

- Authorized by Act No. 343, dated August 12, 1963.

INDEPENDENCE MALL STATE PARK, Philadelphia County

- Transfer to the National Park Service was authorized by Act No. 187, dated July 20, 1974.

BENJAMIN RUSH STATE PARK, Philadelphia County

- Authorized by Act No. 175, dated December 22, 1975.

GEORGE W. CHILDS STATE PARK, Pike County

- Transfer to the National Park Service was authorized by Act No. 69, dated March 30, 1982.

SCRANTON IRON FURNACE, Lackawanna County

- Acquired with Project 70 funds by the Department of Forests and Waters. A public hearing was held on January 28, 1966, and the acquisition was approved by the Governor on March 23, 1966. The property was transferred to PHMC.

CONRAD WEISER HOMESTEAD, Berks County

- Authorized by Act No. 528, dated May 8, 1928.

## TABLE 17 – PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARK NATURAL AREAS

A natural area is an area within a state park of unique scenic, geologic, or ecological value that will be maintained in a natural condition by allowing physical and biological processes to operate, usually without direct human intervention.

These areas are set aside to:

- Provide locations for scientific observation of natural systems.
- Protect examples of typical and unique plant and mineral communities.
- Protect outstanding examples of natural interest and beauty.

Black Moshannon Bog, Black Moshannon State Park	1,501 acres
Forest Cathedral, Cook Forest State Park	573 acres
Nockamixon Cliffs, Delaware Canal State Park	28 acres
Pine Swamp, French Creek State Park	101 acres
Boulder Field, Hickory Run State Park	435 acres
Ferncliff Peninsula, Ohiopyle State Park	112 acres
Gull Point, Presque Isle State Park	46 acres
Rapid Run, R.B. Winter State Park	38 acres
Glens Natural Area, Ricketts Glen State Park	2,846 acres
Swamp Forest, Cook Forest State Park	246 acres
Mud Run, Hickory Run State Park	1,281 acres
Virgin Hemlock Trees, Laurel Hill State Park	6 acres
Mud Swamp, Hickory Run State Park	145 acres
Tidal Marshes, Neshaminy State Park	70 acres
Black Jack Swamp, Pymatuning State Park	726 acres
Fall Brook, Salt Spring State Park	34 acres
Clark Island, Pymatuning State Park	161 acres
River Islands, Delaware Canal State Park	82 acres
Slippery Rock, Moraine State Park	92 acres
Black Bear/Bender Swamps, Tobyhanna State Park	1,615 acres
Slippery Rock Gorge, McConnells Mill State Park	1,296 acres
Pine Creek Gorge, Colton Point and Leonard Harrison State Parks	676 acres

## SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

Limestone Cave, Canoe Creek State Park	4 acres
Remnant Prairie, Jennings Environmental Education Area	3 acres
Wildflower Preserve, Raccoon Creek State Park	315 acres
Seneca Forest, Cook Forest State Park	676 acres
Grassy Plain, Neshaminy State Park	15 acres
Laurel Run, Whipple Dam State Park	18 acres
Wildcat Hollow, Oil Creek State Park	300 acres
Lupine, Nescopeck State Park	187 acres
Climbing Fern, Nescopeck State Park	58 acres
Cattail Marsh, Nescopeck State Park	32 acres

**TABLE 18 – SOLAR INSTALLATIONS WITHIN PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARKS**

DCNR's interest and investments in renewable energy dates back to 1979 with its first solar installation at Mt. Pisgah State Park, commissioned by DER Secretary Cliff Jones. From 1979 to 2016, the department made small investments in solar and wind technology as a means of educating visitors through demonstrations on DCNR lands. Beginning in 2016, DCNR has been taking meaningful action to reduce the carbon footprint of its operations through substantial investments in solar energy. In addition to the environmental benefits, these installations redirect funding previously used to pay electricity bills back into investments to be made in our state parks and forests.

<b><u>State Park</u></b>	<b><u>Year Completed</u></b>
Codorus State Park (2kW)	Pre-2016
French Creek State Park (2kW)	Pre-2016
Prince Gallitzine State Park (2kW)	Pre-2016
Yellow Creek State Park (2kW)	Pre-2016
Gifford Pinchot State Park (2kW)	Pre-2016
Lackawanna State Park (2kW)	Pre-2016
Jacobsburg Environmental Education Cenyer (2.88kW)	Pre-2016
Presque Isle State Park (9.975kW)	2016
Caledonia State Park (1.74kW)	2017
Mt. Pisgah State Park (5.67kW)	2018
Moraine State Park (232.56kW)	2019
Fort Washington State Park (25.5kW)	2019
Oil Creek State Park (0.48kW)	2019
Parker Dam State Park (1.2kW)	2019
Laurel Hill State Park (104kW)	2020
Shikellamy State Park (33kW)	2021
Ryerson Station State Park (205kW)	2021
Pymatuning State Park (35kW)	2022
Mount Pisgah State Park (51.5kW)	2022
Moraine State Park (78kW)	2022
Gifford Pinchot State Park (410kW)	2022
Moraine State Park (341kW and 19kW)	2023
Pymatuning State Park (34.88kW)	2023

TABLE 19 – PUBLIC EV CHARGING STATIONS WITHIN PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARKS

<b><u>State Park</u></b>	<b><u>Year Installed</u></b>
Kinzua Bridge State Park (RV Lot) – 2 plugs	2018
Prince Gallitzin State Park (Marina Boathouse) – 2 plugs	2018
Washington Crossing State Park (Visitor Center) – 4 plugs	2018
Pine Grove Furnace State Park (Bendersville Road) – 2 plugs	2018
Codorus State Park (Upper Marina) – 2 plugs	2018
Black Moshannon State Park (Route 504 Day Use) – 2 plugs	2018
Moraine State Park (North Shore Bike Concession) – 2 plugs	2018
Lackawanna State Park (Amphitheater) – 2 plugs	2018
Bald Eagle State Park (Park Office) – 4 plugs	2018
Cowans Gap State Park (Park Office) – 2 plugs	2019
French Creek State Park (Park Office) – 2 plugs	2019
Greenwood Furnace State Park (Park Office) – 2 plugs	2019
Colonel Denning State Park (Comfort Station) – 2 plugs	2019
Raccoon Creek State Park (Park Office) – 2 plugs	2019
Pymatuning State Park (Jamestown Marina) – 2 plugs	2019
Jennings EEC (Main Lot) – 2 plugs	2019
Oil Creek State Park (Egbert Pavilion) – 2 plugs	2019
McConnells Mill State Park (Kildoo Picnic Area) – 2 plugs	2019
Hickory Run State Park (Visitor Center) – 3	2020
Keystone State Park (Boat Launch Comfort Station) – 2	2020
Ohiopyle State Park (Train Station) – 2	2020
Bald Eagle State Park (Nature Inn) – 2	2020
Caledonia State Park (Lot #2 Restroom) – 2	2020
Gifford Pinchot State Park (Quaker Race Day Use Area) – 2	2020
Kings Gap Environmental Education Center (Education Building) – 2	2020
Little Buffalo State Park (Boat Launch Road Entertainment Pavilion) – 2	2020
Shawnee State Park (Lot #2 Boat Rental) – 2	2020

Presque Isle State Park (TREC) – 4	2021
Presque Isle State Park (Beach 8) – 2	2021
Presque Isle State Park (Marina) – 2	2021
Delaware Canal State Park (Virginia Forrest Recreation Area) – 2	2022
Fort Washington State Park (Militia Hill Day Use Area Lot #5) – 2	2022
Marsh Creek State Park (Swimming Pool) – 2	2022
Memorial Lake State Park (Middle Road Comfort Station) – 2	2022
Nockamixon State Park (Marina) – 2	2022
Nolde Forest State Park (Sawmill) – 2	2022
Ridley Creek State Park (Hunting Hill Mansion Comfort Station) – 2	2022
Leonard Harrison State Park (Visitor Center) – 2	2023

TABLE 20 – DCNR VEHICLE FLEET ELECTRIFICATION

<b><u>Vehicle</u></b>	<b><u>Year Added</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
Chrysler Pacifica	2018	Park Region 1 Office
Chrysler Pacifica	2018	Presque Isle SP
Chrysler Pacifica	2018	Canoe Creek SP
Chrysler Pacifica	2018	Washington Crossing SP
Zero Motorcycle	2018	Presque Isle SP
Zero Motorcycle	2018	Delaware Canal SP
Chrysler Pacifica	2019	Bald Eagle SP
Chrysler Pacifica	2019	Kinzua Bridge SP (Bendigo SP Complex)
Chrysler Pacifica	2019	Black Moshannon SP
Chrysler Pacifica	2019	Jennings Environmental Ed Center
Chrysler Pacifica	2019	Park Region 3 Office
Zero Motorcycle	2021	Pymatuning SP
Zero Motorcycle	2021	Laurel Hill SP
Chrysler Pacifica	2021	Hills Creek SP
Chrysler Pacifica	2021	Park Region 2 Office
Zero Motorcycle	2021	Bald Eagle SP
Zero Motorcycle	2021	Gifford Pinchot SP
Ford Escape	2021	Park Region4 Office
Ford Escape	2021	Nockamixon SP
Ford Escape	2021	Park Region 3 Office
Ford Escape	2021	Hills Creek SP
Ford Escape	2021	Sinnemahoning SP
Zero Motorcycle	2021	Nockamixon SP
Zero Motorcycle	2021	French Creek SP

**TABLE 21 – PENNSYLVANIA PARKS AND FORESTS FOUNDATION CHAPTERS AND ASSOCIATES**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Year Formed</u></b>
Cherry Springs Dark Sky Association	1999
Elk County Alliance	2009 - 2010
Friends of Beltzville	2015
Friends of Big Pocono	2008
Friends of Black Moshannon	2006
Friends of Buchanan	2015
Friends of Caledonia	2015
Friends of Canoe Creek	2013
Friends of Codorus	2005 - 2007
Friends of Colonel Denning	2005
Friends of Clear Creek	2009 - 2012
Friends of Cook Forest	2009 and 2014
Friends of Cowans Gap	2014
Friends of Davis Hollow Cabin	2019
Friends of Delaware/Promised Land	2010 - 2012
Friends of Denton Hill	2004 - 2007
Friends of Goddard	2002
Friends of Greenwood Furnace	2003
Friends of Hickory Run	2004 - 2007
Friends of Keystone	2006 - 2020
Friends of Kings Gap	2008
Friends of Laurel Hill	2003
Friends of Linn Run/Forbes	2006 - 2010
Friends of Little Buffalo	2014
Friends of Lyman Run	2010
Friends of Michaux	2019
Friends of Milton	2005
Friends of Mont Alto	2013
Friends of Mt. Pisgah	2010
Friends of Nockamixon	2011
Friends of Nolde Forest	2006
Friends of Ohiopyle	2005 - 2020
Friends of Oil Creek	2005
Friends of Parker Dam	2009
Friends of Pinchot	2009
Friends of Pine Grove Furnace	2010
Friends of Prince Gallitzin	2007
Friends of Pymatuning	2017 - 2021
Friends of Ridley Creek	2002

(Groups showing start and end dates have gone on to become independent 501(c)(3) entities or are presently inactive).

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Year Formed</u></b>
Friends of Ridley Creek	2002
Friends of Rothrock	2018 - 2023
Friends of Ryerson Station	2004
Friends of Shawnee	2011
Friends of Shikellamy	2007 - 2022
Friends of the State Line Serpentine Barrens	2009
Friends of Swatara	2011 - 2015
Friends of Trough Creek & Warriors Path	2019
Friends of Varden	2011
Friends of Weiser (Haldeman/Greenland)	2010
Friends of Weiser (Roaring Creek)	2018
Friends of White Clay Creek	2012
Friends of Worlds End	2018
Friends of Yellow Creek	2010
Lackawanna State Park Trail Crew	2018
Laurel Mountain Volunteer Group	2001

#### ASSOCIATES

Laurel Highlands Ultra

Loyalsock Ultra