



125 FACTS

ON PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARKS AND FORESTS



PENNSYLVANIA
Parks & Forests
FOUNDATION

1 There were nearly 40 million visitors to Pennsylvania's state parks and forests in 2017, generating as much as \$4 billion for the economy through their purchases of hotel rooms, dinners, souvenirs, and more in nearby communities.

2 Pennsylvania has one of the nation's largest state park systems, with 121 state parks encompassing nearly 300,000 acres.

3 Pennsylvania has a nationally-recognized Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified sustainable state forest system with 2.2 million-acres within 49 of the state's 67 counties. This makes up 13 percent of the state's forested land.

4 A bill signed in 1893 formed the Pennsylvania Forestry Commission, tasked with the control of forest fires and to establish a forest reserve system. The system began with the purchase of 7,500 acres in Clinton County for timber, water supply protection, and recreation.



5 Pennsylvania's first state park was designated in 1893 to mark an historic site from the American Revolutionary War. In 1976 it became Valley Forge National Historical Park under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service.

6 The oldest state park, established in 1902, still in existence in Pennsylvania is Mont Alto State Park in Franklin County.

7 Claims to the area that is now Ryerson Station State Park in Greene County were made by both Virginia and Pennsylvania. At one point the land was to become a separate state, named either Westsylvania or Vandalia, but the area became part of Pennsylvania in 1785.



8 Gifford Pinchot State Park is named after the nation's "First Forester." Pinchot was appointed by President Teddy Roosevelt to head the U.S. Forest Service and then served as Pennsylvania State Forestry Commissioner before becoming governor in 1923.

9 Nearly all of Pennsylvania's state forest land consists of second-growth forests due to the widespread timber and charcoal industries of the late 1800s and early 1900s.



10 Point State Park in Pittsburgh is the location of the Fort Pitt Blockhouse. Built in 1764 it is the oldest authenticated structure in western Pennsylvania. The park is also home to a beautiful 150-foot tall fountain at the confluence, or "point," of the Monongahela, Allegheny, and Ohio rivers.

11 President James Buchanan's niece, Harriet Lane Johnston, made the first gift of land to Pennsylvania's state park system in 1911. Her donation became Buchanan's Birthplace State Park in Franklin County, commemorating the birthplace of Pennsylvania's only president.

12 Codorus State Park in York County is the only Pennsylvania state park that has a song named after it – the Codorus State Park March.



13 The men of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) erected 130 buildings, made 28 water improvements, planted more than 60 million trees, and improved 663 other facilities in Pennsylvania's state parks and forests.

14

During the Great Depression, Pennsylvania was home to the second-largest number of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps in the country. Between 1933 and 1942, these men helped build new state parks and state forests and rehabilitated existing infrastructure. You can learn more about the program at the CCC Visitor Center at Parker Dam, Promised Land, and Laurel Hill state parks museums.



15

One-tenth of the men involved in the CCC were young black men and war veterans. Penn-Roosevelt State Park in Centre County was the site of one of 12 Afro-American CCC camps in Pennsylvania. Captain Frederick Lyman Slade was the first black officer to command an Afro-American CCC camp at Camp MP-2 in Gettysburg in 1936.

16

Yellow Creek State Park in Indiana County is located along one of the first “highways” in Pennsylvania, the Kittanning Path. The path was used by Delaware and Shawnee tribes as a trade route, and later by white settlers moving further west. Today, U.S. Route 422 roughly follows what once was the path.

17

Skirmishes of the French & Indian War took place at what is now Cook Forest State Park. There are Revolutionary War connections at Fort Washington State Park and Washington Crossing State Park, and Civil War connections at Caledonia State Park. Point State Park, Presque Isle State Park, and others figure in our military history.



18

Frances Slocum State Park in Luzerne County is named after a young Quaker girl who was taken from her family during a Delaware tribe raid in 1778. During their flight, the Delaware rested at a rock shelter within what is now the park. Frances was discovered on a Native American reservation in Indiana by her family 50 years later.

19

The overlook at Shikellamy State Park in Northumberland County provides a breathtaking view of the merging of the West and North branches of the Susquehanna River. The park is named for the famous Native American Chief Shikellamy, who played a prominent role in developing the Pennsylvania frontier in the early and mid-1800s.

20

In the 1800s, Colonel Denning State Park in Cumberland County served as a hideout for David Lewis, aka “Lewis the Robber.” He was known as a local Robin Hood, counterfeiting banknotes and escaping from jail numerous times.



21

Ralph Elwood Brock was among the first class of foresters to graduate from the Pennsylvania State Forestry Academy (now Penn State Mont Alto) in 1906 and he is believed to be the first African American to be trained in the field of forestry in the United States. Upon graduation, Brock served as the Superintendent of the Mont Alto State Forest Tree Nursery from 1906 to 1911.



22

Delaware Canal State Park in Bucks County contains a 60-mile example of the great towpath canal building era of the early and mid-18th century. The canal transported 33 million tons of anthracite coal during its commercial operation. Today, visitors to the park can learn about the canal building heyday and even ride on a mule-driven canal boat at New Hope, PA.

23

Little Buffalo State Park in Perry County is home to the historic Shoaff’s Mill, which operated in the mid-1800s and was restored in 1977. The nearly 12,000 annual visitors to the mill can learn more about, and witness, the grinding of corn and apples.



24

The forests of Pennsylvania in the 1800s to early 1900s helped build a strong iron making industry. Remnants of charcoal and iron furnaces and related structures can be found in many state parks and forests in Pennsylvania, including Pine Grove Furnace, Caledonia, and Greenwood Furnace state parks and Forbes State Forest.

25

According to local folklore, Edgar Allen Poe was inspired to write his poem, “The Raven,” while visiting the area in and around Trough Creek State Park (Huntingdon County). The park was the site of Paradise Furnace, the first known charcoal iron furnace to be fired successfully using coke as a fuel.



26

Bucktail State Park (Clinton and Cameron counties) is named after the Bucktail Regiment whose members built a raft and drifted down the Susquehanna River to Harrisburg in 1861 to enlist in the Union Army during the Civil War. This linear park is known for exceptional elk viewing.



27

Oil Creek State Park in Venango County was created to pay homage to the area's rich oil history that began in 1859 when Colonel Edward Drake and Billy Smith drilled their first oil well, tapping into the "black gold" and giving birth to the world's oil industry.



28

Caledonia State Park (Franklin County) has a colorful Civil War history. Pastures in what is now the park served as Confederate field hospitals during the Battle of Gettysburg. Confederate soldiers under the command of General J.A. Early destroyed the iron furnace on-site in part because of Thaddeus Stevens' abolitionist views on slavery.

29

The 32-room mansion at Kings Gap Environmental Education Center in Cumberland County was built by James McCormick Cameron of Harrisburg in 1908. Because of the lack of water on top of the mountain where the mansion was built, the structure was made of stone and mortar, rather than wood, to protect it from fire.

30

The first state park acquired to protect a natural landmark was Cook Forest State Park (Clarion County) in 1927. The Forest Cathedral in the park is a virgin white pine and hemlock area on the list of National Natural Landmarks.

31

Some state parks and forests with National Natural Landmarks include Hickory Run State Park's Boulder Field, McConnell's Mill State Park's unique land and watershed formation and forest growth, the Snyder-Middleswarth Natural Area in Bald Eagle State Forest, and the Glens Natural Area in Ricketts Glen State Park.



32

Archbold Pothole State Park in Lackawanna County is home to the world's largest pothole. Formed 15,000 years ago during the last ice age, the pothole measures 42 feet wide by 38 feet deep.

33

Jennings Environmental Education Center in Butler County was the first "reserve" established in Pennsylvania to protect an individual plant species, a purple prairie flower called the blazing star. The park is also home to the state's smallest rattlesnake, the Eastern massasauga, a critically imperiled endangered species in Pennsylvania.

34

The 1,730-acre lake at Bald Eagle State Park (Centre County) offers myriad opportunities for boating, fishing, and swimming, and is named after Foster Joseph Sayer, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroic service in World War II.



35

Maurice "Doc" Goddard, Secretary of the Department of Forests and Waters (and its successor, the Department of Environmental Resources) from 1955 to 1979, set a goal of creating one state park within every 25 miles of every Pennsylvanian. In total, Goddard established 57 state parks, more than doubling the number across the state.

36

R.B. Winter State Park in Union County was once called Half-Way Dam because teamsters could stop and feed their horse teams approximately halfway through the mountain pass there.



37

Pennsylvania's state park system was recognized in 2009 as the best in the nation by the National Recreation and Park Association.



38

Did you know that all of Pennsylvania's state parks and forests are free to enter and use many of the recreational amenities? While some activities like swimming pools and boat rentals have modest fees, our state parks and forests are open to the public at no charge to encourage repeat visitors. So stop on by!

39

Since 1998, Pennsylvania's management of its state forest lands has met or exceeded the standards for environmentally responsible stewardship. The Rainforest Alliance SmartWood Program verified that the state forest operations comply with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standards, which are the international gold standard for environmentally and socially responsible forestry.

40

If you are looking for fun on the water, consider this: within Pennsylvania's state parks and forests are 180 boat ramps, 56 swimming beaches, 50 fishing piers, and 10 marinas, as well as 18 swimming pools, 5 wading pools, and 5 water playgrounds.



41

Bald Eagle, Sinnemahoning, Little Pine, and Kettle Creek state parks are built around flood control dams built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reduce floods along the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. The lakes formed by the dams provide public recreational opportunities for boating, fishing, and swimming.

42

Lehigh Gorge State Park in Carbon County and Ohiopyle State Park in Fayette County offer some great whitewater rafting experiences.



43

There are more than 7,100 miles of streams within Pennsylvania's state parks and forests. 724 miles are designated as Class A wild trout streams and 316 miles are classified as wilderness trout streams on state forest land.

44

Moraine State Park in Butler County was the site of a glacial lake that existed over 10,000 years ago. Today, a smaller man-made lake, Lake Arthur, lies within the bed of the glacial lake. Considerable deep coal mines and strip mines used to exist within Moraine's footprint, but the land has been restored to provide for recreation and wildlife habitat.

45

Pymatuning State Park in Crawford County contains more than 20,000 acres and has 70 miles of lake shoreline. It is also home to thousands of famous carp and the saying "where the ducks walk on the fish."



46

Pennsylvania's state parks and forests operate much like a city, with 126 drinking water treatment plants and 70 wastewater treatment plants across the system to provide clean drinking water and keep streams clean.

47

Because of the age of the state park and forest system, there are more than 5,000 culturally or historically significant sites, with 500 structures listed on the historical register. This includes 27 cemeteries, 15 mines, 4 tunnels, and more than 4,000 charcoal hearths.



48

Pennsylvania's state parks and forests are home to myriad recreational opportunities. For instance, there are 1,470 miles of trails in state parks and 4,088 miles of non-motorized trails in state forests. A map of these and other trails across the state can be found at explorepatrails.com.

49

The half-way mark on the 2,144-mile long Appalachian Trails used to fall within Pine Grove State Park/Michauch State Forest in Cumberland County. Through hikers are still encouraged to eat a half gallon of ice cream at the park's concessionaire to celebrate making it that far.



50

The view from Hyner View State Park (Clinton County) is on the list of "30 Outstanding Geologic Features in Pennsylvania." The area contains deep, narrow, steep-sloped valleys that are separated by narrow to broad uplands.

51

There are 22 natural areas in Pennsylvania state parks and forests. These are areas of unique scenic, geologic, or ecological value that are maintained in a natural condition. Examples include the Pine Creek Gorge in Leonard Harrison and Colton Point state parks (Tioga County) and Tall Timbers (Snyder County) in Bald Eagle State Forest.

52

Pennsylvania state forests contain 152,916 acres of designated wild areas, where any form of development or disturbance is prohibited. Wild areas include Wolf Run (Lycoming County) in Tiadaghton State Forest and Quebec Run (Fayette County) in Forbes State Forest.



53

There are approximately 556,000 acres of designated old growth forest within Pennsylvania's state forests. Old growth forests are important because they provide unique habitat for many species, contain important genetic material, and allow visitors to see what Pennsylvania forests were like hundreds of years ago.

54

Pennsylvania's state forests contain 49 wild plant sanctuaries, which are designated specifically for the management of plant species of concern – typically those that are threatened or endangered.

55

There are 47 known endangered plant species and 25 threatened plant species found on state forest land, as well as other rare and vulnerable plants.



56

Pennsylvania's state tree is the Eastern hemlock, which can be found in many state parks and forests. Unfortunately, hemlocks are under attack from the hemlock wooly adelgid and the hemlock elongate scale, two invasive insects that feed on the trees and eventually kill them.

57

Looking to spend the night in a Pennsylvania state park or forest? You are in luck! There are more than 6,500 campsites, as well as 280 cabins, 69 cottages, and 2 inns. To reserve your spot, visit pennsylvaniastateparks.reserveamerica.com.

58

It takes more than park managers and rangers to run Pennsylvania state parks and forests. In fact, there are more than 60 different positions, including landscape architects, geologists, environmental educators, service foresters, engineers, mechanics, and more.

59

Pennsylvania state parks that offered groomed cross-country trails include Chapman, Kooser, Laurel Ridge, and Ole Bull, among others. In addition, state forests have 560 miles of cross-country ski trails in 15 of the forest districts.



60

Whether you are a beginner or a true downhill pro, you'll be happy to know that Pennsylvania's state parks are home to several downhill ski areas located at Laurel Mountain, Denton Hill, and Blue Knob state parks.



61

Did you know that there is more than one type of forester who works in Pennsylvania's state forests? That's right! There are in fact there are at least four types, including service foresters who help private landowners manage their forestland, fire foresters who specialize in managing wildland fires, recreation foresters who manage recreation demands on state forest land, and management foresters who harvest timber and plant seedlings on state forest lands.

62

In 2007, Yellow Creek State Park in Indiana County was the first designated green state park. This designation means that the park underwent a pilot climate study to identify the sources of their carbon emissions, and then used that information to modify park management practices to reduce the park's carbon footprint.

63

If flying a model airplane is your idea of a fun hobby, then check out one of the 2 model airplane airports located within Hillman (Washington County) and Benjamin Rush (Philadelphia County) state parks.



64

The Pennsylvania state park and forest system has 15 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified buildings and has instituted dozens of conservation best practices and energy efficiencies that can serve as models for homeowners and other land managers.

65

State parks reduce their carbon footprint through projects like installing a switchgrass-burning stove at Maurice K. Goddard, adding a solar hot water site at Prince Gallitzin to replace the use of propane, and completing a lighting audit and retrofit with energy efficient alternatives at Nolde Forest and Keystone.

66

To save money, reduce their carbon footprint, and be able to educate visitors on the benefits of alternative energy, wind turbines have been installed at several parks including Yellow Creek, Promised Land, Tuscarora, Codorus, and Lackawanna state parks.



67

The largest Pennsylvania state forest is Sprout State Forest in the northcentral part of the state, containing more than 307,000 acres. The smallest state forest is Cornplanter State Forest (Forest, Crawford, and Warren counties) at 1,585 acres.



68

The Sky Walk at Kinzua Bridge State Park opened in 2011 to much acclaim. This walkway allows visitors to look down 300 feet to the ground through a glass-bottom observation area at the far end of the bridge. The site earned DCNR a “Best Project Award” from The Engineering News-Record.

69

A Penn State study showed that the direct contribution of state park visitor spending to the state economy was \$628.7 million in sales in 2010, which supported 9,435 jobs.

70

The newest state park in the system is the 500-acre Washington Crossing Historic Park, which preserves the site of George Washington’s dramatic boat crossing of the Delaware River during the American Revolution. The park is a National Historic Landmark and features historic buildings, recreational amenities, and historical re-enactments.

71

Interested in star gazing? The darkest skies east of the Mississippi River can be found at Cherry Springs State Park in Potter County. In fact, the park was designated in 2008 as a “Dark Sky Park” by the International Dark-Sky Association.



72

A portion of the Youghiogheny River flows through Ohiopyle State Park in Fayette County. The names “Ohiopyle” and “Youghiogheny” come from Native American words meaning “white frothy water” and “stream running round a course.” Is it any wonder then that the park is a popular destination for whitewater enthusiasts?

73

Pennsylvania state parks are home to five environmental education centers where visitors can attend special year-round events and activities to learn about the plants, animals, and habitats that call Pennsylvania home. The centers include Jennings, Jacobsburg, Kings Gap, Nescopeck, and Nolde Forest.

74

The smallest state park in Pennsylvania is Sand Bridge State Park in Union County. At 3 acres in size, it is easy to miss. Yet it makes for a lovely rustic picnic spot along Seven Notch Mountain.



75

Did you know that for every \$1 in taxpayer money invested in a state park \$12.41 comes back to the state in the form of taxes? Talk about state parks being economic engines!

76

Presque Isle State Park in Erie County is the most visited Pennsylvania state park each year and is the state’s only “seashore.” In 2017, there were more than 4 million visitors drawn to its award-winning beaches, as well as its bike trails, fishing ponds, and other recreational amenities.



77

In 1908, Penn Nursery, just south of State College, PA, began growing tree seedlings to cover land stripped bare by the unsustainable timber harvesting practices of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In the 1950s, the nursery evolved into a source of seedlings for the beautification of Pennsylvania highways, and in later years for reforestation projects on state parks and forests.



78

Which state park name comes from a nearby creek that means “deep black waters” in the Lenape Native American language? That would be Nescopeck State Park. The Lenni Lenape inhabited the Nescopeck Creek watershed a thousand years before European settlers. By the 1700s, they left the area due to encroaching Iroquois and European settlers.

79

Ole Bull State Park (Potter County) was named for a 19th century Norwegian violinist who sought his own American dream of a “Norway without the fjords” in the Pennsylvania Wilds. The park takes full advantage of the surrounding Susquehannock State Forest to offer many recreational opportunities.

80

What is the only Pennsylvania state park that is also a back road? That would be Bucktail State Park Natural Area, a 75-mile scenic drive along PA Route 120 from Emporium through Renovo to Lock Haven. Want to know more about the drive and sites along the way? Visit www.pawilds.com.



81

Penn Nursery was renamed the Mira Lloyd Dock Resource Conservation Center in 2016. Ms. Dock was instrumental in the City Beautiful movement of the 1900s and in launching the Mont Alto School of Forestry, as well as preserving nearly one million acres of state forest land.

82

Originally proposed in 1958, Nockamixon State Park in Bucks County was initially known by what other name? That would be Tohickon State Park, named for the park's major stream. The park's new name, designated in 1965, is said to be Lenni Lenape for “at the place of soft soil.”

83

Frisbee golf, also known as disc golf, is an outdoor sport that is gaining in popularity. There are 15 Pennsylvania state parks with disc golf courses including Canoe Creek, Prompton, Sam Lewis, and Tyler, among others. Learn more at dcnr.pa.gov/Recreation/WhatToDo/DiscGolf/Pages/default.aspx.



84

The fifteenth President of the United States, James Buchanan, has a state forest named after him. The forest district contains 71,683 acres in Franklin, Fulton, and Bedford counties along the ridges and valleys of southcentral Pennsylvania.

85

Michaux State Forest in southcentral Pennsylvania is considered the state's “cradle of forestry,” because it is where the southern range for northern species and the northern range for southern species meet. The forest is named for the French botanist, Andre Michaux, who discovered and named many plants during the 18th century.

86

General John Forbes, who in 1758 ordered the construction of a road from Bedford to Fort Pitt (in what is now Pittsburgh) for the British Army's attack on Fort Duquesne, has a state forest named after him. The 59,000-acre forest district, much of which is along the ridges of the Laurel Highlands, includes the highest point in Pennsylvania (the 3,213-ft. Mt. Davis).

87

Tuscarora State Forest derives its name from Tuscarora Mountain, which was named for the Iroquois nation tribe that once inhabited the area. The forest district contains 96,025 acres of primarily oak and hemlock forests in the central portion of the state.



88

Rothrock State Forest is named for Dr. Joseph Trimble Rothrock, a native of Mifflin County and the commonwealth's first forestry commissioner. He is recognized as the “Father of Forestry” in Pennsylvania. The forest district comprises 96,975 acres that are spread across the rugged ridges of Huntingdon, Centre, and Mifflin counties.

89

Prince Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin, the Apostle of the Alleghenies, established a mission at Loretto in Cambria County in 1795, has a 24,370-acre state forest named after him, much of which rests on the Allegheny Front and the Laurel Ridge.



90

Did you know that 100 large, 40-year-old-trees intercept 538,700 gallons of rainfall each year! They can also remove 53 tons of CO₂ from the atmosphere and 430 pounds of pollutants.

91

The 190,031-acre Moshannon State Forest along the Allegheny Plateau derives its name from “Moss-hanne,” or “moose stream,” the Native American description of the waterway that runs through the area.



92

The 16,000+ acre Clear Creek State Forest was named Kittanning State Forest until 2007. Located in Clarion, Jefferson, Venango, Forest, and Mercer counties, many of its acres hug the Clarion and Allegheny rivers.

93

In 1921, then governor William C. Sproul designated 500 acres of state forest land in Snyder County as the Snyder-Middleswarth State Park (now a Natural Area within Bald Eagle State Forest). Sproul State Forest in north-central Pennsylvania is named in his honor and features steep and rugged hillsides cut by the West Branch of the Susquehanna and its tributaries.

94

Pinchot State Forest is named in recognition of Gifford Pinchot’s monumental contributions to forestry and his legacy of forest land conservation. Gifford Pinchot turned a childhood interest in nature into a distinguished career protecting forests and a founding role in America’s emerging conservation movement.

95

Tiadaghton State Forest, located primarily in Lycoming County, features high-country flats bisected by clean, fast-moving mountain streams, including the legendary Pine Creek, home to the 62-mile Pine Creek Rail Trail.



96

Elk State Forest in Elk and Cameron counties derives its name from the great numbers of elk that once thrived in the area until the 1870s and were reintroduced from Yellowstone National Park in the early 1900s, making for a popular tourist draw.

97

The 1,585-acre Cornplanter State Forest in the northwest corner of the state was named for the famous Native American leader of the Seneca tribe, who maintained peace between the fledgling United States government and the Iroquois from 1794 to 1812.



98

Some of the most productive stands of black cherry trees in the world can be found in the 265,000-acre Susquehannock State Forest. This district derives its name from the Susquehannock tribe that once inhabited the region that is now Potter, Clinton, and McKean counties.

99

Tioga State Forest in Bradford and Tioga counties derives its name from the Seneca Native American phrase “meeting of two rivers”. The forest district is home to the Pine Creek Gorge, also known as the “Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania.”



100

The founder of Pennsylvania, William Penn, has a 1,683-acre state forest named in his honor. The forest district is composed of 10 separate tracts across the southeastern corner of the state and contains unique ecosystems like the Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens and Little Tinicum Island on the Delaware River.

101

The frontier diplomat, Conrad Weiser, has a state forest in the ridge-and-valley region of eastern Pennsylvania named after him. The forest district covers nearly 30,000 acres, including a series of river islands on the Susquehanna River called the Sheets Island Archipelago.

102

The 83,000-acre Delaware State Forest is named for the Delaware River that flows along the eastern border of the forest district. The district is home to glacial lakes and bogs rich with plants, wildlife, and scenic beauty.



103

Loyalsock State Forest in Sullivan, Lycoming, and Bradford counties is named for a creek of the same name that lies within the heart of the forest district's 114,552 acres.

104

The overlook at Big Pocono State Park (Monroe County), also known as Pocono Knob, is located on the east-west ridgeline of Camelback Mountain and is on the list of the "30 Outstanding Geologic Features in Pennsylvania." At 2,133-feet, it is the highest location in the area and is located on the edge of the Glaciated Pocono Plateau.

105

Tucked in the side of Conococheague Mountain, Big Spring State Forest Picnic Area (Perry County) is a quaint picnic and hiking spot that takes its name from nearby Big Spring. A short loop trail leads to a partially completed railroad tunnel, and the park also provides access to the Iron Horse Trail for day and overnight hiking.

106

The 1,302-acre Mount Pisgah State Park (Bradford County) is located along Mill Creek, at the base of Mt. Pisgah: elevation 2,260 feet. A dam on Mill Creek forms the 75-acre Stephen Foster Lake, named after the famous composer and onetime local resident, providing opportunities for fishing, boating, and ice skating.



107

There are 3 conservation areas within the Pennsylvania state park system: Boyd Big Tree Preserve, Ibberson, and Varden. These are areas that were donated and managed for the purposes of preserving open space, conserving natural resources, and providing opportunities for passive, non-motorized, low-density outdoor recreation and education. The areas have few structures and no through roads.

108

Overlooking the Susquehanna River in Lancaster County is Susquehannock State Park. In Lycoming County, one will find Susquehanna State Park, where visitors can ride the paddleboat Hiawatha.



109

The first female state park managers were Mary Hirst and Barb Davies and the first female state forest district manager was Amy Griffith.

110

The 50-acre Allegheny Islands State Park in northeast Allegheny County consists of two islands and seven shoals in the Allegheny River, accessible only by boat. The park is located on some of the few islands left in a natural state. There are no developed trails; however, several footpaths exist.

111

The 587-acre Erie Bluffs State Park has one mile of shoreline, 90-foot bluffs overlooking the lake, Elk Creek "a shallow stream steelhead fishery" several plant species on conservation concern, and a variety of habitats. The park is open for day-use only.



112

According to the 2014-2019 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), 13 percent of Pennsylvania resident survey respondents said they recreate at state parks, forests, and state game lands. The main reasons? Stress reduction and improving physical fitness and mental health.

113

The 2,072-acre White Clay Creek Preserve in southern Chester County shares its boundary with White Clay Creek State Park of Delaware. Because the creek contains outstanding scenic, wildlife, recreational, and cultural features it was dedicated by Congress as a National Wild and Scenic River. The preserve is managed for low-intensity recreational day-use activities only.



114

The Pennsylvania Lumber Museum in Ulysses, PA, opened in 1972, tells the tale of the lumber industry in the commonwealth, both in the private and public sectors. And while it is not operated by DCNR but the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the ties to state forests is undeniable.



115

Founded in 1999, the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF) is the only nonprofit in the state with the sole focus on helping our state parks and forests. PPFF's mission is to inspire stewardship of PA's state parks and forests through public engagement in volunteerism, education, and recreation.

116

There are more than 40 Friends Groups under the umbrella of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation. These Groups raise funds for projects, volunteer for a variety of tasks like trail maintenance, and leading educational activities.

117

Did you know that hospital patients who see trees out their windows need less medication and have faster recovery times following surgery?



118

One of the smallest state park campgrounds can be found at Fowlers Hollow State Park, which is surrounded by the Tuscarora State Forest.

119

One of the features of Ralph Stover State Park is rock climbing and white water kayaking during high water periods on the Tohickon.



120

William Penn's 1681 Charter of Rights called for colonists to leave 1 acre land for every five acres cleared.

121

The original inhabitants of the area that is now Sinnemahoning State Park gave it that name, derived from the American Indian word "Achsinnimahoni" meaning "stony lick."

122

Prior to Locust Lake State Park being acquired by the state, the prior owners, the Marshalonis Brothers, found a dam, boards, and the hub of a waterwheel under seven feet of leaves, silt, and debris. The remains of an old logging mill and dam were buried under silt from flooding and runoff caused by the removal of all of the trees for lumber during the logging era.



123

Norristown Farm Park in Montgomery County is unique in the Pennsylvania state park system. It is a 690-acre working farm in continuous use since colonial times. At the park you will find hiking trails, a trout nursery, picnic areas, working fields, and 15 historic buildings on the property, the earliest dating from 1764.

124

Pennsylvania's first sawmill operation began in 1662 in what is now Philadelphia.



125

Ridley Creek State Park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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