


# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



  
PENNSYLVANIA  
**Parks & Forests**  
FOUNDATION

**It Takes  
a Village:**  
*The Future  
is in Our  
Hands!*



# • SHARING • OUR • PASSION •



## OUR MISSION

To inspire stewardship of Pennsylvania's state parks and forests through public engagement in volunteerism, education, and recreation.

## OUR VISION

Building the voice for Pennsylvania's state parks and forests.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pages 2-3.....	Sharing Our Passion
Pages 4-5.....	Engaging the Public
Pages 6-7.....	Speaking Out
Pages 8-9.....	Making a Difference
Pages 10-11.....	Fiscal Stewardship

I grew up in a family rooted in volunteerism—my mother volunteered at the library, my aunt organized events for her political party, my grandfather was active in Little League and the union, and I used to love to run errands for neighbors. I learned early on that many hands make light work, and that together we can effect a change.

Our 2018 Annual Report celebrates our collective role in stewarding our parks and forests as we looked back on the 125th anniversary of these public lands. It also serves as a call to action to ensure that, under our watch, our state parks and forests do not decline and that protection and funding is in place so that future generations may enjoy them as we have.

Thank you for YOUR role in being a steward—we couldn't do it without you!

—Marci Mowery, *PPFF President*



*Marci and friends hamming it up after a day of bike riding.*

Odds are if you are reading this you are one of the remarkable people who contribute your time, energy, and money to the support and enhancement of Pennsylvania's state parks and forests. Forty-five Friends groups and the Foundation itself play a vitally important role in making our parks and forests the special places they are.

This work is more important than ever now as the system ages and suffers under continuous government budget pressure.

If you are already doing your part, I ask you to do one more thing—*spread the word*. Share this report with your friends and family, discuss it with your acquaintances, and tell your elected officials how important all this is.

If you have not yet participated, I ask you to find a way to apply your unique talents and energies to this important work. Working together, we can continue to enjoy all our parks and forests offer. See you in the woods.

—Brad Mallory, *PPFF Chairman*



*Spending time in nature inspires stewardship.*



*“Thank you for all the wonderful work that you do to maintain the beauty of Pennsylvania’s beautiful forests and parks.”*

*—Dianna*



## **Working Together to Achieve Our Goals**

In 2015, during our strategic planning process (funded in part by a NEEF grant), you helped us develop five overarching goals for the next five years. Keep turning the pages to see all that we’ve been able to achieve with your help!

**Goal 1:** Expand the message on the value of and ways to engage in parks, forests, and recreation.

**Goal 2:** Engage the public in meaningful outdoor recreation.

**Goal 3:** Increase volunteerism in Pennsylvania state parks and forests.

**Goal 4:** Invest in transformative projects and events to enhance the state park and forest visitor experience.

**Goal 5:** Strengthen the capacity of PPAFF and the Friends chapters through strategic investment of time, talent, and revenue.

## **Powered by Your Support...**



*The hard work of volunteers, supporters, and staff to restore Hammonds Rocks after years of being impacted by graffiti was recognized by the Governor with a Governor’s Environmental Excellence Award.*



*Your support enabled the restoration of the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail shelter areas, a project that was recognized as one of several through the Pennsylvania Environmental Council’s annual Western Pennsylvania Environmental Excellence Awards.*

# •ENGAGING•THE•PUBLIC•

## We Value Your Volunteerism

The men and women of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources are some of the hardest working individuals we know. We are proud to work alongside them to improve the visitor experience and protect our natural assets. Yet the work to conserve our parks and forests cannot be accomplished by staffing alone, especially when both parks and forests experience chronic understaffing on an annual basis.

While it's important that we, as citizens and decision makers, work together to advocate for adequate staffing levels for our parks and forests, enthusiasts of all ages can also roll up our collective sleeves and pitch in to help where needed. As weather events become more sporadic and powerful, as visitor numbers continue to rise, and as recreational needs change, there will always be a role for volunteers.

Your volunteerism—whether through a Friends group, as a Steward of Penn's Woods, through the Foundation, on your own, or with another sister organization—creates the village that is needed to shepherd our parks and forests into the future. Thank you for all that you do!

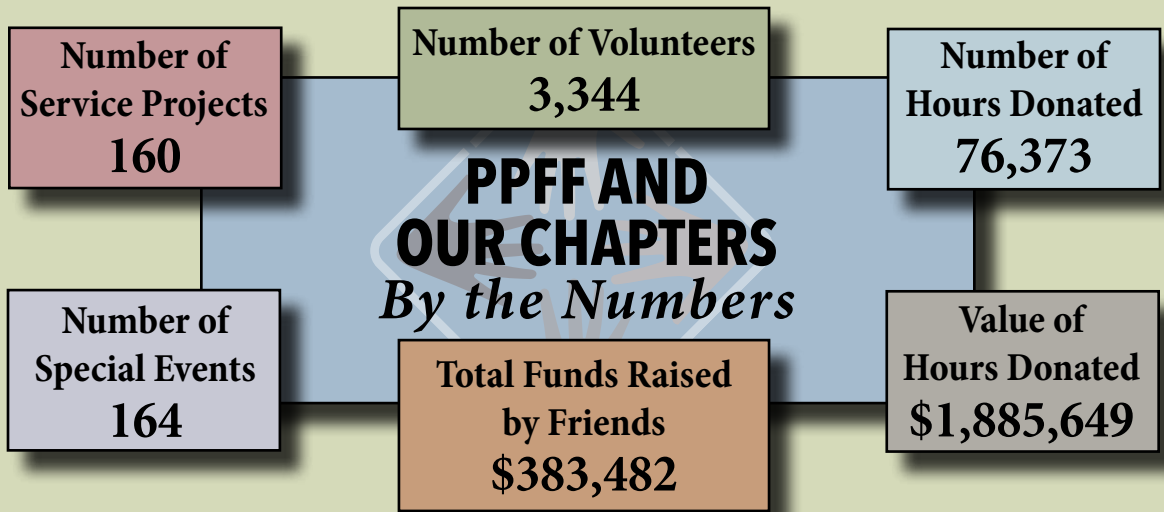
*Volunteers take in presentations after a morning of trail work on the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail as part of PPF's Trails Day Celebration.*



*“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.”*

*—Dr. Syed Muhammad Zeeshan Hussain Almashhadi*





**Volunteerism opportunities exist across the commonwealth!** From helping in the PPFF office to maintaining trails to stewarding a graffiti site—residents and visitors alike are improving the visitor experience and stewarding our natural assets.

*“I’ve always enjoyed the outdoors, but I didn’t realize how much until I visited Blue Knob State Park about seven years ago for a hike. What an amazing place—so beautiful! If Blue Knob is so beautiful, I was sure others were, too... this started my quest to visit all 121 parks. 95 down! Now my life revolves around how I get to spend time in my ‘happy’ place.”*

—Samantha



Photo Credit: Derek Rezek



### Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps

Through your support and that of the Richard King Mellon Foundation and the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation, Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps youth were engaged in both summer

programs and 10-month programs. These youth learn job skills, conservation ethics, and recreational skills while working to address needs in our state parks and forests. Here they complete the restoration of the docks at Moraine State Park, made possible with additional material funds through the Moraine Preservation Fund and the Moraine, McConnells Mill, and Jennings Commission.

### Wilderness Wheels

Harrisburg youth gained environmental, recreational, and team work skills visiting Pine Grove Furnace State Park through your support of the Wilderness Wheels Transportation Scholarship Program. Youth engaged in the outdoors show better classroom

behavior, learn decision making, and when given the chance to apply their learning to a concrete situation, better knowledge retention. Now that’s a win-win-win!



Photo Credit: Harrisburg Inner City Outings



*“Every important change in our society, for the good, at least, has taken place because of the popular pressure-pressure from below, from the great mass of people.”*

*—Edward Abbey*

In 2018, Pennsylvania’s state parks and forests celebrated their 125th anniversary. Keeping in mind that these parks and forests were founded and developed through visionary leadership for the long-term investment in Pennsylvania’s natural resources and its citizenry, state elected officials and government administrators again have an extraordinary opportunity to provide needed and overdue resources to address more than \$1 billion in state park and forest infrastructure needs. These needs range from bridges to wastewater treatment facilities, from dams to invasive plant removal, and from roads to trails.

With the future in mind, the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation released *“The Legacy of Pennsylvania’s State Park and Forests: The Future is in Our Hands,”* a report funded through a grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation and donor support, which examines the story behind the creation of Pennsylvania’s award-winning state park and forest system, and explores the needs that must be addressed to assure that what we pass on to our children and grandchildren is a legacy of which we can all be proud.

For the full report, please visit our website at [PaParksAndForests.org/Initiatives/Infrastructurestudy](http://PaParksAndForests.org/Initiatives/Infrastructurestudy)

The report is out, now your elected officials need to feel the pressure from below to fund the needed maintenance to keep our parks and forests safe and inviting, while protecting the natural assets of these lands.

**Keeping You INFORMED!**

**Penn’s Stewards: 9,049**

**Take Five/Fridays with Pam: 2,500**

**Explore: 17,488**

(Discontinued in 2019 and readers moved to Take Five)

**Facebook: 17,799**

**Twitter: 5,983**

**Instagram: 1,037**

**Pinterest: 691**



## A Call to Action

“The Legacy of Pennsylvania’s State Parks and Forests: The Future is in Our Hands” is a call to action for decision makers and the administration to invest in Pennsylvania’s state parks and forests. Investing in our state parks and forests is an investment in our local economies and the economic engine that is outdoor recreation. It also creates a quality of life that makes Pennsylvania a great place to live, work, and play, keeping us competitive on the national front for job creation, employee retention, and attracting new businesses.

## Pennsylvania Park and Forest Week

On Tuesday, May 22, 2018, Marci Mowery (PPFF President), John Norbeck (DCNR Deputy Secretary for Parks & Forestry), and four state legislators came together at the State Capitol Complex to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Pennsylvania having a state system of public lands with designation of May 23 through 30 as “State Park and Forest Week.” The Governor’s Proclamation establishes park and forest week for an annual recognition. The House and Senate also passed resolutions commemorating this important milestone and outlining the important role parks and forests play in our state. To see the legislative pieces or to watch a video of Representative Kate Harper’s comments, visit: [www.PaParksAndForests.org/get-involved/125-years-parksandforests/state-park-forest-week](http://www.PaParksAndForests.org/get-involved/125-years-parksandforests/state-park-forest-week)



# •MAKING•A•DIFFERENCE•



*“If you have money, donate it. If you have time, donate that time. If you have a story to tell, share that story. There’s a list of things you can do, and even educating yourself is a form of revolution in my opinion.”*

—Diane Guerrero



## Investing in Park and Forest Needs

At the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation one of the contributions donors can make is the investment in what we call “The Needs List.” This list, maintained on our website at [www.PaParksAndForests.org/support/parks-forests-needs-list](http://www.PaParksAndForests.org/support/parks-forests-needs-list), outlines projects, materials, equipment, and repairs that need donor support. Items range from the large—placing a CXT restroom at a trailhead or day use area (\$100,000), to the small—an iPad for educational programming (\$500). In 2018, your support and foundation grants helped to fund over \$600,000 in projects through the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation.



## Removing Barriers, One Project at a Time

According to studies done by the Pennsylvania State University, approximately 15 percent of adult residents of Pennsylvania have some sort of disability and these disabilities can limit their outdoor recreation participation. That’s roughly 1.6 million residents of Pennsylvania who are limited to activity due to a disability (U.S. Census data).

For these individuals, significant benefits can be derived from outdoor recreation, such as rehabilitation, socialization, and skill development. (Weybright et al., In Press). Additionally, we have an aging population and a growing ethnic population. If parks and forests are to address health concerns of Pennsylvanians, facilities and programming must match the need, such as accessible trails, fitness stations, and walking programs.





## CHAPTER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

PLAYGROUNDS PURCHASED/BUILT—4 (New Swingset: 1)

ADA LAUNCHES INSTALLED—1

TRAILS BUILT/MAINTAINED—156

Miles: 67 \* Bridges: 12 \* Signage

OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE/EQUIPMENT

Pavilion/Outdoor Classroom \* Culvert Repair \* Grills \* Archery Targets \* Trees Planted \* Gardens Rehabilitated and Refreshed



Little Buffalo State Park

## Checking off the Needs List

Your support enabled items on the needs list to be check marked as “Finished!” such as when children could explore streams to learn about aquatic life. All projects, no matter how large or how small, can make a difference, like the kayaks purchased for programming at Elk and Bendigo state parks or the ADA wheelchair that enables family and friends to be together on the beach at Black Moshannon State Park.



Prince Gallitzin State Park



Veterans kayaking at Ohiopyle

## Water Activities for All

From canoeing to kayaking and rafting, paddle sports have become increasingly popular in the disabled community in recent years. Children and adults with disabilities are safely experiencing new freedom, learning new skills, and benefiting from the exercise and fresh air. Typically, few or no modifications to standard equipment are needed. As a sport, paddling emphasizes the individual's ability, with water acting as the great equalizer.



Foot bridge replacement at Ridley Creek

## Friends=Fun

PPFF's Friends chapters have learned that there's nothing quite like a big fun gathering to remind themselves and the public why they work so hard. Add the new Friends of Rothrock's fall TrailFest to long-time calendar favorites like the Friends of Canoe Creek's annual Mountain Pie Madness and the Friends of Black Moshannon's Fun in the Snow at Black Mo. Nearly all of the chapters know that a signature event is an annual reminder to their communities that a great place to visit, relax, and volunteer is right next door.



Cowan's Gap Annual 5K Run



Rothrock State Forest

# Our Operating Values

- Integrity • Excellence • Innovation • Collaboration
- Conservation • Diversity • Inclusion • Sustainability

## In Gratitude for Your Support

Your support enables many hands to care and conserve our state parks and forests. We couldn't do what we do without the time, talent, and financial support that you provide. Words cannot express the depth of our gratitude.



We don't list individual donors in our report to ensure your privacy and to allow your financial contributions to be applied to projects and program, not printing. We instead like to thank our donors through calls, letters, and being responsive to your requests.

More importantly, we commit to stewarding your donations in the best manner possible—creating the village that cares for our public lands.

We would like to recognize the follow entities who provide grants to the Foundation or a Friends group, as well as to recognize our corporate supporters.

### GRANTS

Allegheny Foundation Grant  
Bayer Pollinator Grant  
Campbell Foundation  
Community Partnerships Foundation  
County of Mercer  
Crawford Heritage Foundation  
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources,  
Community Conservation Partnership Program  
Dockstader Foundation  
EQT  
Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds  
Harley Davidson  
Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation  
Kline Foundation  
Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape  
McCormac Foundation  
Overlook Foundation  
Partnership for Better Health  
Pennsylvania American Water  
Pennsylvania Recreation and Trails Association  
PNC  
REI Bedford  
REI Pittsburgh  
Richard King Mellon Foundation  
Scranton Area Community Foundation  
Visit Mercer County

### BUSINESS DONORS

AFSCME Council 13  
Andalog  
ArtbyClare  
Artisan Pizza, LLC  
Breezy Hill Woodwerks  
Bridge Tower Media  
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney  
Calicutts Spice Co.  
Canassatego Rainmakers Association  
The Chamber of Commerce for  
Greater Philadelphia  
Clean Creek Products  
Cook's Crafts  
The Dan Smith Candy Company  
Dawood Engineering, Inc.  
Dominion Resources  
Field & Stream  
Fraulie's German Deli  
Free and Thriving  
George Ely Associates  
Giant Food Stores  
Harrisburg Area Riverboat Society  
Harrisburg International Airport  
Judy's Collectibles  
L.B. Smith Estate Foundation  
Langan Engineering & Environmental Services

McBride Furniture Woodworking  
Mid Penn Bank  
Natali Morris/Morris Invest  
Noodles & Company  
Orrstown Bank  
Purple Lizard Maps  
REI  
Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr  
Spiral Path Farm  
Stahl Sheaffer Engineering  
stellascloset  
Straub Brewery, Inc  
Troegs Independent Brewery  
Vagabond Bow Ties  
Waste Management  
Weis Markets  
Williams  
Woolrich, Inc.  
York County Convention & Visitors Bureau

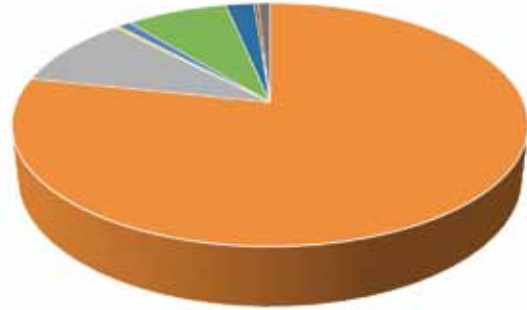


# 2018 Financials

## Support and Revenue 2018 for PPF, Friends Groups, and Park/Forest Projects

Contributions.....	\$1,202,377.00
Grant Income.....	\$146,155.00
Friends Group Fees.....	\$4,880.00
Passport Sales.....	\$14,494.00
Sale of Merchandise.....	\$116,934.00
Project Administration.....	\$32,358.00
Programs.....	\$4,712.00
Investment Income.....	\$13,521.00
Net Realized Gain on Stock.....	\$26.00
Other Revenue.....	\$6,219.00
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$1,541,676.00</b>

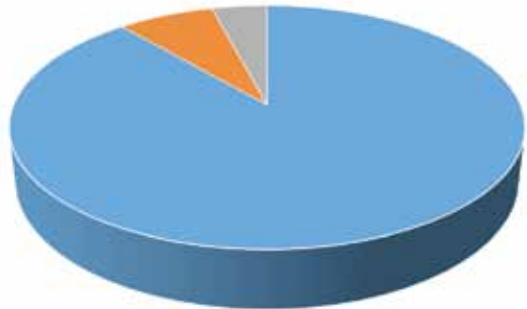
- Contributions
- Grant Income
- Friends Group Fees
- Passport Sales
- Sale of Merchandise
- Project Administration
- Programs
- Investment Income



## Expenses

Program Service.....	\$1,052,012.00
Fundraising.....	\$85,459.00
General and Administrative.....	\$49,052.00
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$1,186,523.00</b>

- Program Service
- Fundraising
- General and Administrative



The complete audited financial statement for the year ending December 31, 2018 is available by contacting Marci Mowery at mmowery-ppff@pa.net. Funding for the annual report is made possible through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Community Conservation and Partnerships Program.

## Planned Giving

The Foundation is grateful to the 62 members of our Conservation Legacy Society, those benefactors whose lifetime contributions total in excess of \$1,000 and/or have made a provision in their estate plan to support the work of the Foundation, a chapter, or a state forest or park.



## Educational Improvement Tax Credit

We would like to thank our 2017 Educational Income Tax Credit donors for their support of engaging youth in science and environmental learning in our parks and forests. With gratitude to Troeg's Brewing Company, Mid Penn Bank, and Weis Markets.

## 1% for the Planet Donors

PPFF is proud to be a nonprofit partner of 1% for the Planet, a global network of businesses, nonprofits, and individuals working together to protect the planet.



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Chairman

**Bradley L. Mallory**

*Retired, PennDOT,*

*Michael Baker Jr. Inc.*

Vice Chairwoman

**Christine (Tina) Molski**

*REI*

Treasurer

**Dr. James Grace**

*Retired, DCNR*

Secretary

**Mary Soderberg**

*Friends of Pine Grove*

*Furnace State Park*

**DIRECTORS:**

**Nancy Ball**

*Retired, Lafayette College*

**Brian J. Clark**

*Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney*

**George Fernandez**

*Latino Connection*

**Gus Frederick**

*FEMA*

**Brian Kavalukas**

*Direct Energy*

**Rep. Mark Longietti**

*PA House of Representatives*

**Maria Montero**

*Pennsylvania Convention*

*Center Authority*

**ADVISORY BOARD:**

**George Asimos**

**William C. Forrey**

**Rob Wonderling**

**Gary Smith**

**STAFF:**

**Marci Mowery,**

President

**Debbie Whitmoyer,**

Bookkeeper

**Pam Metzger,**

Membership/

Volunteer Coordinator

**Amanda Trimmer,**

Outreach & Public Relations

Coordinator

**Andreja Rocknage,**

Office Assistant

*The Future is in Our Hands!*



**Friends of the Pennsylvania State Parks and State Forests**

