

Pennsylvania's state parks and forests are engines of economic strength and businesses located near them frequently benefit from "location, location, location."

The COVID-19 Pandemic affected all of us in profound ways. For Pennsylvania's state parks and forests, it meant an increase in visitor numbers across the board which also meant, in the case of many of these ventures, an increase in business.

The Foundation is happy to share their stories.

A Successful Summer at Seven Springs Mountain Resort

Seven Springs Mountain Resort (7springs.com) located in Seven Springs, Pennsylvania, has been in operation for about 50 years. They host tourists from across the state and country looking to enjoy all the Laurel Highlands has to offer. Hidden Valley Resort is owned and Laurel Mountain Ski Resort is operated by the same company, each resort offering a unique experience to their guests. They estimate about 10-15% of their visitors are in the area because of the beautiful state parks and forests located nearby. Laurel Hill State Park, Kooser State Park, Laurel Ridge State Park (the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail), and Forbes State Forest are all a short drive from any of their three resorts.



At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Seven Springs, like a lot of businesses, was hit hard. As the summer months approached that changed - with restrictions being lifted, more and more people were clamoring to get outside and enjoy Mother Nature. In turn, Seven Springs saw an increase in reservations.

Location and recreation opportunities are key to Seven Springs' success. Marketing Director Alex Moser is grateful to be located near state parks and encourages legislators to do all they can to keep them open and operating. "The more that the state can do from all standpoints to help travel and tourism, the value of people recreating in state parks is sky high right now, the more we can do for the state parks the better."

Investing in state parks and forests help nearby businesses like Seven Springs Mountain Resort. To learn about ways that you can help support Pennsylvania's parks and forests, visit the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation website at PAParksAndForests.org.

