



FRIENDS OF

Pine Grove Furnace News

STATE PARK Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

SUMMER 2021

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☞ Governor Wolf Visits Pine Grove Furnace to Announce **PENN'S PARKS FOR ALL** Plan ☜

On July 30, Governor Tom Wolf came to Pine Grove Furnace State Park to announce the statewide strategic plan for our state parks. Members of the Friends groups and the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation joined DCNR staff and the governor for the unveiling of the state parks long-term plan.

"Pennsylvanians can be proud that our state park system is among the best in the nation, and our Constitution guarantees our right to a clean environment, now and in the future", Governor Wolf said. "The opportunity to enjoy the beauty and recreational opportunities in state parks and forests was critical to our mental and physical health during the pandemic. As we get back on track, we need to ensure generations to come will have the same opportunities and that all Pennsylvanians feel connected to their state parks."



Governor Wolf speaking at Pine Grove Furnace State Park. He was joined by John Hallas (Director of the Bureau of State Parks), Margarita Caicedo (PA Parks and Forests Foundation Ambassador), and Cindy Dunn (Secretary of DCNR).

PENN'S PARKS FOR ALL – A PLAN FOR PENNSYLVANIA'S STATE PARKS OF TOMORROW was developed with extensive public input and includes a set of strategies to move state parks forward over the decades ahead, including these:

- ▶ Ensuring that the parks are accessible and welcoming to all
- ▶ Providing for the aging system to be well-cared for
- ▶ Adapting to climate change and the changing recreation needs of visitors

Following a year that saw park attendance increase by 26.6 percent, the blueprint will be critical to guiding Pennsylvania's state park professionals in managing our 121 state parks for the next 25 years.

The plan is organized into five sections:

- ❶ Outdoor recreation opportunities
- ❷ Overnight accommodations
- ❸ Services and facilities
- ❹ Natural and cultural resources
- ❺ Paying for state parks

The complete plan is available online at

[**PENN'S PARKS FOR ALL**](#)

or scan below.



This is a well-thought-out plan that with the right leadership and sufficient funding will protect and maintain our parks for many years to come!



Governor Wolf and Marci Mowery of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation with leadership of the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park and Michaux State Forest



The governor had the opportunity to meet with members of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps

LEADERSHIP

Andre Weltman, *Chair*
Mary Soderberg, *Vice Chair*
Josh Burleigh, *Treasurer*
Diane Velozo, *Secretary*
Crystal Hunt
Rob Shaw
Brett Weiser
Donna Weiser

OUR MISSION

The Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park (FOPGF) exists to keep history alive and promote educational and recreational programs at the park and surrounding areas through special events and trail development while protecting the park's natural resources.

Email us at:

pinegrovefriends@gmail.com

Visit us online at:

www.pinegrovefriends.org

Follow us on Facebook at:

[Friends-of-Pine-Grove-Furnace-State-Park](https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Pine-Grove-Furnace-State-Park)

Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park formed in August 2010 as a chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Official registration may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Bluebird Box Program



One of ten bluebird boxes that was recently installed at Pine Grove Furnace State Park

Certain birds that nest in cavities of trees or old fence posts have seen their nesting opportunities decline due to changing landscapes and competition from non-native birds.

As part of a statewide effort to provide nesting habitat for Eastern Bluebird populations, Pine Grove Furnace State Park has started its own bluebird nest box program. In July, volunteers built and installed ten boxes along a 1.5-mile loop in open areas near trees.

Next year, volunteers will be needed during the nesting season to check the activity in each box on a weekly basis. At the end of the season the data will be sent to DNCR's program coordinator who will submit a statewide annual report to the North American Bluebird Society. If you want to help monitor the bluebird boxes next year, call the park office at 717-486-7174.

Fall Fest Volunteers

The Friends remain cautiously optimistic that we will be able to host Fall Furnace Fest this year.

If you are interested in volunteering for the 2-day event on October 16 and 17, please email our volunteer coordinator at pgfvolunteers@gmail.com.

Smokey Bear and his Fall Fest volunteer friends!



**FOLLOW US
ON FACEBOOK**

To keep up with the State Park and the Friends, follow us on Facebook. The Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park Facebook page is a team effort of volunteers and park staff to provide you information about the park and the region.

—Activity Calendar 2021—

All events are tentative until further notice. Please watch for updates on our website, Facebook, the DCNR calendar, and Park kiosks.

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 9 A.M. TO NOON: Support Pine Grove Furnace with a morning of volunteering and giving back to the Park. We plan to plant replacement trees, among other activities.

WALK IN PENN'S WOODS, OCTOBER 2: Enjoy the beauty of Penn's Woods on a self-guided hike at Pine Grove Furnace. The Friends will have a table at the Furnace Stack to hand out maps and water from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

FALL FURNACE FEST, OCTOBER 16 AND 17: A family weekend with food and craft vendors, entertainment, and historical demonstrations. Saturday night will feature the annual pumpkin parade and the legend of the Hairy Hand.

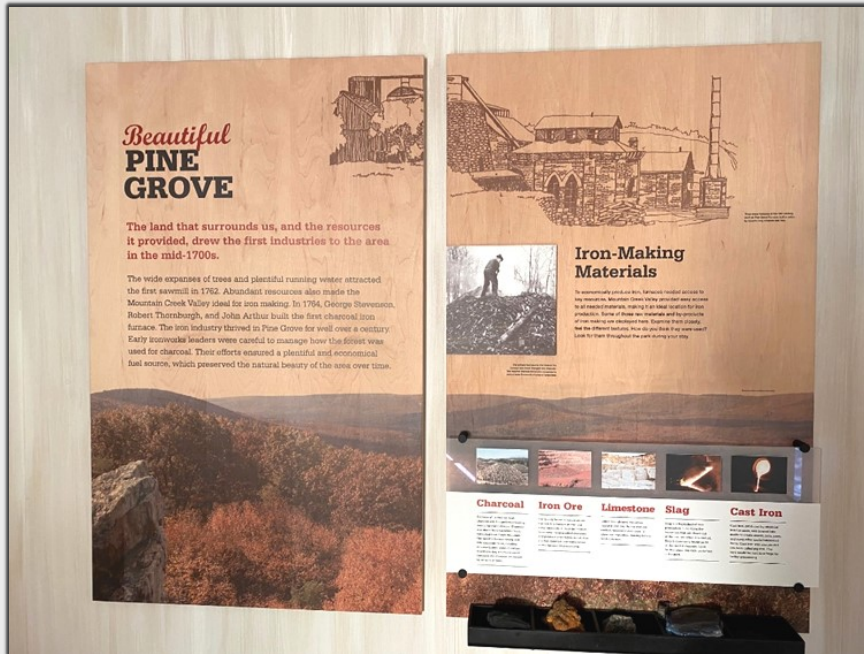
• For more information and updates, go to www.pinegrovefriends.org/home/upcoming_events. •

CHECK OUT THE IRONMAKING MUSEUM

The park's Office/Visitors Center is a popular place to stop for directions or to pick up a souvenir of your visit to the park, but did you know it also has a small museum about the history of ironmaking in Pine Grove Furnace?

The featured display in the museum is an original map (see below) of the Pine Grove Iron Works estate from 1844. The map is delicate and light sensitive, so we do not expect to have it on permanent display after Labor Day weekend. This fascinating document was framed by the Friends so it could be displayed for viewing.

~ The museum is open whenever the Park Office is open, most days 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. ~



An original 1844 map of the Pine Grove Iron Works estate