

2011 Accomplishments | PA State Parks

SERVING { our visitors and neighbors }

By the numbers



1 Gold Medal Award for the best State Park system in the country for 2010 and 2011!

37 million visitors in 2011 who spent \$859 million (2010) on their trips and supported 12,000 jobs in hotels, restaurants, gas stations and a variety of other businesses

4.7 (out of 5) – TripAdvisor rating for the Nature Inn at Bald Eagle after our first year of operation

2.2 million dollars earned in private partnerships with park concessionaires

12.41 dollars returned to Pennsylvania for every dollar invested in State Parks (2010) – \$52.3 million out of General Fund directly contributed \$629 million in sales and 9,435 jobs

692,736 dollars in revenue for the first year of the Nature Inn at Bald Eagle with 4,851 visitors and 49 percent occupancy rate, exceeding our 45 percent target



Economic benefits

Hosted 37 million visitors who spent \$859 million (2010) on their trips

Managed 145 state parks concessions with total revenue to the bureau of \$2.2 million

Received \$4 million Federal Highway Scenic Byway grant for new Laurel Highlands Falls Visitor Center at Ohiopyle

Generated \$473,407 through agricultural and property leases, rights-of-way and our occupancy program, including seven new rights-of-way, two new agricultural leases, 14 property leases and 141 occupancy agreements

Sold out of campsites for the third consecutive year at Pymatuning's annual Halloween event, with more than \$30,000 in camping revenue from this volunteer-sponsored event

Growing services

Opened the new Kinzua Bridge observation deck in September



Created a pilot Dogs in Cabins program in seven parks

Constructed camping cottages at Black Moshannon for revenue generation

Installed over eight miles of some of the best mountain biking trail in the state at Nockamixon, working with International Mountain Biking Association-trained volunteers

Expanded hunting opportunities in three state parks

Finalized and bid Swatara's development plan

Opened the new Wildlife Center at Sinnemahoning in October, with temporary

exhibits installed – permanent exhibits to be installed in 2013



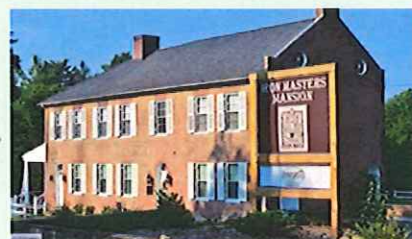
Connecting to communities

Added three miles to the North Country National Scenic Trail extension at Moraine with volunteers, a particularly scenic section that eliminated a mile of hazardous road walk



Completed part of a trail connector at Chapman to link to the Allegheny National Forest

Partnered with the Central PA Conservancy to open the Ironmasters Mansion at Pine Grove Furnace offering overnight accommodations and program and special event space



Selected park improvements

Installed five new CXT restrooms at Parker Dam, Sand Bridge, Shikellamy, Cherry Springs and Sinnemahoning

Rehabilitated **22 modern cabins** at Moraine and Keystone



Completed **Monongahela and Allegheny Wharf renovations** at Point providing riverside access for walkers and bicyclists

Constructed new **Pymatuning sewage treatment facility** in partnership with Linesville Pine Joint Municipal Authority to reduce phosphate loading in the lake and assure the long term health of the main attraction for over three million visitors

Awarded concession contracts for **food service at Point** and innkeeping at **Cook Forest**

Extended the lease with the **Appalachian Trail Museum Society** at **Pine Grove Furnace** to make improvements to the mill building

Rehabilitated and electrified **10 campsites** at **Gifford Pinchot**

Reblazed **20 miles of Prince Gallitzin trails**

Rehabilitated **Caledonia's pool** and added a water slide

Installed new **equine trailhead** at **Cowans Gap** that connects to **Buchanan State Forest**

Replaced **Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail bridge** over the PA Turnpike, eliminating an eight-mile detour and reconnecting trails north and south of the highway

Expanded parking at **Laurel Ridge cross country ski area**, added new trails and installed high speed internet for web cam

Volunteers and friends

Volunteers... removed invasive species, rehabilitated trails, restored habitat, constructed trail boardwalks and bridges, blazed trails, pruned trees, picked up litter, created Facebook pages, monitored bluebird nest boxes, cleaned up streams, stocked fish, hosted events, collected donations, constructed duck nest boxes, sponsored bluegrass concerts and bike races, purchased picnic tables,

groomed cross country ski trails, led kayak tours and much more!

Kudos from others

Chris Kemmerer recognized as **Recreation Professional of the Year** in the Agency Category by PA State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance

Greenwood Furnace Archeological Day Camp recognized for **Outstanding Historical Programming** by the PA Recreation and Parks Society

Kinzua Bridge chosen as PA Parks and Forests Foundation's **2011 Park of the Year**

Jim Juran honored by Penn State: Department of Recreation Park & Tourism Management's **2011 Emerging Professional Undergraduate Award** and College of Health & Human Development's **2011 Emerging Professional Undergraduate Award**

Presque Isle State Park Beaches received **two national awards** – named **#2 Best Great lakes beaches** (behind the beaches of Sleeping Bear Dunes) and **Best Restored Beach** for 2011 by American Shore and Beach Preservation Association – one of five beaches awarded in the nation



Lower Susquehanna Conservation Landscape Initiative one of two PA projects listed in the Department of the Interior *America's Great Outdoors* initiative report, which will bring additional resources to develop regional management plans for the river corridor



We also...

Processed **598** letters of authorization, **146** special activities agreements, **106** radio repair authorizations, **76** commercial use licenses, **43** camp lease renewals, **14** property leases, **2** road use agreements, **5** memoranda of understanding, **3** coordination agreements, **2** agricultural leases, **1** sewer agreement, inspected **27** park concessions in 18 parks, answered **1,865** AskDCNR emails and **36** written letters and trained **1,713** employees via **36** training sessions!

More Information

For more information, contact:

Dave Kemmerer, Assistant Director
Bureau of State Parks
V. 717-787-6640
dkemmerer@pa.gov

visitPAparks.com



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES