



York County Department of Parks and Recreation

2012 *Annual Report*

A group of approximately 20 children and one adult are walking along a wooden boardwalk that winds through a dense, green forest. The children are dressed in casual summer attire, and the adult in the foreground is wearing a bright red jacket and a backpack. The boardwalk is made of dark wooden planks and is surrounded by tall grass and various trees and shrubs.

Rocky Ridge County Park
Richard M. Nixon County Park
Apollo County Park
Spring Valley County Park
John C. Rudy County Park
William H. Kain County Park
Wallace-Cross Mill Historic Site
Heritage Rail Trail County Park
P. Joseph Raab County Park
Highpoint Scenic Vista & Recreation Area
Native Lands County Park

Mission Statement

York County Department of Parks and Recreation enhances the quality of community life acting as a steward for the environment. In this capacity, it acquires, conserves and manages park lands and offers a variety of recreational and educational opportunities.

Value Statement

As steward of the County's park lands, York County Department of Parks and Recreation:

- Creates customer-friendly environments
- Provides a diversity of natural areas to promote passive recreation
- Conserves and interprets the natural and historical aspects of park resources
- Emphasizes preservation and creation of wildlife and plant habitat
- Listens and responds to park users
- Encourages safe and responsible use of park resources
- Maintains the highest level of professionalism
- Enters into partnerships and pursues networking
- Promotes and honors volunteer participation
- Fosters innovation and creativity in fulfilling mission responsibilities
- Cultivates new sources of support and funding

Vision Statement

York County Department of Parks and Recreation strives to be the county leader in environmental conservation, preservation and education. Programs and projects in these areas reflect sound management and stewardship principles and a strong organizational commitment to innovation and public service.

During its 44th year of operations,

York County Parks strove to work with change. Much of this change was wrought not by man or society, but rather by nature itself. Two storms in 2011 caused much flood damage, temporarily changing access, quality of facilities and the overall appearance of the parks. What did not change was the Parks' staff commitment to providing services to citizens.

Throughout 2012, with the help of many partners from large government institutions like Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to small, like an Eagle scout replacing a damaged bridge, the parks have returned better than ever to meet its mission. Always with an eye on the budget and your tax dollars, the parks continue to offer quality, quantity and discount rates. You will note that in 2012 it cost each citizen \$3.64 (for a family of four, \$14.56) to have no fee, dawn to dusk access to over 4,000 acres, 70 miles of trails, public programs, chances to learn, de-stress and most importantly enjoy themselves and their loved ones.

The staff, aided by an exceptional group of volunteers, spent 2012 striving to continue to provide the best in facilities and service. This annual report shows the results of the hard work and planning of everyone involved in the parks.



Scouts and their leaders proudly stand on their work, along the Geology trail in Nixon Park.

Our Leadership

York County Board of Commissioners

Steve Chronister, President
Christopher B. Reilly, Vice President
Doug Hoke, Commissioner
Charles R. Noll, Administrator/Chief Clerk

York County Parks Advisory Board

Amanda Dubbs, Chair
Stephen Lentz, Vice-Chair
Anne Walko, Secretary
J. T. Hand • William Hengst
Jason McSherry • Carolyn J. Pugh
Charles Smith • Laura L. Smith
This volunteer board serves as a liaison between the Parks and the public. The public is encouraged to attend board meetings. The board meets in January, March, May, July, September, and November.

York County Parks Foundation Charitable Trust

Luther B. Sowers, Chairman
George "Skip" Lehmann, Vice Chairman
Linda B. Davidson, Secretary
William T. Morris, Treasurer
Richard Cooper • Betsy B. Lehner
Milton J. Menchey • Steven Ricklefs
Dale L. Schaeberle • Timothy E. Senft
This volunteer board is dedicated to raising and managing funds to expand our park lands and facilities.

York County Parks Emeritus Board

An honorary board of past Advisory or Trust Board members
George "Skip" Lehmann, Honorary Chair

John F. Barbor	Reed "Jack" Dunn, Jr.	Donald Patton
Ed Bievenour	Skip Durgin	John Rinehart
Duane R. Close	Voni Grimes	Ellie Shoemaker
Thomas F. Clough	Donald G. Heisler	John Strine
Sandy Cooley	J. Robert Katherman	Anne K. Wagner
J. Richard Cooper	Carroll C. Luckenbaugh	John Wurzbacher

Significant Accomplishments

- Secured \$592,000 in funding from FEMA/PEMA to repair damage in the parks (\$358,320) and to the county bridges (\$234,000) caused by flooding in 2011.
- York County Parks Foundation Charitable Trust acquired 16.5 acres of land adjoining Nixon Park. This addition to Nixon Park was funded through donations.
- Installed a new playground in the Oak Timbers area of Rocky Ridge County Park.
- Completed Flood of 2011 recovery projects including re-surfacing the northern section of the Heritage Rail Trail and bird viewing deck repairs.
- Secured funding (\$120,800) from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to complete stream restoration work at Nixon Park.
- Completed User Survey and Economic Impact Study for the Heritage Rail Trail County Park. The study was funded through a York County Community Foundation grant.
- Barry Myers received York County Rail Trail Authority's "Trail Champion" award.
- Purchased a mid-size John Deere Tractor 80% funded through a Pennsylvania Recreational Trail grant.

Professional Staff

Tammy F. Klunk
Director

Barry L. Myers
Superintendent of Bldg & Grounds

Gerald K. Ford, Jr.
Chief Ranger

Francis A. Velazquez
Manager of Education and Outreach

Michael E. Fobes
Manager of Natural Resources

George H. Howett
Asst Superintendent of Bldg & Grounds

Todd A. Hampson
Asst Superintendent of Bldg & Grounds

Jeri L. Jones
Program Coordinator

Amber L. Carothers
Naturalist

Kelsey A. Frey
Naturalist

Deborah A. Carbaugh
Administrative Assistant

Kay A. Kraft
Administrative Support

Maintenance Staff

Grant Bolton • Jerry Broome
Roger Brunner • Joseph Carbaugh
Joshua Dewees • Kerry Flinchbaugh
Terry Grothe • Tom Hansberry
Randy Leiphart • Douglas Murphy
Eric Roehm • Duglas Stough

Rangers

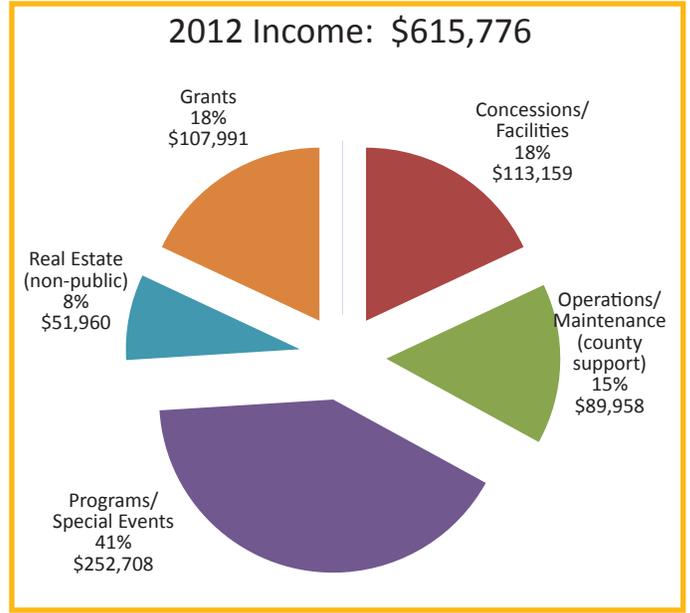
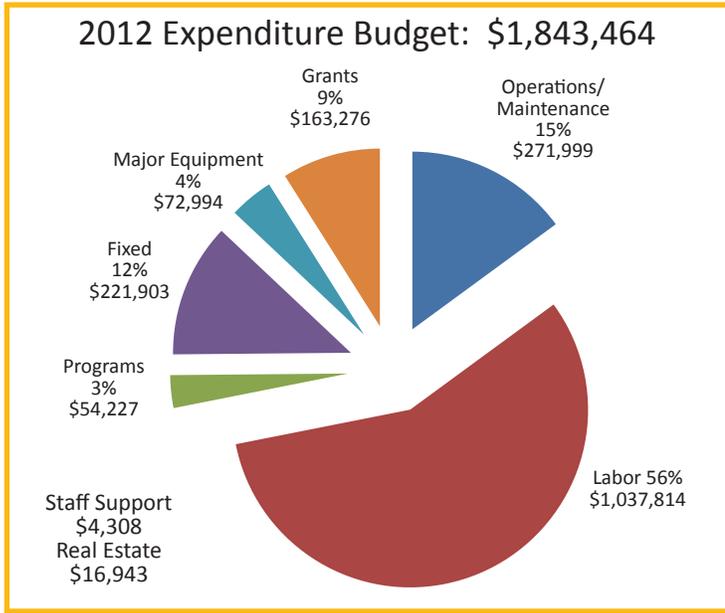
Scott Neely • David Breedlove



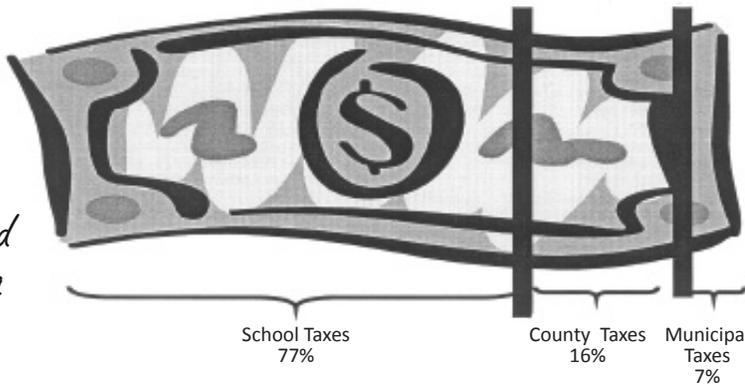
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parks@YorkCountyPA.gov
Twitter: @YorkCountyParks

Financial Charts



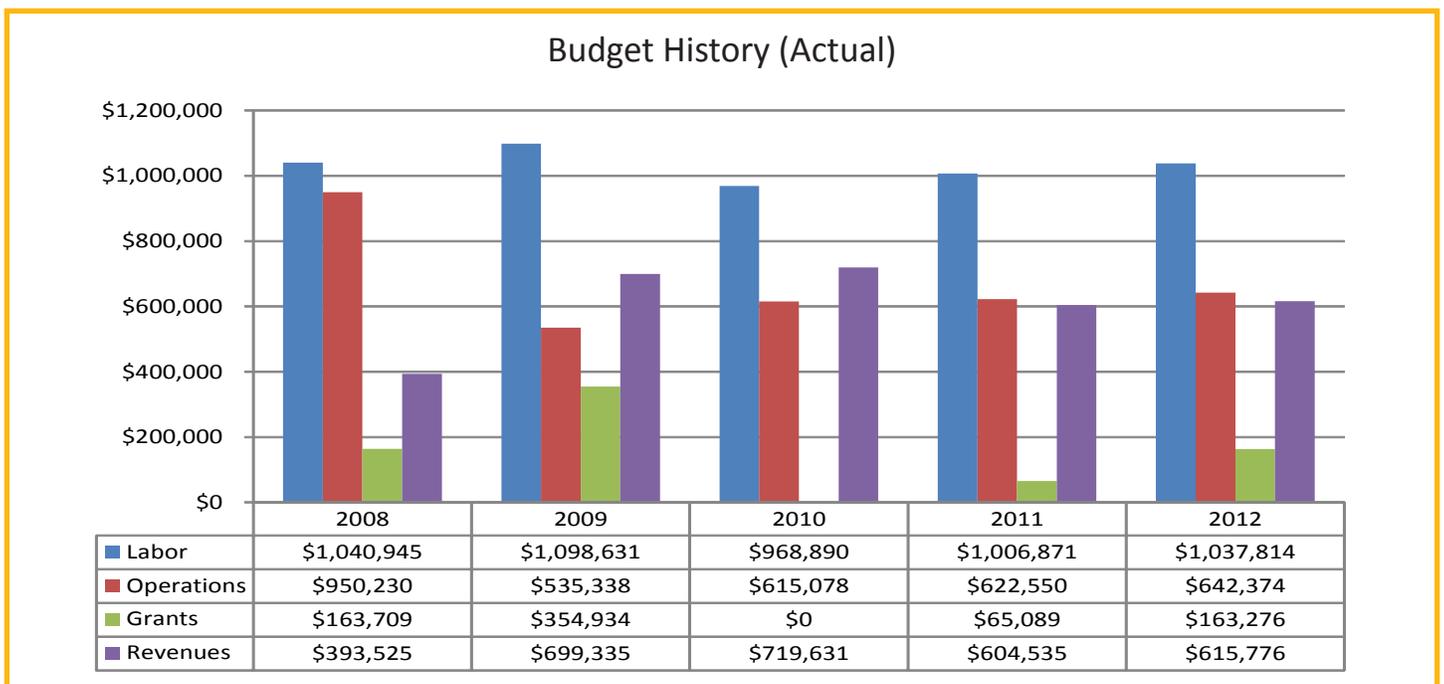
For every real estate tax dollar paid in York County, based on 2011 data



The annual cost to York County residents to operate and maintain the county parks department in 2012 totals **\$3.64/resident**

Expenditures: \$1,843,464
 + benefits..... \$363,235
 - revenue \$615,776
 Expenses less income \$1,590,923

York County Planning Commission's 2011 census estimate—436,770 residents





Users share the Heritage Rail Trail in early fall.



Trail Yoga, as practiced by a Day of Caring volunteer.



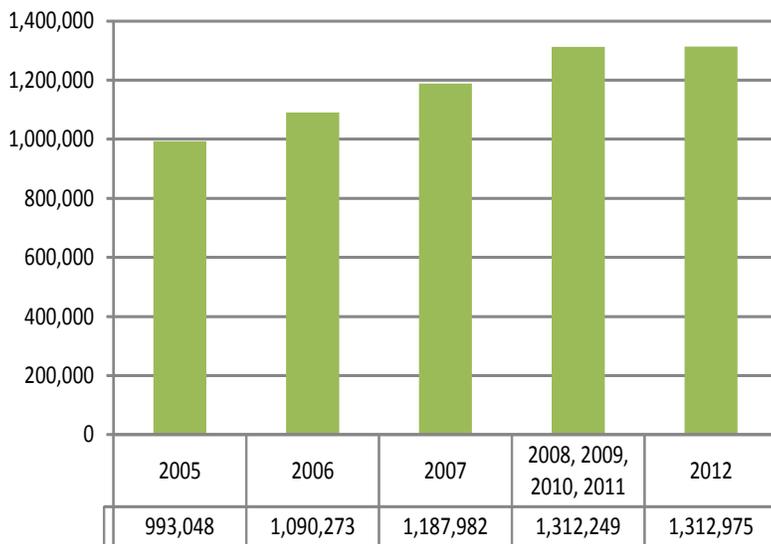
Enjoying down time at the Family Camp-out in Nixon Park.



Ice sculptures decorate Christmas Magic at Rocky Ridge Park.

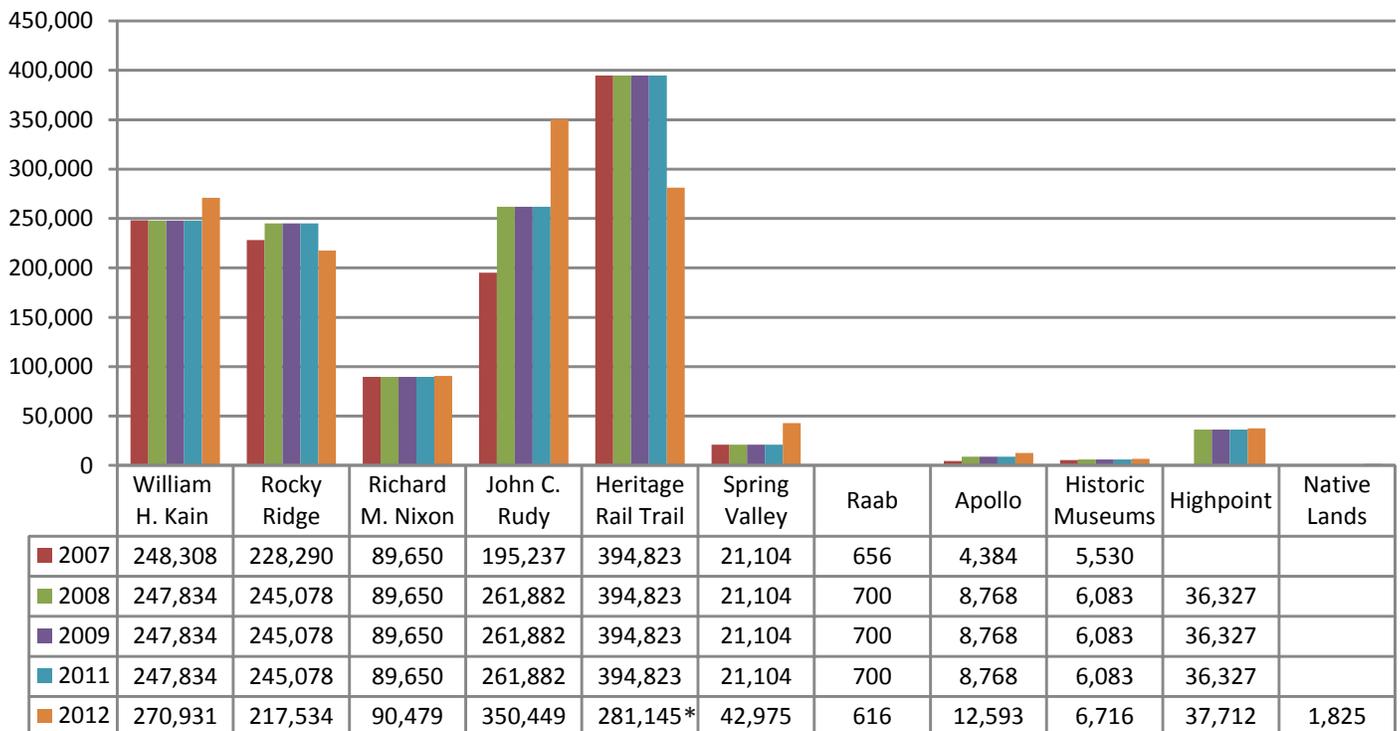
Park Visitation

Total Park Visitors



In 2012, York County Parks deployed new and more car counters. These allowed the most accurate count and measure of park visitation to date.

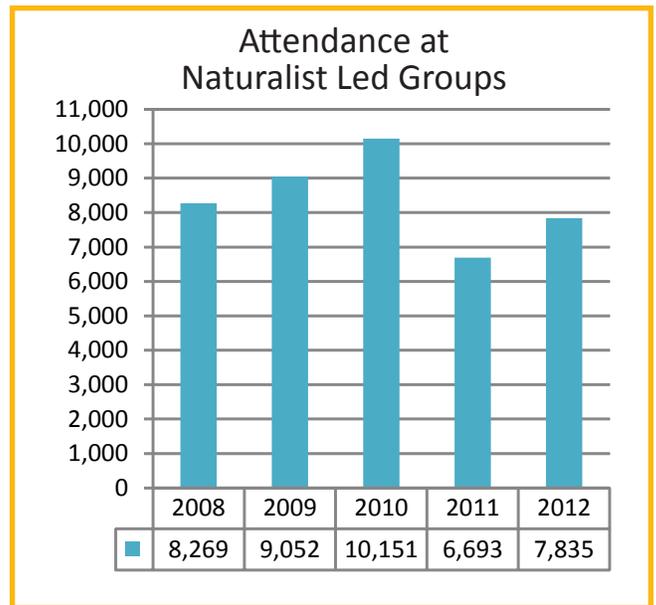
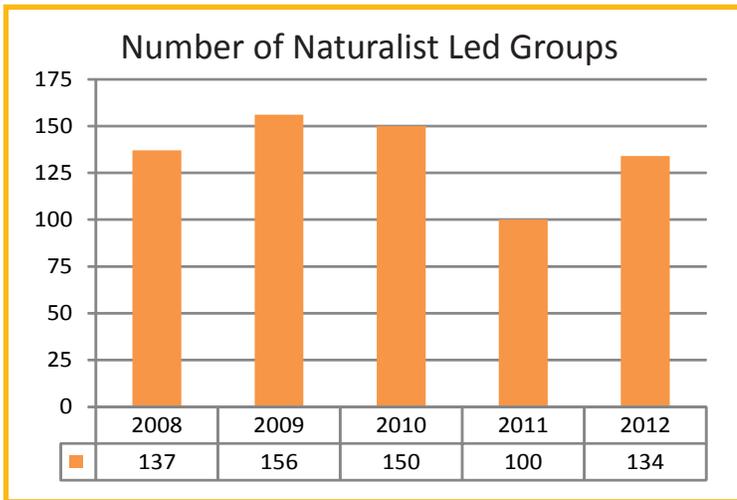
Total Park Visitors by Location



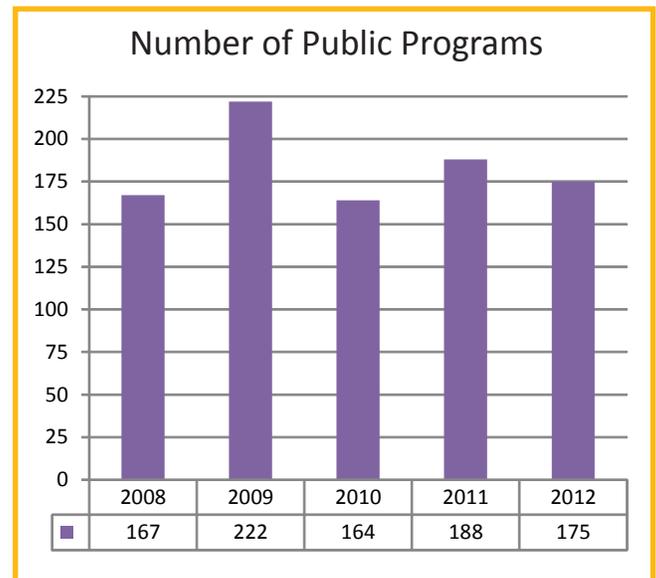
*Infrared counter used in 2012 more accurately counted the number of trail visitors.

2011, 2010, and 2009 figures reflect car counters' 2008 numbers. Counters will be placed in the parks every third year to monitor park usage.

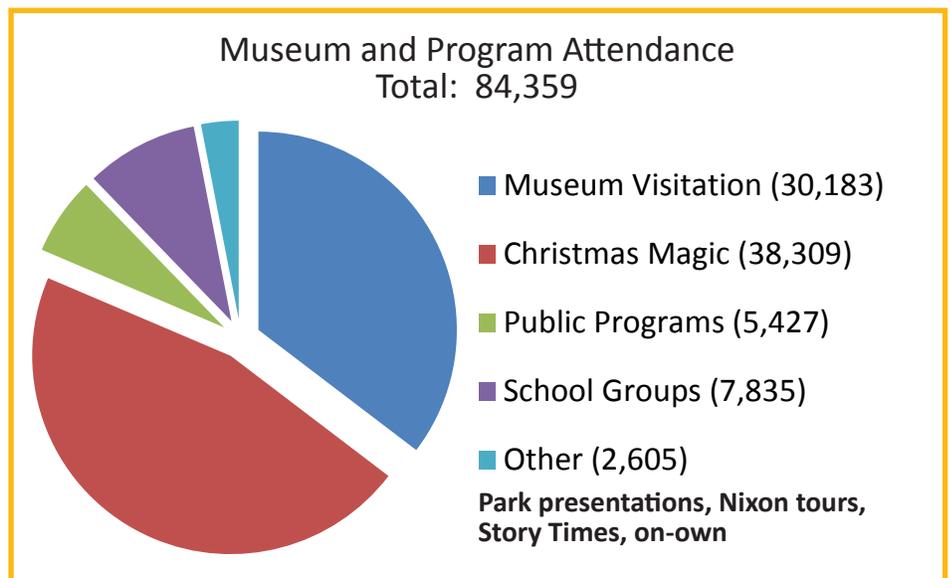
Public Programs



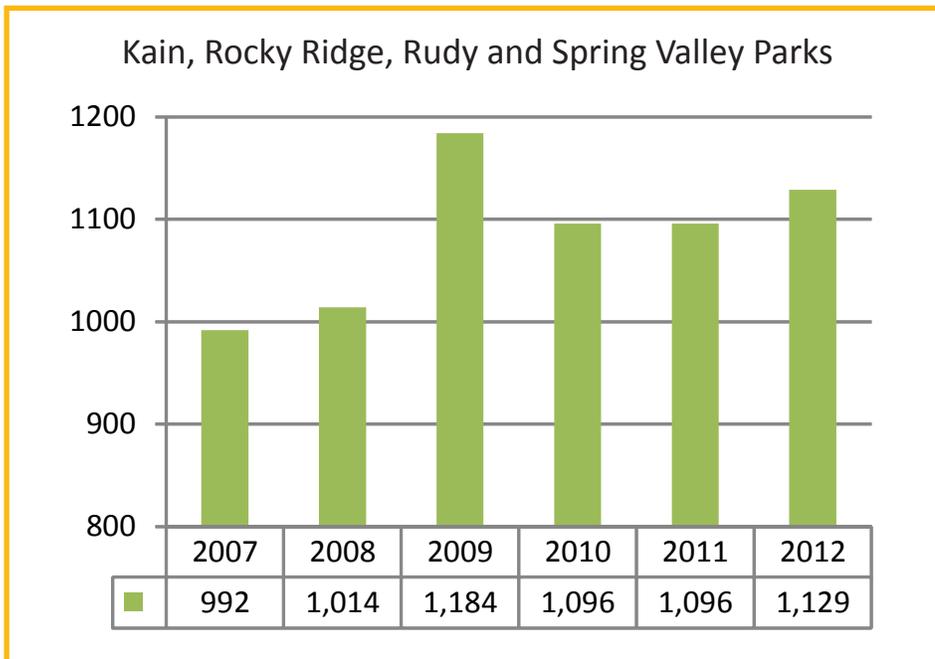
The annual moonlight dog walk gives everyone a chance to socialize and meet new friends.



A young mind at the Maple Syrup Festival takes in the experience the best way possible.



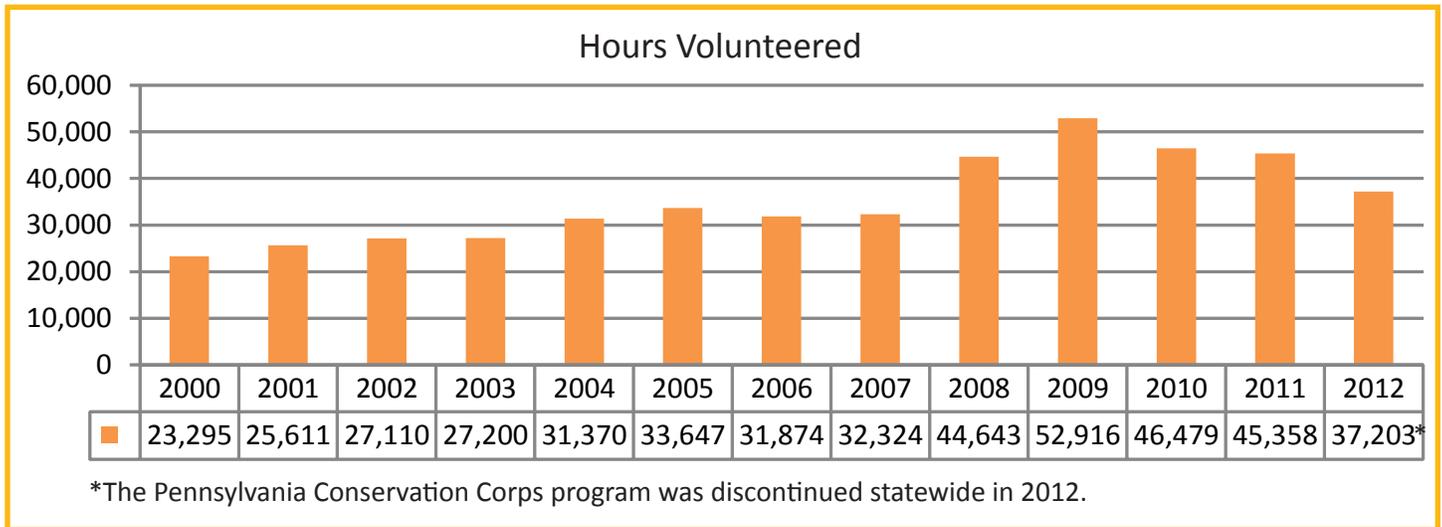
Pavilion Rentals



Park pavilions provide a quick stop along a trail to rest weary legs and have a snack (above), and are places for day-long large gatherings (below).



Volunteers



The community offers a helping hand in many ways to the Parks department through many projects, maintenance tasks, day to day operations, programs and so much more. These "Day of Action" volunteers are making trails look great (above left) and this Eagle scout is building a shelter for Rail Trail users (above right).



Park Achievement Award

Presented to recognize an individual, group or organization for extraordinary service and dedication to the York County Department of Parks and Recreation.

- 2002 Founding Board Members
- 2003 Jack "Reed" Dunn, Jr
- 2004 York-Adams Area Council—Boy Scouts of America
- 2005 Luther B. Sowers
- 2006 The York Water Company
- 2007 York Area Mountain Biking Association
- 2008 York County Rail Trail Authority
- 2009 The Conservation Fund
- 2010 Kinsley School of Technology
- 2011 Eleanor Boggs Shoemaker
- 2012 Glenn Eyster

**Thank you to all
who served in 2012!**

Friends Groups Accomplishments

Friends of Wallace-Cross Mill 2012 Accomplishments

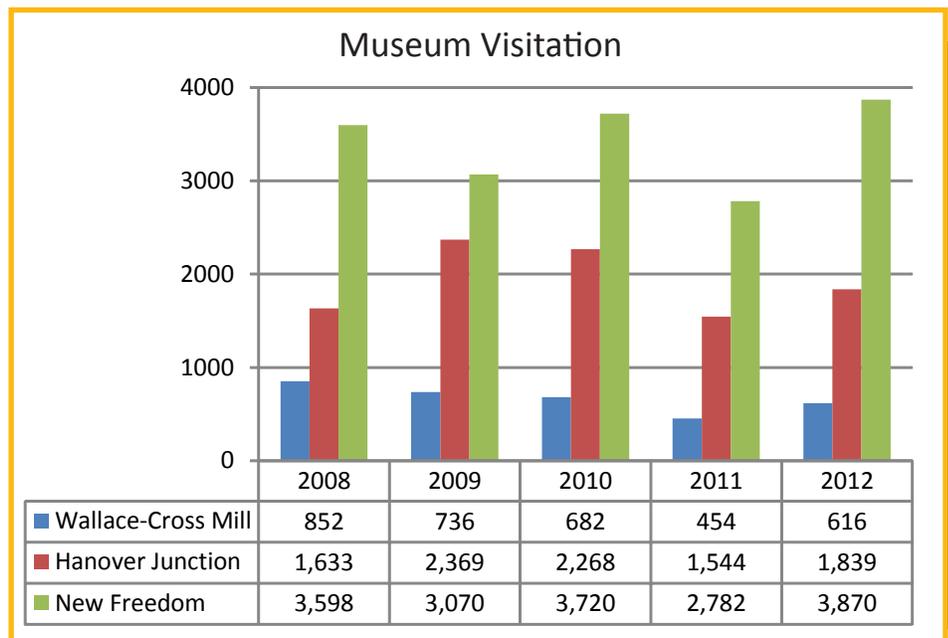
- Partnered with three local mills to celebrate SPOOM Mid-Atlantic Milling Day with an Oliver Evans interpreter
- Hosted open houses June through October with special events including Miller's Day, Corn Roast, Made in America, and Cider Day
- Started a mill maintenance inspection with a milling expert to develop a plan for the preservation of the equipment
- Red Lion Area Senior High School drafting students produced a scale drawing of all the floors
- Provided assistance at the Christmas Magic food stand



The public joins the Friends of the Heritage Rail Trail in celebrating Flag Day at Hanover Junction Train Station.

Friends of the Heritage Rail Trail 2012 Accomplishments

- Filled 153 time slots as greeters at both the Hanover Junction and New Freedom train stations May through October
- Conducted special tours for civic organizations, special interest groups and schools
- Started to plan a Civil War re-enactment and Lincoln re-enactment in 2013
- Held a Flag Day program at Hanover Junction
- Conducted public programs including Porch Talks in June and July, New Freedom Street Fair in September and Hanging of the Greens in December
- Provided assistance at the Christmas Magic food stand

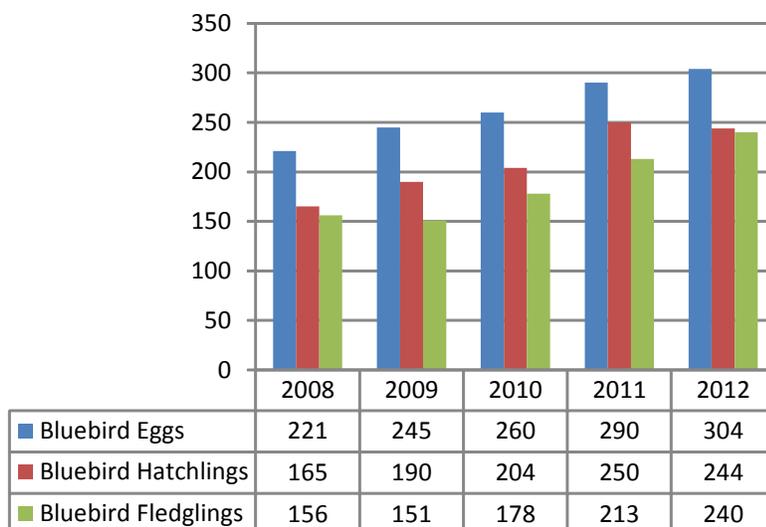


Natural Resource Unit

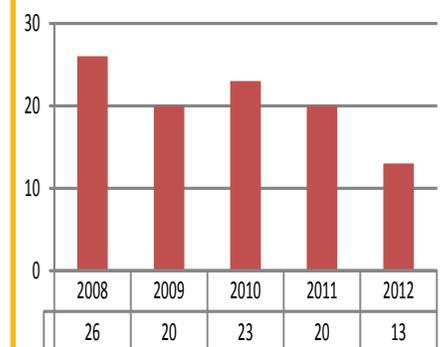


Natural Resource management often involves looking at and planning on a long time scale. Many of the big trees and shade we enjoy in the parks today started as seedlings and needed care to make it to maturity.

Bluebird Eggs, Hatchlings and Fledglings



Bat Count



Maintenance Unit

The York County Parks Maintenance Unit consists of ten group leaders, two assistant superintendents and one superintendent. Their responsibility is to maintain over 4,300 acres of public parkland with a physical inventory consisting of:

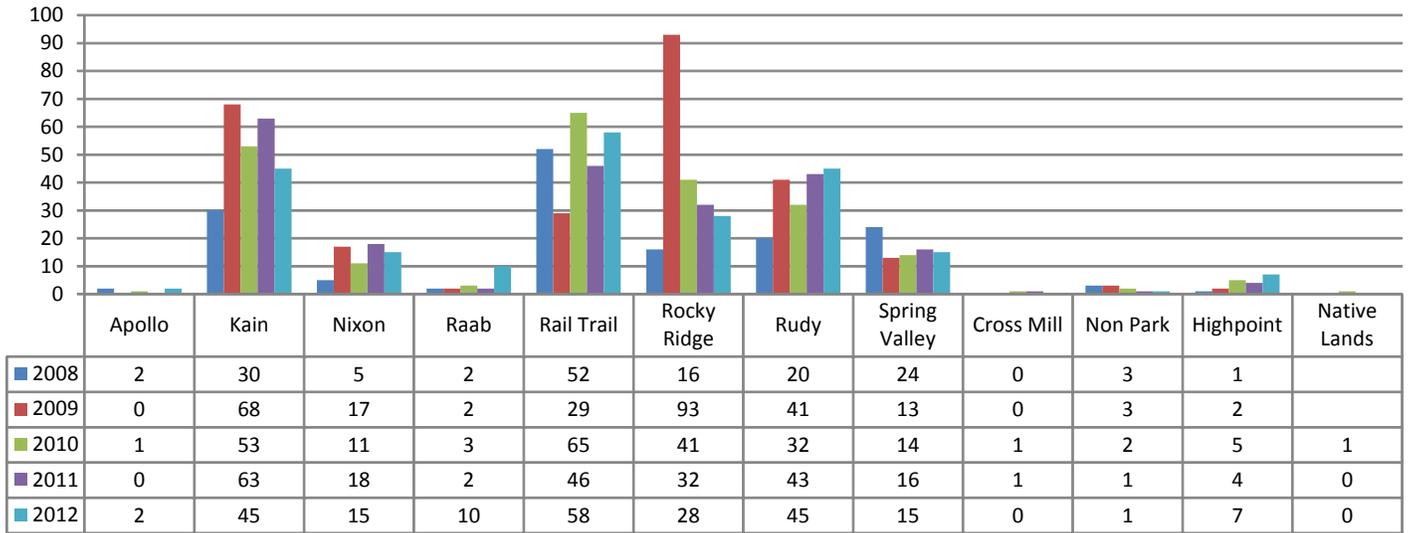
- 57 Picnic Pavilions/Structures
- 30 Restrooms
- 10 Historic Sites
- 140+ Acres of Field/Grass
- 400+ Picnic Tables
- 34 Parking Lots
- 1,600+ Parking Spaces
- 22 Sports Fields/Playgrounds

Both of these photos show recovery operation from the 2011 floods. The boardwalk deck at Kain Park had to be lifted back onto its piers, and major sections of the Heritage Rail Trail were resurfaced due to water and runoff damage.

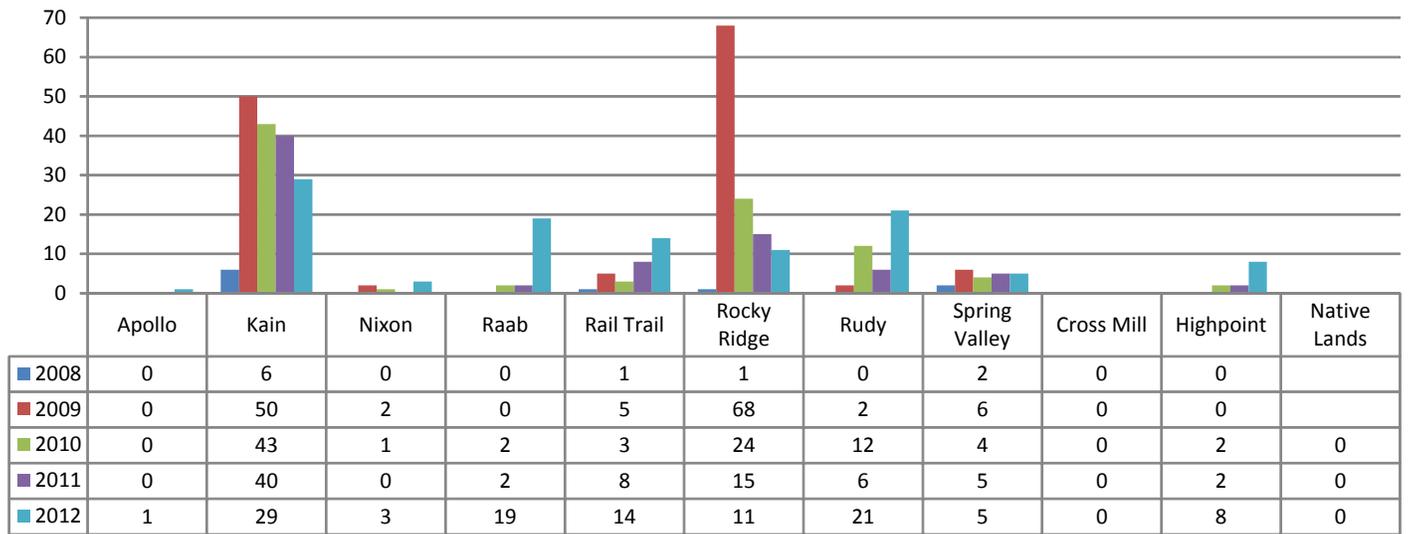


Ranger Report

Incidents by Park including visitor injuries



Number of Citations by Park



Rangers provided traffic control, pedestrian safety, and parking at Christmas Magic—A Festival of Lights at Rocky Ridge Park, where 38,309 people attended in 2012. In addition, 1,315 pounds of food was donated to the York County Food Bank from the Christmas Magic Food Drive.

Rangers investigated and closed out 27 general complaints, submitted 111 work orders to the Maintenance Department, and collected 544 pavilion surveys from Rudy, Rocky Ridge and Kain rented pavilions.

Ranger's Vision Statement:

The York County ranger division is dedicated to the principle of providing education and enforcement to ensure protection for the parks and provide the visitors a meaningful and enjoyable, safe and secure park and recreation experience.

Annual Mileage Driven

Ranger Unit

2008:	93,319
2009:	74,949
2010:	72,828
2011:	87,326
2012:	85,808

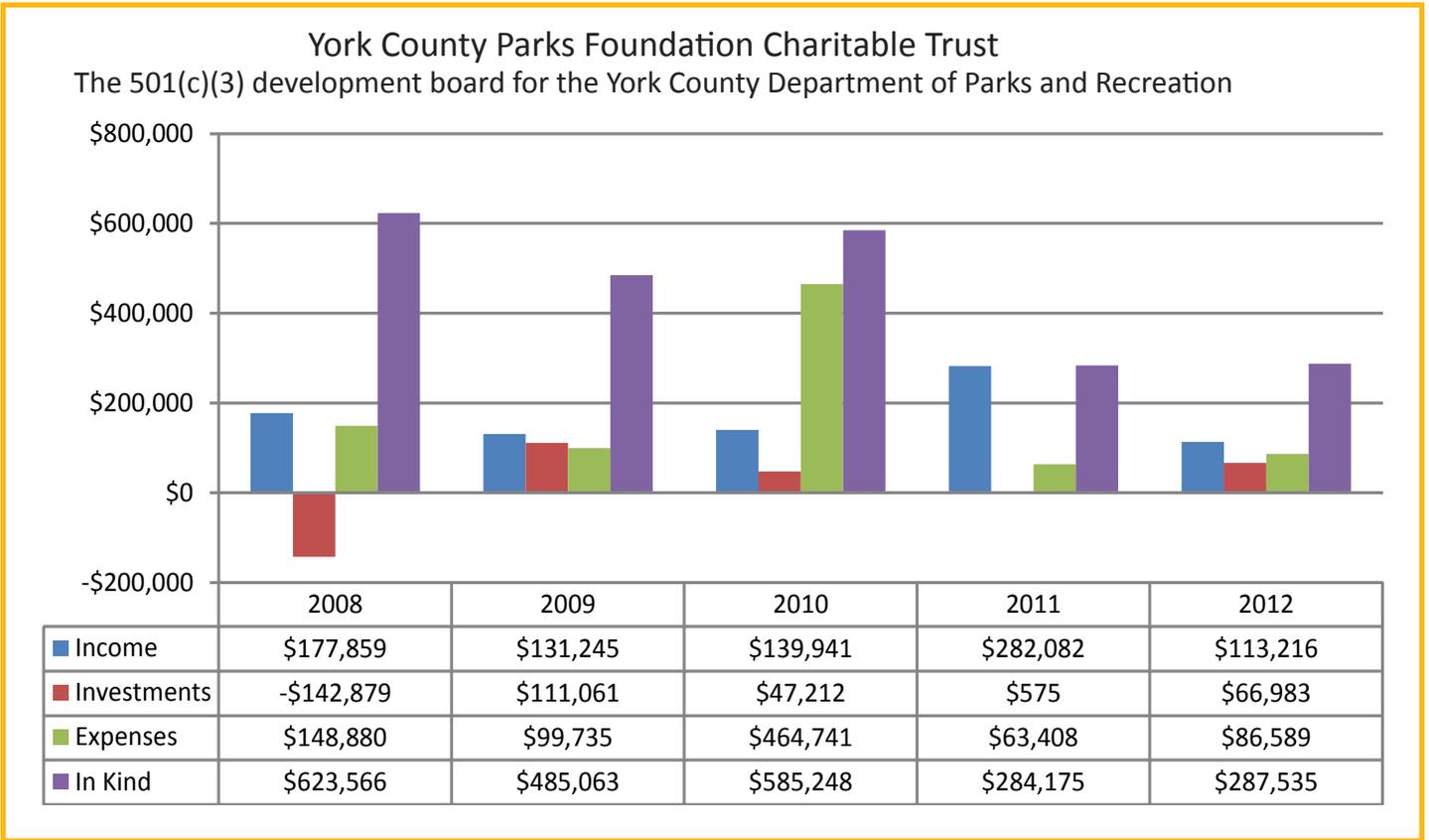


Sheri Karan

On any given summer's day there is so much to do. Above, mountain bikers take the day in with a picturesque ride across the hills and fields of Spring Valley Park. Right, one young woman takes a cooler approach to being out, and enjoys a rental kayak at Lake Redman Activity Area in Kain Park.



York County Parks Foundation Charitable Trust



The Charitable Trust Board manages donations to the York County Parks. Park improvements, support of special events and the expansion of public park lands are the primary objectives of the Trust Fund and its board.

Gathering Leaves	\$19,806
Legacy Fund	\$244,091
Kain Memorial	\$5,216
Ralph Brooks Endowment.....	\$72,139
Rail Trail Friends	\$24,165
Cross Mill Friends	\$76,804
Canine Meadows Friends	\$7,021
YCAG	\$15,022
General Parks	\$191,113
Grants and Estates.....	\$19,789
TOTAL.....	\$675,166



The York County Park's Foundation Charitable Trust was able to purchase and then donate an additional 16.5 acres to Nixon Park.

Gathering Leaves Society

The York County Parks Foundation Charitable Trust announced the creation of the "Gathering Leaves Society" in October 2002. The Society honors those who have provided for the stewardship of the York County Parks over the long term either through a planned gift or cash donation to the endowment fund. Grateful acknowledgement to the following Gathering Leaves Society Members:



John F. Barbor
 Mary Boyd
 Tom & RuthAnn Brant
 Eileen & Duane Close
 Donald C. Dallmeyer
 Dave & Linda Davidson
 James F. Donahue
 Ronald L. & Sharon A. Dorn
 Roberta A. Downs
 Shawn & Skip Durgin
 John L. Finlayson
 Ronald Foulis
 Michael P. Gavin
 Robert Glass
 Arthur J. Glatfelter
 Voni B. Grimes
 Judith Grove
 L. C. Heim
 Don & Donallene Heisler
 Nancy F. Keiser
 Paul H. Keiser
 L. Jeani Kiser
 Sue Ann Kline
 Truman & Darlene Kling
 Maxine & William Klunk
 Tammy F. Klunk
 Raymond E. Knowles, Jr.
 Ann & George "Skip" Lehmann
 Betsy Lehner
 Larry S. Lehner
 Donna Meanner
 Sandy & Bud Menchey
 Nancy S. Morris
 William T. Morris
 Mr. & Mrs. Irvin S. Naylor
 R. Scott Neely
 Paul E. Newcomer
 Tom & Joan Norris
 Don & Dee Patton
 Chris and Lisa Reilly
 Fred D. & Mary E. Reiss

Steve & Elizabeth Ricklefs
 John M. & Rebecca Rinehart
 Dale L. Schaeberle
 Timothy Senft
 Eleanor Boggs Shoemaker
 Jim & Nancy Rae Sieling
 Ruth & Luther Sowers
 John & Lisa Strine
 Paul & Kathryn Summers
 John & Joan Ulrich
 Anne & Jack Wagner
In remembrance of members:
 J. Kerr Anderson
 Cooper Boyd
 Burnell Diehl
 Shirley Glass
 Carroll & Irene Hunt
 Geneva Bowman Kaltreider
 Sydney Levitan
 Roger E. Shaffer
 Ruth M. Sponsler
 Eleanor M. Thatcher

If you have provided for the York County Parks through your estate or a planned gift, and are not listed, or if you want information on how to become a member, please contact us.

York County Parks
 Foundation Charitable Trust
 400 Mundis Race Road
 York, PA 17406
 717.840.7227

Park Membership



Investing in our County Park System

Many of our offerings would not be possible if not for the kindnesses of others.

Thank you to those individuals and organizations who have contributed to York County Parks.

4th Grade Team/Indian Rock 12th

Ward Independent

Michael & Tammy Armagost

Automotive of York

Susan Bachant

Jack & Sandra Barnhart

James & Paula Bennett

Bob Potts Marathon, Inc.

Edward Bosley, Jr.

Victoria Bowman – In Memory of

Rosalie Stine

Margaret Boyd

Brown's Orchard

Buchmeyer Pools

Vincent & Kathy Butera

Capital Screw & Nut Co.

Carl Beasley Ford

Duane & Eileen Close

Cumulus Radio

D.E. Gemmill

Donald Courtney

David Dandersterk

Ann Davis

John & Cheryl Dawson

Denise Dietz

Joseph & Teresa Dietz

Ann Dixon

Charles Douglas

East York Chiropractic Ctr./

Melodie Mitchell

Fastenal

Festive Foods of Valley Forge

James & Wendy Flinchbaugh

Framer's Workshop

John Gamby

Garage Guys

Geiger Bros/Jim Vesneski

Eber Gordon & Joyce Allison

John & Laurie Gregonis

Voni B. Grimes

William Halke

Dale Halleran

Hayshire PTO

Melanie Heller

Hildebrandt Learning Centers, LLC

Holidaygas

Hong Kong Cleaners

Brenda Keener

Michael & Sherri Kempf

Kevin Rice Memorial Fund of York

Co. Community Found.

Klean Kut Lawn Kare

Dennis Knowles

Karen Knuepfer

Kent S. Kokko

Melody Kraus

James Kulp

Larry J. Macaluso PTO

Betsy Lehner

Sally Lindt & Bonnie

Loganville-Springfield Elementary

School

Lowe's

Make A Wish Foundtion

Mamma's Pizza – Loganville

Caleb Maughlin

Mignano Bros. Ristorante Italiano

Mark Miller

William & Nancy Morris

My Lady's Manor Driving Club

New Freedom VFW Post 7012

North Hopewell Winterstown PTO

Our Lady of Grace School

Shirley Ort

Paesano's – Jacobus

Paesano's – New Freedom

Robert & Barbara Patterson

Don Patton

Perrydell Farm Dairy

Quaker City Paper

Pleasant View PTO

Fred & Mary Reiss

Edward Rogers, Jr.

James & Barb Ruth

Gregory & Jeanette Schmidt

Family

Frank Shaffer

J. Thomas Shelley

Shrewsbury Elementary

Linda & Richard Silverman

Steven Smeltzer

Wayne Spyker

St. Joseph Church

Standard Concrete

Strathmeyer Forests

Michael Strong

Task Force 50

Sarah & Lou Tateosian

Donald & Elaine Taylor

Trail Nurseries, LLC

Tri-Boro Construction

True Value of Southern York

County

Ullers Ski & Board Shop

Peter & Linda VanGiesen

WGAL TV 8

Anne Walko

Richman & Erika Weaver

Eric & Jennifer Webb

Elaine Weems

West Liberty Child Development

Center

West Manheim Elementary

Daryl Wilhelm

Windows by Anderson

Windsor Manor PTO

Yohe Paving

York County Lumber

York County True Value

Walter Zimmerman

York County Parks Mileposts

1968—Commissioners (President Commissioner P. Joseph Raab) established York County Board of Parks & Recreation

1968—Rocky Ridge Park purchased

1968—Nixon Park established through a land donation from Bob Hoffman in honor of newly elected U.S. president

1969—Apollo Park established through a land donation from P.H. Glatfelter in honor of the Apollo moon landing

1972—Spring Valley Park acquired partially through eminent domain

1973—John Rudy Park established through a land donation in memory of John and Mary Rudy

1976—William H. Kain Park established through an agreement with The York Water Company (landowner)

1978—Nixon Park Nature Center opens

1979—Wallace-Cross Mill established through land and mill donation by Harry Cross

1984—First Christmas Magic program

1986—York County Parks Foundation Charitable Trust established

1988—U.S. President Nixon visited Nixon Park

1990—Heritage Rail Trail Park purchased from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for \$1.00

1992—Treasury of Wildlife Wing dedicated (Nixon Park Nature Center)

1993—P. Joseph Raab Park established through a land donation from Waste Management, Inc.

1996—First Park-wide Strategic Plan (2nd plan completed 2001, 3rd plan in 2008)

1998—Park-wide membership/newsletter Fox Tracks created

1998—Park Endowment Heritage Fund formed with the York County Community Foundation

1998—John Rudy Park Master Site Plan completed

1999—Friends of Wallace-Cross Mill established

1999—Heritage Rail Trail Park trail construction completed (into York City)

2000—Trail system designated as a Millennium Trail by the White House Millennium Council

2000—Emeritus Board established

2001—Friends of Heritage Rail Trail Corridor established

2001—Hanover Junction Train Station Restoration completed and dedicated

2002—Gathering Leaves Society established

2003—Rocky Ridge Park Master Site Plan completed

2003—Park Watch Ambassador program established

2003—New Freedom Train Station Restoration completed and dedicated

2003—Howard Tunnel restored and dedicated

2004—Maintenance Complex built at Rudy Park

2004—Inaugural Hot Air Balloon Festival

2006—Park visitation reaches 1,000,000 annual visitors

2007—Northern Extension Rail Trail—Phase I completed

2007—Apollo Park expands by 191 acres from land donation through Conservation Fund of PA

2008—Commissioners designate Highpoint as tenth park

2008—Heritage Rail Trail designated as National Recreational Trail and Rail Trail network member

2009—Native Lands established as eleventh county park

2012—York County Parks Foundation Charitable Trust donates 16.5 acres to the County of York as an addition to Nixon Park