

York County Department of Parks and Recreation 2013 Annual Report



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

45 Years!

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.

Over the course of this past year, York County Parks continued to grow in popularity with a record number of pavilion rentals, record number of visitors to the Heritage Rail Trail County Park train stations and record revenue at the Lake Redman boat rental concession. The Parks also played a small role on the national stage with an event commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg and the raiding of the Hanover Junction Trail Station, Heritage Rail Trail County Park.

The Parks Department was established in 1968. Begun as an idea for the future of the community, it is safe to say with over 1.3 million visitors in 2013, the future is now. Providing special places to enjoy outdoor pursuits, places to relax and recharge from hectic daily schedules and places to create memories and plan family events is important to a healthy community and our mission.

This annual report is offered to you as a recap of the 2013 park efforts.



Our Leadership

York County Board of Commissioners

Steve Chronister, President

Doug Hoke, Vice President

Christopher B. Reilly, Commissioner

Charles R. Noll, Administrator/Chief Clerk

York County Parks

Advisory Board

Amanda Dubbs, Chair

Stephen Lentz, Vice-Chair

Carolyn J. Pugh, Secretary

J. T. Hand • Jason McSherry

Theresa Major • Laura L. Smith

Anne Walko • Robert Weikert

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 Emeritus Board

An honorary board of past Advisory or Trust Board members

George "Skip" Lehmann, Honorary Chair

John F. Barbor

Duane R. Close

Thomas F. Clough

Sandy Cooley

J. Richard Cooper

Reed "Jack" Dunn, Jr.

Skip Durgin

Voni Grimes

Donald G. Heisler

J. Robert Katherman

Carroll C. Luckenbaugh

Donald Patton

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. Sentf

This volunteer board is dedicated to raising and managing funds to expand our park lands and facilities.

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

Stephanie L. Wilt

Administrative Secretary

Maintenance Staff

**Jerry Broome • Roger Brunner
Joseph Carbaugh • Joshua Dewees
Kerry Flinchbaugh • Terry Grothe
Randall Grove • Tom Hansberry
Randy Leiphart • Douglas Murphy
Eric Roehm • Douglas Stough**

Rangers

Scott Neely • David Breedlove



York County Department of Parks and Recreation

Administrative Headquarters

400 Mundis Race Road

York, PA 17406-9721

Phone: (717) 840-7440

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www.YorkCountyParks.org

parks@YorkCountyPA.gov

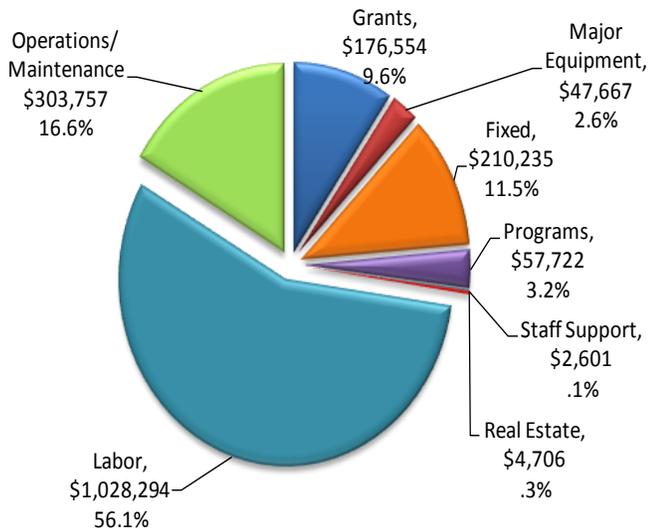
Twitter: @YorkCountyParks

Significant Accomplishments

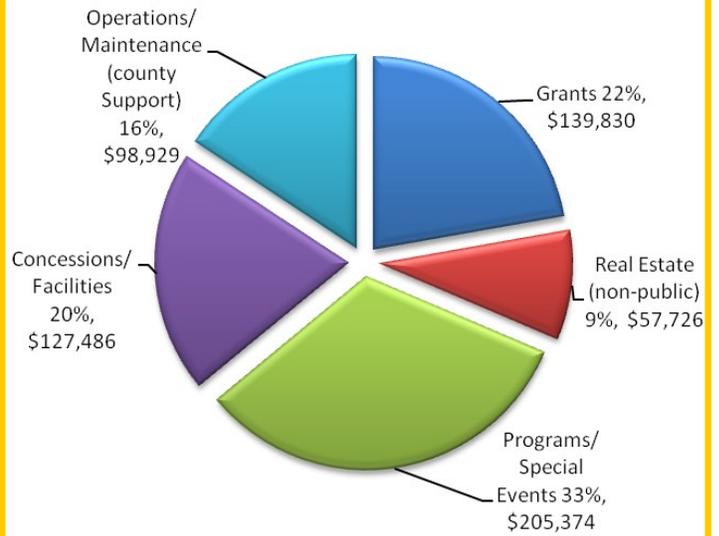
- Instituted an online reservation system which enables customers to reserve a park facility at their convenience (24/7)
- Worked with North Hopewell, Springfield and Shrewsbury Township to enhance Spring Valley County Park by closing five public roads that traveled through the park
- Awarded a PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant to complete a master site plan for Nixon County Park
- Entered into a partnership with PENNDOT. PENNDOT selected Nixon Park as a wetlands mitigation site. They will be designing, permitting and constructing approximately 2.5 acres at the park.
- Participated in the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg by providing event programming at the Hanover Junction Train Station.
- Partnered with the York County Planning Commission to develop accurate maps for park bulletin boards and brochures
- Installed a new playground in the Songbird pavilion area at John Rudy County Park
- Developed a long term maintenance program for Wallace Cross Mill's historic structure and milling machinery
- Created a new maintenance road into Apollo County Park. Work was completed by PPL and Safe Harbor at no cost to Parks.
- Completed restoration/repair work on part of stream flowing through Nixon County Park

Financial Charts

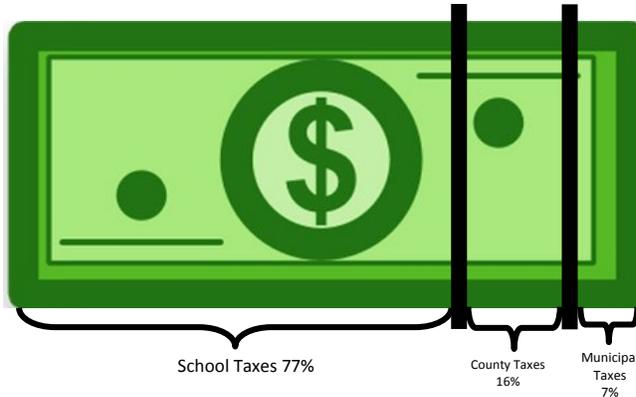
2013 Expenditure Budget: \$1,831,536



2013 Income: \$629,345



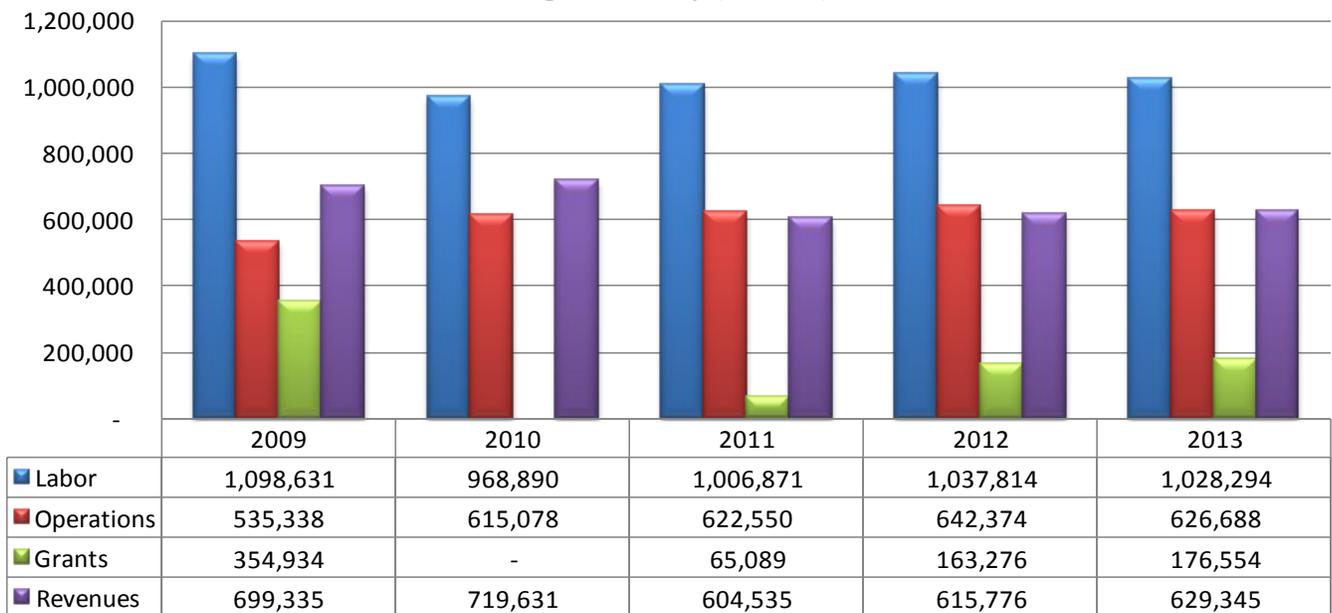
For every real estate tax dollar paid in York County.



The annual cost to York County residents to operate and maintain the county parks department in 2013 totals **\$3.57/resident**
 Expenditures:..... \$1,831,536
 + benefits..... \$359,903
 - revenue..... \$629,345
 Expenses less income..... \$1,562,094

York County Planning Commission's 2012 census estimate—437,846 residents

Budget History (Actual)





The Steam into History train excursions started in 2013 and use the railroad tracks adjacent to the Heritage Rail Trail. Last year the train traveled from New Freedom to Hanover Junction Train Station. In 2013, visitors purchased 10,000+ tickets to ride the train.



Dig Into Reading! summer reading program 2013 partnership with York County Libraries. Nixon County Park naturalist and interns visited all 13 libraries sharing natural history stories about animals that dig. Here a child holds a Madagascar Hissing Cockroach.

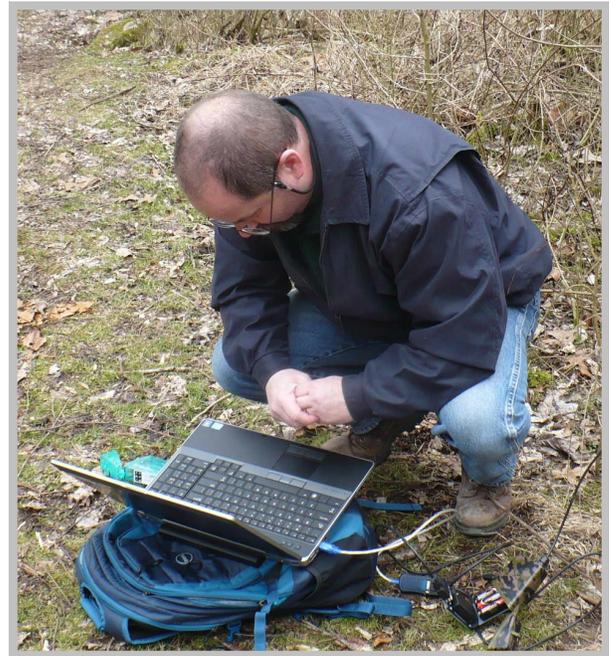
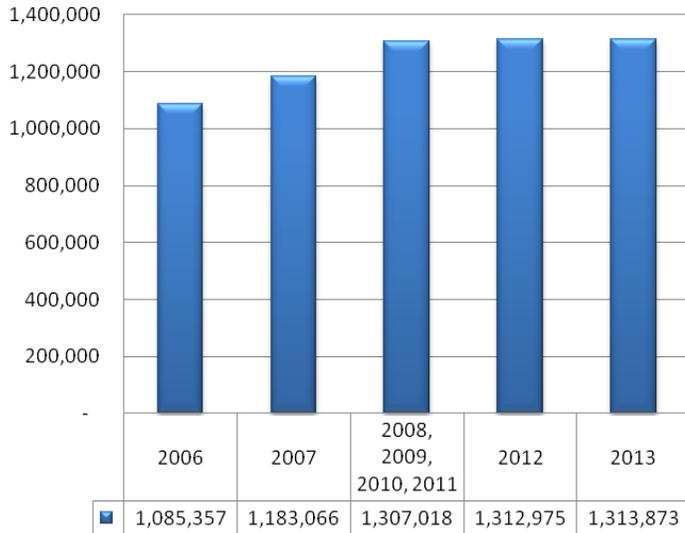


Contractors work on replacing track rails along the Heritage Rail trail to prepare for the use of the tracks by Steam into History.

Canoe Tour and Lake Clean-up August 2013. Denise, Emily and Jazz returning with smiles and a boat full of litter removed from the lake. Thank you volunteers!

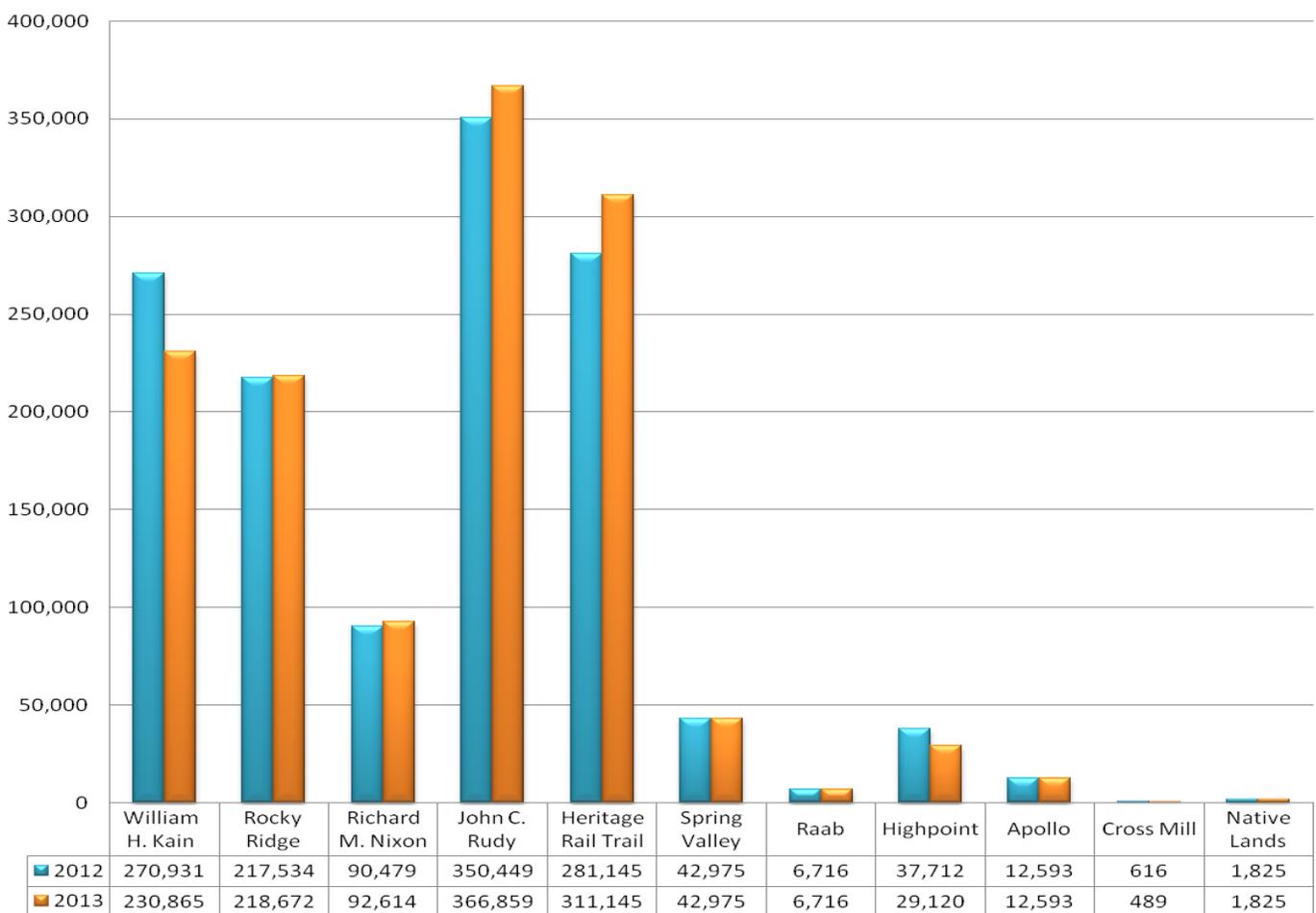
Park Visitation

Total Park Visitors



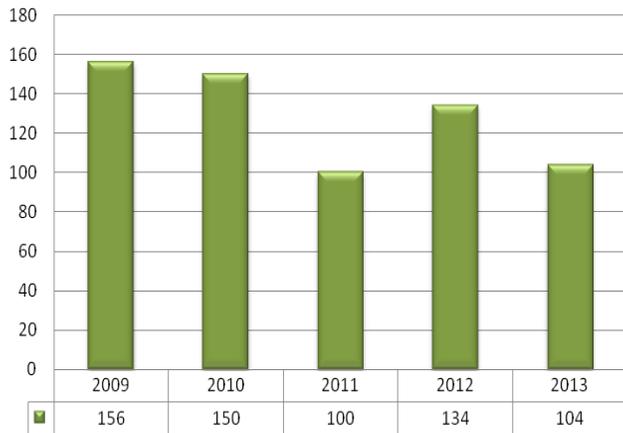
Manager of Nature Resources, Mike Fobes downloads information from our car counters to more accurately count visitors and user of our parks.

Total Park Visitors by Location

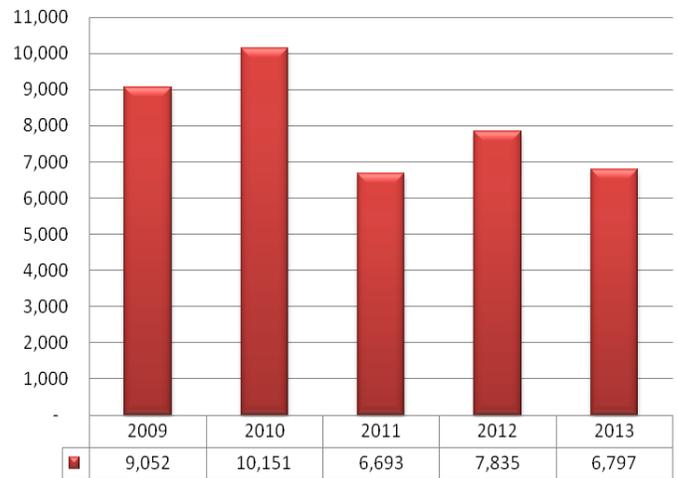


Public Programs

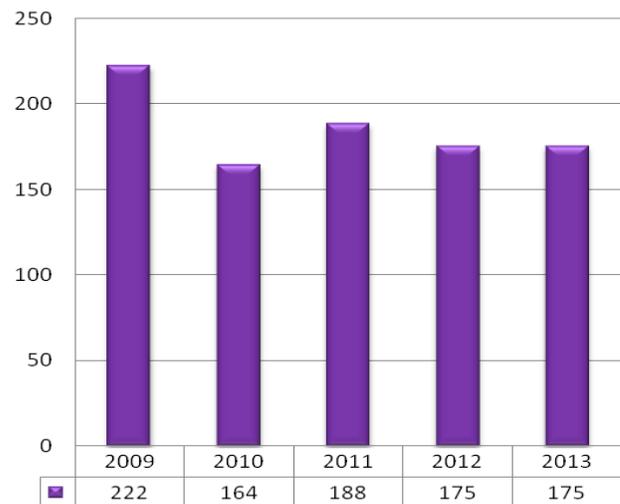
Number of Naturalist Led Groups



Attendance at Naturalist Led Groups



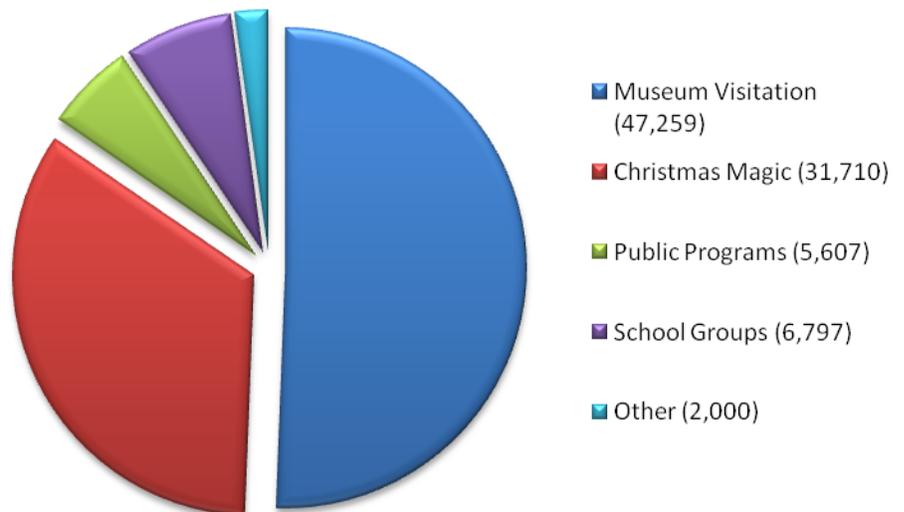
Number of Public Programs



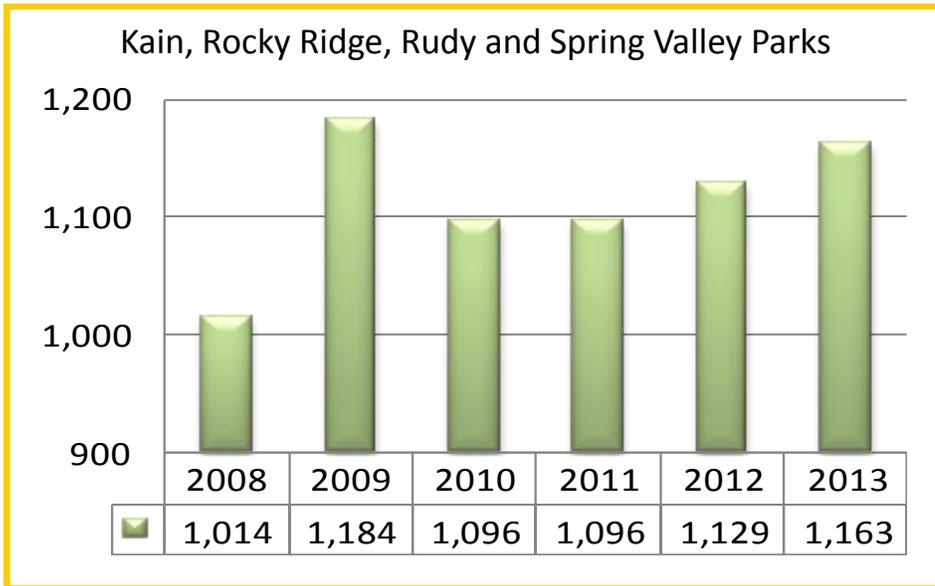
Volunteer Charlie Latterman helps young workers with their bluebird houses during our annual workshop. Below, Intern Andrew Wolfgang helps out with a special event



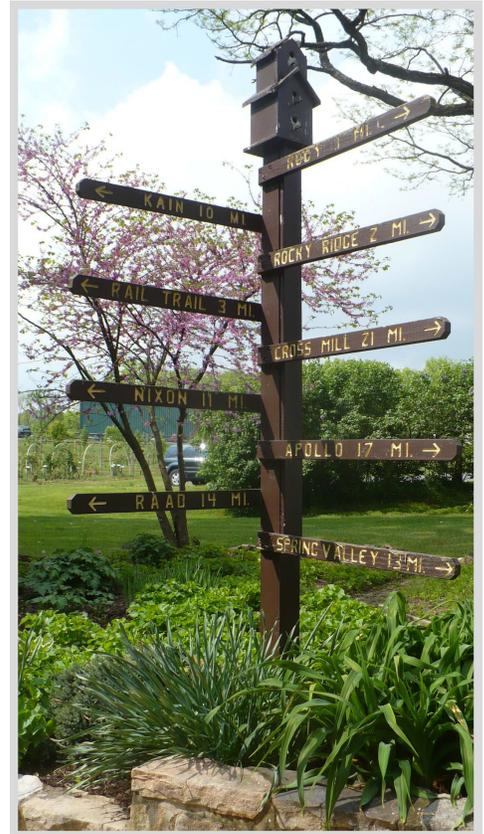
Museum and Program Attendance



Pavilion Rentals

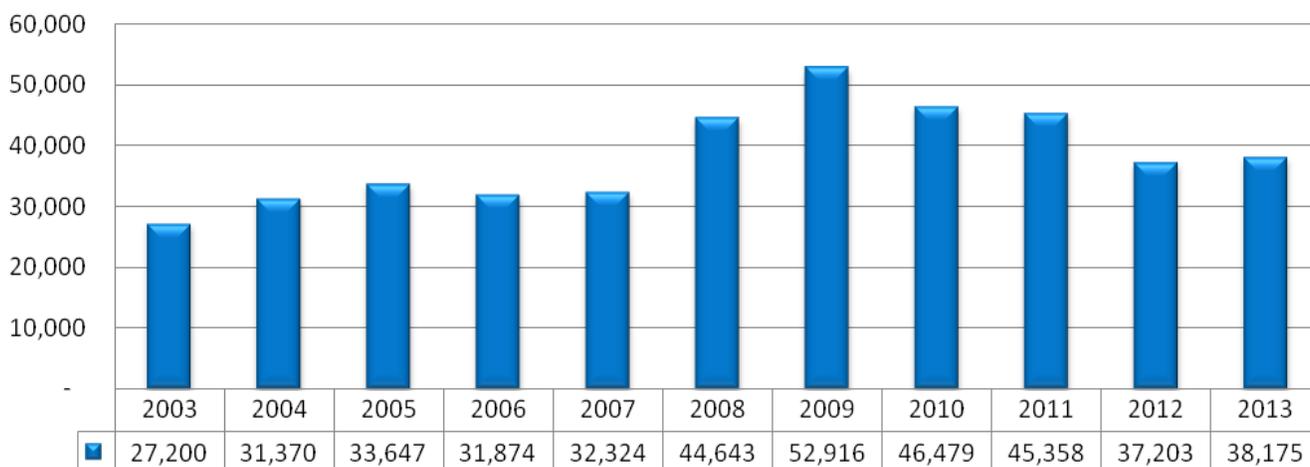


Four out of our nine parks have pavilions, like below, for day rental usage. They have seen everything from weddings, family reunions, birthdays parties, and church picnics. They can also be rented for general use as well.



Volunteers

Hours Volunteered



Project Feeder Watch is an opportunity for volunteers to assist with our feathered friends (above left).

Volunteer Amy Slagel helps with a group of school students with a tour of the trails of Nixon Nature Center. (above right).

**Thank you to all
who served in
2013!**

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
- 2013 WGAL Channel



Friends Groups Accomplishments

Friends of Wallace-Cross Mill 2013 Accomplishments

- Partnered with three local mills to celebrate SPOOM Mid-Atlantic Milling Day with an Oliver Evans interpreter.
- Hosted Sunday open houses June through August and special days through October with special events including Miller's Day, Ice Cream Social and Cider Day.
- Participated with York County Convention and Visitors Bureau's Made in America Days tour stops.
- Started a mill maintenance inspection with a milling expert Ben Hassett to develop a long term plan for the preservation of the equipment.
- Hosted private tours for civil groups and schools.
- Formed a committee to establish a database of old mill sites in York County.
- Provided assistance at the Christmas Magic food stand.
- Obtained several pieces of milling equipment to be displayed at the mill.

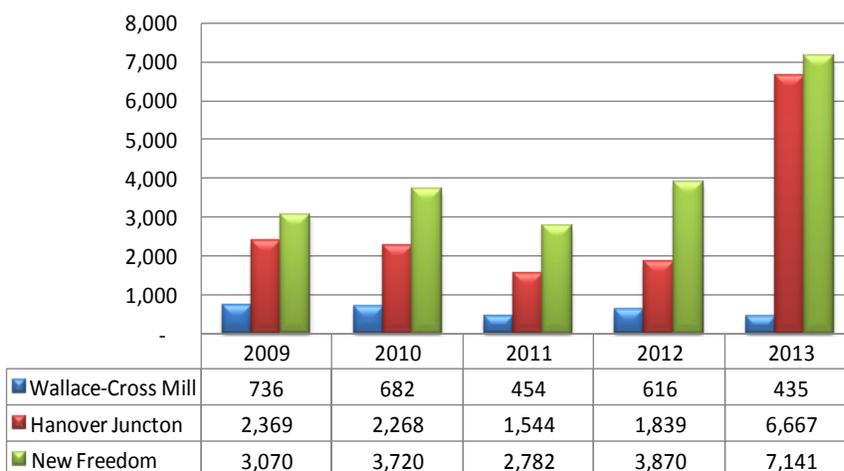
Friends of the Heritage Rail Trail 2013 Accomplishments

- Filled 150 time slots as greeters at both the Hanover Junction and New Freedom trains station May through October.
- Conducted special tours for civic organizations, special interest groups and schools.
- Commemorated the 150th Anniversary of Gettysburg, by organizing a re-enactment of the Hanover Junction Train Station Raid of 1863, with over 300 people attending. A DVD was produced of the event.
- Hosted Abraham Lincoln re-enactment in November in conjunction the anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, in partnership with Steam Into History with 125 people attending.
- Conducted public programs including Porch Talks in June and July, New Freedom Street Fair in September and Hanging of the Greens in December.
- Russell Bowman exhibit unveiled the 1870's clock that once hung in Hanover Junction and is once again keeping time in the station.
- Greeters assisted with Steam Into History visitation at both stations upon request.
- Provided assistance at the Christmas Magic food stand.

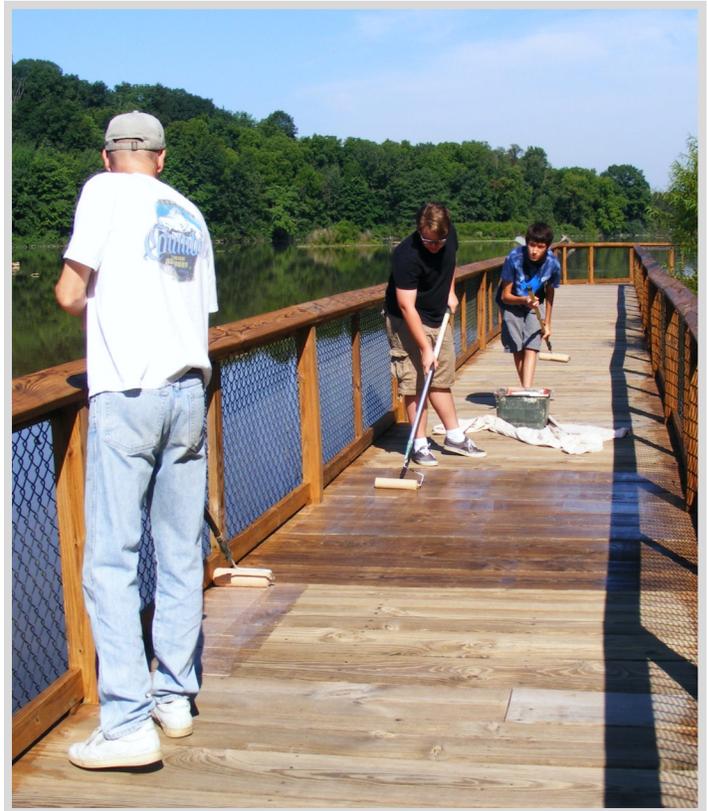


In November 2013, we hosted the re-enactment of Abraham Lincoln's visit to Hanover Junction. Above is the crowd listening intently to the retelling of the Gettysburg Address by Lincoln re-enactor, James Hayney.

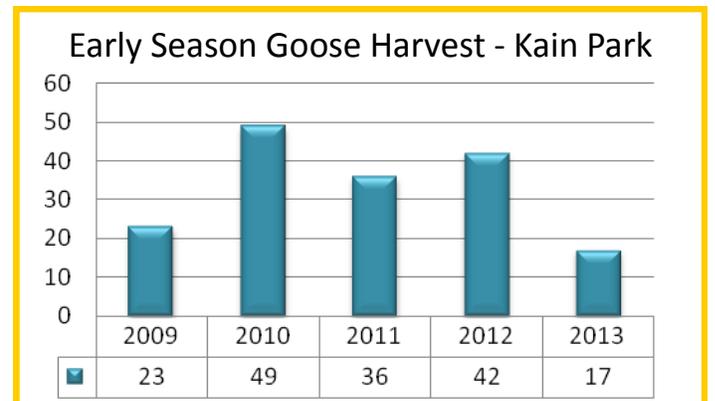
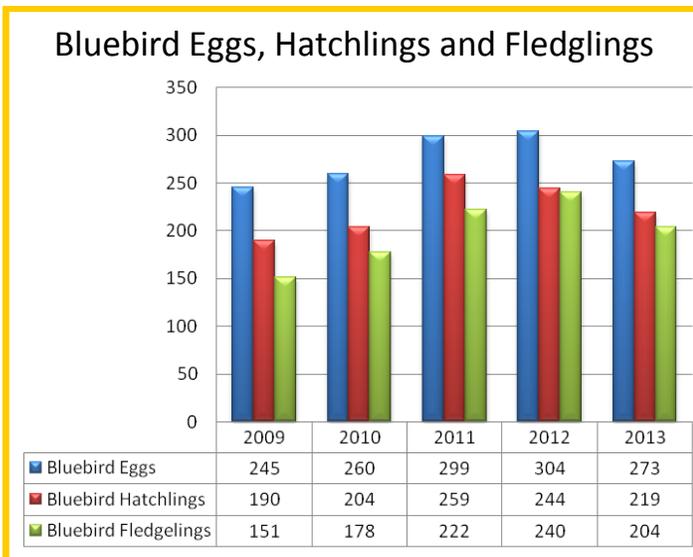
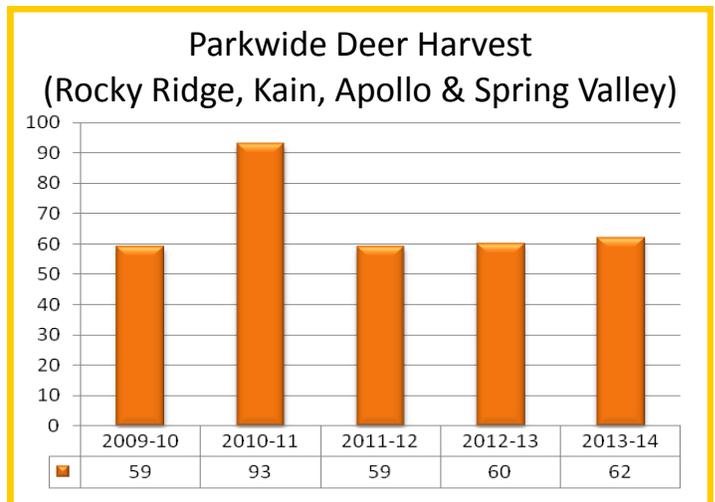
Museum Visitation



Natural Resource Management



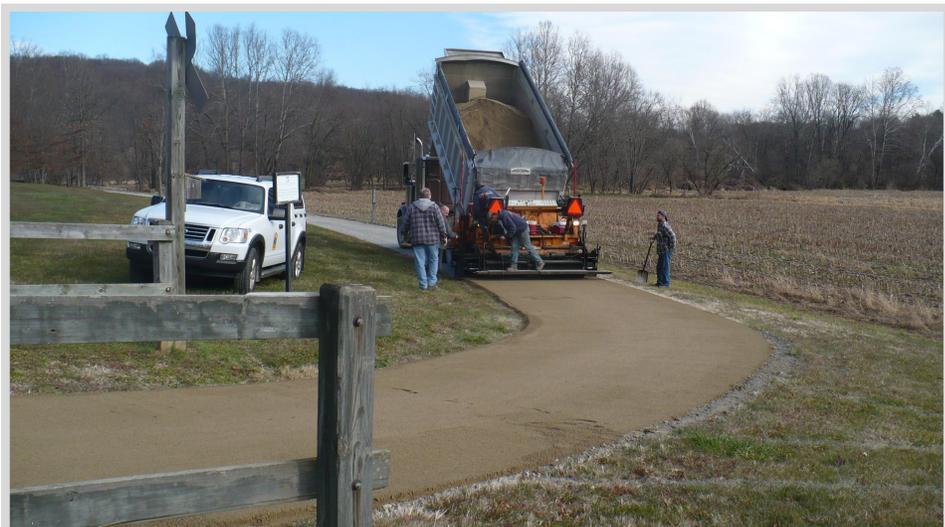
Throughout the year, several groups assist in the on-going support and up-keep of our Natural Resource Department. Above top, workers from Starbucks assist in the park clean up. Right, Eagle Scouts work on re-staining the observation walkway at Kain park. Above, seasonal workers install new trail signs.



Maintenance Department

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



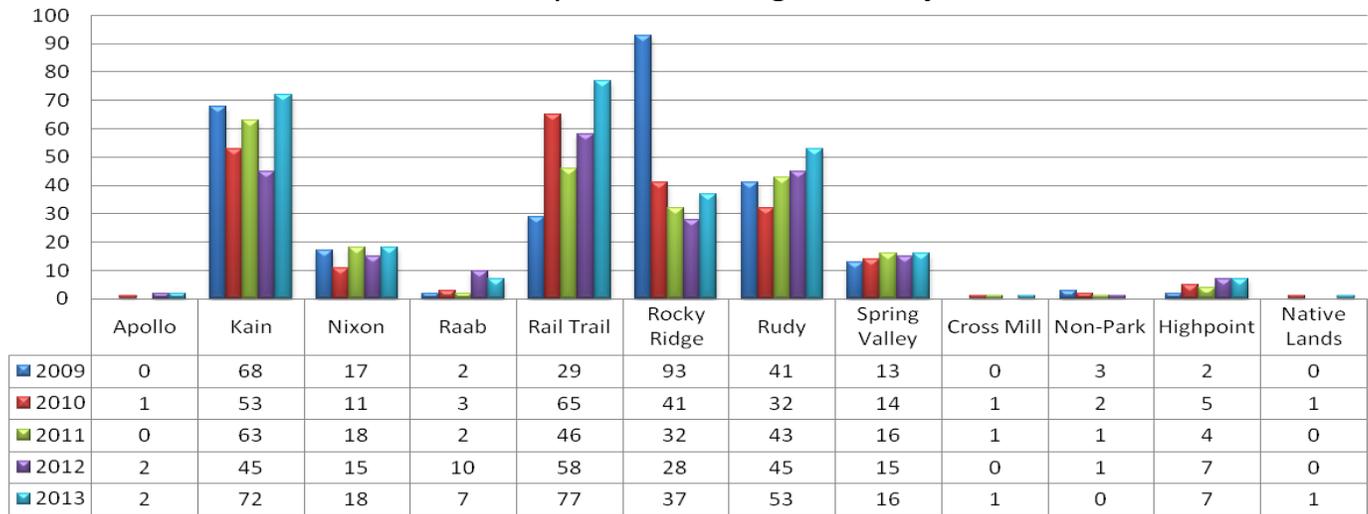
Above, Maintenance staff work on a new trail bed for the Heritage Rail Trail.

Below, new pavements and walkways were installed at William H. Kain Park in 2013.

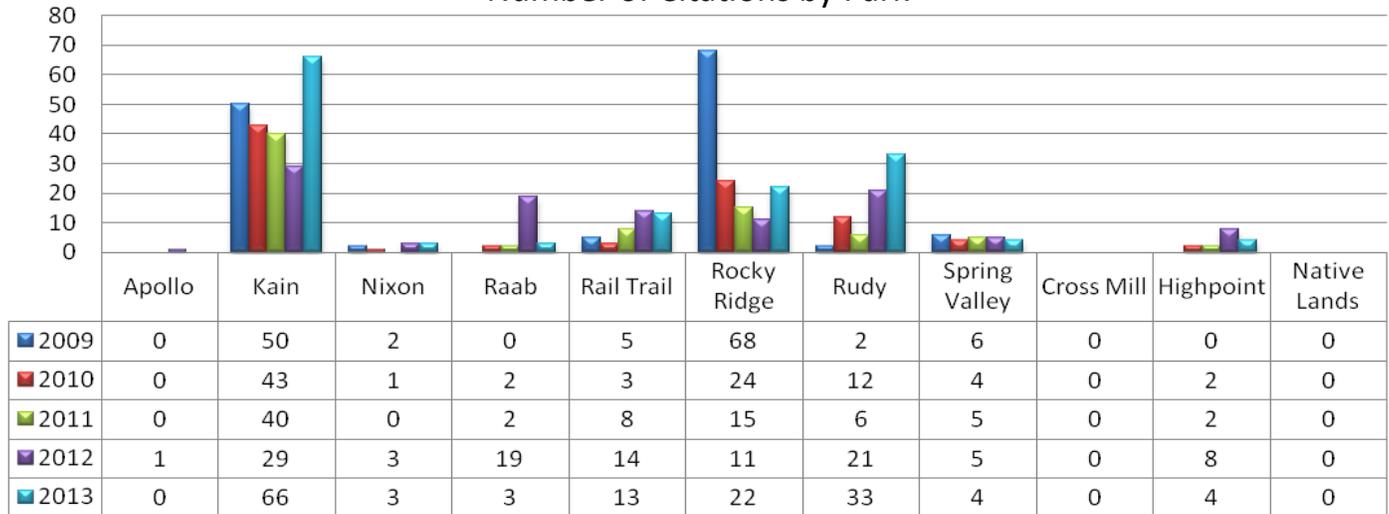


Ranger Report

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 2013. 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**

2009:	74,949
2010:	72,828
2011:	87,326
2012:	85,808
2013:	88,847



Nothing beats a beautiful autumn walk especially with a view like this from Howard Tunnel on the Heritage Rail Trail...

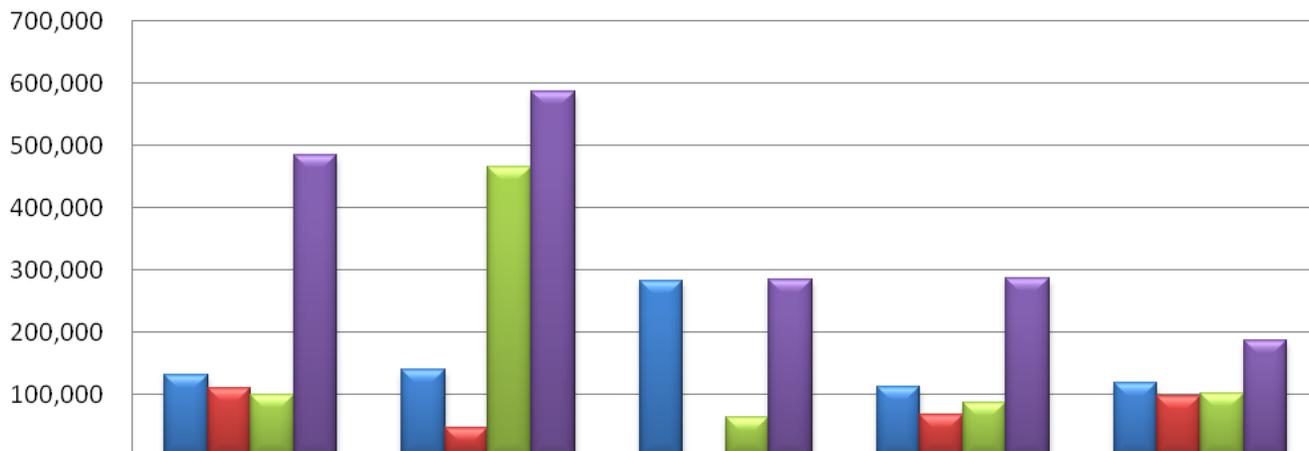


Or a wonderful day with friends at Ice Cream Day at Wallace-Cross Mill.

York County Parks Foundation Charitable Trust

York County Parks Foundation Charitable Trust

The 501(c)(3) development board for the York County Department of Parks and Recreation



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Income	131,245	139,941	282,082	113,216	119,398
Investments	111,061	47,212	575	66,983	98,565
Expenses	99,735	464,741	63,408	86,589	101,276
In Kind	485,063	585,248	284,175	287,535	185,835



Ken Finch of Green Hearts, Institute for Nature in Childhood, presents a nature play workshop at Nixon Nature Center. The program was sponsored by the 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	\$22,599
Legacy Fund	\$298,025
Kain Memorial	\$4,816
Ralph Brooks Endowment	\$83,848
Rail Trail Friends	\$24,384
Cross Mill Friends	\$90,154
Canine Meadows Friends .	\$7,814
YCAG	\$15,022
General Parks.....	\$222,593
Grants and Estates.....	\$21,976
TOTAL	\$791,231

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
 Ronald L. & Sharon A. Dorn
 Roberta A. Downs
 Shawn & Skip Durgin
 John L. Finlayson
 Ronald Foulis
 Michael P. Gavin
 Robert Glass
 Voni B. Grimes
 Judith Grove
 L. C. Heim
 Don Heisler
 Nancy F. Keiser
 Paul H. Keiser
 L. Jeani Kiser
 Sue Ann Kline
 Truman & Darlene Kling
 Maxine & William Klunk
 Tammy F. Klunk
 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
 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:

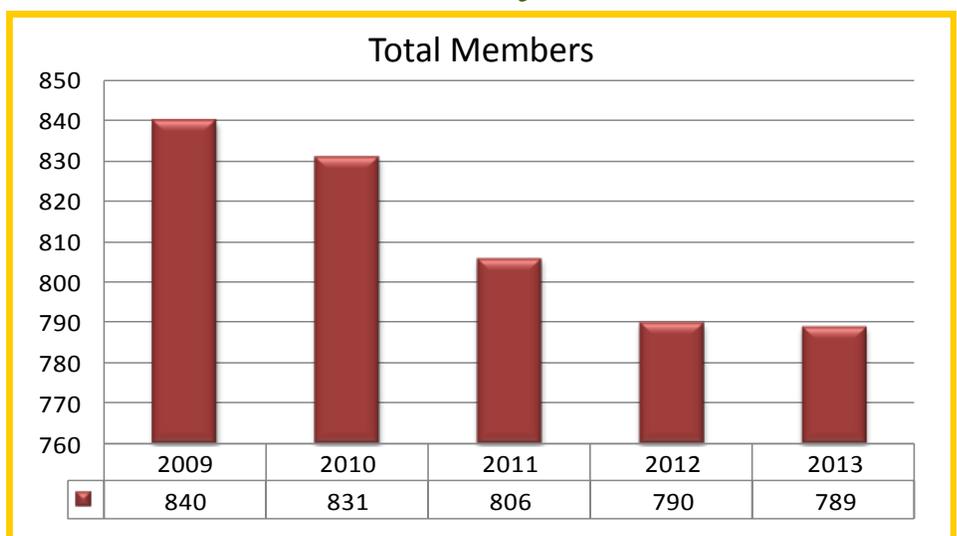
J. Kerr Anderson
 Cooper Boyd
 Burnell Diehl
 James F. Donahue
 Shirley Glass
 Arthur J. Glatfelter
 Carroll & Irene Hunt
 Geneva Bowman Kaltreider
 Raymond E. Knowles, Jr.
 Sydney Levitan
 Paul E. Newcomer
 Roger E. Shaffer
 Ruth M. Sponsler
 Eleanor M. Thatcher

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.*



Bob & Megan Anders	Vickie Hammaker	Dale & Betty Schaeberle
Associates of Sears Optical #561	Happy Times Pre-School	Barry Selby
Automotive of York	Kathy Harwood	Shallow Brook Intermediate School
Jonathan & Stacey Beshore	James Heffner & Caroline Noble	-PTO
Lorraine & Scott Beshore	Roger Hockenberry	Shank's Mare Outfitters
Nick Beshore & family	Holidaygas	Scott & Laurie Short
Betty Blanch	Hondru Fleet	Shrewsbury Elementary Activity Fund
Bob Potts Marathon	Hong Kong Cleaners	Smith Village
Lyle Bowen	Janney Montgomery Scott, LLC	Spring Forge Intermediate School
Beverly Boyd	Jeffrey D. Sindicich Foundation	Springetts Ambulance Club
William Brent – Starbucks York	Mary Kauffman	Stauffer's Biscuit Company
Bricker's French Fries LLC	Kevin Rice Memorial Fund of York Co.	Strathmeyer Forests
Joseph & Sandra Brillhart	-Community Foundation	Studio Cuts
Brooks-Huff Tire & Auto Center	Klean Kut Lawn Kare	Sylva Native Nursery & Seed Co.
Brown's Orchard	Tammy Klunk	Gail Szyman
Ralph & Polly Bucklen	Pamela Koller	TIFOSI
Mike Calhoon	Elizabeth Langrehr	Judith Taddonio
Camp Hill Post Office	Joy Lederman	Task Force 50
Deb Carbaugh	Leg-Up Farm	Timex
Carl Beasley Ford	Skip & Ann Lehmann	Trail Nurseries, LLC
Central PA Rock & Mineral Club	Betsy Lehner	True Value of Southern York County
Robert & Linda Chavez	Lowes	Jackie & Neil Tucker
Duane & Eileen Close	Angela Lyle	Turkey Hill Dairy
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	MASH Special Education	Utz Potato Chips
-Office of Administrative Services	Magnano Bros. Ristorante Italiano	Francis Velazquez
Comm.of PA Office of the Budget	Mazie Gable PTO	James Vesneski
William & Sandra Cooley	Mechanicsburg Area School District	WGAL TV 8
Cumulus Radio	Mid Atlantic Waterproofing	Anne & Dan Walko
D.E. Gemmill	Melodie Mitchell	Julie & Michael Wheeler
Richard & Judy Dietz	Scott Mengis	Windows by Anderson
Dish Network	William & Nancy Morris	YAMBA
Frank Dorsie	My Ladys Manor Driving Club	Yohe Paving
Amanda Snoke Dubbs	New Freedom Cafe	York Adventist Christian School
Jon Edmonds	Paesano's – Jacobus	York County Heritage Trust
Barbara Eisenhart	Paesano's – New Freedom	York County Lumber
Elmwood Tree Service	Frederick & Donna Paley	York Road Runners Club
Fastenal	Don Patton	York Township Elementary
Finch Services	Perrydell Farm Dairy	York Water Company
Suzanne Fisher	Plastic Fabricators, Inc.	Gretchen Young
Kristine Fleming	Quaker City Paper	James Zimmerman,
Framer's Workshop	Karen Quigley	-Zimmerman Jewelers
Friends of Fawn PTO	Republic Services	R.K. & Linda Zimmerman
John Gamby	SSS Printing	Walter Zimmerman, D.C.
Garage Guys	Keith & Connie Safford	
Dale Halleran	Saucony	

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
- 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
- 2013—Online reservation system instituted