



York County Department of Parks and Recreation

2016 Annual Report



Nixon County Park

Wetland Construction and Stream Restoration



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

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.

Significant Accomplishments

- Two acres of wetlands created and 1,200 feet of stream restored at Nixon Park
- Improvements including new trail surface, lighting, and amenities completed on Heritage Rail Trail County Park from Grantley Road to the Colonial Courthouse
- Established a York County Parks Facebook Page
- Nixon County Park master site plan adopted
- Seven Valleys parking lot adjoining the Heritage Rail Trail County Park acquired as a donation by Glen Eyster III
- Restroom at Lake Williams, Kain County Park renovated to flush facility
- Installed electric gates at Rocky Ridge and Loucks Mill Road parking lots
- Established one acre of native plants at Highpoint Scenic Recreation Area
- Removed approximately 3 acres of invasive plants in Kain Park
- Removed 400+ tires from Heritage Rail Trail County Park—Northern Extension

2016 Awards and Recognition

- Kelsey Frey, Park Naturalist, was named 2016 Outstanding Environmental Educator by the York County Conservation District.
- Blymire Hollow Run, Spring Valley County Park, was reclassified as a Class A wild brown trout stream.
- A grant from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources was awarded to complete the Hollow Creek Greenway trail within Nixon County Park.
- Chief Ranger Gerald Ford and Ranger George Erskine were recognized by Springettsbury Township for their assistance during a critical lifesaving event. (photo on page 13)



Kelsey Frey—Naturalist at Nixon Park

Special thanks to volunteer and Board member Tim Senft for his photographs found on the cover and mixed in throughout this report.

Our Leadership

York County Board of Commissioners

Susan Brynes, President
Doug Hoke, Vice President
Christopher B. Reilly, Commissioner, Liaison to Parks

York County Parks Advisory Board

Steve Lentz, Chair
J. T. Hand, Vice-Chair
Jason McSherry, Secretary
Laura Smith • David Morgan
Sherri Ierley • Robert Weikert
Carolyn Pugh • Joshua Bean

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
J. Robert Katherman
Carroll C. Luckenbaugh
Donald Patton
John Rinehart

Ellie Shoemaker
John Strine
Anne K. Wagner
John Wurzbacher
Anne Walko

York County Parks Foundation Charitable Trust, Inc.

Luther B. Sowers, President
George "Skip" Lehmann, Vice President
Linda B. Davidson, Secretary
William T. Morris, Treasurer
Richard Cooper • Milton J. Menchey
Steven Ricklefs • Timothy E. Senft

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

Joshua Dewees
Asst. Superintendent of Bldg. & Grounds

Patrick A. Noll
Asst. Superintendent of Bldg. & Grounds

Jeri L. Jones
Program Coordinator

Gianina M. Dotterweich
Naturalist

Kelsey A. Frey
Naturalist

Melanie S. Neff
Administrative Assistant

Maintenance Staff

Frank Berry • Jerry Broome
Joseph Carbaugh • Michael Christian
Richard Detter • Kerry Flinchbaugh
Brad Gorsuch • Randall Grove
Tom Hansberry • Richard J. Himes
Randy Leiphart • Douglas Murphy
Eric Paules • Eric Roehm

Rangers

Scott Neely • David Breedlove
George Erskine



York County Department of Parks and Recreation

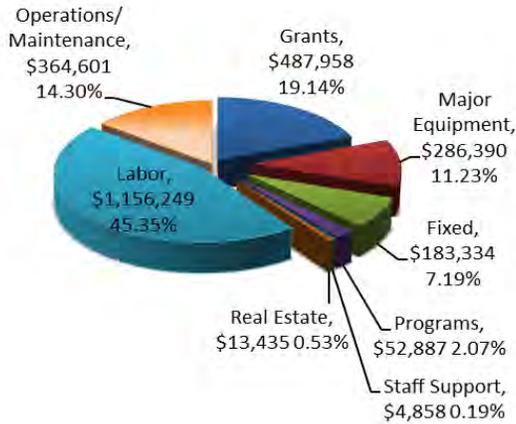
Administrative Headquarters
400 Mundis Race Road
York, PA 17406-9721
Phone: (717) 840-7440
Fax: (717) 840-7403
YorkCountyParks.org
Parks@YorkCountyPA.gov
Twitter: @YorkCountyParks



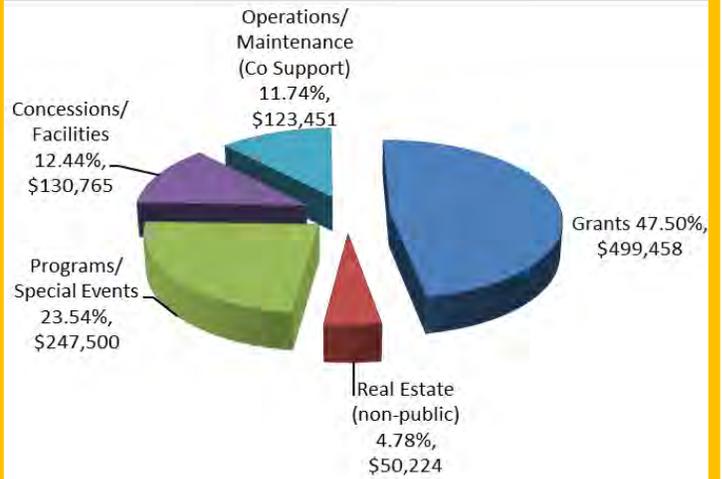
Members of the York County Parks Advisory Board — Summer 2016

Financial Charts

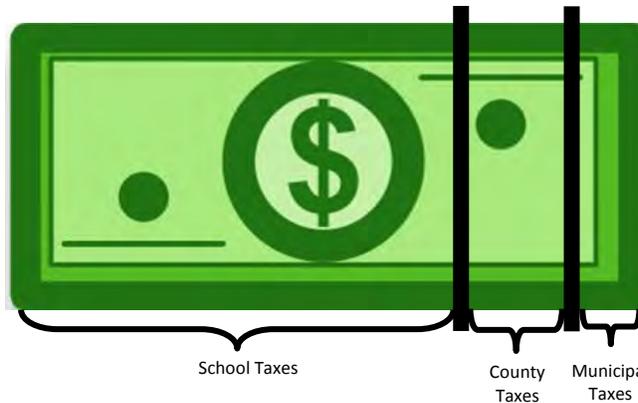
2016 Expenditure Budget: \$2,549,712



2016 Income: \$1,051,398



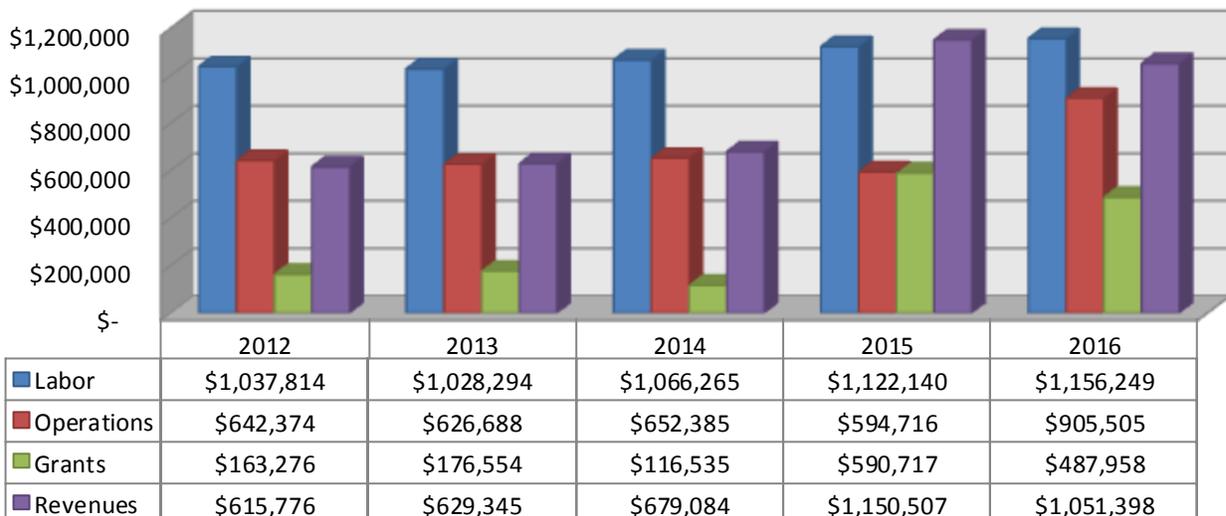
For every real estate tax dollar paid in York County,



The annual cost to York County residents to operate and maintain the county parks department in 2016 totals **\$ 4.30 per resident**
 Expenditures:\$2,549,712
 + benefits\$404,687
 - revenue\$1,051,398
 Expenses less income.....\$1,903,001

York County Planning Commission's 2015 census estimate—442,867 residents

Budget History (Actual)



*October 2015 - Spending freeze instituted by County due to PA state budget impasse.

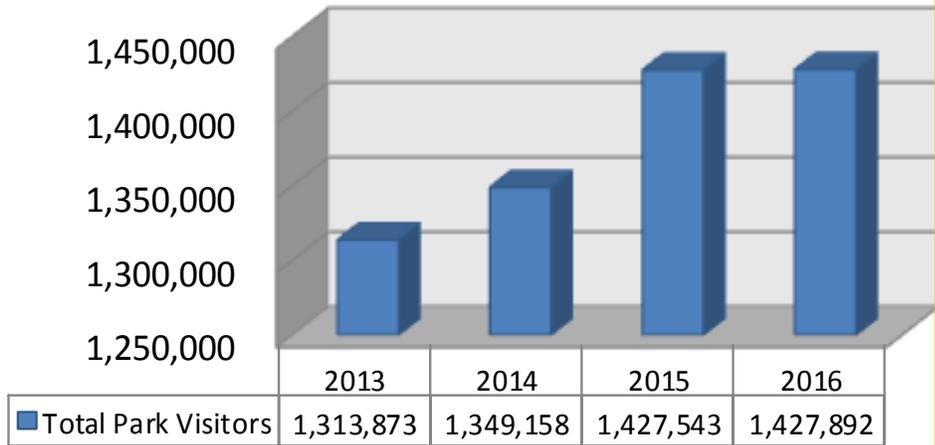
Enjoying our Parks



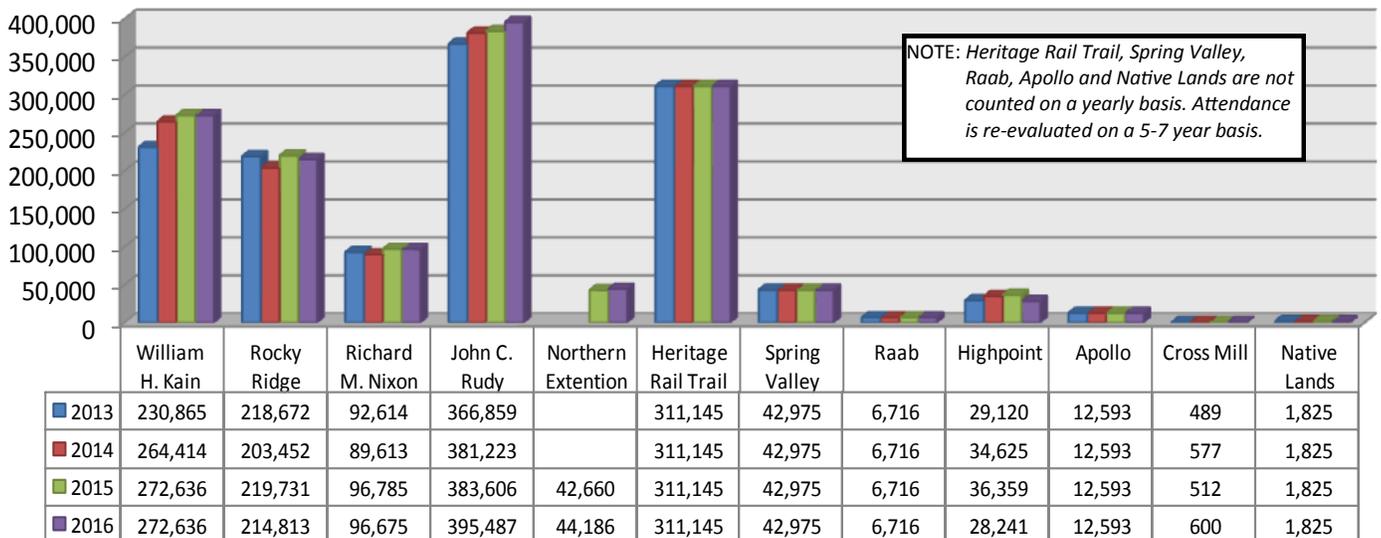
Park Visitation



Total Park Visitors

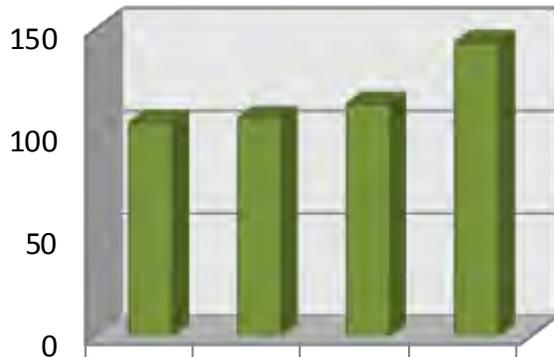


Total Visitors Per County Park



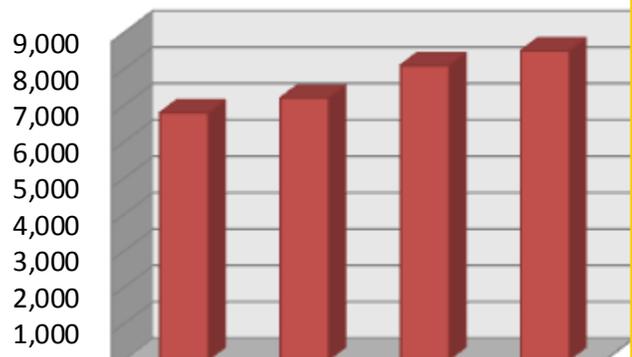
Public Programs

Number of Naturalist-Led Groups



	2013	2014	2015	2016
#Groups	104	106	113	143

Attendance at Naturalist-Led Groups



	2013	2014	2015	2016
Attendance	6,797	7,200	8,098	8,496



Gold Panning Program at Spring Valley

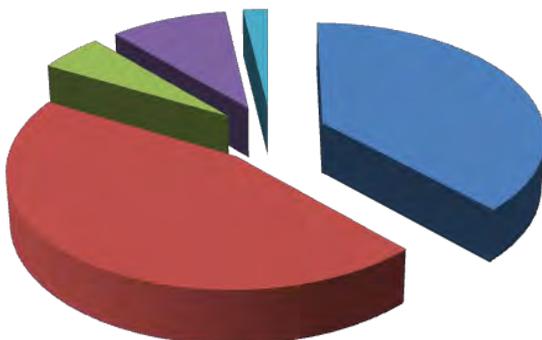
Number of Public Programs



	2013	2014	2015	2016
#Programs	175	157	194	165

Museum and Program Attendance

Total: 86,562 people



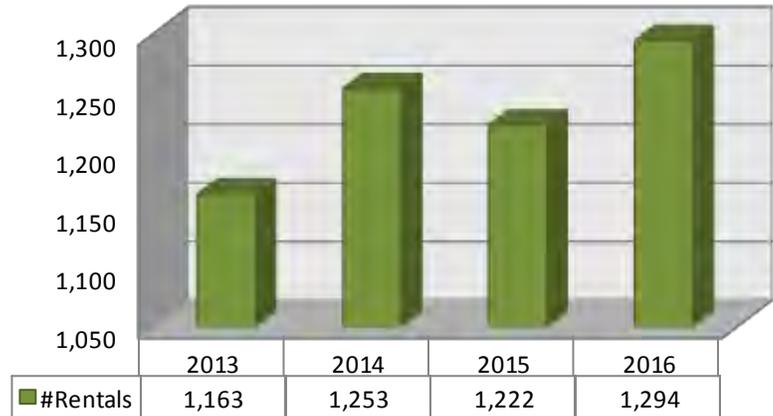
- Museum Visitation (33,402)
- Christmas Magic (39,992)
- Public Programs (4,672)
- School Groups (8,496)



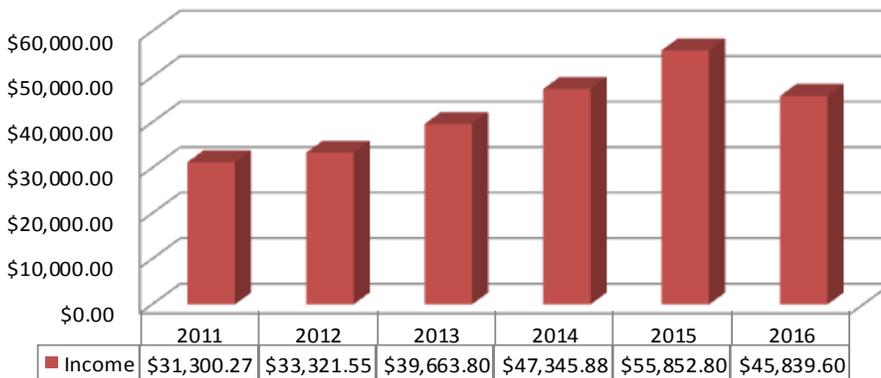
Pavilion & Sports Field Rentals



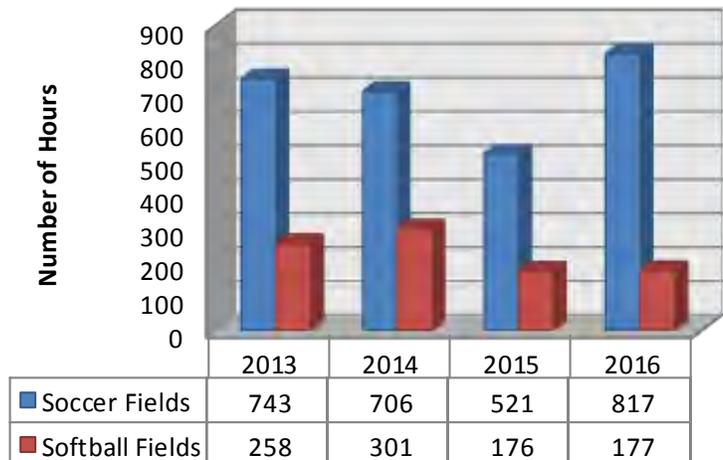
Kain, Rocky Ridge, Rudy and Spring Valley Pavilion Rentals



Lake Redman Boat Rental Income Excluding 6% Sales Tax

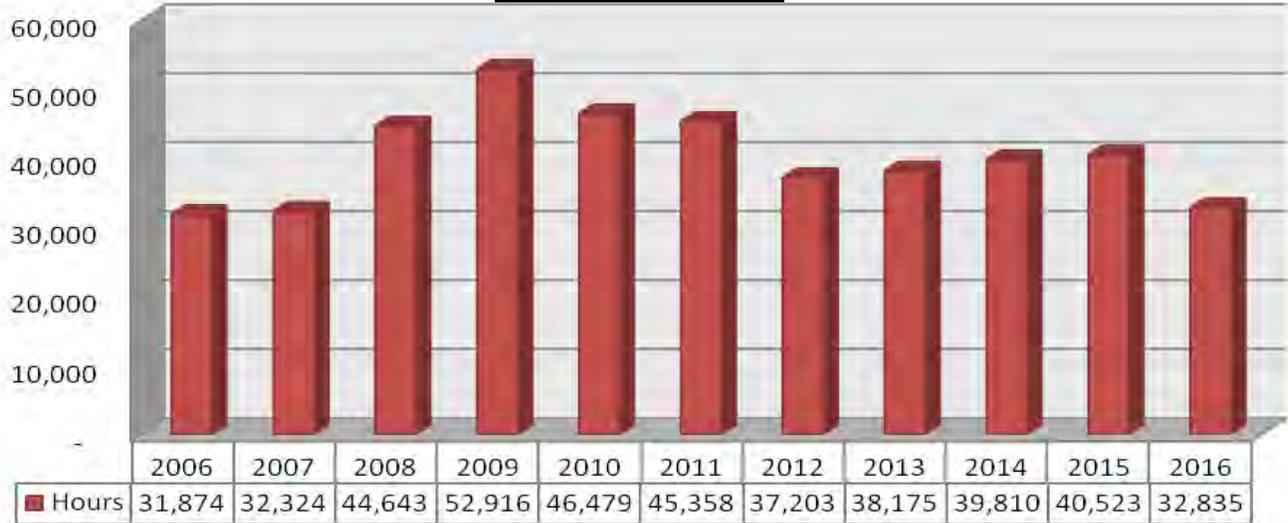


Sports Field Rentals



Volunteers

Hours Volunteered



Thank you to all
who served
in 2016!



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, Jr.

2013 WGAL Channel
2014 York County Planning Commission
2015 Stan Brown, Brown's Orchards
2016 Springfield Township Board of Supervisors



Winner of Park Achievement Award in 2016



Friends Groups Accomplishments

Museum Visitation



Friends of the Heritage Rail Trail 2016 Accomplishments

- Filled 135 time slots as greeters at both the Hanover Junction and New Freedom train stations May through October.
- Conducted special tours for civic organizations and special interest tours.
- Installed a TV monitor on the telegraph system so visitors could read messages.
- Hosted annual summer picnic between the Friends group, Sunset Scramblers volunteers, and public interested in history.
- Sunset Scramblers volunteer group became a part of the Friends group and attended regular Friends group meetings.
- Conducted public programs including Porch Talks in June and July, New Freedom Street Fair in September, and Hanging of the Greens in December.
- Greeters assisted with Steam Into History visitation at both stations upon request.
- Provided support for the second "Pumpkin Walk" in Seven Valleys sponsored by the Rail Trail Authority.
- Provided assistance at the Christmas Magic food stand and received 25% of the profit.
- Sold postcards of the stations, several books, DVDs, and Lincoln memorabilia at the museums.

Friends of Wallace-Cross Mill 2016 Accomplishments

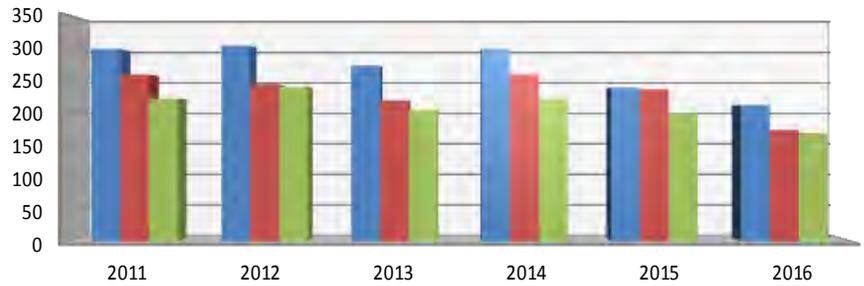
- Partnered with two local mills to celebrate SPOOM Mid-Atlantic Milling Day.
- Hosted Sunday open houses June through September and special days through October with special events including Miller's Day, Ice Cream Social, Made in America Days, Bluegrass Day and Cider Day. All positions were filled with docents.
- Participated with York County Convention and Visitors Bureau's Made in America Days tour stops.
- Sold mill memorabilia at the mill.
- Hosted a number of private tours for civic groups and schools.
- Provided assistance at the Christmas Magic food stand and received 25% of the profit.
- Participated in the Stewartstown Historical Society Holiday tour.
- Hosted the annual Covered Dish Social including Adrian Shank, owner of Shank's Mill in Waynesboro.



Natural Resource Management



Bluebird Eggs, Hatchlings, & Fledglings



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Bluebird Eggs	299	304	273	299	239	212
Bluebird Hatchlings	259	244	219	259	236	173
Bluebird Fledglings	222	240	204	222	199	168

Early Season Goose Harvest—Kain Park



	2013	2014	2015	2016*
Geese	17	26	35	8

*Unfavorable weather in 2016



Heritage Rail Trail Tire Clean Up 2016



Native wildflower planting at Highpoint

Parkwide Deer Harvest—Rocky Ridge, Kain, Apollo, Raab, & Spring Valley



	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Deer	60	62	56	62	35

Maintenance Department

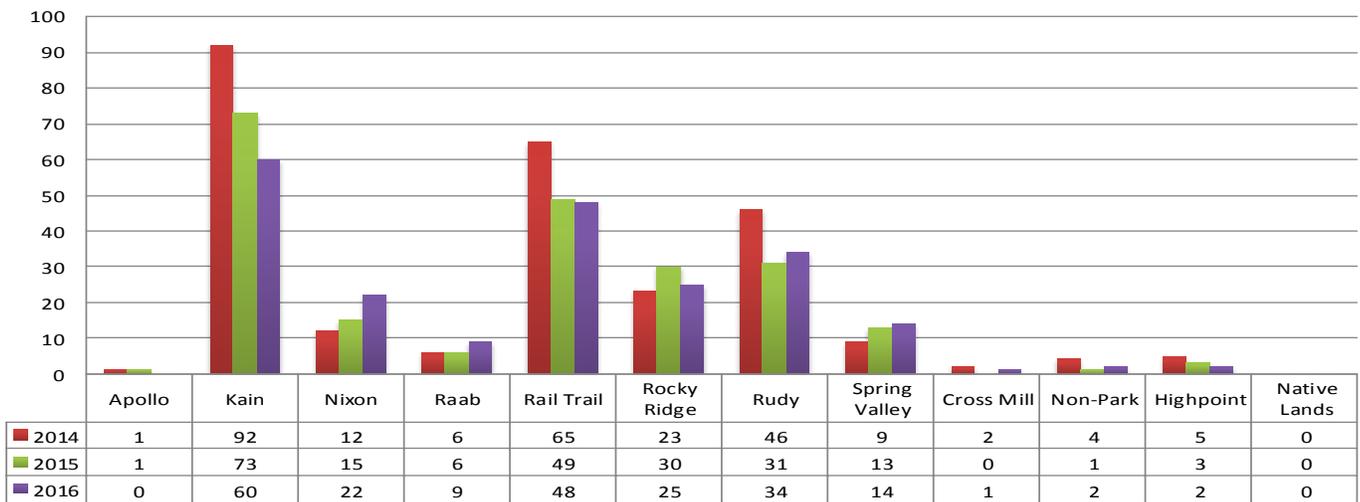
The York County Parks Maintenance Department consists of ten group leaders, two assistant superintendents and one superintendent. Their responsibility is to maintain over 4,500 acres of public parkland with a physical inventory consisting of:

- 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

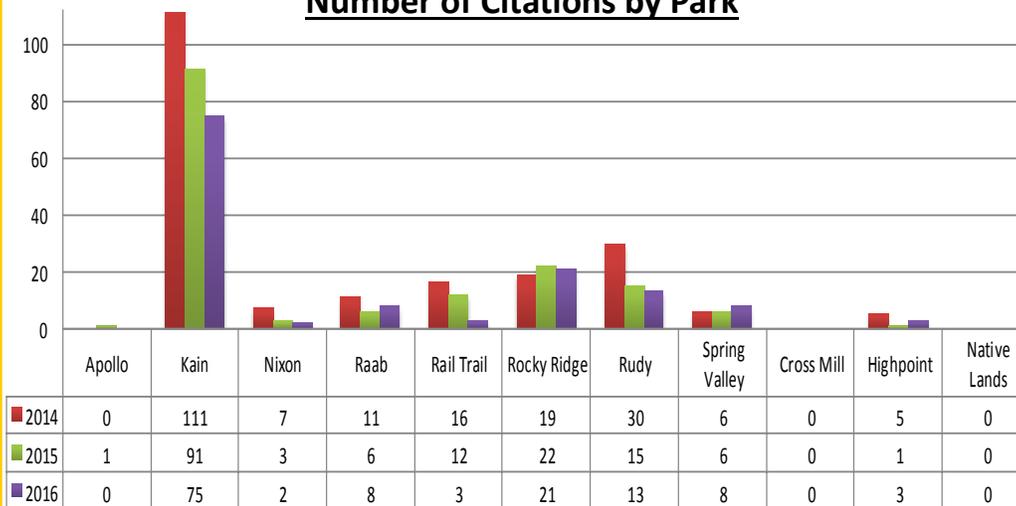


Ranger Report

Number of Incidents by Parks—Including Visitor Injuries



Number of Citations by Park



Annual Mileage Driven—Ranger Unit:

2014: 90,279

2015: 94,707

2016: 92,162

Rangers provided traffic control, pedestrian safety, and parking at two Maple Sugar weekends at Nixon Park, the Gold Panning event at Spring Valley Park, Pumpkin Walk on Heritage Rail Trail in Seven Valleys, and for Christmas Magic - A Festival of Lights, at Rocky Ridge Park, where 39,992 people attended in 2016. In addition, 700 pounds of food was donated to the York County Food Bank from the Christmas Magic Food Drive.

Rangers investigated and closed out **14** general complaints, submitted **58** work orders to the Maintenance Department, and collected **456** pavilion surveys from Rudy, Rocky Ridge, and Kain rented pavilions. **611** written warnings were given out. Park Ambassadors logged **622** volunteer hours.

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.

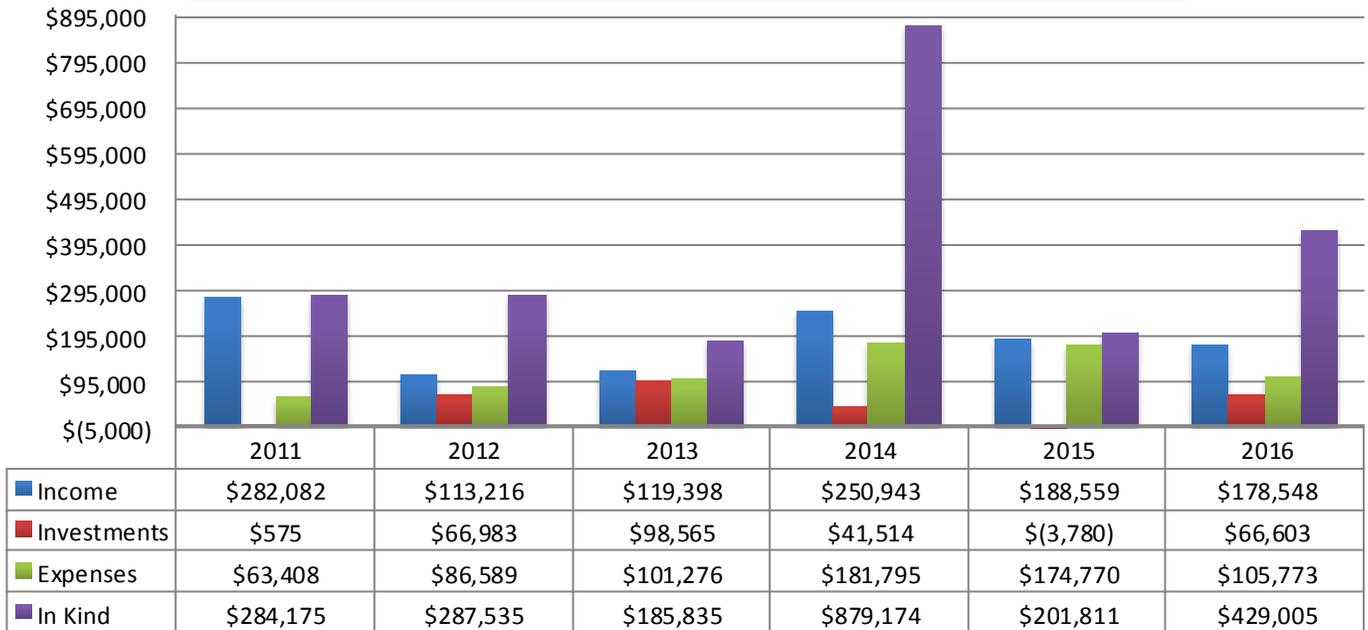


Volunteers in Action



York County Parks Foundation Charitable Trust

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



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.



Nixon County Park Wetland Bridge—October 26, 2016

Gathering Leaves.....	\$34,762
Legacy Fund.....	\$373,899
Kain Memorial.....	\$7,863
Ralph Brooks Endowment..	\$110,194
Rail Trail Friends.....	\$28,638
Cross Mill Friends.....	\$84,306
Canine Meadows Friends.....	\$9,531
YCAG.....	\$13,576
General Parks.....	\$381,948
Grants and Estates.....	\$66,406
TOTAL.....	\$1,111,123

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
 Winifred E. Bradley
 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
 Vonni B. Grimes
 Judith Grove
 L. C. Heim
 Nancy F. 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
 Joyce & Allen Pennewill
 Chris and Lisa Reilly
 Fred D. & Mary E. Reiss
 Steve & Elizabeth Ricklefs
 John M. & Rebecca Rinehart
 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
 Don Heisler
 Donallene Heisler
 Carroll & Irene Hunt
 Geneva Bowman Kaltreider
 Paul H. Keiser
 Raymond E. Knowles, Jr.
 Sydney Levitan
 Barbara Markel
 Edmund Miller
 Paul E. Newcomer
 Dale L. Schaeberle
 Roger E. Shaffer
 Ruth M. Sponsler
 Eleanor M. Thatcher

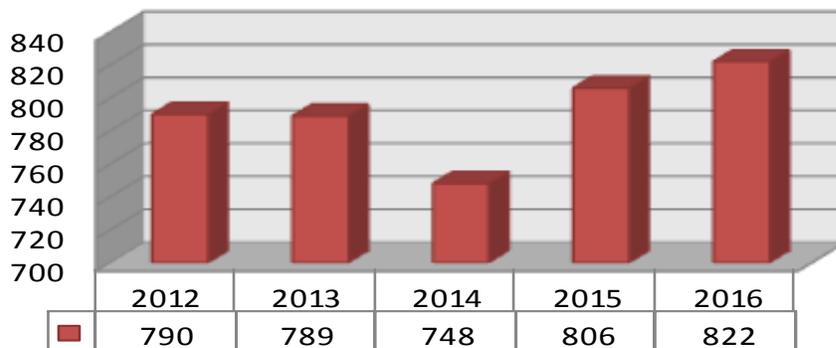
If you have provided for the York County Parks through your estate or a planned gift, and are not listed, or if you want information on how to become a member, please contact us.

York County Parks
 Foundation Charitable Trust
 400 Mundis Race Road
 York, PA 17406
 717-840-7227



Park Membership

Total Members



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.*



Adams Electric	Julie & Robert Harris	Kelly Price
American Design & Build	Highbourn Foundation	Randy's Books
Tim & Peg Amspacher	Glenn & Barbara Hively	Red Lion School District
Apple Chevrolet	Christopher & Katie Herrington	Rudy Reunion
Avery Marie Against AFLP	Hondru Fleet	Barbara Ryan
Automotive of York	Jacobus Area Lioness Club	Margaret Schlichter
Kristi & Daren Ayres	KBS Inc.	Kenneth Schuster
Basement Waterproofing	Kinsley Construction	Michael & Catherine Sentz
Beasley Ford	Kleen Kut Lawn Kare	Shank's Mare Outfitters
Lore & Allen Britton	Kohl's Department Stores	William Sharp
Bobcat of York	Chuck Kraft	ShIPLEY Energy
Brook's-Huff Tire & Auto	Allison Leboutz	Guz & Lois Smith
Brown's Orchard	Sara Leese	Thelma Snelbaker
Michael & Joanne Brown	Betsy Lehner	Chris Snyder
C. S. Davidson	Donald & Sally Lindt	Luther & Ruth Sowers
Cape Horn Western Wear	Loganville Borough	Springfield Township
Champion Window Co.	Louie's Auto Service	Steam Into History
Bryce Cooper	Lowe's	Kelly Strayer
Deborah Cooper	Mamma's – Loganville	Robert & Lynn Surratt
D. E. Gemmill	Mammy Ruggles Tent No. 50	Mark & Missy Sweitzer
Barbara Dady	Mary Elizabeth Mann	Task Force 50
David & Linda Davidson	Markey Building Products	The Heart of Sicily
Jeff & Kay Deffinbaugh	Memorial Hospital	Thornton Chevrolet
Carol Deitz	Dolores & Frederick Meyer	Trail Nurseries, LLC
Ann E. Dixon	Mignano Brothers Ristorate Italiano	Truist
Jeff & Sally Doane	Paul & Elaine Miller	Jim Vesneski
Dover Lions Club	R. G. Mitchell	Ellen Wagner
Downtown York, Inc.	William & Nancy Morris	Karl & Karen Warner
Suzanne Eckenroth	John Mowrer	David & Leslie Werner
Estate of Don & Donalene Heisler	My Lady's Manor Driving Club	YAMBA
F. W. Behler	National Aquarium	Yohe Paving
Dawn Freese	North Hopewell Township	York Audubon Society
Friends and Family of Rod Myers & Steve Snead	Aaron & Deborah Ordway	York Building Products
Exelon Foundation Matching Gifts Program	PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources	York College of Pennsylvania
Fastenal	PA DUI Association, Inc.	York County Community Foundation – Kevin Rice Memorial Fund
Ben Fetter	Paesano's – Jacobus	York County Community Foundation – York Water Co. Donor Advised Fund
Finch Services	Paesano's – New Freedom	York County Emergency Management
John Foster	Parents of Hillside Elementary School	York County Lumber
Mary Ellen & Alan Frame	Don Patton	York County Master Gardeners
Framer's Workshop	Michelle Pelescak	York County Rail Trail Authority
Glatfelter Insurance Group	Penn DOT	York Country Day School
Glen Rock Mill Inn	Penn Waste Inc.	York Divers
Paul Grill	Pine Grove United Methodist Church	York White Rose Wanderers
Dale Halleran	Pleasant View PTO	

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—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
- 2015—Northern Extension Rail Trail—Phase II, Rudy Park to Route 30, completed
- 2016—Wetlands created and stream restoration work completed at Nixon County Park