

York County Parks & Recreation 2017 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

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

- Planned a yearlong schedule of events and projects to celebrate Parks 50th Anniversary in 2018. Received grant funding from York County Convention and Visitors Bureau to promote 50th Anniversary.
- Partnered with the National Park Service to cooperatively plan visitor access and programming at Native Lands.
- Installed infrastructure and connected Nixon Park to public sewer and gas.
- Received grant funding to continue work to establish wildflower meadow at Highpoint Scenic Vista.
- Hosted Emmy-winning journalist, Peter Greenberg, at Highpoint Scenic Vista and the Heritage Rail Trail County Park. Both parks will be included on his nationally broadcast show, "The Travel Detective."
- Removed invasive plants from Raab (5 acres), Kain (10 acres) and Nixon (12.3 acres) parks.
- Expanded parking lot in Spring Valley County Park to accommodate additional trailer parking.
- Set an all-time attendance record at Christmas Magic.
- Completed a User Survey and Economic Impact Analysis of Heritage Rail Trail users in cooperation with the York County Rail Trail Authority.

2017 Awards and Recognition

- Friends of the Heritage Rail Trail Corridor awarded the 2017 Trail Organization Award by the York County Rail Trail Authority.



- York County Parks awarded the 2017 Government Leader Award by the York County Rail Trail Authority.
- Heritage Rail Trail County Park was recognized by 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania for great development projects, initiatives, and the people and organizations that make them happen.

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

Robert B. Weikert, Chair
Sherri A. Ierley, Vice-Chair
Jason McSherry, Secretary
Joshua Bean • Matthew Dubbs
Robert Innerst • David Morgan
Carolyn Pugh • Laura 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 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
J. Robert Katherman
Rev. Carroll C. Luckenbaugh
Donald Patton
John Rinehart
Ellie Shoemaker

John Strine
Anne K. Wagner
Anne Walko
John Wurzbacher

York County Parks Foundation Charitable Trust, Inc.

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

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

George Erskine
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

Rachel M. Albright
Program Coordinator

Kelsey A. Frey
Naturalist

Andrew T. Wolfgang
Naturalist

Melanie S. Neff
Administrative Assistant

Bobbi A. Dickason
Administrative Support

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

Rangers
David Breedlove • Kevin Clouser
Scott Neely



York County Department of Parks and Recreation

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400 Mundis Race Road
York, PA 17406-9721
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YorkCountyParks.org
Parks@YorkCountyPA.gov
Twitter: @YorkCountyParks



L to R: Mack Johnson presents Tammy Klunk and Barry Myers the 2017 Government Leader Award from York County Rail Trail Authority.

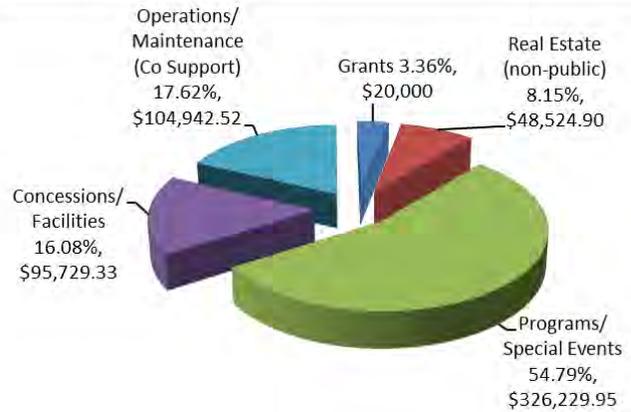
Special thanks to volunteer and Board member Tim Senft. Many of his photographs are found on the cover and mixed in throughout this report.

Financial Charts

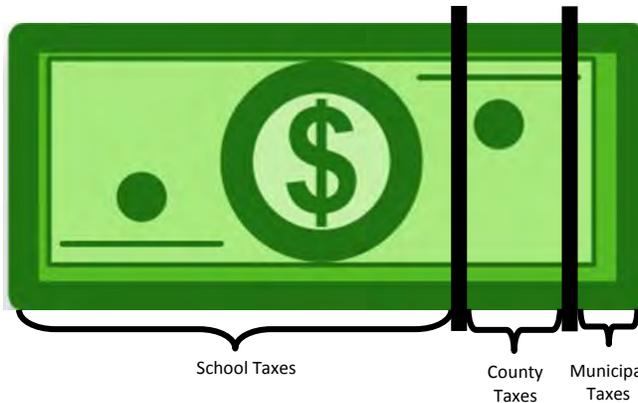
2017 Expenditure Budget: \$2,026,547



2017 Income: \$595,427



For every real estate tax dollar paid in York County,

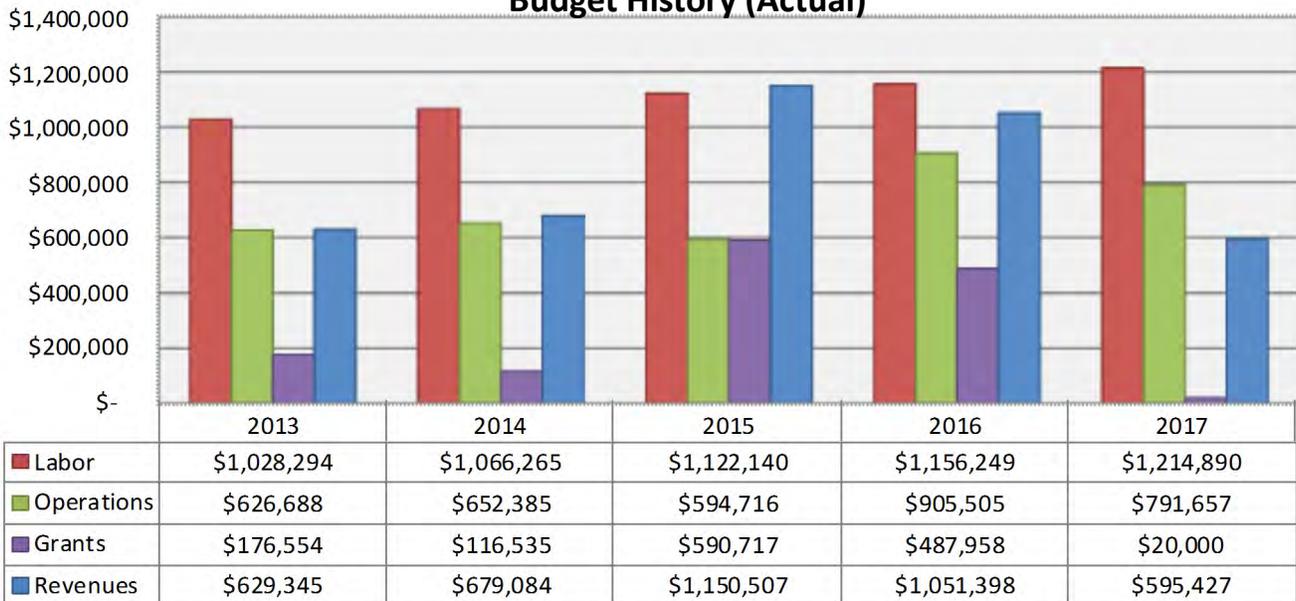


The annual cost to York County residents to operate and maintain the county parks department in 2017 totals **\$ 4.18 per resident**

Expenditures:\$2,026,547
 + benefits\$425,212
 - revenue\$595,427
 Expenses less income.....\$1,856,332

York County Planning Commission's
 2016 census estimate—443,744 residents

Budget History (Actual)



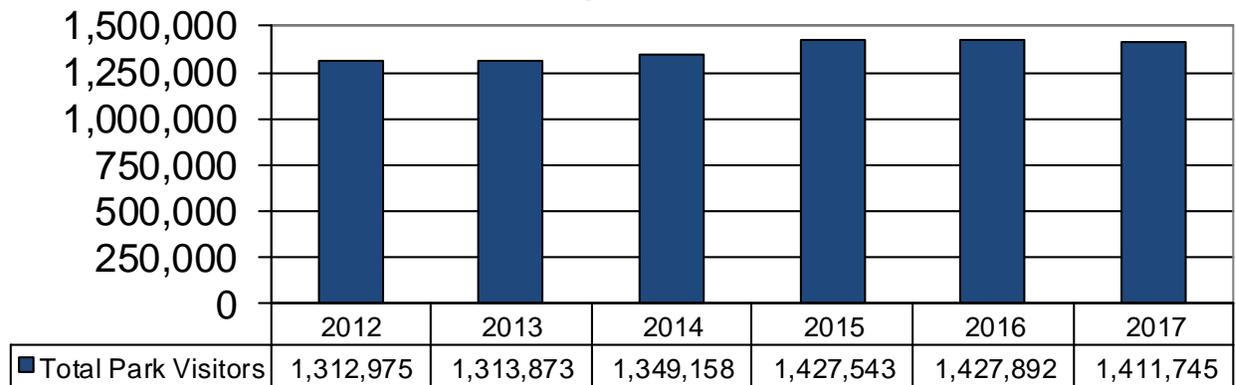
*October 2015 - Spending freeze instituted by County due to PA state budget impasse.

Enjoying our Parks

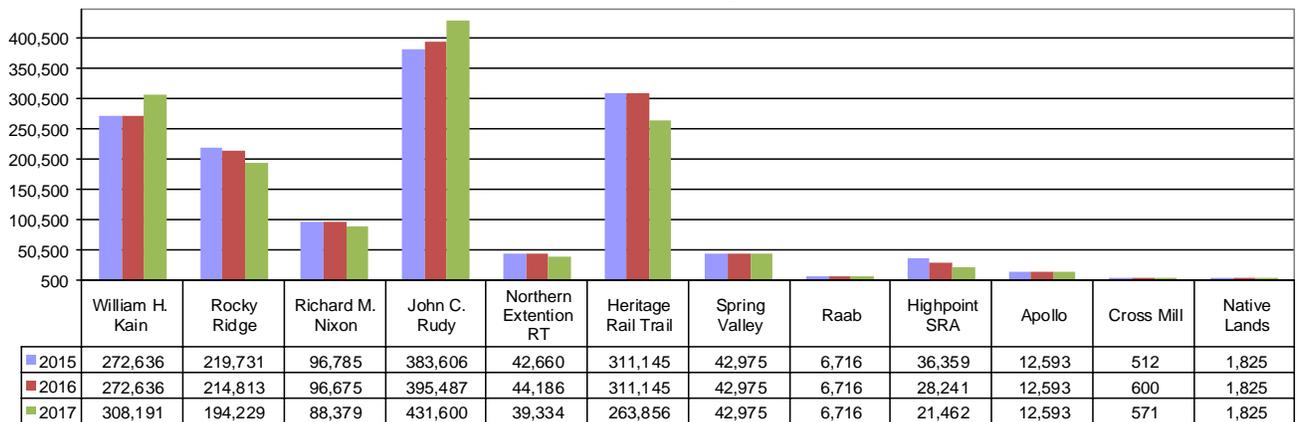


Park Visitation

Total York County Park Visitors



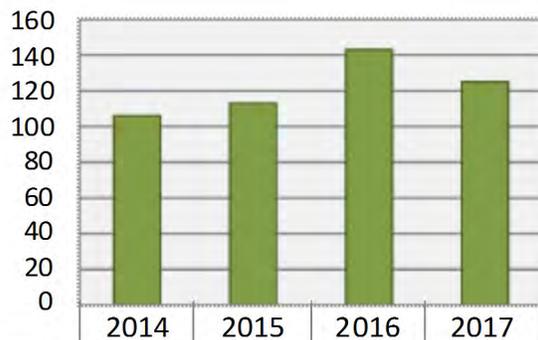
Total Visitors Per County Park



NOTE: Heritage Rail Trail, Spring Valley, Raab, Apollo and Native Lands are not counted on a yearly basis. Attendance is re-evaluated on a 5-7 year basis. 2017 Heritage Rail Trail attendance calculated as part of the 2017 User Survey.

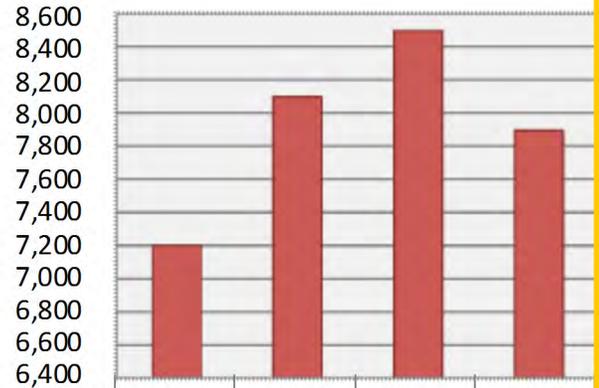
Public Programs

Number of Naturalist-Led Groups



	2014	2015	2016	2017
Naturalist-led Groups	106	113	143	125

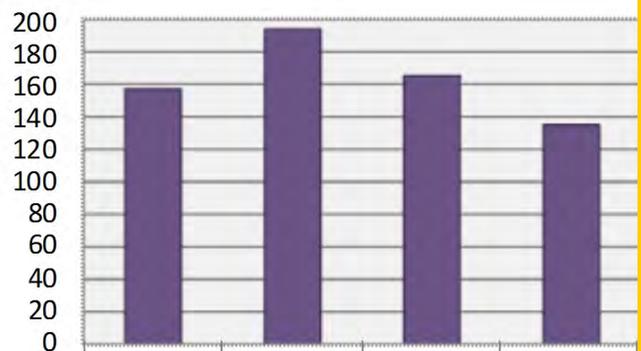
Attendance at Naturalist-Led Groups



	2014	2015	2016	2017
Attendance	7,200	8,098	8,496	7,894



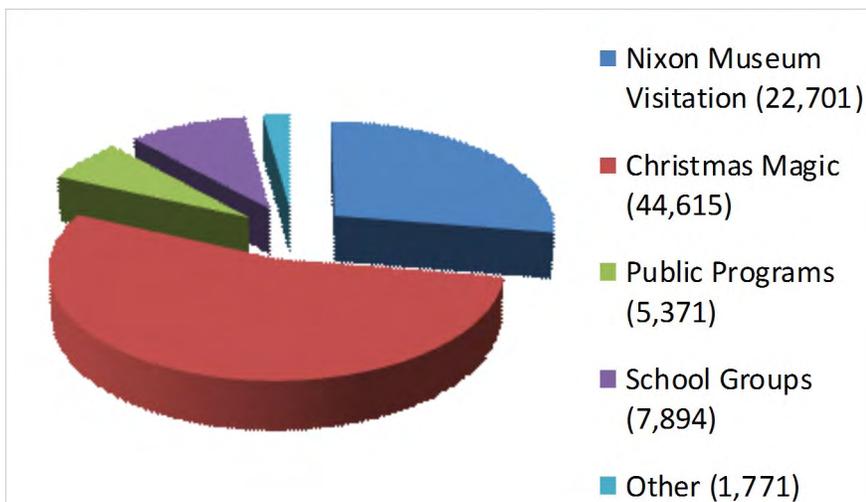
Number of Public Programs



	2014	2015	2016	2017
#Public Programs	157	194	165	135

Nixon Museum and Program Attendance

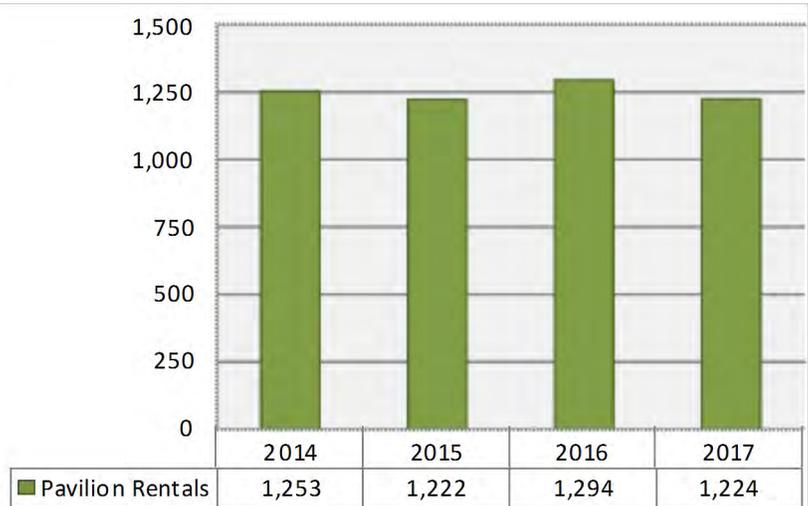
Total: 82,352 people



Pavilion & Sports Field Rentals



Total Pavilion Rentals



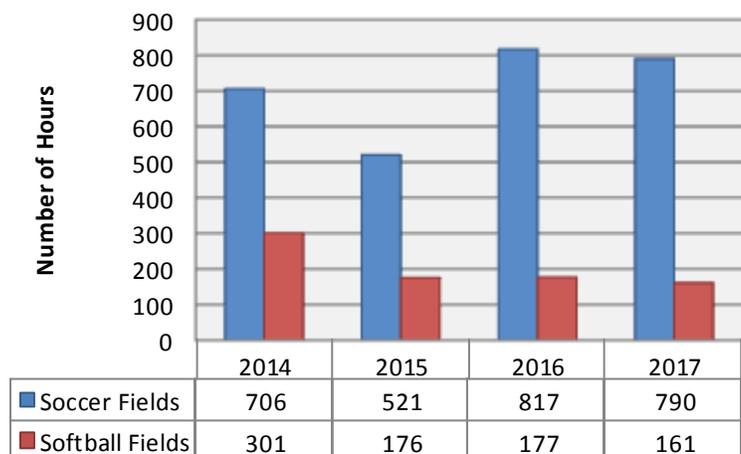
Lake Redman Boat Rental Income Excluding 6% Sales Tax



Boat rental closed most of 2017 season due to low water at Lake Redman.

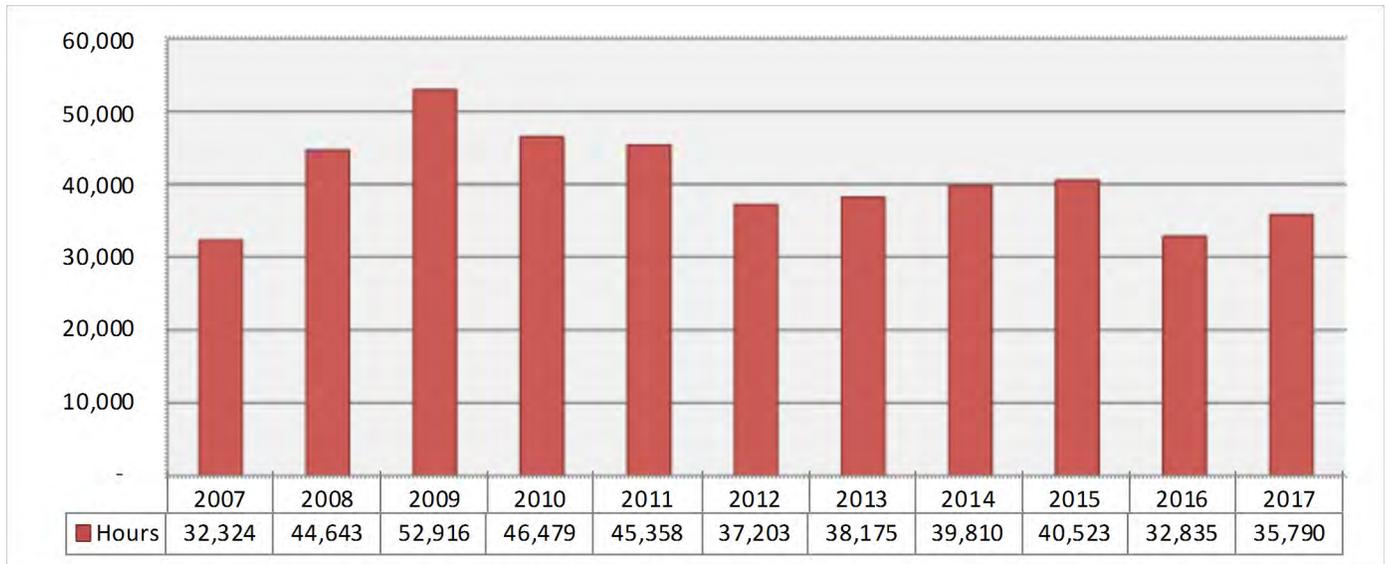


Sports Field Rentals



Volunteers

Hours Volunteered

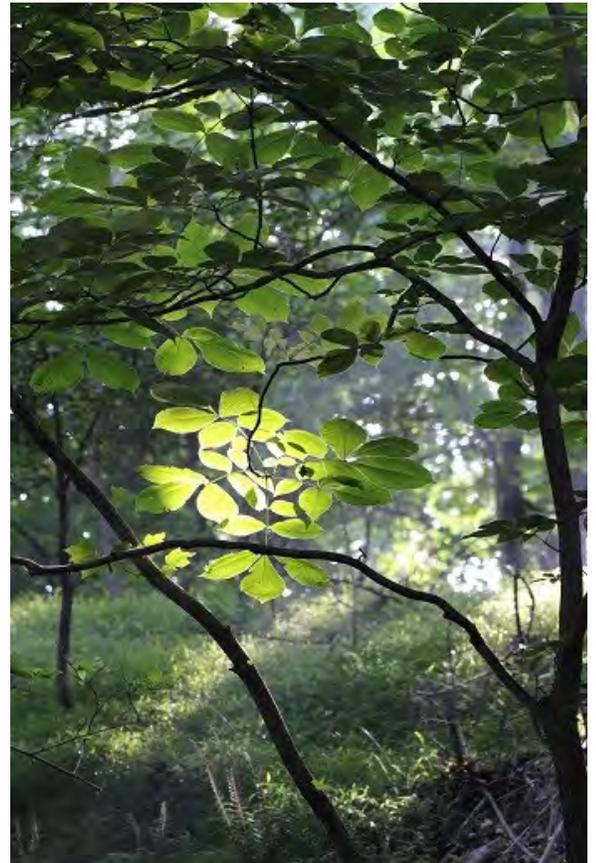


* The Pennsylvania Conservation Corps program discounted statewide in 2012.

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.

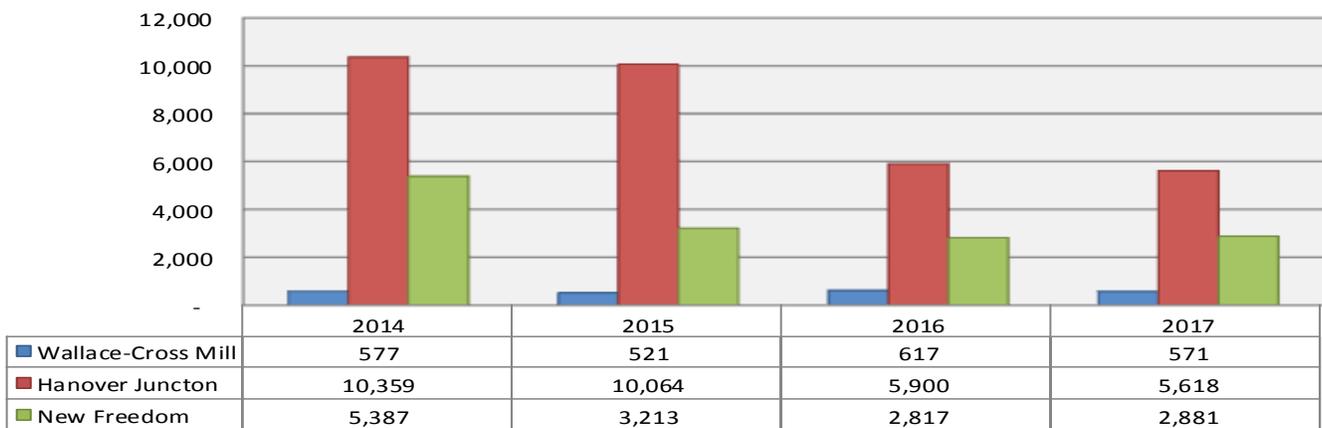
- 2002 Founding Board Members
- 2003 Jack "Reed" Dunn, Jr
- 2004 York-Adams Area Council—Boy Scouts of America
- 2005 Luther B. Sowers
- 2006 The York Water Company
- 2007 York Area Mountain Biking Association
- 2008 York County Rail Trail Authority
- 2009 The Conservation Fund
- 2010 Kinsley School 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
- 2017 Master Gardeners of York County



Thank you to all who served

Friends Groups Accomplishments

Museum Visitation



Friends of the Heritage Rail Trail 2017 Accomplishments

- Filled 135 greeter time slots at Hanover Junction and New Freedom Train Stations May—October.
- Conducted tours for civic organizations and special interest groups.
- Sunset Scrambler volunteers offered three, seven week ride series covering the entire Rail Trail and five Moonlight Bike Rides.
- Offered local history Porch Talk programs in June and July.
- Opened for New Freedom Street Fair.
- Greeters assisted with Steam Into History visitation to station museums upon request.
- Provided support for the Pumpkin Walk in Seven Valleys sponsored by the York County Rail Trail Authority.
- Provided assistance at Christmas Magic food stand.



Friends of Wallace-Cross Mill 2017 Accomplishments

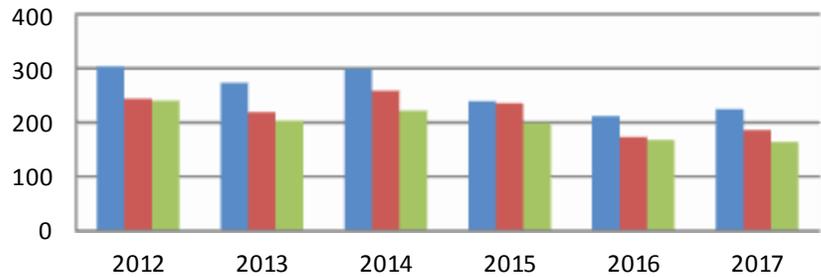
- Partnered with two local mills to celebrate SPOOM Mid-Atlantic Milling Day.
- Hosted mill open houses from June through September and special events including: Miller's Day, Ice Cream Social, Made in America Days, Bluegrass Day, and Cider Day. All positions filled with docents.
- Hosted National SPOOM even and was a tour site for conference participants.
- Participated with York County Convention and Visitor's Bureau Made in America Days tour stops.
- Hosted private tours for civic groups and schools.
- Provided assistance at the Christmas Magic food stand.
- Participate in the Stewartstown Historical Society Holiday tour.
- Hosted the annual covered dish social.



Natural Resource Management



Bluebird Eggs, Hatchlings, and Fledglings



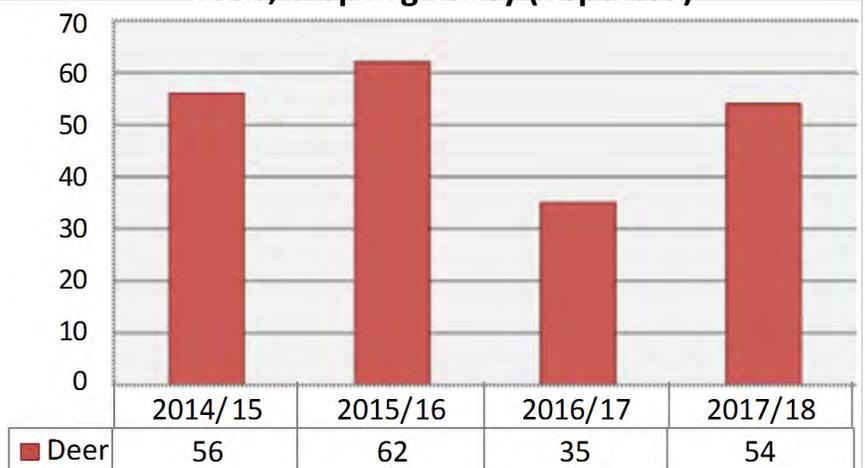
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bluebird Eggs	304	273	299	239	212	225
Bluebird Hatchlings	244	219	259	236	173	186
Bluebird Fledglings	240	204	222	199	168	164

- Tree seedling planting: 8,000 trees were planted by Strathmeyer Forest, scouts, and various volunteers.
- Volunteers spent over 300 hours clearing invasive plants from around previously planted tree seedlings.
- Mechanically removed invasive plants from Raab (5 acres), Kain (10 acres) and Nixon (12.3 acres) parks.
- The bat population has drastically dropped in P. Joseph Raab County Park due to White-nose Syndrome. Endangered Mammal Specialists with the PA Game Commission have been visiting our site to help develop a plan which could help the bats.
- Lake Redman was drawn down 8 feet for a construction permit. This gave York County Parks the chance to put in a kayak launch at Sparton Road and evaluate existing fish structures.
- Received grant funding for the continuation of work at Highpoint Scenic Vista for a wildflower meadow.
- A small colony of beavers attempted to create a home in Spring Valley County Park. Probably due to a limited food supply, they moved on.



Seasonal employees installing new kayak launch at Lake Redman at Sparton Road.

Park Wide Deer Harvest—Rocky Ridge, Kain, Apollo, Raab, & Spring Valley (Reported)



Maintenance Department

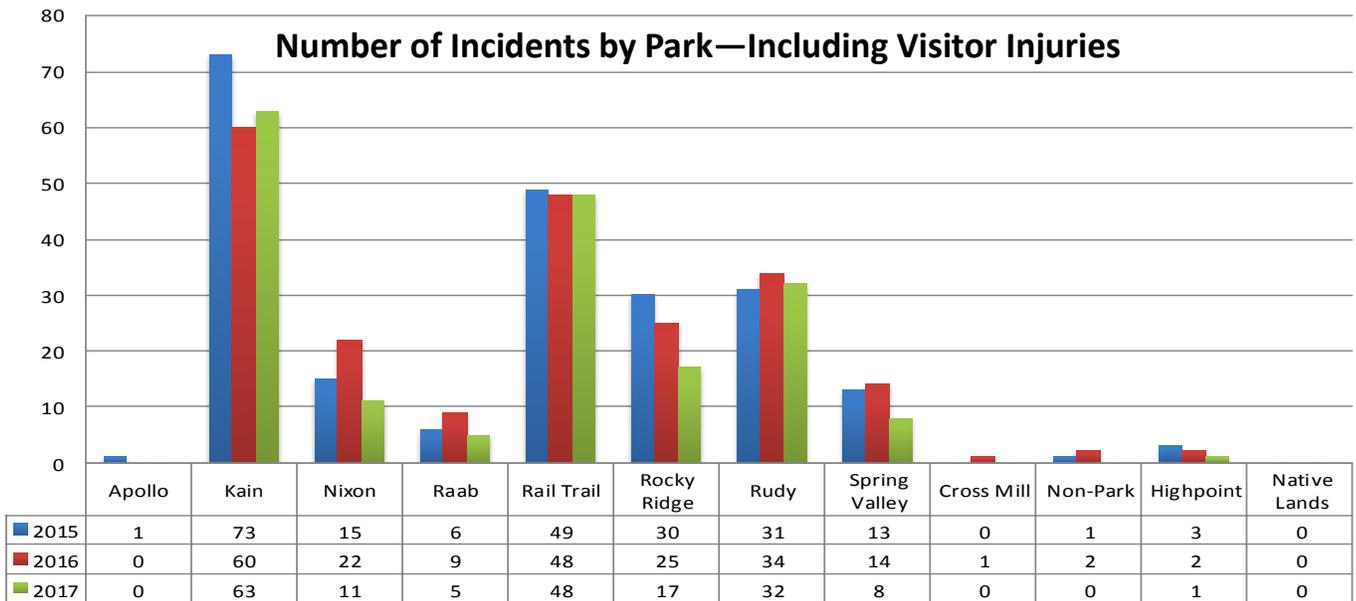
The York County Parks Maintenance Department consists of ten group leaders, two assistant superintendents and one superintendent. Their responsibility is to maintain over 4,500 acres of public park land with a physical inventory consisting of:

- 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

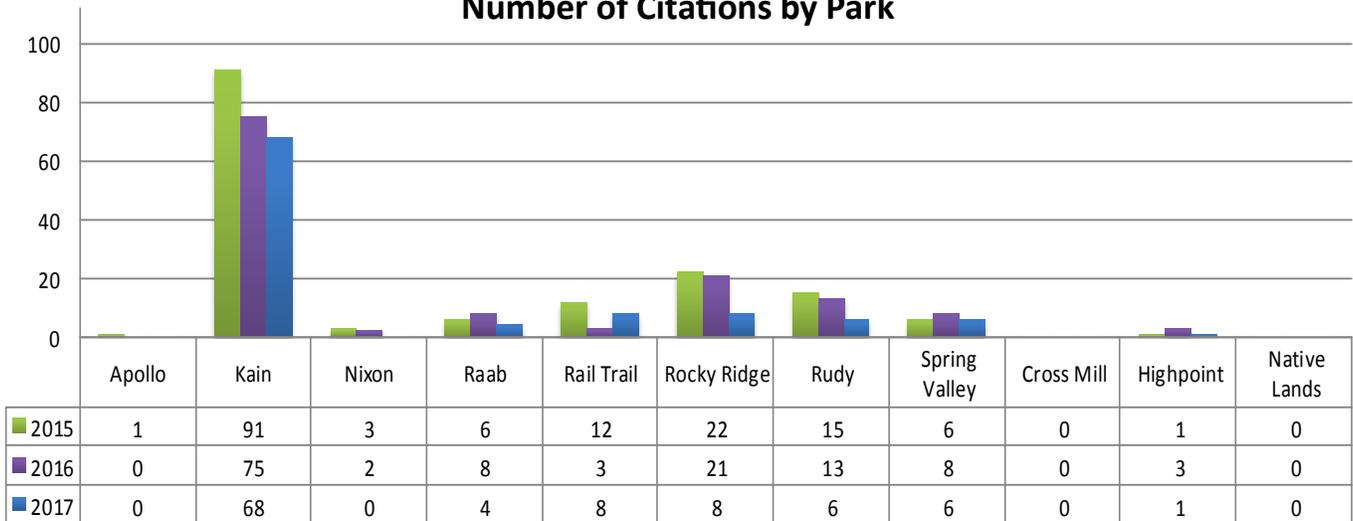


Ranger Report

Number of Incidents by Park—Including Visitor Injuries



Number of Citations by Park



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 **44,615** people attended in 2017. In addition, **610** pounds of food was donated to the York County Food Bank from the Christmas Magic Food Drive. Rangers participated in National Night Out in Springettsbury Township on educating visitors on safety while visiting the parks and handed out materials on the benefits of York County Parks. Annual Mileage Driven: **93,032**.



Rangers investigated and closed out **10** general complaints, submitted **60** work orders to the Maintenance Department, and collected **386** pavilion surveys from Rudy, Rocky Ridge, and Kain rented pavilions. The surveys indicated that Rangers were **97.67%** helpful and friendly. The response from park visitors was **97.93%** that they felt safe while visiting the parks. **565** written warnings were given out. Park Ambassadors logged **948.5** volunteer hours.

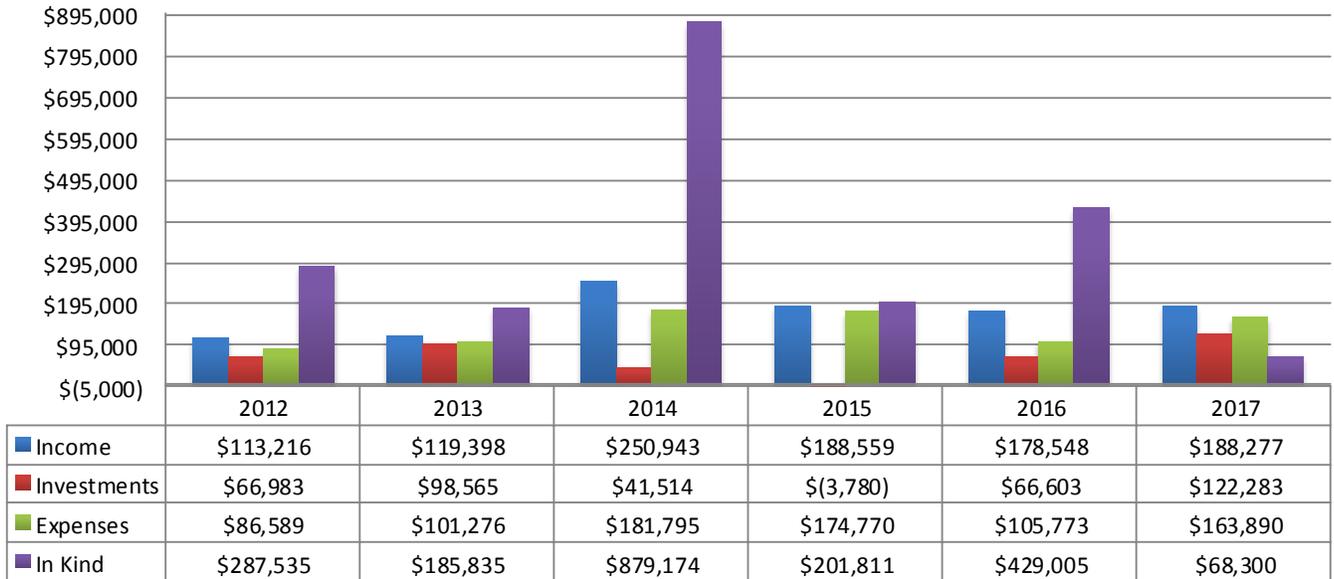
Ranger's Vision Statement: *The York County Ranger Division is dedicated to the principle of providing education and enforcement to ensure protection for the parks and provide the visitors a meaningful and enjoyable, safe and secure park and recreation experience.*

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.



Nature Discovery Students on Chesapeake Boat Trip—2017

Gathering Leaves.....	\$45,104
Legacy Fund.....	\$439,478
Kain Memorial.....	\$8,725
Ralph Brooks Endowment..	\$119,297
Rail Trail Friends.....	\$37,305
Cross Mill Friends.....	\$74,551
Canine Meadows Friends.....	\$8,554
YCAG.....	\$13,176
General Parks.....	\$488,597
<u>Grants and Estates.....</u>	<u>\$49,862</u>
TOTAL.....	\$1,284,649

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
 Dr. Milton & Rita Buschman
 Eileen & Duane Close
 Donald C. Dallmeyer
 Dave & Linda Davidson
 Ronald L. & Sharon A. Dorn
 Roberta A. Downs
 Amanda, Matt, & Sam Dubbs
 Shawn & Skip Durgin
 John L. Finlayson
 Ronald Foulis
 Michael P. Gavin
 Robert Glass
 Judith Grove
 L. C. Heim
 Doug Hoke
 L. Jeani Kiser
 Sue Ann Kline
 Truman & Darlene Kling
 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
 Francis & Deanna Velazquez
 Anne & Jack Wagner

In remembrance of members:

J. Kerr Anderson
 Cooper Boyd
 Burnell Diehl
 James F. Donahue
 Shirley Glass
 Arthur J. Glatfelter
 Voni B. Grimes
 Don & Donallene Heisler
 Donallene Heisler
 Carroll & Irene Hunt
 Geneva Bowman Kaltreider
 Paul H. & Nancy F. Keiser
 Maxine Klunk
 Raymond E. Knowles, Jr.
 Sydney Levitan
 Irma S. Louey
 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 Number of Park 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 in 2017.

AAA Southern Pennsylvania	Doug Hoke	PPC Lubricants
Ambassador Home Improvements	Hondru Fleet	Rail Trail Café
American Design and Build	Hoss's Steak and Sea	Ream Printing
Antique Car Club of York	Joseph Inners	Gail Rehman
Robert & Barbara Barto	Issac's	Mary and Fred Reiss
Basement Waterproofing Specialists	Keystruct Construction, Inc.	Jesse Rothacker/Forgotten Friend
BGE Home Products & Services, LLC	Klean Kut Lawn Kare	Round the Clock Diner
Bobcat of York	Tammy Klunk	Patty Saikia
Bill Bowden	Mark Kocher	Margaret & Dave Schlichter
Winifred Bradley	Kohl's Department Stores	Tracy Seiger, LLC
Brooks-Huff Tire & Auto	Lancaster County Conservancy	Shallow Brook Int. School PTO
Brown's Orchards	Law Office of Amanda Snoke Dubbs	Shank's Mare Outfitters
Mr. and Mrs. Randy Byrnes	Joy Lederman	Dale and Nancy Shirey
Rita and Milton Buschman	Lieb Elementary PTO	Harry & Polly Smith
Helen Caldwell	Donald & Sarah Lindt	Michael T. Snee
Cape Horn Western Wear	Louie's Auto Services	Sophisticated Ladies
Christian School of York	David Lovelace	Spring Grove Elementary PTO
CPR-Now, The First Response Team	John & Ann Lyons	Steam Into History
C.S. Davidson	Mamma's Pizza – Loganville	The Heart of Sicily
Collens-Wagner Agency, Inc.	Mannion Enterprises	Thornton Chevrolet
Larry Collins	Marcello's Pizza – East York	Trail Nurseries, LLC
Consolidated Scrap Resources Inc.	Marino's Pizza & Pasta House	Turkey Hill Dairy
David & Linda Davidson	Markey Building Maintenance	Turkey Hill Experience
Delta Kappa Gamma Society	Mason-Dixon Public Library	Valley View PTO
Joanne Dorrett	Memorial Hospital	VBA
Amanda, Matt, and Sam Dubbs	Mid-Atl. Chptr. For Pres. Of Old Mills	Francis & Deanna Velazquez
Eastern Penn Mushroomers	Mignano Bros. Ristorante Italiano	S K Wagner
Estate of Oscar E. Fox	Dr. Edmund M. & Dr. Esther J. Miller	Dan Walko
F.W. Behler	William & Nancy Morris	Warehaus AE
Fastenal	Dennis and Sandra Mumford	Bob Weikert
Fawn Area Elementary School	Murphy & Dittenhafer, Inc.	Weis Markets
Fishing Creek School PTO – 3 rd Grade	Napa Auto Parts	West Manchester Twp. Hist. Soc.
G & S Concrete	Dave Neuburger	Whistle Stop Bike Shop
Wade & Jill Gamber	Dennis and Kathy O'Connor	Yohe Paving, Inc.
Giant Food Stores	Ore Valley Social Committee	York Building Products
Glen Rock Mill Inn	Paesano's – Jacobus	York College of Pennsylvania
Sandra & Mark Greenberg	Paesano's – New Freedom	YCCF/Kevin Rice Memorial Fund
Dale Halleran	Patton Vet Hospital & Cat Hospital	York County Lumber
Paul & Linda Harman	Dr. Don Patton	York County Rail Trail Authority
Hayshire PTO	Penn Waste Inc.	York County True Value Hardware
Xiaoyu He	PeoplesBank, A Codorus Valley Co.	York Divers
Thelma Hershey	Kathy and David Peterson Jr.	YRK LLC
M Frances Herzog	Sherri & Richard Pollock	Family of Leon E. Zeiders
Hillside 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