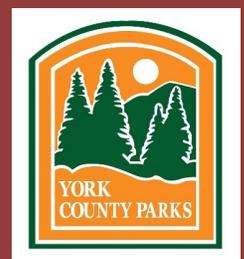


York County Parks & Recreation 2019 Annual Report



Rocky Ridge · Richard M. Nixon
Apollo · Spring Valley · John C. Rudy
William H. Kain · Wallace-Cross Mill
Heritage Rail Trail · P. Joseph Raab
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

- New section of Heritage Rail Trail, extending from Route 30 parking lot to N. George St., opened
- Nature Play Area created at Nixon Park
- Nixon wetlands area trails opened to the public
- Habitat and shoreline structures were installed at Lake Williams, Kain Park
- Twenty-four acres of Native Lands opened for public use due to elimination of a drain field easement
- iNaturalist project launched
- Christmas Magic online purchasing expanded to all days during event
- New recreational opportunities at the Lake Redman boat rental that includes stand up paddle boards and aqua bikes
- Restroom at Lake Redman, Kain Park was remodeled
- New displays developed for New Freedom and Hanover Junction featuring a topographic map and interpretive panels
- Stream bank restoration and installation of a ford crossing at Spring Valley Park
- Park Rangers' tool belt was expanded to include a taser gun
- High school age volunteers in the Leaders-in-Training program served as support staff for the Nixon Park Nature Discovery Camp

2019 Recognition

- Congratulations and best wishes in retirement for two long term employees: **Francis Velazquez**, whose career spanned 35 years serving as Naturalist and Manager of Education and Outreach, and **R. Scott Neely**, whose career spanned 31 years as a York County Park Ranger
- Kudos to the York County Board of Commissioners for their willingness and forethought to approve a dedicated funding source for open space protection. With their actions, funding is available for the preservation of additional park land throughout York County.



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
Brian Addison • Joshua Bean
Matthew Dubbs • Robert Innerst
Lyndi Ilyes • David Morgan

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 Snoke Dubbs
Milton J. Menchey • Michael Russo
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

Michael E. Fobes
Manager of Natural Resources

Kelsey A. Frey
Manager of Education and Outreach

Barry L. Myers
Superintendent of Bldg. & Grounds

Joshua Dewees
Asst. Superintendent of Bldg. & Grounds

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

George Erskine
Chief Ranger

Nancy T. Heiser
Naturalist

Brandon Pentz
Naturalist

Andrew T. Wolfgang
Naturalist

Melanie S. Neff
Administrative Assistant

Fern L. Weaver
Administrative Support

Maintenance Staff
Frank Berry • Joseph Carbaugh
Wayne Deller • Jesse Derksen
Kerry Flinchbaugh • Matt Gannon
Randall Grove • Richard J. Himes
Michael Leiphart • Randy Leiphart
Greg Miller • Douglas Murphy
Eric Paules • Eric Roehm

Rangers

David Breedlove • Kevin Clouser
Jim Thompson



York County Department of Parks and Recreation

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



Ribbon-cutting on new section of Heritage Rail Trail from Rt. 30 to George St.

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

Financials

2019 Expenditure Budget: \$2,768,535.00

2019 Income: \$560,445.00

The annual cost to York County residents to operate and maintain the county parks department in 2019 totals **\$ 5.91 per resident**



Expenditures: \$2,768,535.00

+ benefits: \$442,763.00

- revenue: \$560,445.00

Expenses less income: \$2,650,853

York County Planning Commission's 2018 census estimate—448,273 residents

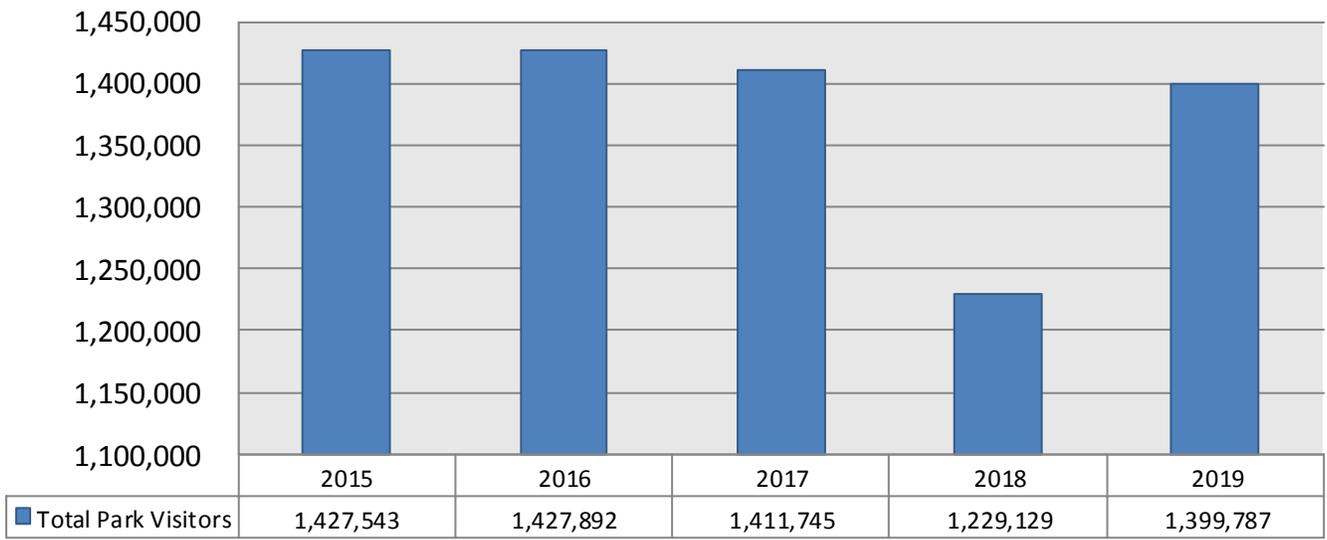


Christmas Magic is the York County Parks' largest source of revenue.

Enjoying our Parks



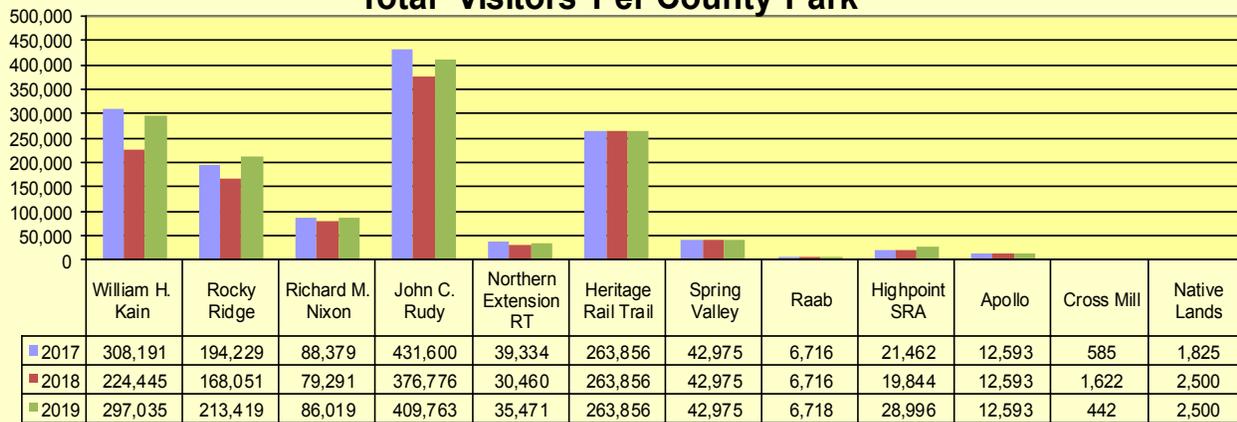
Park Visitation



NOTE: High % of rain days throughout the 2018 season.



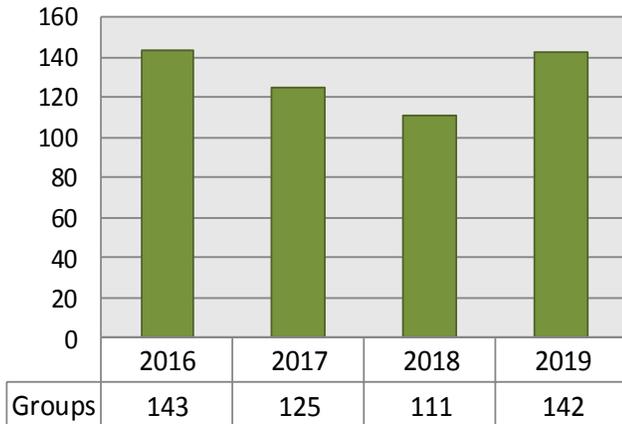
Total Visitors Per County Park



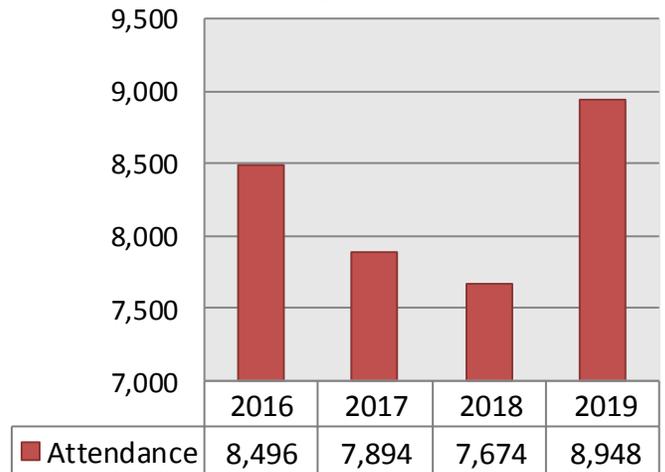
NOTE: Heritage Rail Trail, Spring Valley, Raab, Apollo and Native Lands are not counted on a yearly basis. Attendance is re-evaluated on a 5-7 year basis. 2017 Heritage Rail Trail attendance calculated as part of the 2017 User Survey.

Public Programs

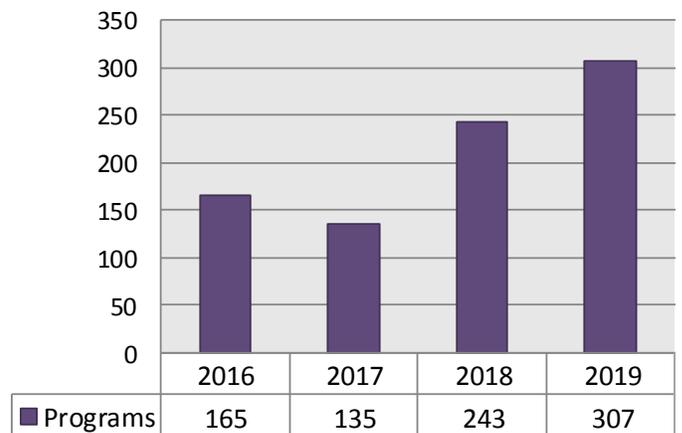
Number of School Groups (K-12, college, civic)



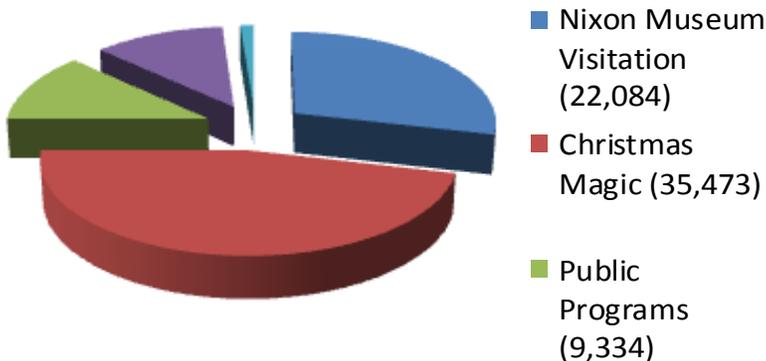
School Group Attendance



Number of Public Programs



Nixon Museum and Program Attendance Total: 76,737 people



Other: On own groups and tours at Nixon Nature Center

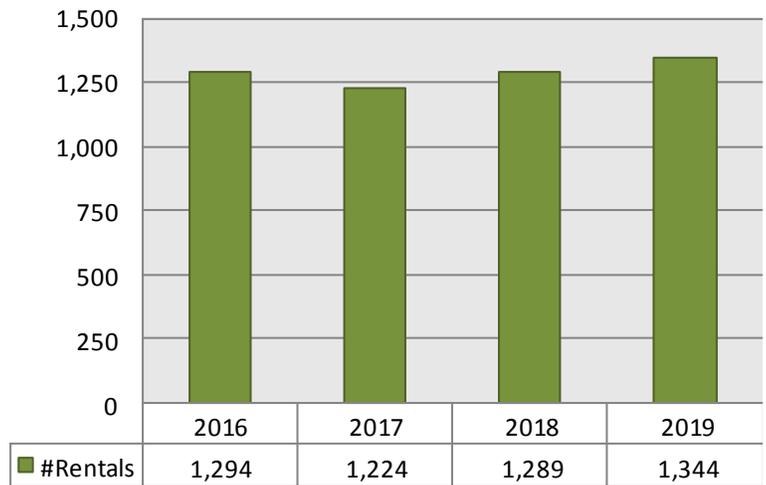


Pavilion & Sports Field Rentals

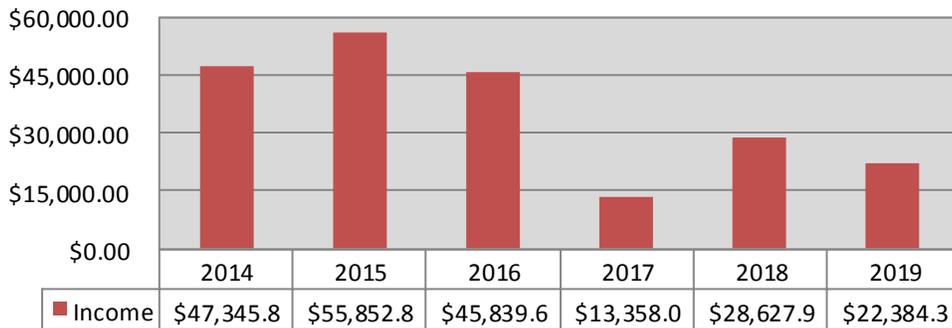


New Aqua bikes available to rent at Lake Redman

of Pavilion Rentals in All Parks



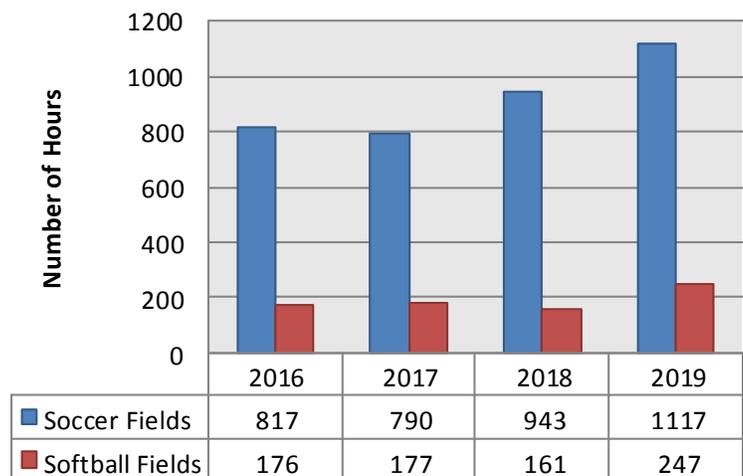
Lake Redman Boat Rental Income Excluding 6% Sales Tax



Boat rental closed for most of 2017, Sept. 2018, & until July 2019 due to low lake levels from construction on Lake Williams dam.



Sports Field Rentals

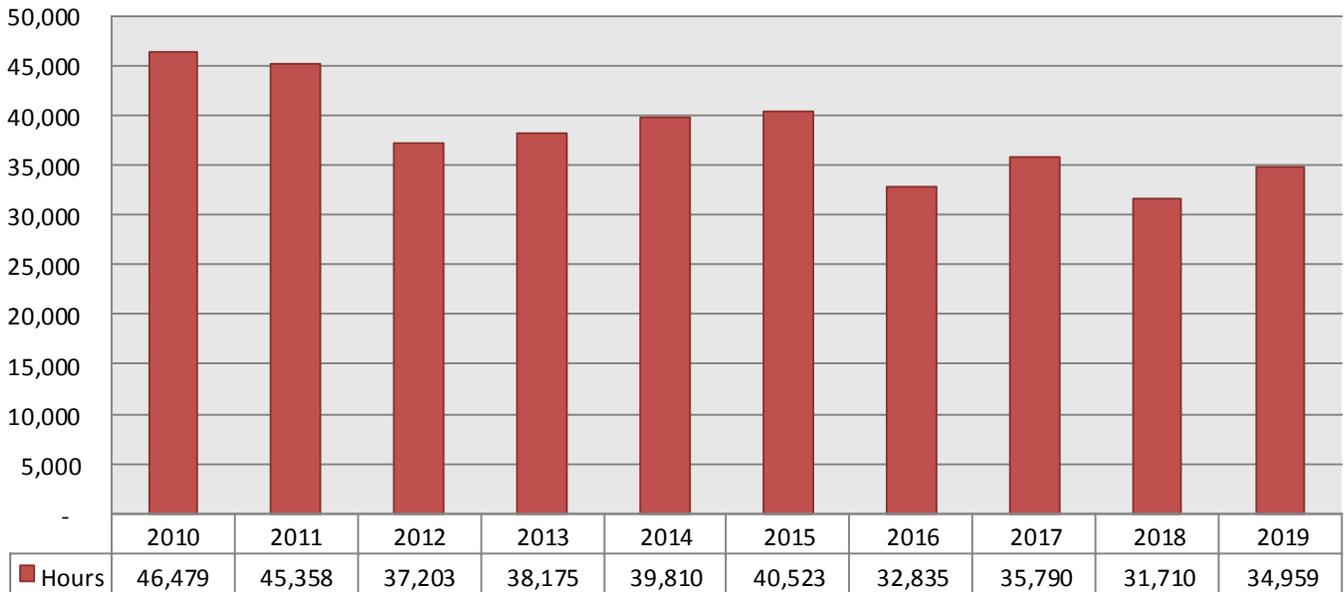


Volunteers in Action



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 2019 Accomplishments

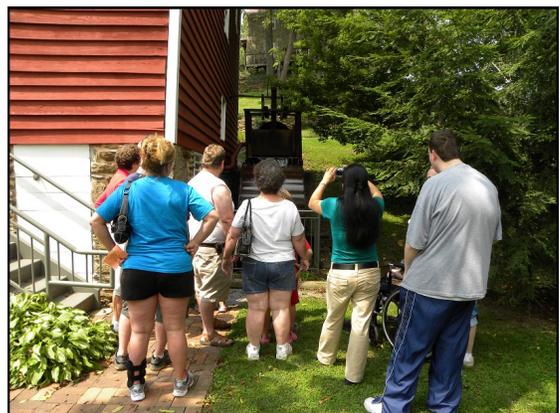
- Filled 85 greeter time slots at Hanover Junction and New Freedom Train Station Museums, May—October.
- Sunset Scrambler volunteers offered a weekly ride series covering the entire Rail Trail and monthly Moonlight Bike Rides.
- Offered 4 local history Porch Talk programs in June and July.
- Opened for New Freedom Street Fair.
- Provided support for Pumpkin Walk in Seven Valleys sponsored by the York County Rail Trail Authority.
- Provided assistance at the Christmas Magic food stand.

Friends of Wallace-Cross Mill 2019 Accomplishments

- Open to the public for 19 days from June to October and staffed by Friends volunteers.
- Special event days included: Made in America Days, Mid-Atlantic Milling Days, Miller’s Heritage Day, and Apple Cider Day.
- A Recognition of Service Award was presented to Jim Kefauver.
- Participated with York County Convention and Visitor’s Bureau Made in America Days tour stops.
- Hosted the annual covered dish social.
- Provided assistance at the Christmas Magic food stand.



Porch Talk at Hanover Junction in June 2019



Wallace-Cross Mill Tour Group

Natural Resource Management

Nestwatcher Data 2019 110 Nest Boxes Monitored by Volunteers in 6 parks

Fledglings counted by species:

- 89 Eastern Bluebirds
- 86 Tree Swallows
- 13 House Wrens
- 8 Carolina Wrens
- 0 House Sparrows

In 2019, the number of bluebird eggs that progressed to fledglings in York County Parks' nest boxes went up from 57% to 62%.

2019 Successful Nest Builders in York County Parks Nest Boxes



Eastern Bluebirds:
22 nests (46 attempted)



Tree Swallows:
20 nests



House Wrens:
2 nests

Rudy Park: 200 tree seedlings were planted in Song Bird Picnic area, 12 – 2” caliper trees were planted at the park entrance to Pines Picnic Area, and volunteers cleaned up trash along the Rail Trail and Codorus Creek.

Kain Park: 12 Stone deflector fish habitat structures were installed in Lake Williams, Catfish and Large Mouth Bass fry stocked in Lake Williams, and 8 acres of invasive plants were removed by brown bear brush-hog.

Raab Park: 5 acres of invasive plants were removed by brown bear brush-hog and 500 tree seedlings were planted in the same area.

Nixon Park: About 3 acres of invasive plants were removed.

Rail Trail: 6-2” caliper maple trees were planted at the Seven Valleys Parking lot, and 2-2” caliper maple trees were planted at the Brillhart Station Parking Lot.

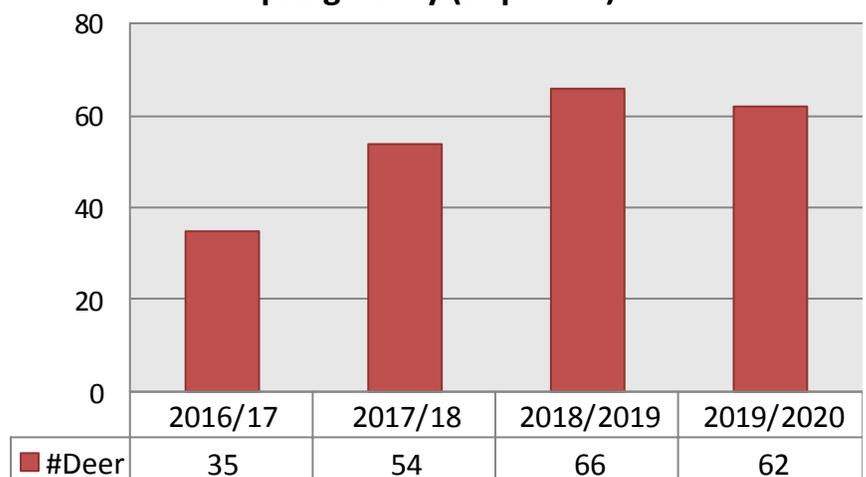


Restocking Lake Williams with catfish

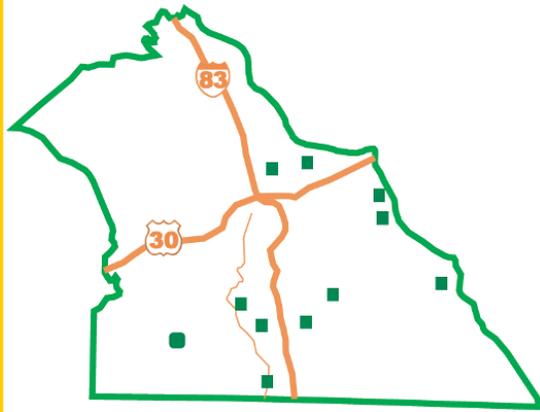


A juvenile black bear was captured by the PA Game Commission from populous York County and released somewhere else after being examined at John Rudy Park.

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

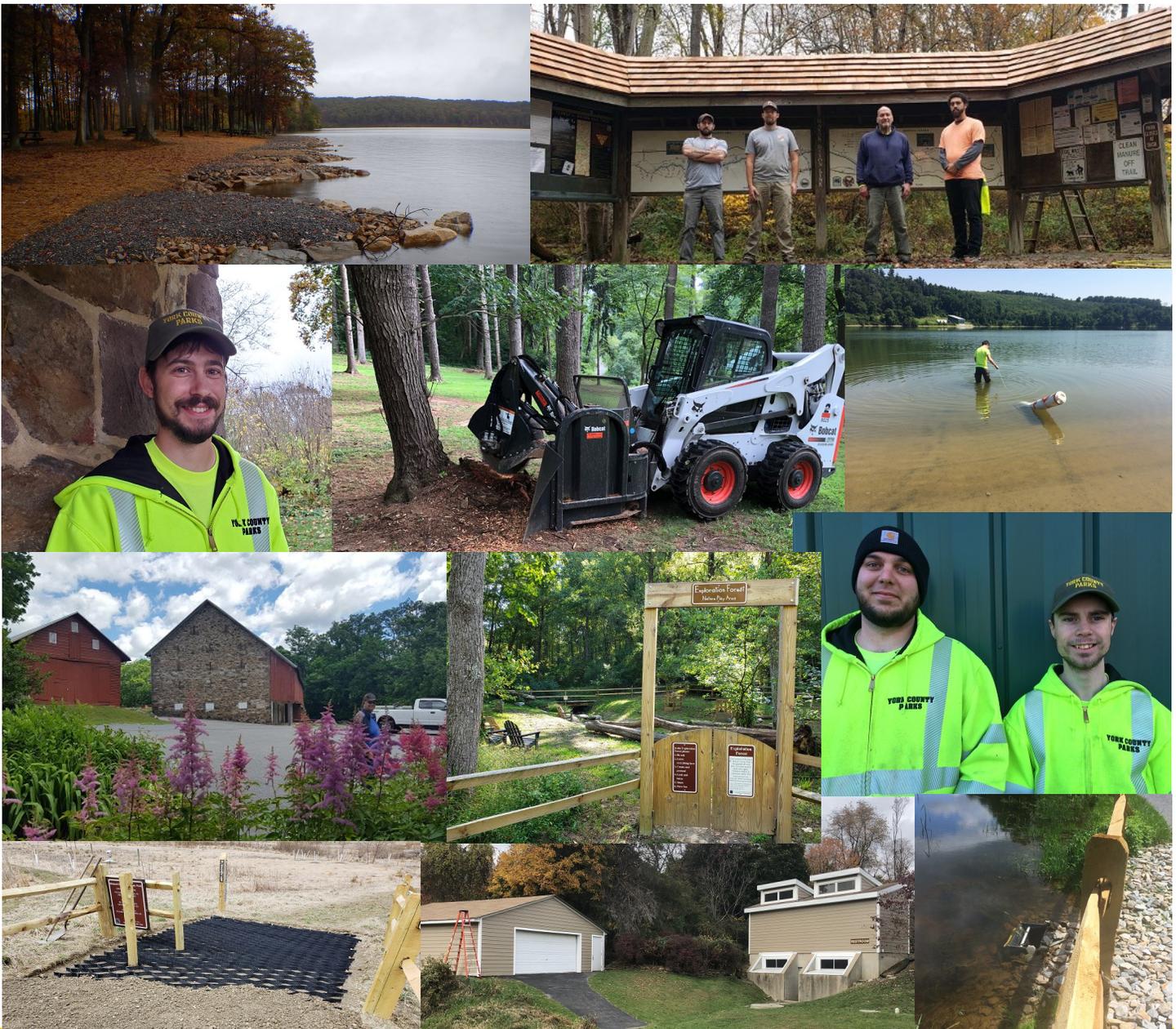


Maintenance Department



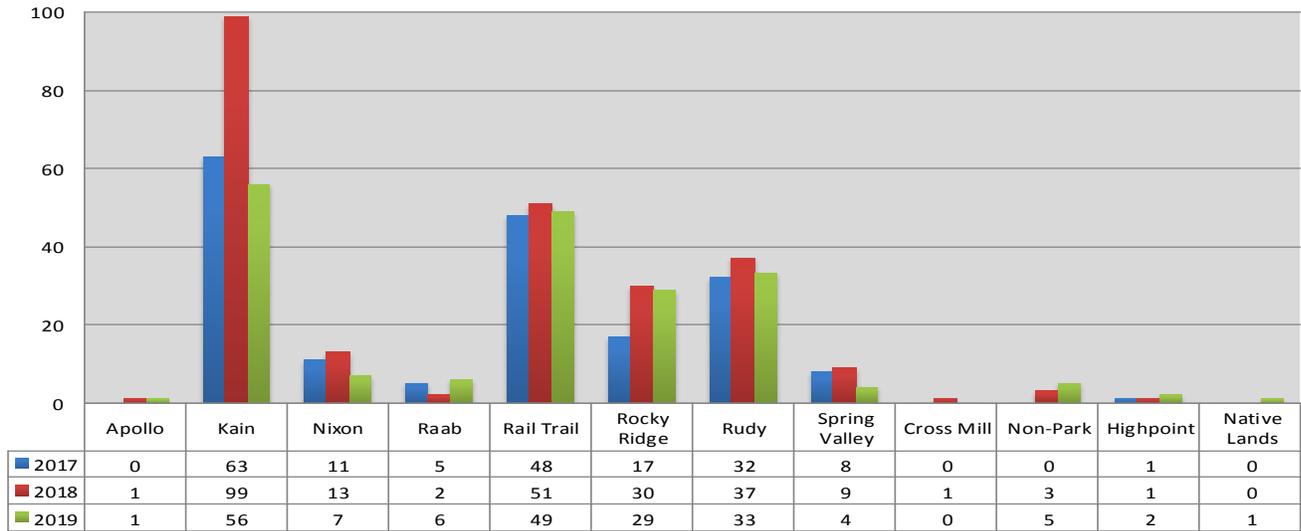
The York County Parks Maintenance Department consists of 14 group leaders, two assistant superintendents and one superintendent. Their responsibility is to maintain over 4,500 acres of public park land with a physical inventory consisting of:

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

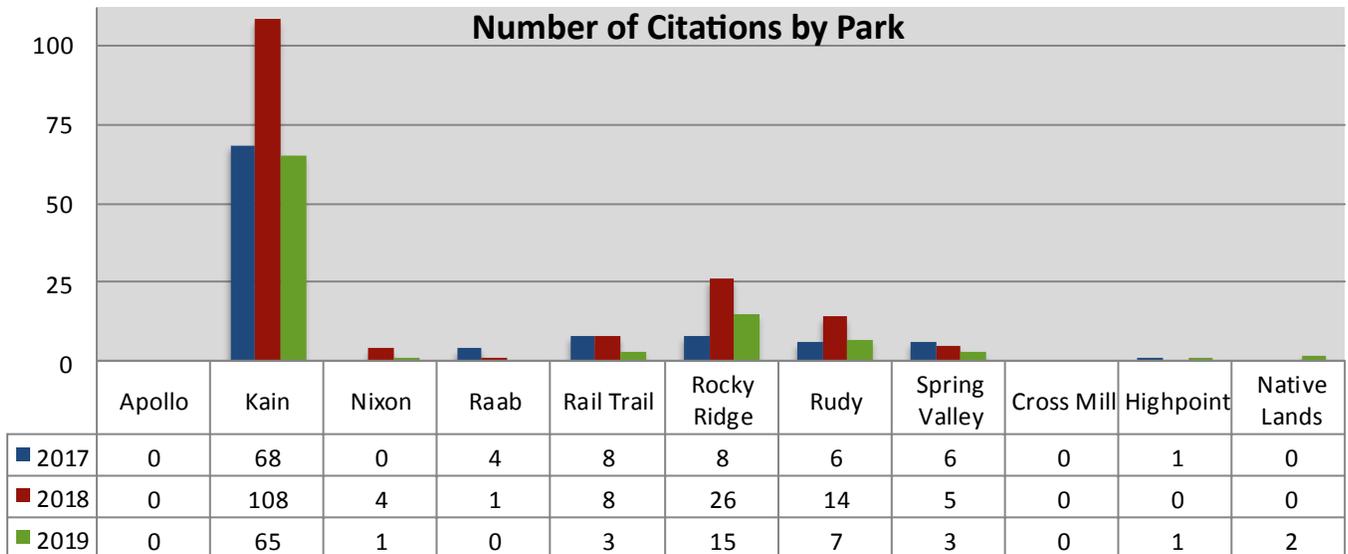


Ranger Report

Number of Incidents by Park—Including Visitor Injuries



Number of Citations by Park



York County Park Rangers provided traffic control, pedestrian safety, and parking at two Maple Sugar Days at Nixon Park, Pumpkin Walk on Heritage Rail Trail in Seven Valleys, and for Christmas Magic - A Festival of Lights at Rocky Ridge Park, where **35,473** people attended in 2018. Rangers participated in National Night Out in Springettsbury Township and North Hopewell Township on educating visitors on safety while visiting the parks and handed out materials on the benefits of York County Parks. Annual Mileage Driven: **91,468**.

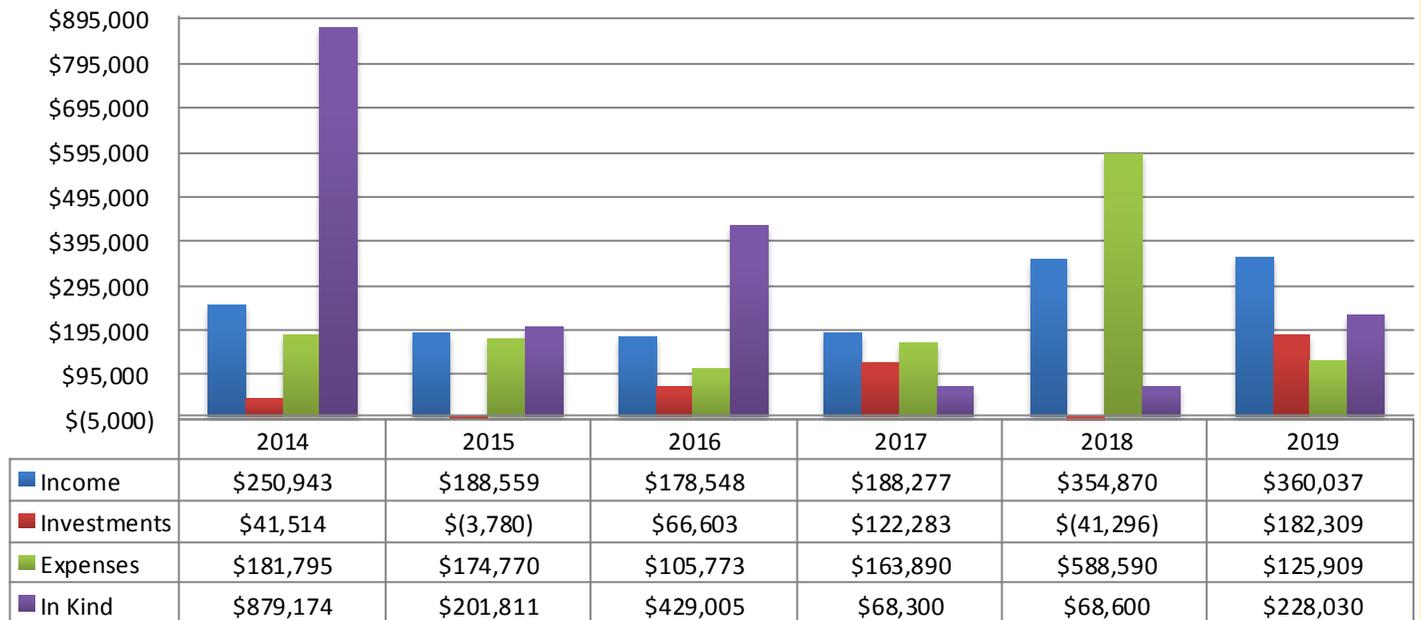


Rangers investigated and closed out **3** general complaints, submitted **61** work orders to the Maintenance Department, and collected **338** pavilion surveys from Rudy, Rocky Ridge, and Kain rented pavilions. The surveys indicated that Rangers were **98.67%** helpful and friendly. The response from park visitors was **99.33%** that they felt safe while visiting the parks. **401** written warnings were given out. Park Ambassadors logged **828.25** 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.*

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.



The York County Parks Foundation Charitable Trust continued to raise money to fund the Nixon Park 3-seasons classroom for environmental education. Construction is slated to begin in 2020.

Gathering Leaves.....	\$171,796
Legacy Fund.....	\$197,202
Kain Memorial.....	\$9,153
Ralph Brooks Endowment..	\$120,677
Rail Trail Friends.....	\$49,437
Cross Mill Friends.....	\$92,259
Canine Meadows Friends.....	\$9,236
YCAG.....	\$12,276
General Parks.....	\$739,464
Grants and Estates.....	\$24,571
TOTAL.....	\$1,426,071

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 & Ruth Ann 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 Sowers
 John & Lisa Strine

Paul & Kathryn Summers
 John & Joan Ulrich
 Deanna & Francis Velazquez
 Anne & Jack Wagner

In remembrance of members:

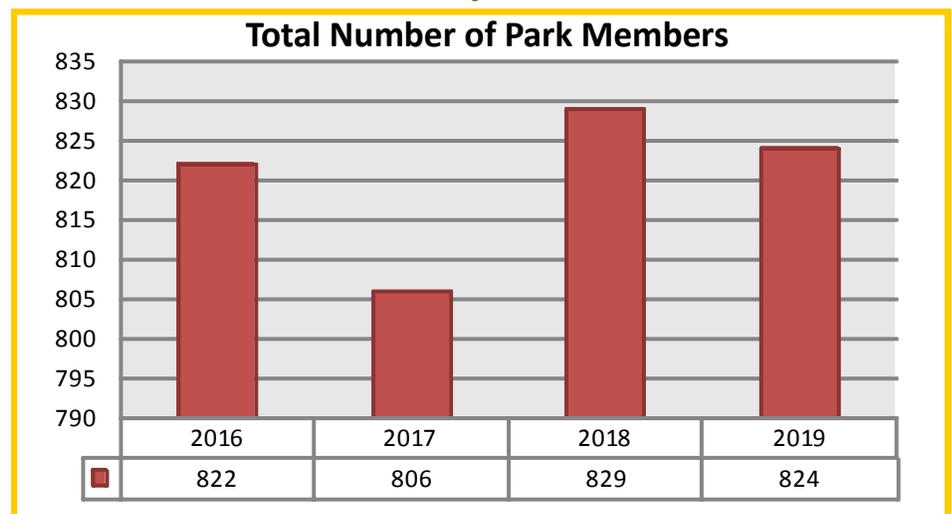
J. Kerr Anderson
 Cooper Boyd
 Burnell Diehl
 James F. Donahue
 Shirley Glass
 Arthur J. Glatfelter
 Voni B. Grimes
 Don & Donallene Heisler
 Carroll & Irene Hunt
 Geneva Bowman Kaltreider
 Paul H. & Nancy F. Keiser
 Maxine Klunk
 Raymond E. Knowles, Jr.
 Sydney Levitan
 Irma S. Louey
 Barbara Markel
 Edmund Miller
 Paul E. Newcomer
 Dale L. Schaeberle
 Roger E. Shaffer
 Luther Sowers
 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

Brian Addison
Janet Alloway
Michael Anderson
Basement Waterproofing Specialists
Jessica & Allen Baumgardner-Zuzik
John & Melissa Bean
Timothy & Mary Ann Blessing
Mr. Mel & Mrs. Kim Blouse
Rick Bogart
Mr. & Mrs. John G. Boop
Winifred Bradley
Laura Brown
Ralph & Polly Bucklen
Robert Campbell
Jack Cardello
Jason Chesla
Tracy Chronister
Conewago Garden Club
Mrs. Joy Conrad
Billie Jo Conway
Nicole Dannehl
Mrs. Linda Davidson
Ms. Peggy J. Davin
Sherri Buttrey Dennis
Burnell M. Diehl
Frank Dittenhafer
Jane E. Dodson
Amanda Dubbs
Eastern Penn Mushroomers
Peggy Ellis
W.H. Evans, Jr. Family
FirstEnergy Foundation
Ms. Carol A. Frey
Randy C. Gantz
Terry Garland
Joshua George
Amber Gessner
Anthony Gladfelter
Gohn & Stambaugh, Inc.
Suzanne Griest
Brigette Hagerty
Harley-Davidson York Operations

Michael Haun
Jeff Hines
Samantha & Bradley Hittie
Matthew Horst
Evelyn Hovis
Lyndi & Justin Ilyes
Nancy M. Imhoff
Mr. William & Mrs. Linda Jones
Dale & Jacklyn Keagy
Anne Kennedy
Sean Kenny
Kevin Rice Memorial Fund of YCCF
Sue Ann Kline
Tammy F. Klunk
Marian Knopp LLC
Deborah J. Koller
Joseph & Sandra Koller
Herbert Konrad III
Melody Kraus
Lancaster County Conservancy
Mr. & Mrs. Leib
Dave and Cindy Lentz
Donald & Sarah Lindt
Loganville Fire Company
Deborah Lord
Maple Press Employees
Chad Martin
Carla McIntosh
Eric McKinney
Sherri Miller
Steven Miller
Shama Mir
Linda Morningstar
William & Nancy Morris
Murphy & Dittenhafer
Travis Neely
Amy Nelson
Sue Nedomanski
Ore Valley PTO
Kara Osborn
Overfelt Family
John Pavoncello
Richard G Piepoli Estate
Mary Phillips-Rakestraw
Frances Polk
Danielle Potter

Patricia Reed & Michael Hubbard
Donald & Theresa Reichard
Ruth Ann Rogers
Kenneth & Arville Roser
Tina Ruppert
Michael Russo
Amanda Saylor
Peggy & Dave Schlichter
Diane Schroyer
Patsy Schrum
Glennel M. Schulze
Leanne Schweitzer
Emily Sell
Shallow Brook Intermediate PTO
Gregory & Deborah Smith
Smith Village
Charles and Judith Snyder
L. Christine Snyder
Mary J. Spiese
Eric Stager
Starview UCC
Dr. Charles Stein
Corrine Strathmeyer
Margaret A. Sultner
Carla J. Suskie
Swank
David Swartz
Stephen Tansey
Tess Trueheart
UPMC Pinnacle
Alan Vandersloot
Deanna & Francis Velazquez
Edward & Sally Wagman Family
Fund of York Community Foundation
Daniel Walko
Carmen Walsh
Mark Walters
Rev. Curt Weber
Kim Whiteley
Gene & Trudy Wise
David Yates
York Audubon Society
York College of Pennsylvania
The York Water Company Fund of
York County Community Foundation
Ann Yost

Many of our offerings would not be possible if not for the kindness of others. Thank you to those individuals and organizations who have contributed in 2019.

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—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
- 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
- 2013—Online pavilion 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
- 2019—Northern Extension Rail Trail Phase III—Route 30 to Smalls Athletic Fields opened