

Enhance Penn's Woods

A two-year, \$200-million effort to repair and update Pa.'s state parks and forests

Fact Sheet

Enhance Penn's Woods

Fiscal Years 2013-2015

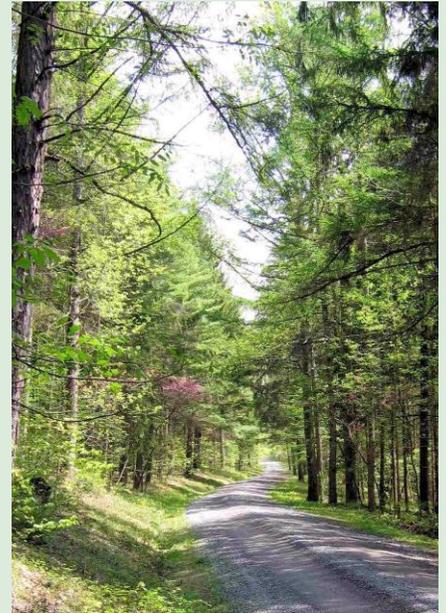
Pennsylvania's state parks and forests provide beauty and outdoor recreation, protect our natural resources and attract tourists. Our 120 state parks average about 38 million visitors annually, with millions more enjoying our state forests.

DCNR staff work to ensure visitors have a meaningful and enjoyable experience, and to protect and conserve our resources. But a system so well-loved and well-used suffers wear and tear over time and requires real commitment to maintain and improve.

DCNR now has additional tools to invest in our public lands by directing the pooling of resources and dedicating an additional \$100 million toward a comprehensive improvement plan for state parks and forests through fiscal year 2014-15.

The *Enhance Penn's Woods* initiative will invest more than \$200 million in facilities such as campgrounds, trails, boat access, land acquisition and much more. It will enable DCNR to be better stewards of the parks and forests.

This investment is the largest short-term funding commitment to state park and forest infrastructure in the history of the commonwealth.



The department estimates about 200 projects will be covered under the two-year investment, including:

- Improvements to some of the most visited and unique parks in the system including a visitor center at Kinzua Bridge State Park, McKean County; new park office at Cook Forest State Park, Clarion County; and completion of the visitor center at Ohiopyle State Park, Fayette County;
- Dam repair at Sinnemahoning State Park, Cameron County; Marsh Creek State Park, Chester County; Chapman State Park, Warren County; Pymatuning State Park, Crawford County; and Gouldsboro State Park, Monroe County;
- New opportunities for interaction with the public at offices in the Buchanan State Forest, Fulton County, and Gallitzin State Forest, Cambria and Indiana counties;
- Repairs to fire towers in state forests statewide;
- Adding 20,000 acres of land to the state forest system for the public to enjoy;
- Twelve campground improvement projects including at Gifford Pinchot, Prince Gallitzin, Hickory Run, Bald Eagle, Parker Dam, Laurel Hill, Hills Creek, Black Moshannon and Caledonia state parks;
- More than 50 public access improvement projects to roads, bridges and trails; and
- Seventeen state park drinking water or wastewater system projects.



This project is another major step to

Enhance Penn's Woods

A 2-year, \$200-million investment in Pennsylvania's state parks and forests



Enhance Penn's Woods covers the current fiscal year 2013-14, and fiscal year 2014-15. Funding sources include the Keystone Fund; Environmental Stewardship Fund; Oil and Gas Lease Fund; Snowmobile/ATV Fund; Dirt and Gravel Road Allocation; and Forestry Bridge Account. New money for this investment will come from \$45 million from Growing Greener II bond premiums and interest, and \$57 million in capital budget commitments.

For each fiscal year, the infrastructure design and construction projects are expected to support almost 1,000 jobs in the engineering, architecture, landscape design, construction and other fields.

Pennsylvania has 120 state parks totaling almost 300,000 acres, and 2.2 million acres in 20 state forest districts. Visitors to Pennsylvania state parks generate more than \$1 billion in economic activity in nearby communities annually, supporting almost 13,000 jobs.

For more information about Pennsylvania state parks and forests, visit www.dcnr.state.pa.us. For updates follow DCNR on Twitter @DCNRNews, #enhancepennswoods.