



PRPS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

1935-2015

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



About PRPS

The Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (PRPS) is the principal state association providing professional leadership, development, advocacy and resources for those working and volunteering in the parks and recreation field.

The Society's members include managers of municipal and state recreation and park systems, recreation therapists and wellness specialists, higher education professors and students, managers and programmers of commercial recreation facilities, suppliers and manufacturers of recreation and park products and services, and citizen members of community recreation and park boards across the Commonwealth.



Conference Opening Keynote, Lancaster

The Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society unites recreation and park professionals and interested citizens to enhance their leadership in meeting recreational needs of all Pennsylvanians.

Membership Services & Benefits

Industry News & Trends

- *Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks*, the Society's biannual magazine of professional news, Society business and educational features
- *PRPS Weekly E-News*, the latest announcements and statewide news
- Career & Job Opportunities postings
- Grant and Funding Opportunities
- PRPS Member Directory and Buyer's Guide

Legislative Advocacy

- Your voice for advocacy for recreation, parks and conservation funding mechanisms at local, state and federal levels, such as Growing Greener, Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund, and Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- Your representation on important statewide advisory groups, such as the Urban Parks and Recreation Alliance, the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, and the Recreation Advisory Council.
- Your source for updates on standards, regulations and requirements that impact your organization, such as playground safety standards, lifeguard regulations, and ADA requirements.

Professional Development & Networking Forums

- Annual State Conference
- Therapeutic Recreation Institute
- Park Resource Workshops
- Greenways and Trails Summit
- Aquatics Workshops
- Certified Playground Safety Course
- Citizens Symposium
- Other workshops, classes and webinars
- CEUs to maintain professional certifications
- First-time conference attendee mentoring program
- Student scholarship programs
- Fall Membership Meeting
- Get Outdoors PA
- Statewide and Regional Partnership opportunities
- Leadership opportunities

Member Benefits

- Membership Certificate and PRPS decal
- Discounted rates on professional development opportunities.
- Eligibility for membership in the Pennsylvania State Employees Credit Union
- Eligibility for group-rate professional liability insurance coverage
- Community Service Discount Ticket programs
- Recreation and Park Technical Assistance (RecTAP) grants
- Discounts on car rentals, amusement park and ski lift tickets
- Annual Membership Directory and Buyers Guide
- Technical assistance and Resource Library
- Annual Recognition and Awards Program
- District and Branch social and educational events
- Mailing list purchase opportunities for vendors
- PRPS/PTRS apparel



Christopher Ridenhour actively engages the Conference attendees as the opening keynote in Lancaster.

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Dear Members & Partners

2015 marks the 80th anniversary of service to our membership. What an amazing accomplishment from an organization that is membership governed and supported!

We should be excited about the future of PRPS and the opportunities ahead. New initiatives well underway include the updated Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, the statewide marketing and branding campaign, the newly formed Urban Park and Recreation Alliance, and strong growth in Get Outdoors PA. Important partnerships have been solidified with the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania State Employees Credit Union, and many others, including a unique cooperative with the Growing Greener Coalition and the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association for legislative advocacy.



The staff of PRPS has enthusiastically participated in and embraced changes in the office structure and is working hard for the membership. We have a Board of Directors that is committed to governing the Society and eager to make decisions that will continue to move us forward in meeting the needs of our membership. Our standing committee chairs are all in place and working with their volunteer members and PRPS staff to position us in the forefront of state societies. An involved membership is the keystone to our success.

The following report is purposed to inform our membership, our partners and our peers of the state of our Society. With a committed Board of Directors, a dedicated Executive Director, a talented staff and members willing to serve, the future of PRPS looks bright. However, we can't be complacent in our commitment to the future. Significant challenges face this organization and we must meet them head on, now.



Tonya Brown, Harry Norton and Helen Griffith supporting PRPS at the PSATS Conference, Hershey.

We must remain diligent in all aspects of our fiscal management, finding new revenue streams while tightening our shoe laces.

We must continue to educate our membership and their peers to the benefits that our society has to offer. Membership recruitment and retention is crucial to our future.

We should all be proud of the history of PRPS and the services provided to the members. We should all be proud to serve our Society now and in the future. Get involved. It's Good for You, Good for All!

Respectfully yours,

Kurt

Kurt W. Baker, President
Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society, Inc.

Administration

Board of Directors

Kurt Baker, CPSI	President	2015-17
Tammy Echevarria, CPRP	Secretary	2015-17
Rob Lewis, CPRP	Treasurer	2015-17
Kirk Rakos, CTRS, M.Ed.	President-Elect	2015-17
Bill Rosevear	Past President	2015-17
Audrey Logar	Director-at-Large	2012-16
Carolyn Hanel, CPRP	Director-at-Large	2014-18
Margie Earnest, CPRP	Director-at-Large	2012-16
Karen Hammond	Director-at-Large	2014-18
Jim Pashek	Citizen Director	2015-17
Lee Bryan	Citizen Director	2014-16
Kim Batty	Educators Director	2015-17
Helen Griffith	Retired Professional	2015-17
Zurrell Toney	Student Director	2014-15
Morgan Costello	Student Director	2015-17
Christopher Biswick, CPRP	Aquatics Branch President	2015-17
Becky Slick, CPRP	Community Branch President	2015-17
Jeremy Rekich	PA State Parks Branch President	2015-17
Anne Wieland, CTRS, MHA	PTRS Branch President	2015-17
Kurt Uhler	Park Resources Branch President	2015-17
Ryan McCleaster, CPRP	District I President	2014-16
Kate King	District II President	2014-16
Dan Russell	District III President	2014-16

Staff

After the departure of Karen Burke as PRPS Executive Director in April, the Board appointed Tim Herd as Interim Executive Director while it completed a national search to fill the position. In September, Mr. Herd was hired by unanimous approval as the permanent Executive Director. Upon the completion of her internship with the PRPS Office, Nicole Lynd was hired as Grants and Training Assistant.

As part of an overall Organization Assessment, the Board also oversaw the realignment and updating of other staff job descriptions and compensations.

Tim Herd, CPRE	Executive Director
Tracy Robert	Membership Services Coordinator
Emily Schnellbaugh	Communications Coordinator
Emily Gates	Grants and Training Coordinator
Anne Thomas	Financial Coordinator
Nicole Lynd	Grants and Training Assistant
Jane LaMar	Administrative Assistant
Susie Schnellbaugh	Ticket Sales Assistant
Rita Robert	Ticket Sales Assistant
Scott Thomas	Projects Assistant

Membership

PRPS exists for the sole purpose of serving the needs of its members. In March, the Board revised the Membership dues structure for the first time in many years. The most notable change was the introduction of free student membership offered to all full time undergraduates majoring in recreation and parks, therapeutic recreation and related studies.

At the close of the year, the Membership totaled 1898 professional members and 17,013 Friends members.

Professional	678
Associate	137
Student	459
Retiree	52
Honorary	36
Complimentary	35
Board/Commission	404
Commercial/Corporate	79
Patron	2
Life	16
Friend	17,013

Branches & Districts

Districts of the PRPS are geographic regions represented by District 1 (western), District 2 (central) and District 3 (eastern) within the state.

Branches of the PRPS are professional interest groups among the PRPS Membership. There are currently five: Aquatics, Community Recreation and Parks, Park Resources, Pennsylvania State Park Society, and the Pennsylvania Therapeutic Recreation Society.

Each District and Branch is governed under the ByLaws of PRPS and is managed by its own elected officers and executive committees.

Society Finances

Budget

In 2015, the Society fully transitioned from a fiscal year budget to a calendar year budget to improve transparency and streamline its accounting. The budget of the March Annual Conference was kept on a July-June fiscal year to enable a clearer accounting of all conference-related moneys.

In 2015, PRPS operations met 100 percent of its budgeted revenues, at \$848,871, and 91 percent of its budgeted expenses, at \$710,306, resulting in net revenues of \$138,565.

Incentive Fund

In May, The Finance Committee presented a proposal to the Board of Directors to establish an "Incentive Fund" to dedicate revenues to fund the long-term needs of advocacy projects (which had previously been set aside), capital projects and capital repairs. The Board adopted the plan and \$150,000 was invested in an interest-bearing Mutual Fund for the purpose. In addition, the Board agreed to pay an additional lump sum of \$10,000 on the mortgage annually, which would pay off the mortgage nearly 5 years earlier and save an estimated \$16,000-\$26,000 on interest, depending on how the rate adjusts in the future.

Discount Ticket Program

PRPS partners with a wide variety of amusement parks, ski slopes and movie distributors to sell discount tickets year-round through its participating Member Agencies. In 2015 the collective effort generated gross sales of more than \$3.3 million, resulting in approximately \$105,000 in commissions shared among the participating agencies, and an equal amount to the Society.

Grants & Grantmaking

Through an ongoing partnership with the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, PRPS administers many diverse grant projects through the state's Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2). As of the end of the year, the following grant-supported programs were being advanced or planned through PRPS Staff, members, volunteers and community partners.

- Annual C2P2 Grant Workshops
- PA Urban Parks and Recreation Alliance
- Regional, County and Citizen Workshops
- Get Outdoors PA
- RecTrailTAP
- Statewide Branding and Marketing Campaign
- Health & Wellness
- Annual PRPS Conferences
- PRPS Board Development Training
- Technical Assistance Grant Coordination and Administration
- Local Parks and Recreation Economic Benefits Study Research
- DCNR Staff Training
- Biannual Greenways & Trails Summit
- Trails to You Newsletter
- Trails Grant Coordination and Administration
- Motorized Trail Workshop
- Regional Trail Workshops Grants
- Annual Trail of the Year Program
- Webinars (Trail and Technical Assistance)
- PA Trails Economic Benefits Study
- Advanced One-Day Trail Training & Trail Assessment Program

RecTAP Grants

Funded through the PA DCNR and administered by PRPS, the Recreation and Parks Technical Assistance Program helps organizations get expert advice with recreation and park problems. RecTAP matches recreation and park professionals with municipalities to provide technical advice and assistance on specific issues that can be addressed within a limited amount of time. Since the program's inception in 2010, 26 projects have been awarded.

In 2015, PRPS extended RecTap Grants of \$2500 each to three municipalities:

- **Muhlenberg Township** to evaluate parks and recreation department programming.
- **Lewistown Borough** to develop a recreation park revitalization concept plan.
- **Hamilton Jackson Pocono Park and Open Space Committee** to research new partnerships and develop a partnership incorporation plan.

Regional Trail Workshops Grants

Funded through the PA DCNR and administered by PRPS, Regional Trail Workshop Grants are awarded to conservation-oriented organizations for local trail workshops. Grants of up to \$5,000 or 80 percent of the costs associated with each workshop were awarded to four regional workshops for a total of \$11,215.

- **Appalachian Trail Conservancy** for the May 1 workshop Go Local for Health: Understanding Natural, Recreational, Agricultural, and Built Environments as the Frontline of Community Wellness held in Boiling Springs.
- **Pennsylvania Land Trust Association** for its May 8 conference seminars on Sustainable Trail Planning, Design and Construction, and Universal Access Trails and Shared Use Paths Design, Management, Ethical, and Legal Considerations
- **East Bradford Township** for its September 9 Trail Bed and Tread Workshop in Downingtown.
- **Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation** for its Non-Motorized Trail Maintenance and Construction Trainings held in June in Susquehannock State Forest, August in Caledonia State Park and October in Ohiopyle State Park.



DCNR information booth, PRPS Conference, Lancaster.

Professional Development

Professional development is one of the core functions of the Society, and an intentional process produces a year-round slate of practical educational opportunities. In 2015, PRPS hosted 178 educational courses, sessions and webinars for a total of 1789 individuals, generating \$231,684.

Annual Conference

The 68th Annual State Conference, *Breaking Traditions*, brought 515 attendees to a new venue at the Lancaster Marriott and Convention Center in downtown Lancaster. Outstanding educational sessions, motivating keynote speakers, off-site tours, networking socials, exhibiting vendors and sponsors, and even a new conference mobile app all contributed to the unique professional development opportunity that was #BREAKINGTRADITIONS in 2015.

Pennsylvania Therapeutic Recreation Institute

Getting Back to FUNdamentals, the 47th Annual Pennsylvania Therapeutic Recreation Institute, was held June 3-5 in Lancaster. Attended by 158 professionals, the training offered of a pre-conference workshop, two keynote addresses, three general sessions and 19 breakouts.

Greenways & Trails Summit

In September, PRPS and the PA DCNR held its Greenways and Trails Summit, Take a Walk on the Wilds Side, in Warren with a record number of 255 attendees discussing visions, direction, and priorities for the statewide greenways and trails movement. With mobile workshops, 30 breakout sessions, 12 exhibitors and 19 sponsors the Greenways and Trails Summit was a successful opportunity for members of the greenways and trails community to interact with and learn from one another and leaders on a state and national level.

Continuing Education Units

PRPS administers continuing education units (CEUs) and contact hours authorized by the National Recreation and Park Association. These CEUs are applicable for CPRP, CPRE, and AFO certifications administered by NRPA, as well as the CTRS certification administered by NCTRC. In addition, PRPS also awards CEUs according to a fee schedule to outside organizations who host qualifying educational events, of which there were nine in 2015.

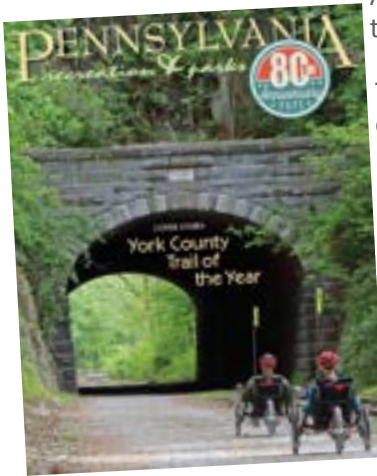
2015 Professional Development Programs

1/21	GOPA Webinar: Best Practices for Outdoor Recreation Programs
1/28	D2 Meeting & Workshop 2015-York
3/16	Liberty Bell Trail Workshop-Perkasie
3/22-25	Annual PRPS Conference- Lancaster
3/22	Citizens & Friends Day Workshop-Lancaster
3/24	Park Resource & Maintenance Workshop-Lancaster
3/27	Get Outdoors PA Webinar: Inclusive & Adaptive Outdoor Rec Programs
4/8	PTRS Day-York
4/10	Creating a Vision for Positive Leadership-Allentown
4/20	Pool Recertification Workshop-Plymouth
4/21-22	Pool Management 101 & Pesticide Exams-Cranberry
4/21	Pool Management 101 & Pesticide Exams-Plymouth
4/27	Pool Recertification Workshop-Mechanicsburg
4/28-29	Pool Management 101 & Pesticide Exams-Mechanicsburg
5/5-7	CPSI Course & Exam-Middletown Twp.
5/11	No Health Without Mental Health-Elkins Park
5/21	Get Outdoors PA Webinar: Using Social Media to promote your Outdoor Recreation Programs
5/28	PRPS Webinar: 2014 Amendments to PA Child Protective Services Law
6/3-5	2015 Therapeutic Recreation Institute-Lancaster
9/20-24	PA Greenways & Trails Summit-Warren
9/21	Pool Recertification Workshop-Plymouth
9/22	Pool Recertification Workshop-Cranberry Twp.
9/22	Pool Management 101 & Pesticide Exams-Cranberry
9/22	Pool Management 101 & Pesticide Exams-Plymouth
9/23	Pool Recertification Workshop-Mechanicsburg
9/24	Pool Management 101 & Pesticide Exams-Mechanicsburg
10/22	Resource Operations Workshop-Hamburg
10/23	Animal Assisted Therapy-Dallastown
11/4	Get Outdoors PA Webinar: Winter Outdoor Programming Best Practices
11/9	Understanding the Umbrella of Dementia-York
11/18	2015 Fall Membership Meeting-Harrisburg
11/19	Creating a Vision for Positive Leadership-Elizabethtown
11/20	Creating a Vision for Positive Leadership-Bryn Mawr
11/20	Managing Behavior in Recreation Therapy-State College
12/2-4	Certified Playground Safety Inspector Course-State College

Communications, Advocacy & Resources

Publications

The flagship publication of the Society is the biannual ***Pennsylvania Recreation & Parks*** magazine to help our Members keep pace with current trends and professional practices. The Spring 2015 issue celebrated PRPS's 80th Anniversary with 80 pages in the largest issue ever produced, and the fall issue explored the theme of Environmental Stewardship.



The PRPS ***eNews***, published every week, disseminates valuable information on special events, legislative happenings, job opportunities, grants, and educational workshops.

The annual ***Membership Director and Buyer's Guide*** delivers the most up-to-date and comprehensive information on our Members, Agencies and related professional references.

Throughout the year many other publications serve Member needs through workshop brochures, Action Alerts, District and Branch newsletters, Annual Conference guides, Vendor news, and other materials.

At year's end, an Op-Ed article written by Executive Director Herd, *Billions of reasons Pennsylvania's parks are good for us*, was published in several newspapers around the state and was subsequently redistributed nationally by the National Recreation and Park Association's SmartBrief newsletter.

Social & Electronic Media

Our presence in social and electronic media continue to share valuable news on industry trends, research and events. The PRPS website is comprised of 54 individual pages receiving 39,160 unique visitors, and more than 72K visits, 210K page views and 1.4M hits during 2015. Its pages also contain links to many outside publications, reports and resources of interest to the Membership

The PRPS Facebook page is well-liked by about 1000 friends and growing, and has become an important communication tool to those users. It is in turn liked by hundreds of other related organization's Facebook pages, extending the reach of PRPS posts far beyond its own direct users. A sister page, Good for PA, promotes the statewide branding campaign.

Mobile app

Appetites for mobile apps are growing: the average smartphone owner has 65 apps installed and uses 15 in a given week. The early-adopter phase of this social change is over, and mainstream adoption is beginning, spanning nearly all demographics and markets. For the first time in 2015, PRPS contracted for a mobile app for the Annual Conference to enhance the attendee experience, and was used by 56 percent of the attendees for over 7000 detailed views. This far exceeds the typical mobile app adoption rates for the first year in use of just 25-30 percent. PRPS has extended the contract with CrowdCompass to include 8 events in the next four years, bringing additional opportunities for monetization of the technology.





Good for You, Good for All statewide branding and marketing campaign

Inspired by the belief that local parks and recreation improves the lives of all Pennsylvanians, it is the mission of the Good for You, Good for All campaign to increase usage of parks and recreation facilities across the state, while equipping local providers with tools to raise awareness and increase support in their communities.

A working committee of PRPS, in partnership with PA DCNR, prepared a statewide Case Statement and a series of graphic and promotional materials for recreation and park providers to download and use to raise awareness of local parks and recreation. The eToolKit includes files for logos, posters, rack cards, Facebook graphics, website banner ads, a radio script, instructions, and more. www.GoodForPA.com/providers

In Fall, the campaign merged its public website with the DCNR-developed interactive statewide map of more than 5700 local and regional parks. The site allows users to easily search for parks by county, by name or nearby. www.GoodForPA.com

In December, the campaign introduced a custom local parks finder link for local municipalities using www.ExplorePALocalParks.com. With this tool, local park owners can integrate the link directly on their website to create a quick and easy connection to their local parks.

The campaign management is contracted to SWELL, LLC, who developed the concept with PRPS and DCNR partners.

The Governmental Affairs Committee presents the 2015 State Government Award to Rep. Robert Freeman in the Capitol in May. Pictured from left to right: Gary Smith, Alan Chace, Rep. Freeman, Tim Herd, Larry Williamson, Bill Forrey.

Governmental Affairs & Legislative Priorities

Governmental Affairs is a standing committee of the PRPS Board of Directors that monitors legislative actions, mobilizes advocacy efforts, and keeps the PRPS membership informed of state and federal bills and laws that affect parks and recreation in Pennsylvania.

One key issue of the year was the re-authorization of the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) that was set to expire. In January, a vote in the US Senate, tied to the Keystone XL pipeline, would have permanently reauthorized the LWCF but the amendment fell short one vote of the needed 60 votes. In December, the Fund was renewed for three years with \$450 million designated for the current fiscal year.

Late in the year, as a member of the Growing Greener Coalition, PRPS represented outdoor recreation interests in a series of stakeholder work groups to develop a new Growing Greener 3 funding program in the Commonwealth. PRPS will continue to actively support and work with the Coalition to realize the establishment of the program in 2016.

The Committee has identified the following issues as Legislative Priorities for 2016: Trails/Greenways, Community Parks, Defend/Increase Investments in Park & Recreation, Heritage Areas and Historic Preservation, Legislative Education, and Funding.



Pennsylvania's local and regional parks annually produce more than \$1.6 billion in economic activity

Partnerships, Projects & Initiatives

PRPS is a contributory partner to many initiatives throughout the state that concern parks and recreation, conservation and open space, greenways and trails, health and wellness, connectivity to nature, funding, resource management, and community prosperity. The following is a brief of some of the more active partnerships and projects of 2015.

Get Outdoors PA

Get Outdoors PA is a joint initiative among community and statewide partners committed to connecting Pennsylvania residents and visitors to the outdoors through fun, healthy and educational outdoor activities. Through its 101 Community Partners, over 1200 programs and events were offered statewide throughout the year to help promote interest in a variety of outdoor activities, including hiking, fishing, hunting, camping and biking.

The Get Outdoors PA Mini-Grant program premiered in 2015, providing Community Partners up to 50 percent of training and/or equipment costs related to improving outdoor programming, not to exceed \$3000. Ten projects were awarded in June 2015, totaling \$14,000:

- Appalachian Trail Conservancy
- Berks County Parks & Recreation Department
- Centre Region Parks & Recreation Authority
- ClearWater Conservancy
- Lancaster County Department of Parks & Recreation
- Rail-Trail Council of NEPA
- Venture Outdoors
- Washington County Department of Parks & Recreation
- West End Park & Open Space Commission
- Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA



Growing Greener Coalition

PRPS is a partner in the Growing Greener Coalition whose mission is to enhance the health and economic well-being of communities across the Commonwealth by advocating for funding to conserve, protect and restore land, water and wildlife, to preserve farms and historic places, and to provide well-managed parks and recreational areas throughout the state.

In related actions, PRPS and its Governmental Affairs Committee actively contributed to developing a Growing Greener 3 funding program in a series of weekly workgroup meetings during the last few weeks of the year and into 2016, as well as through participating in a steering committee comprised of a large variety of public and NGO stakeholders.

Inclusion Task Force

The PRPS Inclusion Task Force is a new initiative to develop resources, support and training to park and recreation professionals to increase understanding and acceptance of all recreation programming participants, regardless of their abilities. In the coming year it will research obstacles, challenges, needs and strengths of inclusion techniques, and develop goals to disseminate best practices to the profession.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO)

KAFMO is over 300 members strong and committed to enhancing the professionalism of athletic field managers in the Keystone State and to improve the safety, playability and appearance of all athletic fields in Pennsylvania. PRPS is a cohost of the annual KAFMO Conference.



Licensed Playground Maintenance Workshops

PRPS has developed and provides a training workshop for those working with playground maintenance issues utilizing national standards. Under agreement with other state recreation and park associations, PRPS licenses the workshop using the information and resources that PRPS has developed. In 2015, the program was licensed to the Maryland Recreation and Park Society and the New Jersey Recreation and Park Association.



National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)

PRPS is a state affiliate of the NRPA to help build a unified foundation in advancing the cause of the parks and recreation field. The affiliate agreement focuses in areas of membership and services in advocacy, education, research, communication and information sharing. www.nrpa.org

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)

PRPS works in a close, long-term partnership with DCNR in many issues, initiatives and projects that concern parks, recreation, trails, greenways, rivers, conservation, open space, connectivity to nature and healthy lifestyles, education and training, statewide marketing and branding, funding, alternate transportation, heritage areas, economics, and more. PRPS is also represented in the DCNR-administered PA Trails Advisory Committee and the SCORP Technical Advisory Committee.



Pennsylvania Land Trust Association (PALTA)

PRPS and PALTA share many similar goals and the means to them; and the partnerships between the two associations is a natural. Along with the PA DCNR, PRPS and PALTA share administrative duties in leading and managing the Get Outdoors PA program, now in its third year of expansion into communities statewide. And in another joint agreement, PRPS and PALTA share legislative advocacy efforts as supporting members of the Growing Greener Coalition.

Penn State Hershey PRO Wellness Center

The Hershey PRO Wellness Center is committed to educating and inspiring youth and their families to eat well, engage in regular physical activity, and become champions for bringing healthy choices to life. Its partners include a diverse group of organizations who are invested in advancing our mission of improving the health and wellness of today's youth and their families.



Pennsylvania State Employees Credit Union (PSECU)

A mutually beneficial relationship with PSECU allows PRPS members to join the credit union as members, and non-state employees of Pennsylvania to become eligible for credit union membership by becoming a Friends member of PRPS. The unique arrangement, now in its fifth year, greatly benefits both organizations as well as their respective constituencies. In addition to the mutual financial gains, PRPS promotes PSECU statewide as a Sponsor, and PSECU produces an annual public service video vignette featuring PRPS that airs frequently on WGAL, Harrisburg.

Pennsylvania Urban Parks and Recreation Alliance

The PA Urban Parks and Recreation Alliance helps urban areas increase the effectiveness of their own essential public services of parks, recreation and green connectivity that stimulate economic growth, foster social stability and enhance environmental quality. Its efforts are concentrated on developing capacity, influence and service to all urban Pennsylvania locales.

In July, the Urban Alliance submitted a \$100,824 grant application to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for a PA Plan for Community Park Maintenance. As of the end of the year, with the state's budget still unsettled, there had yet been no announcement on grant awardees. Also in July, the Alliance presented to the attendees at the Pennsylvania State Mayors Conference in Bethlehem, and initiated a Mayors Supporting Membership program in the Urban Alliance. At the end of the year, the Alliance contracted with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy to build an effective statewide urban park and recreation coalition, develop a policy agenda for the Alliance and its stakeholders, refine tools and messaging to assist the Alliance, and pursue sources of funding to further the goals of the effort.

Pennsylvania Youth Track & Field Program

The PA Youth Track & Field program is designed to introduce children age 9-14 to physical fitness through basic track and field events including running, jumping, and throwing. The program focuses on getting and keeping school-age children active and healthy, with an emphasis on fun and good sportsmanship. In 2015, after a long association with Hershey, the program reorganized and moved to Penn State University. PRPS is an in-kind sponsor of PA Youth Track & Field.

State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Technical Advisory Committee

In June, DCNR released Pennsylvania's new five-year Outdoor Recreation Plan (2014-2019) that guides policies, priorities and investments related to outdoor recreation. To connect citizens to healthy outdoor recreation, the plan has five major priorities including health and wellness, local parks and recreation, tourism and economic development, resource management and stewardship, and funding and financial stability and includes 20 recommendations and 83 action steps. The completed plan keeps Pennsylvania eligible for federal Land and Water Conservation funding. The full plan and supporting documents, along with four training webinars, is accessible at www.paoutdoorrecplan.com. PRPS is an implementing Partner for 26 of its action steps.



Historic Walking Tour along the Allegheny River in September during the Greenways and Trails Summit in Warren. Photos by Gary Lester: above, cover lower left, cover lower right



Members are why PRPS exists! A high level of engagement characterizes these scenes from the Annual Conference in March and the PA Therapeutic Recreation Institute in June.



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