

Volunteer Opportunities



If you would like to enhance your experience, as well as that of future visitors by volunteering. Here are a few ways to take action!

Trail Enhancement; Assist with maintaining conditions of one of the many trails in the park.

Habitat Enhancement; Removal of invasive plants, restoring the native plant garden, maintaining deer exclosures, maintaining and building wildlife habitats and boxes.

Educational; Assist the Park Naturalist with educational/interpretive programs and assisting as host in the nature center.

Special Events; Assist with handling and planning special events within the park. Harvest festival and music in the park are a few examples that need volunteers to be successful.

...Or simply see the park as a common resource and care for it as your own. Paper at your feet is an opportunity to teach a child to pick it up and clean the litter from our park.

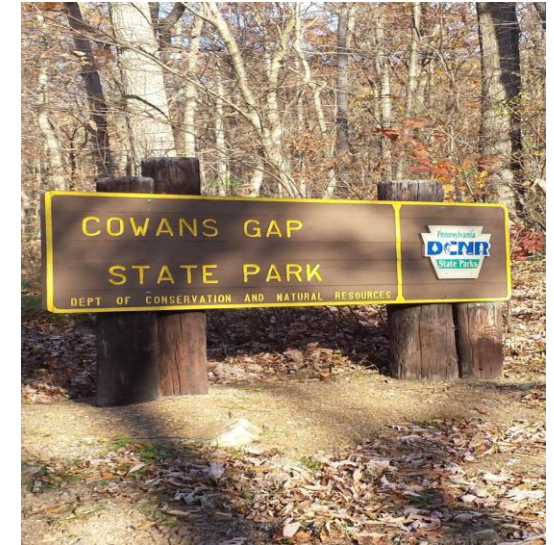
Be a Friend and join with us to make this park the BEST IT CAN BE

Friends of Cowans Gap State Park was formed in August of 2014 as a chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF). The PPFF is a 501© (3) non-profit organization. Contributions to PPFF are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. The official registration of the PPFF may be obtained from the Pa Department of State by calling toll free within PA 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



Friends of Cowans Gap
6235 Aughwick Road
Fort Loudon, PA 17224

Cowansgap.org
717-485-3948



The Friends of Cowans Gap State Park exists to preserve, protect and enhance the environment, history, educational and recreational programs of the park and surrounding areas for past, present and future generations through public programs, special events and volunteerism.

2017



What is a Friends Group?

The increasing demands on Pennsylvania state parks & forests need help from citizen based non-profit groups willing to commit their time, talents and resources. A friends group is organized to support, assist and promote the mission and or activities of its state park. It works in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation and park management to make this park one of the **best in the state.**

National Gold Medal Award for Excellence 2011

OUR GOALS

- Organize Annual Events
- Fundraise for Playground Equipment
- Make Trail Improvements
- Build a Campground Amphitheater
- Help Tend Native Plant Garden
- Purchase Educational Equipment

OUR SPONSORS and PATRONS

- McLaughlin's Drug a Modnur Pharmacy;
- Milky Way Restaurant;
- First Community Bank of Mercersburg;
- Mercersburg Academy;
- All things Automotive; Keystone Outdoors;
- Keystone Orthopedic P.T.;
- Forge Financial; Jennings Chambersburg;
- McConnellsburg Motor & Implement Co.;
- Gartenberg Jewelry; Mercersburg Beverage;
- Romeo's of Mercersburg; Pensinger's Service Station;
- Starr Insurance; Fulton County Medical Foundation;
- Dana Signs; Ludwig's Jewelers Inc.; Ken Shadle Alum Products Inc.; APX Enclosures, Inc.

A few of our 2016 accomplishments:

- *Cowans Gap 5K Run/Walk**—Over 240 runners & walkers came out for a fun lap around the park!
- *Music in the Gap**—the Friends of Cowans Gap provided free concerts at 3 events over the summer. Concerts were attended by over 500 visitors.
- *Golf Cart Purchase**— The Friends purchased a golf cart for staff and volunteer use at the park.
- *Art in the Park**—3 events were held allowing visitors to paint landscapes of the park to take home. Local artist Nancy Mendes donated her time and expertise to walk participants through beautiful creations.
- *Harvest Day Celebration**—Over 400 people enjoyed hot cider and pumpkin carving, tricky trails and natural crafts while attending this annual fall event.

Annual Membership :

62 and older \$10.00

Individual \$15.00

Family \$25.00

Nonprofit Group \$30.00

Business \$50.00

I'm not joining, but I'm enclosing \$_____ as a donation to the FOCG.

Make checks payable to PPF.

Include FOCG in the memo line.

Please mail to the park office.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State/Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

*Please note if you join after August 31 that your membership will be valid through the remaining part of that year and the following year. All other memberships will need to be renewed at the beginning of the calendar year.

2017 EVENTS

1st Day Hike

Sunday, Jan 1

Cowans Gap 5K

Sunday, April 9th

Volunteer Days

April 22, July 15, September 23

Music in the Gap

2nd Saturday of each month June-August

Art in the Park

June 24, August 19, October 14

Harvest Day Celebration

Saturday, October 21

Our Membership Meetings

1st Thursday of each month

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- *Meeting and working with people of similar interests.
- *Option to attend meetings on the 1st Thursday of each month at 6 PM.
- *Magnet (Follow My Tracks To Cowans Gap).
- *The satisfaction of knowing that your contributions will go directly back into Cowans Gap to protect the park's natural resources, as well as enhancing the recreational and educational opportunities of our park.