

Volunteer Opportunities



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

Trail - Assist maintaining one of the many trails in the Park.

Habitat Enhancement- Removal of invasive plants, restoring the native plant garden, maintaining deer enclosures, 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.



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.

**Friends of Cowans Gap
P.O. Box 741
Chambersburg, PA 17201**

**Park's Office
6235 Aughwick Road
Fort Loudon, PA 17224
717-485-3948**

**Our Website
Cowansgap.org**

2018



What is a Friends Group?

Pennsylvania state parks & forests need help from citizens and non-profit groups willing to commit their time, talents and resources.

A friends group is organized to support, assist and promote the mission and activities of its state park. It works in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation and park management to make Cowans Gap one of the **best in the state**.

National Gold Medal Award for Excellence 2011

OUR GOALS

Organize Annual Events – Playground Equipment
Trail Improvements – Campground Amphitheater
Native Plant Garden – Educational Equipment

OUR SPONSORS and PATRONS

McLaughlin's Drug a Modnur Pharmacy;
[Forge Financial;](#) [V2V;](#)
Mercersburg Academy Summer Programs;
First Community Bank of Mercersburg;
All things Automotive; Keystone Outdoors;
Keystone Orthopedic P.T.; Jennings Chambersburg;
Joey L. Lane Optometrists, Inc.; Gish Logging;
Shoemaker National Insurance; Gartenberg Jewelry;
McConnellsburg Motor & Implement Co.;
Romeo's of Mercersburg; Pensinger's Service Station;
Fulton County Medical Foundation;
Choice Collision Center; Ludwigs Jewelers;
Hockenberry Processing; McConnellsburg True Value;
Ken Shadle Alum Products Inc.; APX Enclosures, Inc.;
Mercersburg Beverage; Path Valley Restaurant

* Annual accomplishments

- * **Cowans Gap 5K Run/Walk** – Over 250 runners & walkers come out for a family & pets fun lap around the park for trophies made from recycled park resources.
- * **Free Music in the Park** –Three summer concerts with popular bluegrass & country bands.
- * **Art in the Park**–Visitors register to paint landscapes of the park to take home. Local artist Nancy Mendes donates her time and expertise to walk participants through their creations.
- * **Harvest Day Celebration**– Over 1400 guests enjoyed fresh pressed apple cider, hot chocolate, s'mores, camp cooking, pumpkin carving, natural crafts, hay rides, music, tie dye T-shirts, along with nature displays, craft vendors. The day ends with a campsite /cabin campground decorating contest.
- * **Manual labor support** - Volunteer days, Outdoor Expo, Camp Games, picnic table assembly, park signage, swim area safety rope and handicapped ramp maintenance.

One Time Park Purchases

A cider press, a golf cart for staff and volunteer use at the park, (2) storage sheds, a concrete pad for the storage of winter road cinders. a wood shop vacuum system. (10) swim area buoys

2018 EVENTS

1st Day Hike- Monday, Jan 1

Cowans Gap 5K- Sunday, April 8th

Volunteer Work Days- 7/21, 9/22, 9-12 noon

Environmental Education Days

Kids Photo Club- 6/14, 7/19, 8/16, 9/13, 6:30-8pm

Outdoor Expo Day- Saturday, June 23, 9-3pm

Smokey's Birthday- 8/9, Fire Safety 1-1:30 & Party 3:30-5pm

Meteor Madness- at the Beach 8/11, 8-10pm

International Geocaching Day- 8/18, 9:30-5pm

Camp Games- 9/1, 2:30-7pm

Campfire Cooking Demos- (Pavilion 2) 11/18 9-3pm

Friday Night Interpretive Program at the park Amphitheater-

Runs from 5/25 through 8/31, 7:30-8:30 followed by movie

FREE Music in the Gap

June 9, July 14, August 11- Saturdays 6-8pm

Art in the Park

July 28, August 18, October 13, 11-2pm.

Harvest Day Celebration

Saturday, October 20, 9-3pm

Our Public Membership Meetings

1st Thursday of each month, 6 p.m. @ park's Brichtbill Center

Winter Months (Dec.-Mar) *Carrick United Methodist Church* located at 7003 Path Valley Rd.(Rt. 75), Fort Loudon, PA 17224.

Annual Membership Application

- **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 FOCG**

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State /Zip _____

Phone _____

email _____

Please make checks payable to PFFF. Include FOCG in the memo line. Mail along with this application to:

**FOCG
P.O. Box 741
Chambersburg, PA 17201**

***Note that New Applications after August 31- 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 each calendar year.**

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). Or C-GAP sticker
- Knowing that your contributions go directly into Cowans Gap, to protect the park's natural resources, and enhancing the recreational and educational opportunities of park.
- Email newsletters of upcoming event details.