




Conservation &
Natural Resources
Advisory Council

March 29, 2018

TO: Paul Zeph, Chief, Planning Section, Bureau of State Parks

FROM: Gary Kribbs, CNRAC Chairman 

SUBJECT: Recommendations for Penn's Parks for All

On behalf of the members of the Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council, please accept the following recommendations as early feedback into the planning process for *Penn's Parks for All* strategic plan for the Bureau of State Parks. Council members appreciate the opportunity to comment in the early stages of the plan's development, and we look forward to weighing in on the draft plan, once developed.

We also offer our assistance in soliciting public input on the draft plan.

Thank you.

CNRAC'S INPUT INTO PENN'S PARKS FOR ALL

1. Restore the Oil and Gas Fund to its original intent that is included in the Oil and Gas Lease Fund Act (Act No. 256) signed by Governor George Leader on December 15, 1955. The act authorized the expenditure of rents and royalties from oil and gas leases on Commonwealth-owned land for conservation, recreation, dams and flood control purposes including the acquisition of additional land.
2. Return the Bureau of State Parks' revenues back to the Bureau as permitted in Act No. 51 of July 1, 1981, into a State Parks' Major Maintenance Fund to be used for projects such as roof replacements, road re-paving, updating water and sewage treatment plants and building rehabilitation.
3. Oppose a state parks entrance fee or parking fees because of infrastructure limitations, personnel and budget implications, and societal impact.
4. Focus future acquisition efforts of new state park land on lands that would add to existing state parks or would eliminate interior holdings. Any new state park should be a significant historic site or a unique natural area and come with additional staff and maintenance funds to operate the area.
5. Continue efforts to work cooperatively with federal, state and local agencies wherever and whenever possible. Examples would be to continue working with local agencies with the Conservation Landscape Initiatives and to connect existing trails to create longer trails.
6. Enhance efforts to promote Diversity and Inclusion in all aspects of state park management, including educational programming, park operations, and staffing. Include goals that further promote educational opportunities to park users and provide programs to increase environmental awareness and an appreciation of nature to people of all backgrounds.
7. Embrace the role state parks play in promoting active, healthy living and obesity prevention for all Pennsylvanians. As an example, state parks consider adopting a 'no smoking/no tobacco' policy for certain areas such as buildings, playgrounds, beaches, events and campgrounds.
8. Identify key strategic partners for state parks within the strategic plan and how those partnerships will be strengthened.
9. Fully engage visitors to get ongoing feedback about state park facilities and services to help improve customer experiences.
10. Build public awareness of the value of state parks and the benefits they provide by establishing and implementing the state park brand - who they are, what they do, and why they matter.
11. Acknowledge the threats to management of cultural, recreational, and natural resources from global climate change through education and programming objectives and establish opportunities to demonstrate solutions for reducing carbon emissions through green building and energy efficiency.