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To: [Zeph, Paul](#)
Subject: Answers to questions
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Paul—off the top of my head, here are some thoughts.

-- Should we change the current outdoor recreation opportunities or experiences? I think we need to review how people are currently using their parks and what future trends are to remain current. That being said, I do not think that this means adding water parks, amusement parks, etc.

-- Should we enhance overnight accommodations in our state parks? The Inn at Cook Forest was a great idea—how can we utilize existing structures to provide opportunities for people to spend the night? Might tiny houses be considered for some areas? Bearing in mind that updates often require increased costs to operate and are more things to maintain!

-- How should we pay for our state parks? General fund revenue!!!!

-- How can we protect our state parks? Education—help people to understand the role

Looking ahead for the next 25 years, are there things you would like to see changed or improved regarding recreational activities, facilities or operations within the state park system, or things you feel should not be changed?

As we travel the state talking to various constituent groups, we hear some common themes. From Seniors, we hear that they would still like to participate in outdoor recreation, but don't for the following reasons:

Access—they don't drive anymore

Fear of Safety—They don't want to do things alone, and would either like to know others who might be interested or know that parks/forests programs are geared to their abilities.

Seasonal challenges—summer months are too hot for paddling, but shoulder seasons are nice. Yet if you don't have your own equipment—or can no longer toss it around—vendors close after labor day. Would like to have seasonal access to paddling—or programs geared to their abilities and restrictions.

Other general thoughts: Don't forget that non-RV users would like to have some great camping sites. If you don't have a free standing tent, some of the hard pad sites are difficult to use! How are we accommodating various ways that different populations of people would like to use their parks?

Can we work with local public transit to get seasonal busing to parks? This may work with urban areas, but how do we also provide transit for those who are rurally isolated? Make our parks ADA friendly—good for everyone!

Do you have any recommendations for the stewardship of natural and/or cultural resources within state parks? Invest in infrastructure repairs. Staff us too good—they make it look like there

are no issues, when indeed there are! Train park managers on how to work with volunteers---and how not to fear volunteers! Some managers are very volunteer reluctant!

Are there any activities or facilities that you recall seeing at a local, state or national park that impressed you and that you feel would benefit the Pennsylvania State Park system?

Saw a really cool pump-action interpretive display in Scotland—as long as you used the foot pump the exhibit talked to you! Took a tour of a park in Scotland that used speakers (free loan) where you could plug in an interpretive number and it told you about the location from several perspectives. How do we use technology to engage users...but not take away from the wilderness experience?

Do you have any suggestions for how to foster closer working relationships with stakeholder groups like yours?

Invite to regional meetings and training meetings so that folks know who we are 😊 When we send information—such as posters about photo contest or about PPFF, have park managers place it in the park.

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President

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