



Pennsylvania
**Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources**

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Shapiro Administration Dedicates New \$7.5 Million Visitor Center at Marsh Creek State Park, Expanding Access and Advancing Sustainable Infrastructure While Investing in Pennsylvania's Public Lands

The new visitor center showcases the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (DCNR) commitment to sustainable design and public access on the Commonwealth's public lands.

Since taking office, Governor Josh Shapiro and his Administration has committed more than \$238 million to modernize state parks and forests through critical infrastructure improvements.

DCNR manages Pennsylvania's 125 state parks and 2.2 million acres of state forestlands, which are free and open to the public every day.





Downingtown, PA – Today, the **Shapiro Administration** dedicated the **new \$7.5 million Marsh Creek State Park Visitor Center in Chester County** — a major investment that enhances access for all park visitors, advancing the Commonwealth’s commitment to **sustainable** operations, infrastructure, and community engagement.

The 5,300-square-foot center is located on the southern shore of Marsh Creek Lake and provides improved space for visitor contact and park administration. The facility features modern amenities for staff and visitors, and includes offices and staff support spaces, a multipurpose room, and education porch on the lower level. Design elements such as a geo-exchange HVAC system, sustainable site development, and a high performing building envelope, are expected to earn the new visitor center LEED Gold certification—the 19th LEED certified building DCNR manages.

“This new visitor center is a win for present and future generations of Marsh Creek visitors,” said **Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn**. “We are excited to demonstrate our vision for modern, sustainable facilities that meet the needs of our staff and the public through this impressive building. I am hopeful this will be an amenity to everyone who visits Marsh Creek, which is one of our popular parks in our wonderful state park system.”

Since taking office, **Governor Josh Shapiro and his Administration** have committed **more than \$238 million** to modernize state parks and forests through critical infrastructure improvements. Currently, projects in construction total more than \$168 million with approximately \$70 million in projects to be awarded in 2026. **Governor Shapiro** has prioritized investments that improve Pennsylvania’s state parks and forests, grow the [outdoor recreation economy](#), and enhance quality of life for residents. Outdoor recreation in Pennsylvania generates **\$20.4 billion** annually and supports more than **177,000 jobs**.

Marsh Creek State Park is located in the rolling hills of north central Chester County. The 1,784-acre park contains the 535-acre Marsh Creek Lake, which is a wonderful resource for fishing, sailing, and migrating waterfowl. Among the many activities visitors enjoy are boating, fishing, swimming, hiking, mountain biking, and birding. Winter activities include ice skating, sledding, ice fishing, and cross-country skiing. The park is

enjoyed by more than 1 million visitors annually.

Other improvements surrounding the new visitor center include new roadways, walkways, landscaping, and rain gardens for stormwater management. A newly added solar array — the 38th on DCNR managed lands — brings the park's energy use to net zero. This saves taxpayers nearly \$30,000 on electricity costs at the site and furthers DCNR's [commitment to sustainability on public lands](#).

"We look for opportunities to demonstrate our commitment to sustainability each time we assess our infrastructure needs," said **Michael Twigg, R.A., Director of DCNR's Bureau of Facility Design and Construction**. "This project was no different, and the result is a state-of-the-art building and self-sustaining energy production at Marsh Creek. Thank you to the Shapiro Administration for empowering this important work."

DCNR currently has at least 7 solar arrays in design and construction at:

- Elk State Forest
- Keystone State Park
- Hills Creek State Park
- Maurice K. Goddard State Park
- Moshannon State Forest
- Tuscarora State Park
- Shawnee State Park

DCNR is taking a phased approach to major restoration and rehabilitative projects on public lands to ensure present and future generations' have access to Pennsylvania's natural beauty. In March, DCNR announced it would take phased approaches to campground improvements at [Cook Forest](#), [Gifford Pinchot](#), [Lackawanna](#), and [Ricketts Glen](#) state parks to allow for camping at these popular campsites during the construction. Critical work to improve the [Kinzua Bridge State Park Skywalk](#) is also being addressed with a phased approach to allow visitors to enjoy the scenic beauty of fall foliage from one of the most renowned viewpoints in the Pennsylvania Wilds.

Pennsylvania state parks now offer a wide range of overnight accommodations, including tent and [glamping](#) sites; RV full-service sites; yurts; rustic cabins with fireplaces and modern cabins with heat and bathrooms; and the eco-lodge [The Nature Inn](#) at Bald Eagle in Centre County.

DCNR's Bureau of Facility Design and Construction manages design and construction of Pennsylvania's state park and forest infrastructure projects and has been a leader in implementing DCNR's commitment to [LEED Certified Buildings](#) and [sustainable infrastructure on public lands](#). Learn more about buildings on public lands on [DCNR's website](#).

Visit [DCNR's website](#) for more information about the agency and check out DCNR's [Calendar of Events](#) for events on public lands.

Photos and video of Friday's event are available at [PAcast.com](https://www.pacast.com).

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