

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 17, 2018

Wolf Administration Celebrates Importance of Local Parks, Recreation to Communities in Bucks County

Bucks County, PA – As part of national Park and Recreation Month, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn on Thursday will visit three parks in Bucks County to hear from local officials and stakeholders about their importance and plans for improvements.

"Communities across Pennsylvania recognize that local parks and recreation opportunities contribute to a high quality of life and attract and sustain employers and families," Dunn said. "Local parks provide close-to-home nature and recreation that is always free or affordable."

Dunn's first stop will be the new Great Blue Heron Park at 3202 Dovecote Drive in Richland Township, which is the trailhead for the Brayton Garden Trail that connects to the Pennsylvania Highlands Trail Network and Quakertown to the north, with future plans to connect to a trail in Milford Township to the west.

The secretary also will meet with young people and others involved in the creation of a skate park at 676 S. Main St., Quakertown, included in the transformation of the area into an action sports recreation and training facility. DCNR provided a \$250,000 investment in the project.

Finally, she'll stop at Park at 4th at the intersection of Mill and 4th streets in Quakertown, where a \$250,000 DCNR grant assisted with the construction of an amphitheater that is home to the community's concert series.

"Just at these three parks in upper Bucks County we can see the breadth of amenities that local parks and recreation provide to communities – trail connections to other places and networks; opportunities for young people to be active and engaged in positive behavior; and gathering spots for cultural and other activities," Dunn said.

Interviews from these three locations will be streamed live on Facebook <u>@Goodfor</u> PA at times between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM.

The source of funding for the DCNR grants in the <u>Keystone Fund</u>, currently celebrating 25 years of supporting thousands of community improvements in the commonwealth.

In Pennsylvania, outdoor recreation generates \$29.1 billion in consumer spending, \$1.9 billion in state and local tax revenue, \$8.6 billion in wages and salaries, and sustains 251,000 direct Pennsylvania jobs.

Pennsylvania has more than 6,000 local parks. Find out more about them at www.goodforpa.com.

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