

Activity 1: DCNR Mission Statement

The legislation that created DCNR in 1995, outlined the following mission:

“The primary mission of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is to maintain, improve and preserve state parks; to manage state forest lands to assure their long-term health, sustainability and economic use; to provide information on Pennsylvania’s ecological and geologic resources; and to administer grant and technical assistance programs that will benefit rivers conservation, trails and greenways, local recreation, regional heritage conservation and environmental education programs across Pennsylvania.”

DCNR’s current mission states: “We conserve and sustain Pennsylvania’s natural resources for present and future generations’ use and enjoyment.”

The core mission remains a cornerstone of DCNR’s services. The DCNR Action Plan lays out the future of the agency, one in which DCNR is viewed as a leading steward and advocate for the natural resources of the state, an expansion of the mandated mission.

Improve Stewardship of State Parks and Forests: In order to sustain the many uses of lands for generations, DCNR encourages the best science, research and technology to guide management of the lands. DCNR supports economic development through wise use of natural resources and increased tourism. DCNR is dedicated to the acquisition of lands and conservation easements to protect ecologically valuable areas.

Promote Statewide Land Conservation: DCNR owns only a small percentage of land and water. DCNR helps communities manage growth, protect special lands and reduce the loss of open space through education, grants and land easements. DCNR will help landowners understand the conservation values of their properties and protect forests on private lands.

Build and Maintain Sustainable and Attractive Communities: Using financial and technical assistance, DCNR helps foster regional and county-level planning that conserves natural and heritage resources and promotes recreation. DCNR targets assistance to projects that invest in older communities, build green infrastructure and greenway connections.

Create Outdoor Experiences for Citizens and Visitors: DCNR creates recreational connections with the outdoors by improving visitor experiences and increasing awareness of what is available. DCNR expands and targets educational messages to help people make lifestyle decisions to protect natural resources.