



## Pollinator Gardens for Balconies and Doorsteps

During a conference recently, author Doug Tallamy was making a case for Home-grown National Park -- a call to homeowners to make their yards and gardens "support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators and manage water."

And then, someone asked what they should do as a renter in an apartment.

Tallamy answered that if all of the renters with balconies or doorsteps in cities and towns grew native plants in containers, pollinators would not discriminate between them and natives planted in the ground in a yard.

With garden season upon us, here are tips and techniques from Department of Conservation and Natural Resources staff for planting native plants in containers for pollinators. Learn more at <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/GoodNatured/Pages/Article.aspx?post=266>.

## Pennsylvanians Encouraged to Be Mindful of Increased Woodland Fire Risks

By DCNR

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn and State Fire Commissioner Thomas Cook urge Pennsylvanians to be mindful of high woodland fire danger as seasonal wildfire risk increases.

"We know that a simple act of carelessness when lighting a camp or bonfire could prove disastrous among tinder-dry conditions in some of our forests," Dunn said. "We encourage Pennsylvanians to be cautious when lighting fires during these conditions to protect lives, wildlife habitats, and our natural resources."

The greatest danger of wildfires in Pennsylvania occurs during the spring months of March, April, and May, and the autumn months of October and November.

In Pennsylvania, 99 percent of all wildfires are caused by people; and thousands of acres of state and private woodlands are burned by wildfires each year.



## Dam Replacement Project Announced At Tobyhanna State Park

By DCNR

TOBYHANNA -- The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) today announced a dam replacement project at Tobyhanna State Park in Monroe and Wayne counties.

This project will consist of a full replacement of the existing dam structure and will include the altering of fishing restrictions before a complete lake drawdown.

Originally built in the 1950s, the dam at Tobyhanna will be brought up to current standards with the replacement project.

"The project will involve replacing the dam, in-kind, and a new spillway. Currently, the dam is not meeting the needs for maximum flooding, so we will increase its height during this process as well," said Alex Stout, Bureau of State Parks Assistant Regional Manager. "The infrastructure improvements to the dam and spillway are critical for the safety and operations at the park. It also gives us an opportunity to improve the fish habitat and the visitor experience for the thousands of anglers who visit each year."

As part of the project, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) is alerting anglers that effective Saturday, April 6, all seasons, sizes, and creel limits for all species except trout, will be lifted on Tobyhanna Lake.

In addition to stocked trout, the lake currently offers angling opportunities for warm-water sportfish species including Largemouth Bass, Yellow Perch, Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, and Chain Pickerel.

"We have modified the regulations to reduce the number of fish in Tobyhanna Lake in advance of the complete drawdown," said David Nihart, Chief of the PFBC Division of Fisheries Management. "While trout anglers must still abide by seasons, sizes, and creel limits as usual, we encourage anglers to fish the water for other species to make good use of as many fish as they can prior to the lake being drained."

The temporary regulations will remain in place until further notice.

The lake drawdown is set to begin in mid-September 2024 for site preparation, and construction is scheduled to begin in 2025.

Once the drawdown has begun, the lakebed will be entirely off-limits to the public.

Trout will not be stocked in the fall during the repairs.

Tobyhanna State Park was previously used as the Tobyhanna Military Reservation, where munitions testing occurred.

The lakebed has not been scanned for unexploded ordinances Opens In A New Window.

Fencing and warning signs will be placed to inform the public that it is not safe to enter the lakebed.

The Army Corps of Engineers will be scanning the lakebed for these ordinances as the project progresses.

For more information contact the Tobyhanna State Park office at 570-894-8336.