



## A Plan to Restore Pennsylvania

By: DCNR

**HARRISBURG - Infrastructure.** It's a big word that has big implications. Infrastructure that's in good shape supports a strong economy, creates opportunities for communities, and protects citizens from an increasingly unpredictable natural environment.

Failing infrastructure poses risks to safety, depresses economic activity, and can leave residents and businesses vulnerable to natural disasters like flooding.

Infrastructure is as diverse as buildings and parks, dirt and gravel roads, a broadband network, and water treatment plants.

Governor Wolf has a plan called Restore Pennsylvania that will provide funding to help communities:

- Upgrade and expand green infrastructure, such as local and state parks, state forests, and trails
- Address blight
- Expand broadband access
- Mitigate the effects of localized flooding

"My vision for Pennsylvania includes vibrant towns and cities with new development, opportunities in rural and disadvantaged areas, and a modern, interconnected commonwealth," said Governor Wolf. "Unfortunately, after decades of neglect and declining federal investment, Pennsylvania is falling behind, and we need a bold plan to get us back on track."

The millions of acres of state parks and forests include:

- A lot of buildings, such as visitor centers, cabins, and bathrooms
- Roads and trails
- Dams
- Natural resources like lakes, wetlands, and trees

Many of the buildings were built between 1930 and the 1970s, and are showing the impacts over time from wear and tear, and a growing number of visitors.

Several hundred long-term repair and improvement projects of many types -- from as small as \$100,000 to as high as several million dollars -- are on a project list that totals around \$1 billion.

Reliable and adequate investments are needed to ensure state parks and forests remain places and healthy habitat that can be enjoyed by all Pennsylvanians.

How It's Funded

Restore Pennsylvania will invest \$4.5 billion over the next four years on projects across the commonwealth, including new environmental projects and new recreational opportunities, such as:

- Infrastructure and maintenance in state parks
- Creation and revitalization of new local parks
- Funding for new hiking, biking, and ATV trail projects

The plan will be funded through a commonsense severance tax on the extraction of natural gas.

To learn more, view the full Restore Pennsylvania plan (PDF). <https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/20190204-Restore-PA.pdf>.

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### Alumni Students Take Advantage of Employment and College Opportunities

CIT graduates have the extra advantage of leaving high school with a "leg-up" on the competition. For starters, they can earn college credits based on their grades and performance at CIT. These credits are free and can allow students to graduate from college earlier or have time to take other classes that may boost their degree.

Last year, CIT had articulation agreements with thirty different colleges and technical schools offering from 3 to 30 college credits. These agreements allow students who pass their NOCTI exam, demonstrate mastery on all of their program tasks, and earn a GPA of 3.0 or higher to enter college with a number of credits determined by the agreement. For example, a Welding Technology student who met those requirements could attend Pennsylvania College of Technology with 12 credits. That student would save \$6,696 on their tuition! By working hard and focusing their efforts in high school, these students are earning their degree faster and for less money.

Richard Frinzi graduated from CIT and Bangor High School in 2016. He was a Computer Systems Networking student and began attending Northampton Community College immediately after graduation. Ricki earned articulation credits towards four courses at NCC because of the credits he earned while in high school. He is currently working on his second degree from NCC and is majoring in Computer Information Technology - Networking and Computer Information Technology - Security. Ricki is currently working as a paraeducator at CIT and assists students in our Computer Systems Networking and Electronics Technology programs. Ricki hopes to become a systems administrator for a large company in the future. He says that CIT helped him explore college options and confirmed his interest in pursuing a career in information technology.

Students can also earn industry recognized certifications while attending CIT as a high school student and enter the workforce with a resume that boasts work experience and the credentials to support that experience. Every student at CIT has the opportunity to earn at least one industry recognized certification by the time they graduate. This makes them more desirable to employers and can increase their starting rate of pay when hired.

Jonathan Delancey was a graduate of CIT and Easton Area High School in 2017. Jonathan was a student in the Machine Tool Technology program and earned 3 NIMS Certifications while still in high school. Jonathan knew he wanted to be a machinist in 9th grade and says he "soaked up every bit" of his time at CIT. Upon graduation, Jonathan was quickly hired by Sussex Wire and has enjoyed working there ever since. They saw the value in Jonathan's skill-set and natural mechanical ability and created a plan for him to advance within the company while he learns more skills on the job. Sussex Wire specializes in the design and manufacture of custom, cold-formed and cold headed parts in mini- and micro-geometries to complex and precise tolerances. Jonathan produces parts and maintains the machines that makes those parts. The CEO of Sussex Wire, Tim Kardish is an advocate of Career and Technical Education and supports CIT as a Local Advisory Committee Member as well as a Cooperative Education Employer. He has been actively involved in trying to bridge the gap between the laborer shortage in manufacturing and HS training. Kardish states "We believe there are other talented, bright young people who are strong in STEM and might not be immediately interested in college. We welcome them to visit Sussex Wire or CIT to learn more about what a career in manufacturing can mean to them and about a pathway to sustainable personal success."

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Richard Frinzi,  
Computer Systems Networking Alumni



Jonathan Delancey,  
Machine Tool Technology Alumni



Jonathan Delancey as a first year  
Machine Tool Technology student

## Minsi Lake Public Meeting

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At the Q&A session some questions were asked about the fish that will be reintroduced to the lake that were answered by FOML Chairman John Mauser. "Besides the state's annual trout stocking program, largemouth bass and six different species of sunfish will be put in the lake when it has filled."

Mauser also address questions on improvements to the infrastructure: "Improvements will include a pedestrian bridge over the spillway that will link the eastern and western sides of the lake. Plans also call for American with Disabilities Act accessible piers to be built over the existing jetties that extend into the lake. Future improvements will include rest rooms, lighting, trail work, parking lot improvements and a pavilion."

The Northampton County Parks and Recreation Division will oversee improvements to areas surrounding the lake with the help of a \$275,000 Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and \$500,000 allocated by Northampton County Council thanks to County Executive LaMonte McCulure.

The Friends of Minsi Lake (FOML), which is a group formed to oversee enhance-



State Rep. Joe Emrick

ments of natural and recreational assets at the lake, has raised \$150,000 in donations, according to group Chairman John Mauser.

The group plans to build more than 850 man-made wood and rock fish habitat structures that will be dispersed underwater throughout the lake. The hemlock wood used in the structures can withstand deterioration for decades, Mauser said. "Some of the structures will be made by youth groups in the Slate Belt as part of the community effort." The habitats are designed to promote breeding and species' population growth.

Many of the structures will be placed near areas where anglers fish from the shoreline. The group plans to use GPS information to keep track of habitat locations, which will be available to the public.

"We are going to map it, so you know where the small fish are that attract the big fish," Mauser said.

A common complaint of lake visitors is the abundant underwater and surface vegetation. Mauser said once the lake refills, nonaquatic vegetation that currently covers the empty lake bed will die and decay.

Some aquatic plants in the lily family, will return, Mauser said. Although this species can frustrate some boaters and anglers, it is good for the ecosystem and healthy for many aquatic animals, he said.

The lake could receive partial draw downs every four to five years to help contain overgrowth, if it becomes problematic, he said.

Visitors who use the PFBC property around Minsi Lake are asked to avoid the west parking lot and the additional active construction zone around the dam. Signage will be posted on the property notifying the public of restricted access points. The remainder of the property remains open for public recreation, such as hiking.

*"Friends of Minsi Lake plan to build more than 850 man-made wood and rock fish habitat structures that will be dispersed underwater throughout the lake.*

*The hemlock wood used in the structures can withstand deterioration for decades. Some of the structures will be made by youth groups in the Slate Belt as part of the community effort." The habitats are designed to promote breeding and species' population growth, said John Mauser chair of Friends of Minsi Lake."*



Chair of 'Friends of Minsi Lake' John Mauser answers questions about Minsi Lake upgrade

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