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Shapiro-Davis Administration Celebrates 'Outdoors for All Day' at Point State Park

Lieutenant Governor Davis presents proclamation to the DCNR announcing July 20 as Outdoors for All Day

Pittsburgh, PA – Today, **Lieutenant Governor Austin Davis** visited Point State Park in Pittsburgh to highlight opportunities for all Pennsylvanians to get outdoors and experience the Commonwealth.

Davis presented a proclamation to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources announcing July 20 as Outdoors for All Day, highlighting the Commonwealth's wealth of public outdoor spaces that make Pennsylvania a place for a *Great American Getaway* for all Pennsylvanians. The agency supports hundreds of outdoor-related projects annually, having invested \$1.2 billion in 8,800 projects since 1995.

"During the pandemic, the Second Lady and I took the opportunity — just as many Pennsylvanians did — to enjoy our Commonwealth's incredible state parks," **said Lt. Gov. Austin Davis**. "Now that our family has grown, we can't wait to take our daughter to some of the places we hiked and show her the wonders of nature. Our state parks are a true blessing, and on Outdoors for All Day, I would encourage every Pennsylvanian — no matter what you look like or what your physical abilities may be to experience all of the benefits the outdoors can provide."

State parks like Point offer fantastic outdoor experiences that truly make *Pennsylvania* – *The Great American Getaway*. Outdoor recreation adds \$17 billion to Pennsylvania's economy, supporting 164,000 jobs, and accounting for 2 percent of the Commonwealth's gross domestic product (GDP), according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

"DCNR supports local parks, trails and outdoor recreation-related projects across Pennsylvania to increase access and quality experiences in nature," **DCNR Deputy Secretary Claire Jantz** said. "We are excited to celebrate Outdoors for All Day today and thank the Shapiro-Davis administration for support of public lands at all levels." Governor Shapiro also recently launched *The Great American Getaway* on an RV tour across Pennsylvania, becoming the first sitting Governor to spend the night in a state park with overnights at Lyman Run and Hickory Run.

"Pennsylvania's outdoors are an integral part of our economy and our ability to create communities that are vibrant and fulfilling for residents and visitors alike," **Pennsylvania Director of Outdoor Recreation Nathan Reigner** said. "Whether you're taking a leisurely walk or spending the day on the trail, we want to make clear that there is something for everyone in the outdoors, including quality jobs that help protect and promote natural spaces."

Pittsburgh is home to 165 parks spanning 3,600 acres, each featuring its own unique identity shaped by its cultural resources, historic landscape, natural features, and recreational amenities. The city boasts a top-20 ranked system nationally that has a range of activities that range from passive recreation to approved camping to help promote equitable access.

"One of the things I love about our great city is our fantastic parks," **Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey** said. "I and many residents enjoy every opportunity to walk, bike or just sit and enjoy the beauty of nature surrounding us. Point State Park is a great example of how green space makes the city a great place to live and play. The work DCNR does makes it possible for everyone to enjoy quality outdoor recreation experiences."

DCNR works to conserve and maintain Pennsylvania's public natural resources for the benefit of all people, including generations yet to come. The department is taking intentional action to ensure DCNR lands are accessible to all, to provide inclusive and equitable programs and services, and to recruit and retain a diverse workforce in a way that resonates with all Pennsylvanians, regardless of background.

"Our mission is to conserve and sustain Pennsylvania's natural resources for present and future generations' use and enjoyment," **DCNR Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Director Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith** said. "We are hopeful that Outdoors for All Day helps all Pennsylvanians to see themselves in the outdoors and to consider exploring a new park or outdoor activity going forward."

Alongside the Pennsylvania Game Commission, DCNR is also hosting an Explore PA Outdoors event in partnership from <u>11:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Saturday August 3</u> at Point State Park. The free festival-style event will highlight various activities including archery, boating, fishing, hunting, scavenger hunting, trapping, biking, nature walks, and more.

Many state parks, public libraries, and nonprofits have loaner equipment, gear libraries, and offer programming around enhancing outdoor experiences for prospective visitors. Additionally, businesses like outfitters offer rental equipment for people who would like to try outdoor activities but do not have the necessary gear.

Visit <u>DCNR's website</u> for more information about the Commonwealth's public lands and then check out DCNR's new <u>Calendar of Events</u> for opportunities to get outdoors on public lands.

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