

NEWS RELEASE



US Army Corps of Engineers®

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Army Corps seeks volunteers to restore America's public lands

Registration is underway for National Public Lands Day, Sept. 24 (and alternate dates)

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 12, 2011 – The US Army Corps of Engineers will host National Public Lands Day events at various lakes throughout the Pittsburgh District.

In 2010, more than 500 volunteers came to 15 of 16 Pittsburgh District recreation projects and provided 2,179 hours of work valued at nearly \$47,000.

Nationwide, 170,000 volunteers worked at more than 2,080 sites in every state, the District of Columbia and in many U.S. territories and removed an estimated 450 tons of trash; collected an estimated 20,000 pounds of invasive plants; built and maintained an estimated 1,320 miles of trails; planted an estimated 100,000 trees, shrubs and other native plants; contributed an estimated \$15 million to improve public lands across the country. Eight federal agencies and many nonprofits and state, regional and local governments participate in the annual day of caring for shared lands. The [US Army Corps of Engineers](#) had the most sites of any agency with 266 sites.

National Public Lands Day keeps the promise of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the "tree army" that worked from 1933-1942 to preserve and protect America's natural heritage and is important because it educates Americans about critical environmental and natural resource issues and the need for shared stewardship of these valued, irreplaceable lands; builds partnerships between the public sector and the local community based upon mutual interests in the enhancement and restoration of America's public lands; and improves public lands for outdoor recreation, with volunteers assisting land managers in hands-on work.

Local Events:

Berlin Lake - Mill Creek Campground will host its 8th annual National Public Land's Day event on **Sept. 16 - 18**. We are hoping to have close to 200 volunteers come out for the event. Free camping will be given for Friday night and Saturday night to all volunteers as well as a free breakfast and lunch on Saturday. The Friend's of Berlin Lake will be providing breakfast and donations acquired from local businesses who will make up the lunch on Saturday. There will be nine different projects going on including creating fish cribs, impacting campsites, painting restrooms, installing clothesline posts, installing sign posts, water sealing the fence line, rehabbing the Nature Trail, picking up trash along the shoreline and sorting recycling. The ranger staff will be holding a Friday night "Meet a Ranger" campfire program as well as a Saturday night "Stargazing" campfire program. **Contact: Park Ranger Andrew Boos, (330) 547-8180**
<http://www.facebook.com/BerlinLakeUSACE>

Conemaugh Lake - On **Sept. 25** lake staff will be participating in National Public Lands in cooperation with Irwin Sportsman Club in North Huntingdon, Pa. Activities will include constructing wildlife habitat structures and park benches for use at both Conemaugh and Loyalhanna Lakes. In addition to these activities, the Corps will be providing outdoor education information to encourage interest and volunteerism at Corps projects. Other activities planned by the Sportsman Club include an archery contest, fishing demonstrations, hunting displays and other outdoor demonstrations to

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encourage participation and interest. This event will have an estimated attendance of more than 100 outdoor enthusiasts. Conemaugh lake staff is also working with other groups, including the disabled sportsman and a Scouts group to finalize an onsite volunteer project to enhance project lands. These activities may include trail work and cleanup of public access areas. **Contact Park Ranger Mark Keppler, 724-459-7240.**

<http://www.facebook.com/ConemaughRiverLake>

Kinzua Dam/Allegheny Reservoir – Sept. 10 – 17 - Annual Allegheny River Cleanup Program. We'll spend five days cleaning up 31 miles of the Upper Allegheny River near Kinzua Dam and downstream, plus two tributaries. Last year, 511 volunteers removed 70 cubic yards of trash and recycled 9,560 pounds of scrap metal. Kinzua Dam along with many other contributors including the US Forest Service, Northwest Savings and PNC banks, Warren County Probation, Allegheny Outfitters, Whirley Drink Works, Walmart, Tim Horton's, Kwik Fill and a host of others are all sponsors or contributors of this undertaking. Visit <http://alleghenyrivercleanup.com/> for more information.

<http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/rec/lakes/kinzuala.htm>

Loyalhanna Lake - Sept. 24 – Loyalhanna Lake will be participating in National Public Lands in cooperation with Girl Scout Troops 40203 and 40204 from Ligonier, Pa. The volunteers will be given a safety talk before any work begins and will be provided tools, gloves, safety glasses and refreshments. The work will involve repairing benches and an existing fence at the Kiski Group Camping Area. The scouts will be given an introduction to "Leave No Trace" practices. Leave No Trace is a national and international program designed to assist outdoor enthusiasts with their decisions about how to reduce their impacts while they recreate outdoors. The Leave No Trace principles are the standard for outdoor ethics in both the backcountry and frontcountry settings. **Contact: Park Ranger Mike Setlock (724) 639-9013**

<http://www.facebook.com/LoyalhannaLakeUSACE>

Mahoning Creek Lake - Sept. 24 - This year our goal is to accomplish the building and placement of some fish habitat spawning boxes in the lake. If time permits, we will do some shore line clean-up as well. We're starting at 9:30 a.m. Saturday morning at the Milton Loop Campground pavilion, which is located on Rt. 839 two miles north of Dayton. Our project will be working to build wooden spawn boxes and then taking them by boat to place them in the lake. This project will take place rain or shine. Volunteers should meet at the Milton Loop campground pavilion starting at 9:30 a.m.

Contact: Park Ranger Grover Pegg (412) 719-9227. Read more:

<http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/rec/lakes/Documents/NR01-241NPLD2011Mahoning.pdf>

<http://www.facebook.com/MahoningUSACE>

MJ Kirwan Dam & Reservoir - On **Sept. 24**, we're having a Visitor Information Center landscaping project and a facility-wide clean up, including shoreline areas and trails with volunteers. Last year we had 61 volunteers, and we're hoping for close to that again this year! **Contact: Park Ranger Julie Stone, (330) 358-2622**

<http://www.facebook.com/MJKirwanDam>

Mosquito Creek Lake - Mosquito Creek Lake will be celebrating NPLD with trail maintenance, litter clean up, tree planting, bird box cleaning and finish the day with a picnic for the volunteers. Our celebration will be held on **Sept. 24**, the official day for the event. **Contact: Park Ranger Marilyn Hahn (330) 637-1961**

<http://www.facebook.com/MosquitoCreekLake>

Shenango River Lake - Sept. 24 - We will refurbish the Beaver Pond Viewing Trail at the Golden Run Wildlife Area (cut back vegetation, add gravel to trail; add gravel to the Coonie Nature Trail in the Shenango Recreation Area; paint storage and utility sheds; paint traffic lines and traffic control symbols on campground roadways; pick up litter in access areas around the lake; perform maintenance on the Shenango Recreation Area Butterfly Garden; and brush trimming and removal in the campground. **Contact: Park Ranger Eric Schreckengost, (724) 646-1124**

<http://www.facebook.com/ShenangoLakeUSACE>

Stonewall Jackson Lake: On **Sept. 20** Corps employees at Stonewall Jackson along with more than 40 volunteers from West Virginia University will be joining in the nationwide service effort in improving our public lands. The student volunteers will be working with the Corps team to improve the aesthetic value and wildlife habitat on Stonewall's Friendship Hiking Trail. As part of the activities on that day, the student volunteers will be planting several conifer trees, freeing the trail of debris along the hiking trail, and providing technical support in the preservation and enhancement of the trail. **Contact Park Ranger Nicole Layfield at (304) 269-4588.**

<http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/rec/lakes/stonewal.htm>

Tygart River Lake - This year we will focus on improving the Dogwood Trail and creating a butterfly garden at Tygart Lake. The work day will last approximately 3 1/2 hours and consist of general trail maintenance and landscaping. A picnic will be held after the event at the project pavilion at Tygart Dam to show volunteers our appreciation for their time. At 9:00 am on the morning of **Sept. 24** there will be a meeting at the Tygart Dam Visitor Center to register and organize the day's events (call office for directions). We ask that all volunteers wear proper safety attire, such as long pants, boots, weather gear, and gloves for the day's event. Please come out and help us improve your local public lands! Pre registration is encouraged but not required. **Contact Park Ranger April Hawkey at 304-265-1760.**

<http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/rec/lakes/Documents/tygart/TygartNPLD2011Release.pdf>

Woodcock Lake: On **Sept. 24** we'll do Bat Box work along with trail maintenance. **Contact Park Ranger Joe Arnett, 814-763-4422.**

<http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/rec/lakes/woodcock.htm>

Youghiogheny River Lake - Sept. 24 - Clean up shoreline. – **Contact Park Ranger Emily Potter, (814) 395-3242.**

<http://www.facebook.com/YoughioghenyUSACE>

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