



American Planning Association
Pennsylvania Chapter

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Contact: Pamela Shellenberger, AICP, Chair, Great Places in Pennsylvania Program
PA Chapter of the American Planning Association
Phone: 717-771-9870, ext. 1768; Email: pshellenberger@ycpc.org

PA CHAPTER OF APA RECOGNIZES BUHL PARK AS A 2018 GREAT PLACE IN PENNSYLVANIA

Harrisburg, PA -- The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA-PA), through its Great Places in PA Program, annually designates Great Places. For 2018, the Great Places categories were Great Greenways/Trails and Great Public Spaces. Great Places have a sustainable vision for the future and serve as a model for other communities.

APA-PA is proud to announce the designation of the Buhl Park, in the City of Hermitage, Mercer County, as a 2018 Great Public Space. Frank Buhl acquired these 300 acres of land in 1911, with a vision of creating it as “a place of recreation” for residents. In 1915, he donated the land, facilities, and improvements to the Trustees, together with funds to operate and maintain the Park. The Trustees, in cooperation with the Buhl Park Corporation, communities, donors, and volunteers, fulfilled Mr. Buhl’s vision and continue to do so. Today, the Park includes a variety of facilities for persons of all ages and abilities. Among the facilities is a 9-hole golf course, driving range, disc golf course, swimming pool, playgrounds, dog park, arboretum, picnic pavilions, fitness trail with exercise stations, a 9-acre lake, tennis courts, a Nature Explore learning center, outdoor Performing Arts Center, and a Casino building that houses park offices, a ballroom, and a conference room. Through partnerships with other organizations, many activities and events occur in the Park, ranging from a Summer Youth Program, sporting tournaments, and concerts to festivals, Youth Fishing Day, and “Buhl Day,” a huge community picnic celebrating the Buhl legacy. With over 400,000 visitors annually, Buhl Park is proclaimed to be much more than a place for passive and active recreation in the Shenango Valley. “It is a place where lives happen and memories are made.”

Buhl Park joins four other designated Public Spaces and three designated Greenways/Trails as the 2018 Great Places in PA. All of the designated Great Places demonstrate the rewarding results that occur through community partnerships, planning, and dedication. In recognizing the 2018 Great Places in PA, the Chapter also celebrates the many community leaders and officials, professionals, and residents who contribute to making the Great Greenways/Trails and Public Spaces. For more information on these Great Places, as well as previously designated Great Places, please visit www.planningpa.org.