

Nixon Park Nature Center is designated an official heritage site in York County



Heritage, as defined by Webster's Dictionary, is "*property that is or can be inherited; something that is passed down from preceding generations; a tradition.*" You get the idea from the definition that heritage defines something old. True. But the York County Heritage Program is a **new** initiative of the York County Planning Commission and Richard M. Nixon County Park Nature Center is one of its pilot sites!

Heritage tourism is the practice of traveling to places to learn more about the historic, natural and cultural attractions. The core idea is to preserve local heritage and to share it with residents and visitors in an informative and entertaining way.

York County is blessed with a rich diversity of natural, cultural and historic resources. We all know that the Colonial Courthouse was the home of the Articles of the Confederation and that York played a significant role in the American Revolution and the Civil War. But York County's stories include manufacturing and transportation. Our stories are also of bounty, with our rich agricultural tradition, and of the natural wonders of our beautiful County parks, natural areas, and the Susquehanna River.

Selected to be one of three pilot heritage sites in York County, Richard M. Nixon County Park Nature Center serves as one of the finest examples of the rich natural history of our County. The Nature Center's informative displays, dynamic programming and excellent interpretation, all made possible by the expertise and efforts of dedicated staff and volunteers, educate residents and visitors alike. The Center is "authentic" York County.

Richard M. Nixon County Park Nature Center was officially designated a heritage site by the York County Planning Commission in February 2008, along with the Colonial Complex in York City and the Old Line Museum in Delta Borough. Tom Brant, Tammy Klunk and Francis Velasquez were on hand to receive the official heritage banner to be displayed at the Nature Center. The York County Parks Department has been and continues to be a valuable partner in the heritage initiative.



York County has so much to offer. The full richness and diversity of our heritage remains to be discovered. Paraphrasing an Amish proverb, *we are not inheriting from our fathers, but borrowing from our children.* To that I say, thank you for the loan of the wonderful natural, historic and cultural treasures of the County. May the gift of heritage be one that is shared for generations.

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