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## **DCNR Names Hills Creek State Park Manager To Head Pine Grove Furnace State Park**

**Harrisburg, PA** - Joseph Basil, former manager of Hills Creek State Park, Tioga County, has been named manager of Pine Grove Furnace State Park in Cumberland County, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources announced today.

“Joe will be overseeing one of our more popular state parks where annual attendance approaches 334,000 visitors a year,” said DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn. “He brings a wide range of skills and qualifications from his last assignment that can only enhance the visitor experience at Pine Grove.”

Basil was named to head operations at the 696-acre Pine Grove facility near Gardner, in the mountainous section of southern Cumberland County. Boaters, swimmers and anglers are drawn to the park where the 25-acre Laurel Lake and 1.7- acre Fuller Lake serve as focal points.

A native of Alexandria, Huntingdon County, Basil will oversee a park enveloped in Michaux State Forest and bisected by the Appalachian Trail. Steeped in natural beauty, the park contains a variety of historical features closely tied to the early iron ore industry.

“Being named the park manager of Pine Grove Furnace State Park is truly an honor for me,” Basil said. “I am really excited to work with the staff, the local community, and multiple partners, such as the Appalachian Trail Museum and Friends of Pine Grove Furnace. This is a really great park and I am excited for this opportunity.”

Basil, 27, replaces Sean Benson, who was named an assistant park manager at Pymatuning State Park, Crawford County.

The new Pine Grove Furnace manager began his career with the bureau in 2011, working as a semi-skilled laborer almost two seasons at Bald Eagle State Park, Centre County. In 2013 he took a park manager trainee position at the Hills Creek State Park Complex, based in Tioga County, and eventually was named manager.

Basil holds a bachelor’s degree in wildlife science from Juniata College. He and his wife, Sierra, will be moving to the Garner area.

For more information on Pine Grove Furnace and Pennsylvania’s other 119 state parks, telephone 1-888-PA-PARKS from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, or visit [www.dcnr.pa.gov](http://www.dcnr.pa.gov) (select “State Parks”).

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