



Keystone Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund

Camp Security Preservation Area

A Victory for Nature and the Nation

Once a prison camp during the Revolutionary War, Camp Security is now an oasis of natural beauty located in the rapidly developing landscape around the city of York.




Built in 1781, the camp held approximately 1,500 captured British soldiers and their families until the war ended in the spring of 1783. The camp played an integral role in the founding of the nation and is one of the last remaining Revolutionary War prison camps in the country.

In 2005, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named the site one America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places as encroaching development began to threaten the green pastures, which sat practically undisturbed for more than two centuries.

Today, however, the 116-acre property is permanently preserved thanks in part to funding from the state's Keystone Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund.

Keystone funding helped The Conservation Fund leverage support from Springettsbury Township, York County, the Friends of Camp Security and private donors to purchase the property and combine it with a pre-existing township park, creating the Camp Security Preservation Area.

In addition to serving as an important piece of American history, the Camp Security Preservation Area also provides recreational opportunities for tens of thousands of area residents and visitors who are now able to enjoy the space for hiking, picnicking and other outdoor activities.

Moreover, the property is located less than 10 miles from the Susquehanna River and is part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Its conservation plays a small but important role in protecting against flooding and keeping the water clean. 

Project Spotlight

Keystone investment: \$1.06M

Total project cost: \$2.60M

Project leader:

The Conservation Fund

Key local partners:

Springettsbury Township, York County, Friends of Camp Security

County: York

Fun fact: Camp Security is the only remaining undeveloped prisoner-of-war camp from the Revolutionary War. It housed over 1000 British and Canadian prisoners of war.



The Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund was established in 1993 with overwhelming bipartisan support both in the General Assembly and through a voter referendum. A portion of the state Realty Transfer Tax has been dedicated to the Keystone Fund for more than two decades. Each dollar of Keystone Fund investment typically leverages three dollars or more in direct local investments in our parks, trails, community green spaces and libraries.

Read more about the Keystone Fund at KeystoneFund.org