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| **Celebrate Mid-Atlantic Parks During National Park Service Centennial**    **(U.S. Mid-Atlantic Region, March 18, 2016) --**The 100thanniversary of the National Park Service (NPS) is a great reminder of all the national, state, and local parks that visitors can enjoy in the Mid-Atlantic. The recreational, heritage, educational, and artistic options that parks offer are as broad as they are endless. So get out and experience any of the offerings collected by the members of the Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance (MATPRA).  Interested in learning more about a location, event, or tour listed below? Contact the visitors bureau in the description for information.  **Delaware**  **Greater Wilmington**  First State National Historical Park is comprised of seven distinct locations and all three Delaware counties are represented. It includes the 1,100-acre Woodlawn property, Old Swedes Historic Site & Fort Christina, the Historic New Castle Court House Complex, the Dover Green, John Dickinson Plantation, and the Ryves Holt House. *Greater Wilmington Convention & Visitors Bureau, Lyn Lewis,* [*lynlewis@visitwilmingtonde.com*](mailto:lynlewis@visitwilmingtonde.com)*,* [*VisitWilmingtonDE.com*](http://www.visitwilmingtonde.com/)    **Maryland**  **Baltimore**  Find Your Park in Baltimore! Many of Baltimore's parks are joining the National Park Service to celebrate its centennial with special programming by land and sea throughout the summer, including Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Patterson Park, Canton Waterfront, Druid Hill Park, and the Inner Harbor's West Shore. *Visit Baltimore, Moneé Cottman,*[*mcottman@baltimore.org*](mailto:mcottman@baltimore.org)*,*[*Baltimore.org*](http://www.baltimore.org/)    **Calvert County**  Follow Capt. John Smith's exploration of the Chesapeake Bay at Calvert Cliffs State Park and Flag Ponds Nature Center. View his journal at the Bayside History Museum. Learn about the War of 1812 along the Star-Spangled Banner Trail at the Calvert Marine Museum and Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum. *Calvert County Department of Economic Development, Joyce Baki,*[*bakija@co.cal.md.us*](mailto:bakija@co.cal.md.us)*,*[*ChooseCalvert.com*](http://www.choosecalvert.com/)    **Howard County**  Explore 100-plus miles of stroller- and wheelchair-friendly paved trails that link Howard County's award winning parks, or take in the views of nearby Patapsco Valley State Park, Maryland's first state park. The scenic trails are perfect for hiking or biking along lovely lakes, over iconic bridges, and past historic places. *Howard County Tourism & Promotion, Sarah Kurtanich,*[*sarah@visithowardcounty.com*](mailto:sarah@visithowardcounty.com)*,*[*VisitHowardCounty.com*](http://www.visithowardcounty.com/)    **Montgomery County**  Find Your Park! McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area is a large contiguous forest of varied habitat. Acres of sunflowers are planted each year at McKee-Beshers WMA to attract game birds. Every July, these spectacular fields in full bloom also draw photographers, garden enthusiasts, and tourists. *Visit Montgomery, Bethany Manimbo,* [*bmanimbo@visitmontgomery.com*](mailto:bmanimbo@visitmontgomery.com)*,*[*VisitMontgomery.com*](http://www.visitmontgomery.com/)    **St. Mary's County**  Point Lookout State Park, at the confluence of the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay, is among Maryland's most popular state parks. It combines a rich history with tons of recreation options, is the former site of a Civil War POW camp, and is home to the famed Point Lookout Lighthouse. *St. Mary's County Tourism, Andrew Ponti,* [*andrew.ponti@stmarysmd.com*](mailto:andrew.ponti@stmarysmd.com)*,* [*VisitStMarysMD.com*](http://www.visitstmarysmd.com/)    **Pennsylvania**  **Pennsylvania Tourism Office**  Nothing captures Pennsylvania's historic legacy and outdoor splendor like the local, regional and national parks across the state. In honor of the National Park Service centennial, destinations including Valley Forge National Historic Park and Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area will feature special events and family-friendly programs throughout 2016. *Pennsylvania Tourism Office, Kelly Walker,*[*kwalker@tierneyagency.com*](mailto:kwalker@tierneyagency.com)*,*[*VisitPA.com*](http://visitpa.com/)    **Central PA**  Come stay at the Nature Inn at Bald Eagle State Park that provides the comfort of a B&B in the heart of the wilderness. Stop into Bellefonte's beautiful Talleyrand Park for a picnic, catch some sun and take a stroll right along Spring Creek. *Central Pennsylvania Convention & Visitors Bureau, Andy Rupert,*[*andyr@visitpennstate.org*](mailto:andyr@visitpennstate.org)*,*[*VisitPennState.org*](http://www.visitpennstate.org/)    **Cumberland Valley**  Cumberland Valley is home to three state parks, including Pine Grove Furnace. Known for being the midway point of the Appalachian Trail, this park features a variety of hiking trails and other outdoor activities. You'll also find the A.T. Museum onsite, which opens new children's exhibits this summer. *Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau, Aaron Jumper,* [*aaron@visitcumberlandvalley.com*](mailto:aaron@visitcumberlandvalley.com)*,* [*VisitCumberlandValley.com*](http://www.visitcumberlandvalley.com/)    **Endless Mountains**  Salt Springs State Park in the Endless Mountains of Northeastern Pennsylvania offers visitors year-round opportunities to connect with nature. Moonlight hikes, outdoor yoga, animal and birding workshops, and programs for children offer an opportunity to learn as well as explore the beauty of "Penn's Woods." *Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau, Morgan Christopher,* [*sales@endlessmountains.org*](mailto:sales@endlessmountains.org)*,*[*EndlessMountains.org*](http://endlessmountains.org/)    **Erie County**  Erie is Pennsylvania's ONLY port on the Great Lakes! Enjoy Presque Isle State Park - a National Natural Landmark nestled between Lake Erie and Presque Isle Bay, featuring seven miles of beaches, boating, swimming, surrey and pontoon tours, kayaking, hiking/biking trails, concerts, festivals, world-class sunsets, and the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. *VisitErie, Christine Temple,*[*cvb1@visiterie.com*](mailto:cvb1@visiterie.com)*,*[*VisitErie.com*](http://www.visiterie.com/)    **Greater Reading**  The early American industrial landscape, preserved by pristine Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, is fascinating. Equally compelling is Hopewell's role in the American Revolution and Civil War. Did Washington choose Valley Forge for its proximity to Hopewell? Did this shelter for runaway slaves supply iron to the South? Visit and learn! *Greater Reading Convention & Visitors Bureau, Lisa Haggerty,* [*lisa@gogreaterreading.com*](mailto:lisa@gogreaterreading.com)*,* [*GoGreaterReading.com*](http://www.gogreaterreading.com/)  **Indiana County**  Salute the National Underground Railroad's NPS status of the "*Rescue of 1858" Fugitive Slave Rescue*in historic Blairsville. Costumed reenactments continue through the annual*Twilight Cemetery* *Tour* and Knotweed Festival's *History at High Noon*. Indiana County is home to western Pennsylvania National Park designations, including the Johnstown Flood National Memorial. *Indiana County Tourist Bureau, Maria Jack,* [*mjack@visitindianacountypa.org*](mailto:mjack@visitindianacountypa.org)*,* [*VisitIndianaCountyPA.org*](http://www.visitindianacountypa.org/)    **Lancaster County**  Enjoyable hiking options can be found throughout Lancaster County's 2,000-plus acres of park lands. The features and environmental resources in each of these areas are many and varied, ranging from the breathtaking Susquehanna River overlooks at Chickies Rock Park to the pristine and stunning ravines of Tucquan Glen Nature Preserve. *Discover Lancaster, Joel Cliff,*[*jcliff@discoverlancaster.com*](mailto:jcliff@discoverlancaster.com)*,*[*DiscoverLancaster.com*](http://www.discoverlancaster.com/)    **Laurel Highlands**  Find your park in Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands! Honor the heroes of 9/11 at the Flight 93 National Memorial's new Visitors Center; celebrate the revival of skiing at Laurel Mountain State Park after more than 10 years of dormancy; or take on the world class whitewater rapids at Ohiopyle State Park. *Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau, Anna Weltz,* [*aweltz@laurelhighlands.org*](mailto:aweltz@laurelhighlands.org)*,*[*LaurelHighlands.org*](http://www.laurelhighlands.org/)    **Lehigh Valley**  Discover the great outdoors with trails, rivers, and more. Explore the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor on bike and tour Jacobsburg State Park on horseback. Admire migrating birds of prey at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. Explore Allentown's vast park system - the most acres per capita of any similarly-sized American city. *Discover Lehigh Valley, Kaitie Burger,*[*kaitie@discoverlehighvalley.com*](mailto:kaitie@discoverlehighvalley.com)*,*[*DiscoverLehighValley.com*](http://www.discoverlehighvalley.com/)    **Tioga County**  Leonard Harrison State Park and Colton State Park, on opposite sides of Pine Creek Gorge, offer breathtaking views of one of Pennsylvania's most stunning attractions - the 47-mile-long Pennsylvania Grand Canyon. Campers, hikers, and leaf peepers annually discover the magic found in these parks. *Tioga County Visitors Bureau, Morgan Christopher,* [*morgan@visittiogapa.com*](mailto:morgan@visittiogapa.com)*,*[*VisitTiogaPA.com*](http://visittiogapa.com/)    **York County**  The York County Heritage Rail Trail stretches 21 miles through beautiful Pennsylvania countryside from the Mason-Dixon Line to historic downtown York and beyond. Walk and bike along the same railroad President Lincoln traveled on his way to deliver the Gettysburg Address and visit the world's oldest continuously-operational railroad tunnel. *York County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Andrew Staub,*[*astaub@yorkpa.org*](mailto:astaub@yorkpa.org)*,*[*YorkPA.org*](http://www.yorkpa.org/)    **Virginia**  **Fairfax**  Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts in Fairfax County, VA (about 15 miles from D.C.) is the only National Park dedicated to the performing arts, including musicals, dance, opera, jazz, and popular and country music. Experience nature and the outdoors too, along the park's two-mile hiking trail. *Visit Fairfax, Alison Morris,*[*amorris@fxva.com*](mailto:amorris@fxva.com)*,*[*FXVA.com*](http://www.fxva.com/)    **Harrisonburg**  Act like a kid again in Harrisonburg City parks! All offer natural surface trails, athletic fields, picnic shelters, playgrounds, and many other amenities. Take a short drive to Shenandoah National Park and experience outstanding views of the Shenandoah Valley and the Piedmont from the numerous overlooks on Skyline Drive. *Harrisonburg Tourism & Visitor Services, Jessica Williams,*[*jessica.williams@harrisonburgva.gov*](mailto:jessica.williams@harrisonburgva.gov)*,*[*VisitHarrisonburgVA.com*](http://www.visitharrisonburgva.com/)    **Lexington & Rockbridge**  Natural Bridge Park - consisting of over 1,600 acres of wildlife habitat, streams, caves, and walking trails - is devoted to conservation, education, and recreation. Visitors can descend into the 34-story-deep caverns and will be awestruck by the 215-foot-high Natural Bridge arch, once owned by Thomas Jefferson. *Lexington and Rockbridge Area Tourism, Patty Williams,*[*marketing@lexingtonvirgina.com*](mailto:marketing@lexingtonvirgina.com)*,*[*LexingtonVirginia.com*](https://lexingtonvirginia.com/)    **Lynchburg**  Lynchburg, Virginia, is trending exploration! Enter the Blue Ridge Parkway, America's most iconic National Park, with its marvelous waterfalls and views. Additionally, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park commemorates Lee and Grant's last battleground encounter. Locally, trek the in-city riverside trails, enjoy Riverfront Park festivals and refresh at its Sprayground!  *Lynchburg Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau, Krista Boothby,* [*krista.boothby@lynchburgva.gov*](mailto:krista.boothby@lynchburgva.gov)*,*[*DiscoverLynchburg.org*](http://www.discoverlynchburg.org/)    **Newport News**  Newport News Park, one of the largest city-run parks in the U.S., is celebrating its 50thbirthday this year! At 7,711 acres, Newport News Park is nine times bigger than New York's Central Park. Special programs and activities are planned at the park during the celebratory year.*Newport News Tourism Development Office, Rebecca Cutchins,* [*rcutchins@nnva.gov*](mailto:rcutchins@nnva.gov)*,* [*Newport-News.org*](http://www.newport-news.org/)    **Prince William & Manassas**  Take a scenic horseback ride or hike along the miles of trails at Manassas National Battlefield Park. Celebrate 80 years of service at Prince William Forest Park, where you can plan a weekend getaway camping under the stars and experience the largest green space in Northern Virginia. *Prince William & Manassas CVB, Nicole Warner,* [*nwarner@discoverpwm.com*](mailto:nwarner@discoverpwm.com)*,* [*DiscoverPWM.com*](http://discoverpwm.com/)    **Roanoke**  Virginia's Blue Ridge kicked off the NPS Centennial celebration in February with Congressman Bob Goodlatte and Blue Ridge Parkway Superintendent Mark Woods leading the first hike along the Roanoke River trail as part of the Parkway's *100 Hikes* program. More regional guided hikes are planned throughout the year. *Roanoke Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau, Catherine Fox,*[*cfox@visitroanokeva.com*](mailto:cfox@visitroanokeva.com)*,*[*VisitVABlueRidge.com*](http://www.visitvablueridge.com/)  **West Virginia**  **Pocahontas County**  West Virginia ADVENTURE equals the New River Gorge. Home to the country's best whitewater rafting, the New River Gorge boasts one of the most popular climbing areas on the east coast with over 1,400 established rock climbs. Scenic gorges, natural beauty and epic adventure - it's all at the New River Gorge. *Pocahontas County CVB, Gail Hyer,* [*ghyer@pocahontascountywv.com*](mailto:ghyer@pocahontascountywv.com)*,*[*pocahontascountywv.com*](http://www.pocahontascountywv.com/pocahontas_county_cvb.aspx) |

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| **About Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance**  The Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance (MATPRA) is a cohesive unit of regional tourism partners encompassing Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, D.C. The group serves travel journalists by creating a regional resource that ignores geographical boundaries. The Alliance promotes common threads and offers saleable stories to journalists about the mid-Atlantic destination as a whole. For more information, visit [www.matpra.org](http://www.matpra.org/" \t "_blank).    # # # |