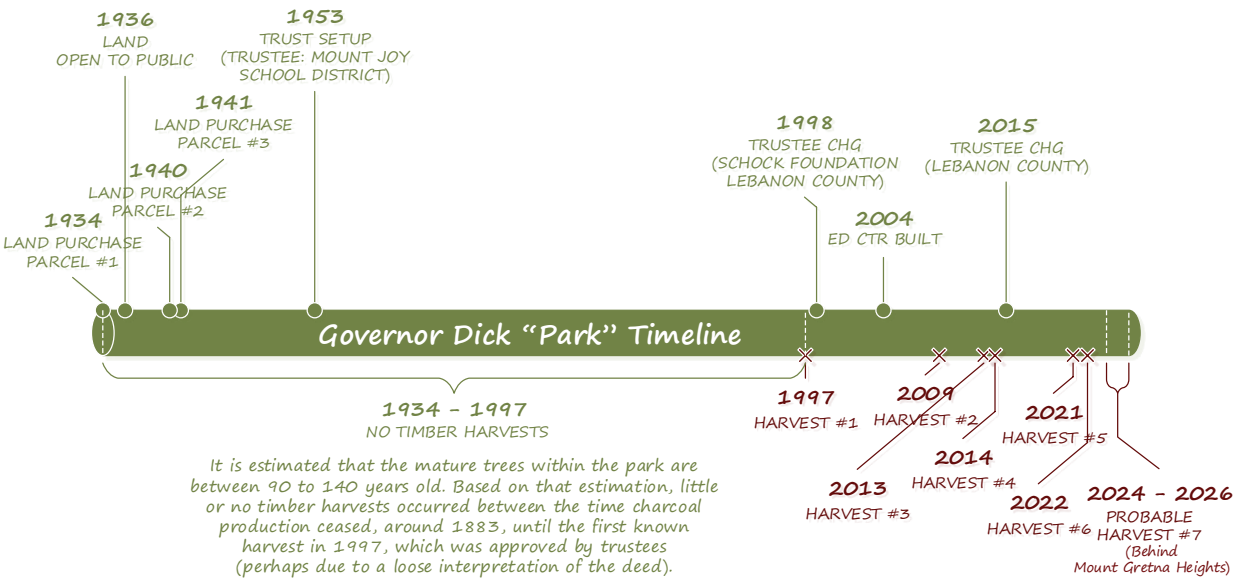


Timber Harvests as Forest Stewardship

The board of trustees charged with the stewardship of the park have long embraced the strategies of commercial forestry to manage the forest and with an estimated 4 million dollars in standing timber there is a strong incentive to do so. The deed of trust establishing the park prohibits profiting from the land, but these actions are justified as addressing the very real problem of poor tree regeneration resulting from the overpopulation of whitetail deer. Their prescribed method entails killing off all ground vegetation with herbicides removing competition for new tree seedlings, harvesting all valuable timber except for 10 trees per acre left to re-seed the forest, putting up deer exclusion fencing and replanting with thousands of new seedlings. The hundreds of thousands of dollars generated selling the timber is considered a by-product of saving the forest. These may be the best practices commercial forestry has to offer to ensure another crop of hardwood timber but from an ecological perspective these actions are devastating because the habitat required to sustain the deep forest ecosystem is removed. Soils are degraded by heavy logging equipment, drought stress to remaining trees is intensified, and invasive species of plants out compete natives in the freshly disturbed earth.



Who We Are

We are the Friends of Governor Dick, a loose alliance of lovers of the park with widely disparate interests and concerns, united by a common desire to retain Governor Dick as the remarkable unspoiled preserve that it is through activities that will bring awareness of the ecological challenges facing Governor Dick to the community. Governor Dick, officially Clarence Schock Memorial Park at Governor Dick, is an 1,105-acre forest and woodland public park bequeathed to the community in 1953, located near Mount Gretna, Pennsylvania.



Advocacy for responsible, ecologically-sound forest and woodland management

"The portion thereof which is now forest or woodland shall be maintained and preserved forever as forest and woodland and where possible additional portions shall be planted as forest and woodland..."
Clarence and Evetta Schock Governor Dick Deed



Mission

Our mission is to protect the natural environment, ecological diversity, and historical heritage of Clarence Schock Memorial Park at Governor Dick through sound ecological forest stewardship, and responsive, representative leadership.

Join us!

info@friendsofgovernordick.com
www.friendsofgovernordick.com
 "Like" us on Facebook

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."
Dr. Seuss, *The Lorax*

Maintaining Natural Beauty and Preserving a Threatened Ecosystem

Visitors to the park experience a sense of awe walking through Governor Dick's forest on a summer's day. The very air pulses with life and the natural beauty is captivating. Dappled sunlight filters down through the dense green canopy, bird songs ring out and creatures great and small abound. All who visit can share in this tranquil vision of nature in harmony but beyond what's seen, thousands of interactions are taking place in the intricate web of life that makes up the deep forest ecosystem. Almost unimaginable relationships exist in this interconnected world. The birds that spend most of their lives in tropical rainforests return here generation after generation



to hatch their young. They depend on the protection of the unbroken mature forest and its multitude of insects. These insects in turn rely upon specific native plants, like the zebra swallow tail butterfly whose caterpillar can only eat the leaves of the pawpaw tree. Beneath the forest floor threads of fungal mycelium spread in a vast network connecting individual plants together to transfer water, nitrogen, carbon, and other minerals—

trees communicating with one another in ways science is only just now beginning to understand. Many living things call Governor Dick home, and each has its own special part to play. This delicate deep forest ecosystem unfortunately faces many threats: an overpopulation of deer is eating too many young trees for the forest to properly regenerate; foreign invasive plants, animals, and insects are displacing or attacking native species; and logging operations destroy the deep forest habitat and open the land to be dominated by aggressive invasive plants. Mature forests large enough to sustain the deep forest ecosystem are under threat everywhere but through careful stewardship and the efforts of those who love it, Governor Dick Park will continue to be a gift given to future generations.



Much like an iceberg, there is more to trees than what you see above the surface. One of our group's goals is to bring public awareness to all benefits above, below, around, and within the trees that are the forest and woodlands of Governor Dick Park.

"A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people."

Franklin D. Roosevelt