

Department of Forests and Waters State Documents

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Finding aid written in English

Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of the State Library

Forum Building
607 South Drive
Harrisburg, PA, 17120

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Summary Information

Repository: Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of the State Library

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Date: Majority of material found in 1954

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Language of English

Materials:

Scope and Contents

The Department of Forests and Waters was responsible for the acquisition and management of state forest lands, the development of state parks, the improvement of waterways, the protection of the Commonwealth's water supply, the supervision of flood control projects, and the protection of state and private forest lands.

The publications of the Department of Forests and Waters contain biennial reports. Selected topics from these publications include yearly happenings and statistics on Pennsylvania forests, and the report of the Secretary of Forests and Waters. The bulk of the current material is dated from 1954.

Biographical / Historical

The Department of Forests and Waters was created in 1923 by Governor Gifford Pinchot to consolidate the functions of the Department of Forestry, the Water Supply Commission, and the Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey. Included within the jurisdiction of the Department were several administrative and advisory commissions, such as the Fort Washington Park Commission, the Bushy Run Battlefield Commission, the Valley Forge Park Commission and the Washington Crossing Park Commission. In 1937, the newly created Navigation Commission for the Delaware River and Its Navigable Tributaries was also placed under the Department, where it remained until transferred to the Department of Transportation in 1970. The Department of Forests and Waters was absorbed by the Department of Environmental Resources in 1971.

Legacy Agency Names and Related Agencies

Department of Forestry (agency emerged from), Water Supply Commission (agency emerged from), Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey (agency emerged from), Fort Washington Park Commission (child agency), Bushy Run Battlefield Commission (child agency), Valley Forge Park Commission (child agency), Washington Crossing Park Commission (child agency), Navigation Commission (child agency), Department of Environmental Resources (successor agency)

General

Annual reports of the Department of Forests and Waters from 1923 to 1926 are available on the Internet Archive: <https://archive.org/search?query=report+forests+and+waters+pennsylvania>.

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Controlled Access Headings

- Forests and forestry
- Pennsylvania Politics and government
- Politics and government
- State government publications