

Destiny Gray
McGuffey Middle School
86 McGuffey Drive
Claysville, Pa 15323

26, March, 2015

The Honorable Patrick McDonnell
25 Technology Drive California Technology park
Coal Center, PA 15423

Dear Patrick McDonnell,

I am Destiny from McGuffey Middle School and I feel that state parks should be more controlled and maintained better. There are many parks out there that do not maintain the area that is provided. Most of the time I assume this is because of money management or cuts in the budget. This is understandable but yet uncontrollable and horrible. This affects many including those who just go to explore. Having natural resources such as state parks allows tourist to come and with tourism there would be more money for the local area around the park.

Now with saying that I am going to go to a certain park. The park I am the most worried about is Ryerson Station Park. They had a beautiful lake down there that was good for fishing. But then the dam drained when the coal mine came through. They haven't fixed it yet and it has been over five years. Since Ryerson Station Park has closed they have lost a lot of the people that went there. Now that the dam is drained and there is nowhere to fish or even just look at the lake people have stopped going there. After people stopped going there the pool employees became paid poorly due to not enough funds. After that happened the pool is only open during certain days of the week compared to when it use to be open almost everyday of the week. Another effect of the lake being drained is that when it has outings or any other event not as many people show up and they don't make enough money to keep the park up and running nice. When you think

of a park you think its supposed to be up running and looking nice but its the total opposite with many. Now they don't even have nice new pavilions they are all old and falling in. Now after so many years they finally are trying to restore the dam by dredging it out.

I hope you by chance take all of this into consideration because there are many state parks out there that need a little repair just like Ryerson Station Park. If we don't at least try to fix this now there will be no nice recreational places for future generations to go and enjoy.

Sincerly,

Destiny Gray

PS: Please write back.