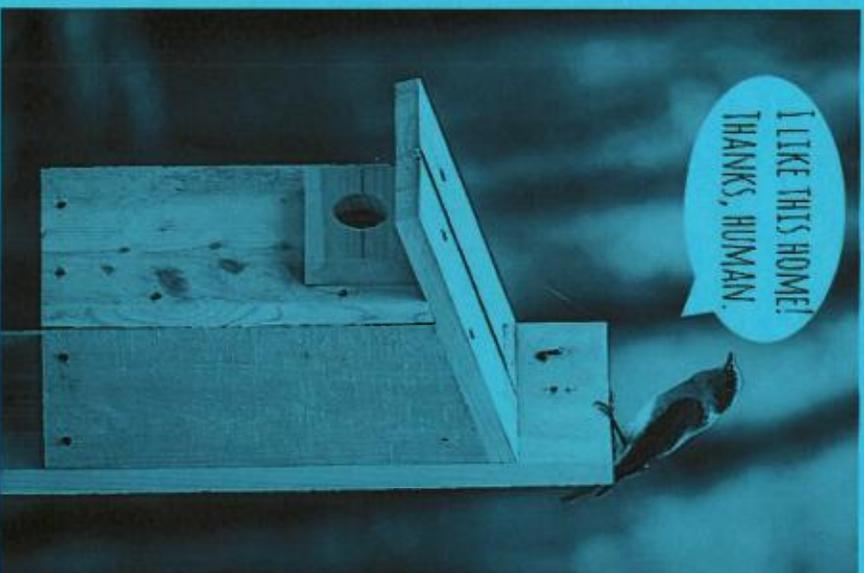


How do I get involved?

Fort Washington State Park is seeking new cavity-nesting monitors to ensure that there will be people visiting the birds at least once a week during the season.

If you are interested in being one of those new cavity-nesting monitors, contact the park office by phone (215-591-5250) or email (FortWashingtonSP@pa.gov) and let us know! We'll get you in contact with one of our more experienced cavity-nesting monitors so you can learn the basics and get started as soon as possible.

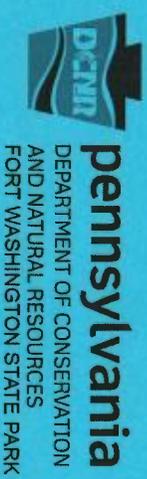


Park contact information

Office address:
500 South Bethlehem Pike
Fort Washington, PA 19034

Phone number:
215-591-5250

Email:
FortWashingtonSP@pa.gov



Volunteer as a
Cavity-Nesting
Trails Monitor
at Fort Washington
State Park

What is the Cavity-Nesting Trails Program?

A cavity-nester is any type of bird that builds its nests in cavities, or small holes, in trees. Often the easiest place for these birds to find a suitable cavity is in a dead tree. When dead trees are removed from the park for safety reasons, it causes a loss of habitat for bluebirds, tree swallows, wrens, chickadees, and other such small birds.

In order to alleviate this human-caused habitat loss, DCNR has installed blue bird boxes in many of Pennsylvania's state parks, including Fort Washington. These boxes are usually placed along trails for relatively easy access. They provide a safe, comfortable home for bluebirds and other cavity-nesters that might otherwise have nowhere to live.

You can help, by the way.



These bird boxes need to be monitored to track how successful the habitat-providing effort is, and that is where YOU—a potential Cavity-Nesting Trails Monitor—come in.

What does a Cavity-Nesting Trails Monitor do?



Cavity-Nesting Trails Monitors regularly walk the trails through the park (from April to September) to

open nest boxes and count eggs/hatchlings. They record this data on forms provided by DCNR, and submit the forms to the central office at the end of the nesting season. They also have an opportunity to attend an annual end-of-season educational and social meeting with other monitors from throughout the state.

Monitors clean, maintain, and repair the nest boxes as well. This includes installing predator guards on the boxes to prevent predators from getting at the nesting birds. Additionally, monitors sometimes need to build new boxes, if an already-existing box is damaged beyond repair.