Michigan state parks Centennial FACTS

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Michigan state parks system throughout 2019. The yearlong Michigan state parks centennial is a nod to our rich history and an energizing look forward.

The centennial is centered around the formation of the Michigan State Park Commission by the state Legislature on May 12, 1919. The commission was given responsibility for overseeing, acquiring and maintaining public lands and establishing Michigan's state parks system.

Interlochen State Park is considered Michigan's first state park because it was the first to be transferred to the commission. The most recent addition is Watkins Lake State Park & County Preserve (in Jackson and Washtenaw counties), which was established in 2016.

A number of statewide partners have joined the party, such as Pure Sounds of Michigan, Great Lakes Plein Air Painters Association, the Michigan State Park Race Series and more.

Campfire storytelling events will bring some of the memories and stories made in state parks to life around a campfire and through a special podcast.

To help capture special state park memories pictured here, an online memory map (or a virtual guest book) was created for parks fans to easily add their memories and photos.

The Centennial GeoTour – a modern-day treasure hunt using GPS coordinates – launches May 24 and includes 100 new caches around the state.

There are giving and volunteer opportunities that will help launch state parks into the next 100 years, including Give 100 and the Happy Little Trees tree-planting program.

The These Goods are Good for Michigan program continues to expand its collection of partners, who raise awareness and generate support through revenue sharing for state parks, trails and waterways. You'll find centennial keepsakes and merchandise, coffee, wine, running gear and more Visit Goods4Mi.com.

Learn all about the state parks centennial at
Michigan.gov/StateParks100.
An online toolkit is available as well.