

A View From The Governor's Office

By Gov. Raymond P. Shafer

In the first ten months since built throughout the Commonwealth's enactment, some \$78 million wealth at a cost estimated at of Pennsylvania's new conservation bond issue already has been allocated to 212 land and water reclamation projects throughout the Commonwealth.

Signed into law on January 19, 1968, as the first step to the Golden Age of Conservation to Pennsylvania, appropriations already made under the \$500 million bond issue soon will result in:

—Eleven new State Parks to be

built throughout the Commonwealth at a cost estimated at \$19.3 million, all of which are expected to be functional within from three to seven years.

—A State-wide system of 69 new community parks and recreational areas with \$6.2 million of the estimated \$12.8 million construction costs to be paid by the State.

—Sixty-three new sewage treatment plants to be built by communities throughout the Commonwealth with 25 percent

(\$11.9 million) of the total construction costs coming from the State for the first time in history.

—A total of 49 projects under a new action program—"Operation Scarlift"—to curb stream pollution from acid mine drainage and cure other ills of past coal mining operations at a cost of \$33.2 millions.

—Creation of three new waterfowl management areas and improvement to small game habitat and access roads on 29 State Game Lands located in 24 counties throughout the Commonwealth at a cost of \$4.7 million.

—Four new Fish Commission lakes, a new trout hatchery and expanded facilities at another hatchery for warm water species such as muskellunge at a cost of \$2.1 million.

The \$78 million needed to complete all of these projects already has had my approval for expenditure out of the \$100 millions of bond issue funds appropriated by the General Assembly earlier this year. Future funds will be sought from the Legislature biennially over the next eight years.

The speed with which all State agencies involved in the expenditure of this new bond issue money which was approved by the people of Pennsylvania only last year is, indeed, highly commendable and I am certain that the day is not far off when all of us will begin to see the physical results of the most far-reaching conservation and reclamation program ever begun by any State in the Nation.

For example, only last week I approved and signed a contract in the amount of \$891,290 for construction of the dam which will create a 205-acre lake at the new Tunkhannock State Park on the South Branch of Tunkhannock Creek in Lackawanna County.

Work on this project is scheduled to begin this week, with construction expected to be completed by October, 1970. When finally filled, the lake, along with shoreline developments to be built, will serve thousands of recreation-seekers in the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre area.

Bids for construction of the

Little Buffalo Creek State Park dam in Perry County will be opened on December 5, and those to rehabilitate the dam on Upper Locust Creek in Schuylkill County will be advertised in February.

Other new State Parks which will either be in design or construction before July include Codorus Creek, York County; Laurel Ridge, Fayette and Somerset Counties; Nolde, Berks County; Ohlpyle, Fayette-Somerset; Ridley Creek, Delaware County; Sandy Creek, Mercer County; Tyler, Bucks County, and the Shikellamy Marina, Northumberland.

Even more dramatic is the speed with which the Department of Mines and Mineral Industries has begun an action program designed to clean our

streams of acid mine waters and cure the ills of past coal mining operations.

Already approved for early action are 33 stream pollution abatement projects designed to remove acid wastes from abandoned mines, five which will curb air pollution by extinguishing burning culm banks, four to fight underground mine fires and seven to prevent future surface subsidence.

In addition, the Department already has taken delivery on three of four mobile acid mine treatment plants, and one of these is currently testing the waters flowing into East Branch Dam on the Clarion River in order to determine the kind of permanent facility needed to clean the waters of Pennsylvania's Dead Sea.



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