

Grey Towers National Historic Site

USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry



Description:

Grey Towers National Historic Site is the ancestral home of USDA Forest Service founder and first chief, Gifford Pinchot. Set on 102 acres in Milford, Pennsylvania, this French chateausque mansion is one of the nation's most important forestry historic sites and a national symbol for conservation. The Pinchot family donated Grey Towers to the public, and President John F. Kennedy dedicated the site in 1963.

New legislation enacted in FY05 established this historic landmark as a National Historic Site, the only national historic site administered by the US Forest Service. The legislation now provides new opportunities for growth and expansion and allows us to fully serve the public the way the Pinchots intended. A change in leadership, an organizational reconfiguration and a comprehensive strategic planning process have already set the course for this to occur.

Numerous partners and organizations collaborate with the Forest Service at Grey Towers to deliver a full calendar of conferences and meetings, symposia, lectures, leadership development programs, conservation education, interpretive tours, outreach, and public affairs. The wide-ranging and diverse use of Grey Towers provides the USDA Forest Service a means to perpetuate the historic Pinchot conservation legacy.

Key Issues: Enhancing and expanding public service with site improvements and programmatic growth continue to be the key issues at Grey Towers

- Develop the site's full potential as a cultural and natural resource conservation center.
- Continue to provide high-quality recreational and educational opportunities by enhancing programs, streamlining services and improving access.
- Increase efficiency of Forest Service programs by improving and enhancing Forest Service leadership development.
- Operate with renewed efficiency and decrease costs by cultivating and strengthening partnerships and collaborations.
- Complete construction projects and initiate future renovation and rehabilitation projects.
- Continue protection and maintenance of the legacy assets.

Accomplishments:

- **Historic Preservation and Maintenance:** The majority of an \$18 million historic restoration and renovation is now complete. Progress continues on Phase IV, Visitor Services Project, and landscape renovation and restoration. Construction of a separate maintenance facility opened up space in the main mansion and removed the bulk of maintenance activity from the historic core.
- **Visitor Services:** Expanded capacity by cultivating partnerships with federal, state and regional groups, agencies, and organizations; enhanced community relations, economic, and recreational opportunities by improving services and expanding programs; established fee collection to help offset the cost of providing improved visitor services and enabling a growing variety of programs; participated in a variety of national and regional agency initiatives and developed and facilitated a large, educational signature event.
- **Conference Center and Leadership Program:** Improved use of conference center and meeting room space; expanded the Grey Towers role in the national Leadership Development Program.

Budget History: Grey Towers

	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Operations	\$1,650	\$1,650	\$1,950	\$1,950	\$1,950
Construction	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$0	\$770
Totals	\$2,150	\$2,150	\$2,450	\$1,950	\$2,720

Future Direction: The USDA Forest Service will continue its commitment to develop the site's full potential as a cultural and natural resource conservation center.

- We are examining ways to play a larger and more effective role in the national conservation leadership program.
- We will strategically develop programs and improve site access to enhance the overall visitor experience.
- We will continue to expand capacity and provide public benefit by seeking out and cultivating partnerships and collaborations with traditional and non-traditional groups.
- We will continue to address ongoing maintenance and capital improvement projects as funding becomes available, including horticulture and feature restoration of the historic landscape.
- We will become a more significant contributor to training Forest Service leaders.
- We will address the threats to forest health and open space preservation through our cooperative program with the Pinchot family and the Milford Experimental Forest.



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