



A RESOLUTION OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE DELAWARE TRIBE OF INDIANS DESIGNATING PINCHOT FALLS AN INDIAN SACRED SITE AND TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTY WITHIN LĒNAPEHÒKINK AND NAMING THIS SITE “MĚXUMĚS SUKPEHĚLAK” (GRANDFATHER FALLS)

RESOLUTION 2021-63

Submitted by L. Heady, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

WHEREAS the Historic Delaware Tribal Nation¹ was the first tribal nation to sign a treaty with the United States of America²—an act which affirmed the sovereignty of both the Delaware Tribal Nation and the United States—by mutual recognition; and

WHEREAS Article V of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Delaware Tribe of Indians authorize the Delaware Tribal Council to represent and act in all matters that concern the general welfare of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS Executive Order 13007 of May 24, 1996, has established executive policy for accommodation and protection of Indian Sacred Sites in furtherance of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act; and

WHEREAS pursuant to Executive Order 13007, an Indian Sacred Site is a site that is identified by an Indian tribe as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion; and

WHEREAS pursuant to Executive Order 13007, the identification and designation of an Indian Sacred Site is the sole province and determination of the affected Indian Tribe or Indian religious practitioners; and

WHEREAS it falls within the inherent sovereign powers of the Delaware Tribe of Indians to identify and designate Indian Sacred Sites and strive for their protection regardless of land ownership³; and

¹ “Historic Delaware Tribal Nation” is the term used for the antecedent Delaware Tribe/Delaware Nation of historic times and is inclusive of all contemporary federally recognized Delaware tribes in the U.S. and Canada.

² Treaty of Fort Pitt, September 17, 1778

³ The Tribe further defines a Sacred Site as: *Any specific geographic location within the traditional homelands of Lĕnapehòkink or within the corridors of forced removal and relocation of the Delaware Diaspora, whether site, feature, or landscape, that is identified by the Delaware Tribe of Indians, the Delaware Nation, or the Stockbridge Munsee Community, as having historically important religious, spiritual, or cultural significance to the Lenape tribes. These Sacred Sites may include but are not limited to geological features, bodies of water, burial places, traditional cultural places, biological communities, stone and earth structures, and cultural landscapes uniquely connecting historically important cultural sites or features in any manner meaningful to the identifying tribe.*

WHEREAS Pinchot Falls⁴, located on Sawkill Creek in Pike County, Pennsylvania, on the Pinchot family estate⁵ is a significant natural feature within Lënapehòkink⁶, within five miles of Minisink Island⁷, and is a place of solemn natural beauty, great power, and sacred healing waters; a place which inspires prayer and a connection to the Creator and to the heart of the Lenape world; an historic site where the voices of our Ancestors may still be heard; and

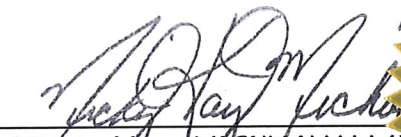
WHEREAS the Pinchot family has asked the Delaware Tribe of Indians to assist in the conservation and stewardship of Pinchot Falls in whatever manner deemed lawful and appropriate.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Tribal Council of the Delaware Tribe of Indians does hereby give Pinchot Falls the Lenape name of Mëxumës_Sukpehëlak⁸ meaning "The Grandfather Falls," honoring both our Lenape Ancestors and Gifford Pinchot, the grandfather of American Forestry and Conservation; and does hereby designate and declare Mëxumës_Sukpehëlak to be an Indian Sacred Site and Traditional Cultural Property, subject to the full protection and accommodations provided by Federal, State and Tribal Laws and County Ordinance.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing was considered by the Delaware Tribal Council of the Delaware Tribe of Indians and adopted this 15 day of JANUARY 2022 with a vote of 6 yes, 0 no, and of 0 abstaining.


BRAD KILLSCROW, Chief


Attested by: NICKY KAY M.
Secretary



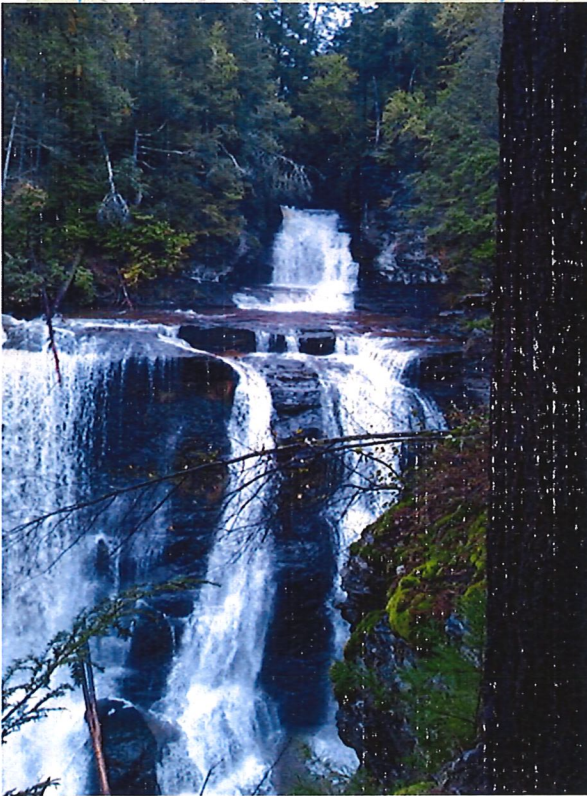
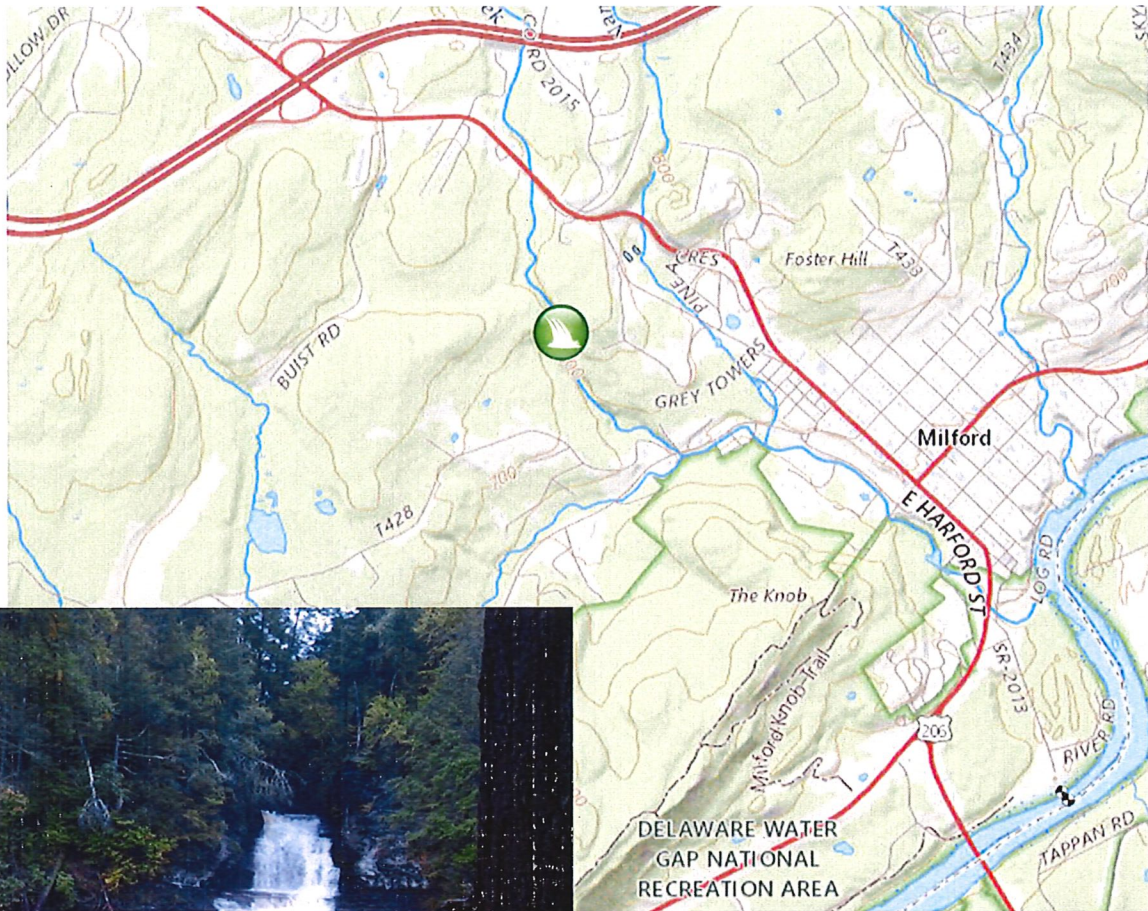
⁴ Pinchot Falls is a scenic two-stepped fall which splits into multiple channels as it falls over its lower tier. The falls are situated on private property but are accessible from a public trail. The land around the falls belongs to the family of Gifford Pinchot, for whom the falls are named, who established the concept of modern forestry and is credited with the foundation of the US National Forest Service in 1905. World Waterfall Database.

⁵ Roughly between the geographic coordinates of Latitude 41°19'43" North, Longitude -74°49'23" West; and Latitude 41°19'38" North, Longitude -74°49'22" West.

⁶ Lënapehòkink means "land of the Lenape or Delaware Indians."

⁷ Minisink Island is an important geographic and cultural feature located in Sussex County, NJ at N41.28843° W74.82294° (NAD83) near Milford, PA.

⁸ Mëxumës Sukpehëlak is pronounced: mu-HOOM-us sook-PAY-hu-laak.



Upper level of Mëxumës Sukpehëlak (Pinchot Falls) 10/6/2021



THPO Larry Heady consulting with Nancy Pinchot at Mëxumës Sukpehëlak (Pinchot Falls) 10/6/2021