



## Dutch Wonderland History

- 1963: **Dutch Wonderland** Family Amusement Park becomes a dream (literally) made real by potato farmer-turned-Congress Inn owner Earl Clark. With no amusement park experience, Clark begins on 14 acres with four rides: The Wonderland Express Train, The *Lady Gay* Riverboat, The Turnpike with Antique Cars and the Whale Boats.
- 1965- Mr. Clark purchases 54 acres in adjacent properties. New rides and  
1968: attractions debut, including the Botanical Gardens, Monorail, Sky Ride, Big Slide, Moon Walk, *The Dolphin Show*, Twin Theatres of the Wonderland Cinema and Old Mill Stream Camping Manor
- 1975: Comedian Red Skelton comes to the Park to visit the Hobo Shack, an attraction modeled after his skit "Freddie the Freeloader"
- 1977: Log Flume ride debuts
- 1980: Dukes of Hazzard's car, the General Lee, appears at the Park  
"All America's Family Games" challenges families to skip the 1980 Olympics in Moscow and participate in Olympic mock-games at **Dutch Wonderland**
- 1982: Merry-Go-Round, Ferris Wind Mill and *The Great American High Dive Show* debut  
Nationally acclaimed Mahoney Brothers perform "Salute to the Beatles"
- 1992: Sky Princess Roller Coaster (renamed Kingdom Coaster in 2007) debuts
- 1993: Earl Clark, the founder of **Dutch Wonderland**, passes away
- 1994: Crazy Plane and Choo-Choo Charlie debut
- 1995: Employee Scholarship Program starts

- 1996: Pipeline Plunge debuts
- 1997: **Happy Hauntings** debuts  
**Duke the Dragon** is introduced
- 1998: Joust Family Coaster debuts
- 2001: **Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Company** purchases the Park, Lancaster County History Museum, Theatres, **Old Mill Stream Campground** and The Gift House at Kitchen Kettle Village
- 2002: The Princess of **Dutch Wonderland** debuts  
Three new rides are added, including Off-Road Rally, Frog Hopper and Wonder Whip
- 2003: Duke's Lagoon water-play area is introduced  
**Dutch Wonderland** is trademarked **A Kingdom For Kids!**
- 2004: Duke's Lagoon expands with a toddler area  
*The Adventures of the Frog Prince* show debuts at the aqua theatre  
The **Dutch Wonderland** Knight is introduced  
**Dutch Wonderland** is voted "One of the Top 5 Best Kids' Parks in the World" by *Amusement Today* magazine
- 2005: Duke's Lagoon expands with a new multi-level play platform  
The Park implements "The Clean Air Proclamation," a limited smoking policy  
**Dutch Wonderland** is voted "One of the Top 5 Best Kids' Parks in the World" by *Amusement Today* magazine for the second year in a row
- 2006: Duke's Dance Party debuts in Duke's Lagoon  
*Beyond the Castle Walls: A Dutch Wonderful Story*, a 32-page children's book written by Dutch Wonderland employee Deb Martin, is released to the public

2007: Turtle Whirl ride opens  
Treehouse Terrace opens  
“Kids’ Healthy Fare Proclamation” is introduced; healthy items are offered at most food and beverage locations throughout the Park

2008: *Thomas & Friends Live at Dutch Wonderland!*, a live stage-show featuring Thomas the Tank, debuts  
*Beyond the Castle Walls*, a live stage-show based on the children’s book of the same name, debuts