Locust Lake State Park is in a clean watershed due to the topography. The dam was constructed to create a reservoir for recreation.
All the materials in the dam have a purpose.

Locust Creek supplies Locust Lake with water. The meanders in this creek clearly show the depositional features of point bars and the erosional features of cut banks.

Red-spotted salamander found in the spillway.
Rusty Taylor of Lehigh Anthracite gave us a tour of the crushing and sorting facility. Anthracite from this mine is used for filtration, welding, stainless steel creation, the carbon in tennis rackets, and many other products.
Fossilized tree trunks are often found in the layer above the Mammoth Coal. The operators move these fossils to a central location. Lehigh Anthracite has donated fossils such as these to local museums.

The current mining location has multiple terraces.
The hydraulic shovel used for excavating cost over 4 million dollars.
The Primrose vein was exposed in their current excavations. An old deep mine shaft is visible below in the debris.
Our last stop on the tour was at the old number 8 mine and the haul trucks

View to the east from the current excavations
The 309 Discharge is a site of active remediation where the water is being treated to increase the pH and remove iron prior to discharge into the Little Schuylkill River. Following the active treatment, the water flows through a wetland area where iron precipitates prior to entering the Little Schuylkill River.