

# DELAWARE STATE PARKS

# 2020

*Annual Report*





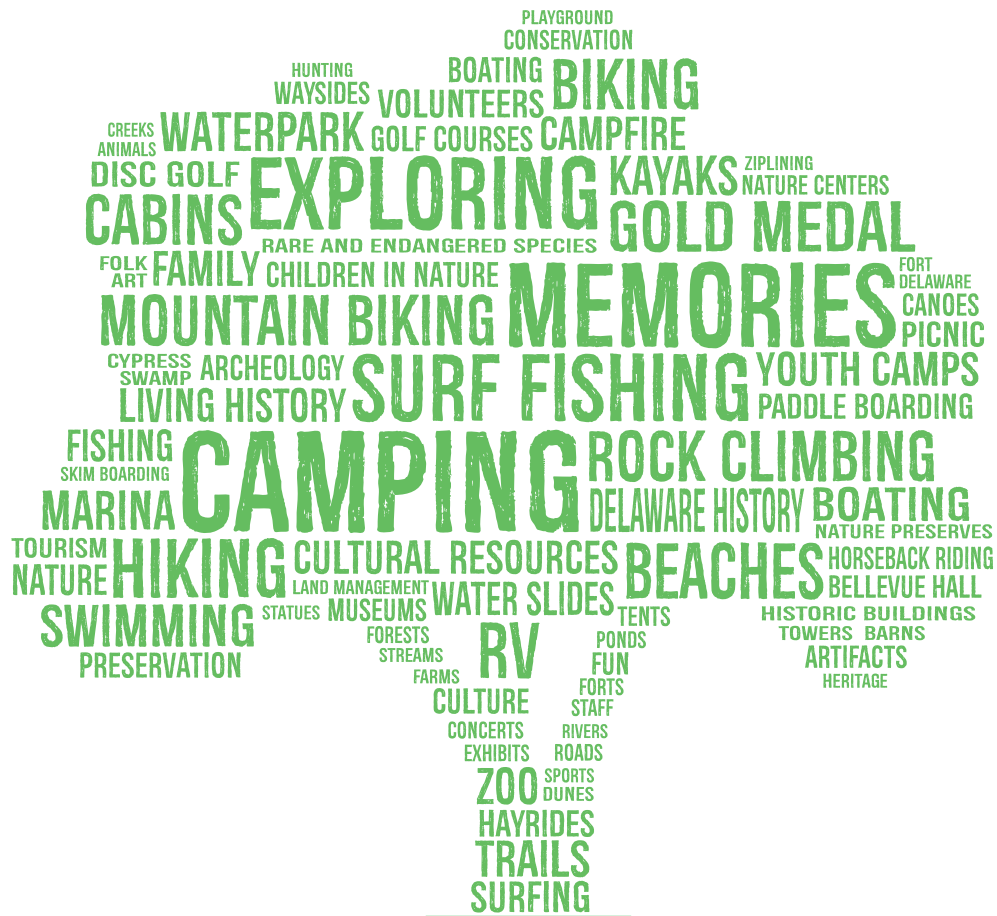
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# Delaware State Parks

# 2020 Annual Report

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Voted America's Best



Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control  
Division of Parks & Recreation



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# TIMELINE ANNIVERSARIES

## Delaware State Parks

2015

5  
YEARS  
AGO

The Division of Parks and Recreation won the 2015 Delaware National Parks and Recreation Association Gold Medal for Excellence, for the first time.

## Brandywine Zoo

2000

Rare Tamarins are born at the Brandywine Zoo.

20  
YEARS  
AGO

## Delaware State Parks

1985

The Division of Parks and Recreation receives its first computer.

35  
YEARS  
AGO

## Cape Henlopen State Park

1985

Fire Control Tower 7 opened to the public at Fort Miles in Cape Henlopen State Park.

35  
YEARS  
AGO

## Cape Henlopen State Park

1970

Led by Lewes High School science teacher John Stenger, carloads of student protestors successfully rallied on the first Earth Day to protect the Great Dune at Cape Henlopen State Park after the U.S. Army began to bulldoze the dune to make way for military recreational housing.

50  
YEARS  
AGO

## Delaware Seashore State Park

1975

The Indian River Marina opens.

45  
YEARS  
AGO

1990

30  
YEARS  
AGO

## Open Space Program

The Delaware Land Protection Act establishes the Open Space Program to oversee the protection of state resource areas.

2005

15  
YEARS  
AGO

## First State Heritage Park

First State Heritage Park at Dover is established.

1965

55  
YEARS  
AGO

## Delaware State Parks

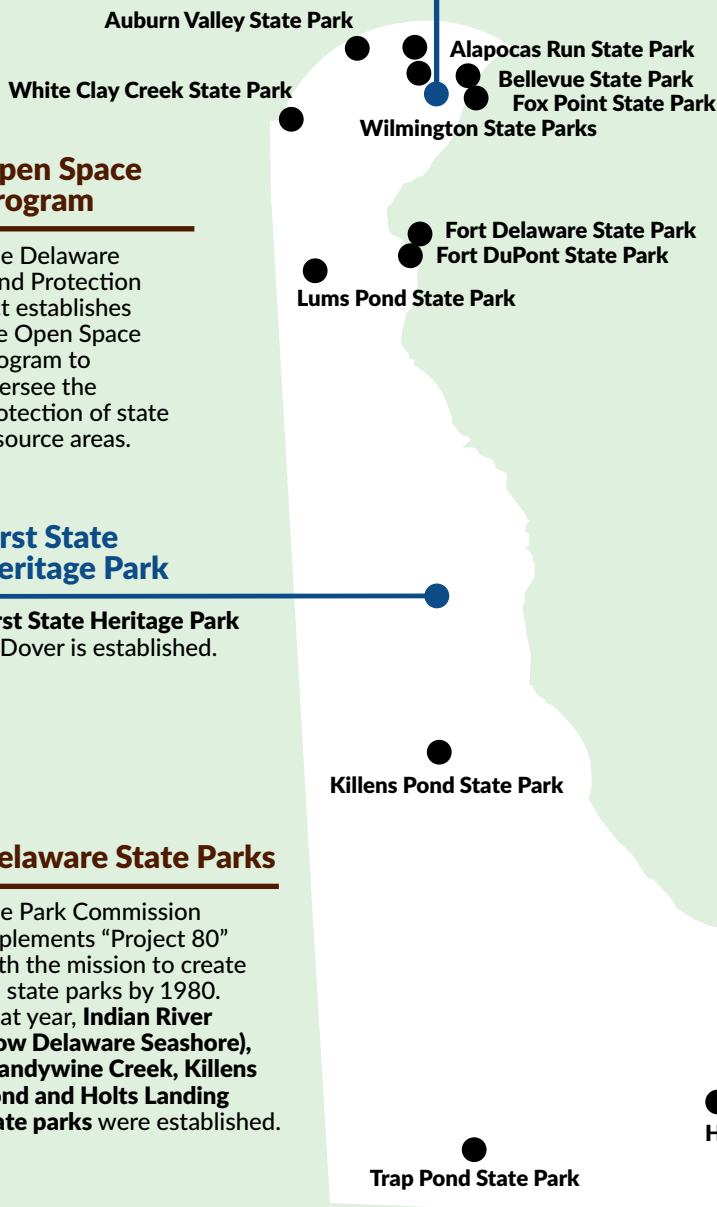
The Park Commission implements "Project 80" with the mission to create 10 state parks by 1980. That year, Indian River (now Delaware Seashore), Brandywine Creek, Killens Pond and Holts Landing state parks were established.

1970

50  
YEARS  
AGO

## DNREC

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control was established under state government reorganization.




————— Specific to One Park

————— Not Specific to One Park

# WHAT WE ARE

The mission of DNREC's Division of Parks & Recreation is to provide Delaware's residents and visitors with safe and enjoyable recreational opportunities and open spaces, responsible stewardship of the lands and the cultural and natural resources that we have been entrusted to protect and manage, and resource-based interpretive and educational services.

## DELAWARE STATE PARKS by the Numbers:

6   
million+  
visitors

17   
Parks  


26,500  
Acres 

622  
Buildings  
on Park Land  


158  
Miles of  
Trails 

  
17.8  
Miles of  
Ocean Beach

42.7  
Miles of  
Road

## OUR PARKS AND PRESERVES

The Division of Parks & Recreation operates and maintains 17 state parks and related preserves and greenways throughout Delaware.

### STATE PARKS:

Alapocas Run	Fort Delaware
Auburn Valley	Fort DuPont
Bellevue	Fox Point
Brandywine Creek	Holts Landing
Cape Henlopen	Killens Pond
Delaware Seashore	Lums Pond
Fenwick Island	Trap Pond
First State Heritage Park	White Clay Creek
	Wilmington State Parks

### PRESERVES:

Angola Neck	James Branch
Auburn Heights	Frenchtown Woods
Barnes Woods	James Branch
Beach Plum Island	Lums Pond Woods
Bellevue Woods	Murderkill River
Brandywine Creek Valley	Nanticoke River
Cape Henlopen	Pea Patch Island
Cedar Creek	Red Clay Creek Valley
Doe Bridge	Rehoboth Bay Marshes
Flint Woods	Thompson Island
Fork Branch	White Clay Creek Valley

## MORE THAN PARKS

### We also:

- Administer Delaware's land protection programs
- Provide educational and interpretive programs on natural and cultural resources
- Acquire and develop recreational lands and facilities
- Provide for the protection of natural areas
- Oversee and plan for statewide recreational needs

# ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

Delaware State Parks provide recreation, nature, environmental and educational opportunities to all Delawareans. It is important that all people are able to enjoy our 17 parks and more than 26,500 acres of parkland. Each year, we update and improve our parks with this all-access vision in mind. In 2020, we added several amenities that will provide more access for individuals of all abilities.



Storybook Trail at Alapocas Run State Park

## Alapocas State Park

- Can-Do Playground transfer platform replacement.
- Storybook Trail near the CanDo Playground with a bonded rubber path and storybooks along the trail to read. Storybooks change throughout the year.

## Auburn Valley State Park

- Accessible pavilion ramp.
- Historic bridge at Snuff Mill allowing for the addition of an accessible trail.
- Steam Museum renovation with accessible bathrooms and exhibit space led by the Friends of Auburn Heights.



Assawoman Canal accessible kayak launch at Delaware Seashore State Park

## Bellevue State Park

- Three-season pavilion at Bellevue Mansion with accessible trail to the mansion.

## Brandywine Creek State Park

- Installed hunting stands to allow improved hunting for visitors with disabilities.

## Cape Henlopen State Park

- Installed hunting stands to allow improved hunting for visitors with disabilities.
- New event space and parking for the Fort Miles Museum with accessible pathway and museum access.



Big Chill Beach Club ramp at Delaware Seashore State Park

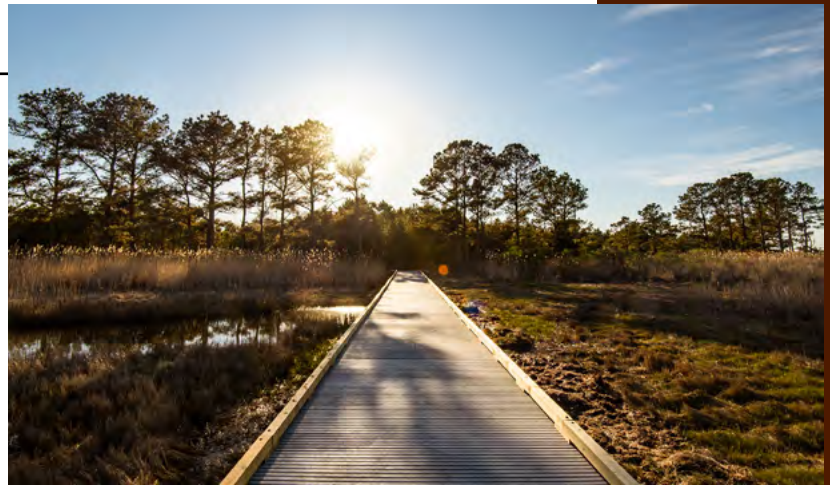
## Delaware Seashore State Park

- Big Chill Beach Club ramp addition to replace elevator challenges.
- North Inlet jetty fishing pier improvements to allow a safer accessible fishing opportunity by improving decking and railing.
- Assawoman Canal accessible kayak launch.
- Assawoman Canal Route 26 underpass.
- Installed hunting stands to allow improved hunting for visitors with disabilities.



## Holts Landing State Park

- Seahawk Trail improvement with an upgraded accessible stone dust trail and 600-foot boardwalk.



Seahawk Trail improvement at Holts Landing State Park

## Garrison Lake Golf Course

- Garrison Lake added a new event pavilion to attract larger events and golf tournaments by providing outside gathering space.



Event pavilion at Garrison Lake Golf Club

## Killens Pond State Park

- Installed hunting stands to allow improved hunting for visitors with disabilities.



Hunting stand to allow improved hunting for visitors with disabilities.

## Trap Pond State Park

- Additional sidewalk and lights near the nature center.
- New accessible cabin bathhouse with individual units and showers to replace a composting toilet.
- Bridge replacements throughout the park trail system.



Accessible bathhouse at Trap Pond State Park

## White Clay Creek State Park

- Two new accessible benches along the Tri-Valley Trail.



## Brandywine Zoo

- Madagascar exhibit with accessible trail to the lower viewing area, an upper viewing area and pavilion for improved viewing, interpretive programming, and events.

# WHO WE ARE

## OUR PEOPLE PUT US ON TOP IN FY20

A wide variety of knowledge and skills are required to keep Delaware State Parks running. Our full-time staff includes:

**53**   
electrical, mechanical, and maintenance staff

**24**   
park rangers

**16**   
administrative specialists

**13**   
technical experts

**12**   
park superintendents and assistant superintendents

**11**   
educators

**10**   
central office managers

**6**   
animal keepers and zoo managers

**1**   
canine

**1**   
director

**17** New Castle Conservation District Staff

**679** casual/seasonal staff, including:

- **66** ocean lifeguards to protect swimmers at our ocean beaches
- **56** lifeguards and monitors to protect visitors at the Killens Pond Water Park
- **59** Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Members

# PEOPLE ARE OUR GREATEST RESOURCE

## Outstanding Employees Recognized



Chief of Business Operations **Becky Lovin** was named the **2019 DNREC Employee of the Year** and the **Division of Parks and Recreation Employee of the Year**. Becky oversees the Division's Business Services section.

Becky performs her job at an exemplary level and demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to DNREC, the community and the public. Becky is a great communicator and looks to include both the field and central office perspective. Her approaches are unique, and their impact is far-reaching. She is helpful, caring, resourceful and happy to offer her service to her team members, or any Parks employee.

Becky effectively multi-tasks many different priorities for the Division. During this period, she awarded Request for Proposals for special use facilities at Bellevue, Cauffiel and Judge Morris Estate, implemented 20 Parkeon automated fee collection machines, managed a new retail sales program with the Division's new Airstream, implemented a central reservation system that will save approximately \$250,0000 annually and improve service, and handled multiple crises with point of sale and the reservation system.

### Clyde L. Shipman Award for Excellence in Park Management

**Eric D. Dawson** received the **2019 Clyde L. Shipman Award for Lifetime Achievement in Park Management** for his contributions to Delaware State Parks during his time working for the Division. Prior to ascending to the DNREC Chief Operating Officer position with the Office of the Secretary, Eric served as Manager of Operations, Maintenance and Programming where he was responsible for all day-to-day operations across all 17 state parks and the Brandywine Zoo. Eric is originally from Arkansas and started with the Division as a seasonal historical restoration carpenter. During his time with Delaware State Parks, he enjoyed working with great people who are dedicated to the mission and described his role as "the best part of my life so far."

He was recognized by his Parks managerial coworkers for best exemplifying the characteristics former Parks Operations Administrator Clyde Shipman brought to work, including "professionalism, good humor, determination, steadfastness, commitment and caring."



*Delaware is the smallest state ever to receive the National Recreation and Parks Association Gold Medal Award for Excellence in State Park Management*



### Our other honorees include:

#### **Achiever**

Larry Davidson  
Don Laske  
Danielle Levredge  
Rich Szutenbach  
Chris Polo

#### **Customer Service**

Mazie Barbosa  
Bruce Cavanaugh  
Mike Krumrine  
Tom Welch

#### **Mentor**

Beth Berlin  
Mandy Fischer  
Darren Lawson  
Cpl. Adam Yeager

#### **Organizer**

Kate Crane  
Erica Donahue  
Mika Drake  
Katherine Wilson

#### **Innovator**

Ian Peters  
Vinny Porcellini  
Abby Shepard  
Jim Thomas

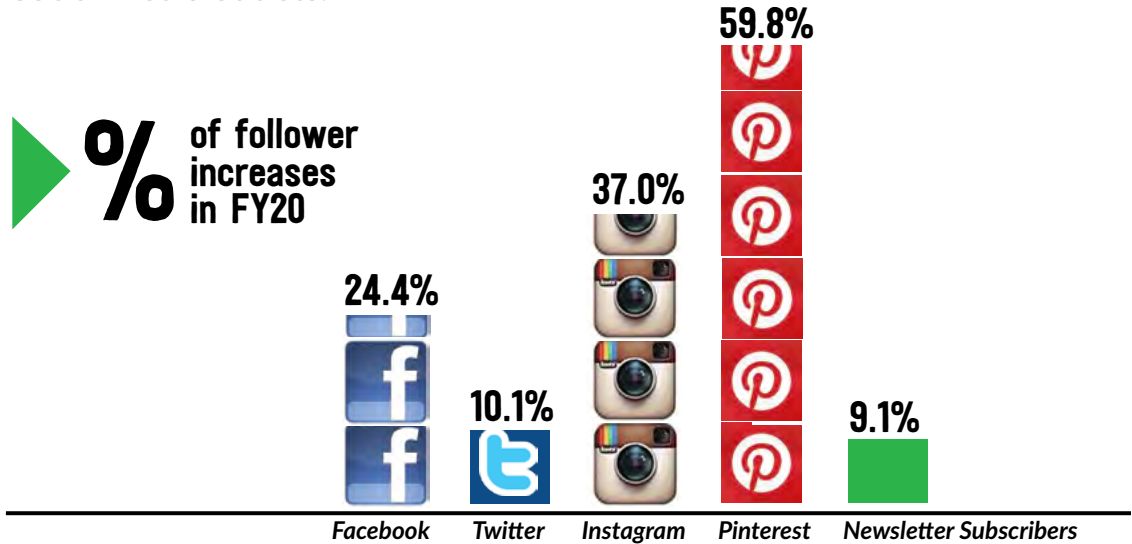
#### **Motivator**

Tyeast Amankwah  
Keith Betts  
Elena Stewart  
Patrick Thompson

# MARKETING

## WE ROCK SOCIAL MEDIA!

The Division's social media accounts continued to grow tremendously in 2020, adding more than **12,000** new followers across all four major social media outlets.



"Your tips are great! They encourage me to get up and visit our parks."

"I saw Fort Miles on the show 'Mysteries of the Abandoned' the other day and it was so interesting to learn about!"

"Awesome video showcasing the employees and the hard work they put in during this time. I'm sure it wasn't easy but we appreciate them!"



## WE HAD INNOVATIVE MARKETING CAMPAIGNS

### #DailyDEStateParks

The Division created a virtual education program at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The campaign produced 40 videos and 25 blog posts. This content had a reach of 295,885.

### Regional Outreach

The Division participated in local and regional outreach opportunities, including the New York Times and Washington D.C. international travel shows, with its new Airstream retail and marketing camper. The Airstream was a huge hit at the early 2020 travel shows and drew a constant flow of people to learn about Delaware State Parks.



### University of Delaware Virtual 5K

The Division partnered with the University of Delaware athletics to sponsor a virtual 5K run. The Delaware State Parks logo was presented on all marketing materials for the race. Through the race registration, the Division added 179 new email contacts to the state parks email list. The Division created a special camping discount especially for race participants that offered 20% off a camping reservation at Lums Pond State Park, the Official Campground of UD Athletics.

### AB&C Marketing Campaign

The Division partnered with AB&C for a large-scale marketing campaign across social media, digital display ads, Google search and media relations. The goal was to increase weekday camping. The campaign had 4.5 million impressions and 60,600 clicks.



# VOLUNTEERS

Our park system benefits greatly from people who show their love of Delaware State Parks with volunteerism, including through businesses, nonprofits, other groups or by finding our volunteer opportunities online. They generously give their time through Friends' groups, internships, campsite hosting and by taking part in a wide array of volunteer activities throughout our park system all year long.

In 2020 **2,565** volunteers contributed **118,791** hours or the equivalent of **61** full-time employees

Value: **\$1,187,910**

*Based on average seasonal wage of \$10/hour*

## INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Interns came from 35 different states, and represented 38 colleges, universities and high schools. Interns worked in the following fields:

- Environmental education
- Environmental summer camps
- Environmental stewardship
- Historical interpretation
- History
- Outdoor skills
- Operations and maintenance
- Research

*The Division of Parks & Recreation also assisted the Division of Fish & Wildlife with placement of five interns.*



## INTERN SPOTLIGHT

*"It gave me great experience that I could show off when applying to future jobs. Luck had it that Brandywine Zoo was looking for new keepers when I was doing my internship, and I was able to be taken on as a seasonal keeper after applying. I'm incredibly grateful for the knowledge I gained from the internship, and for the doors it opened up for me."*

**Jessica Noone,**  
Unity College, Brandywine Zoo intern

## Where Volunteers Spent Their Hours

Cape Henlopen State Park	25,592
Killens Pond State Park	13,390
Brandywine Zoo	13,342
Trap Pond State Park	12,425
White Clay Creek State Park	11,787
Auburn Valley State Park	9,370
Delaware Seashore State Park	7,406
Bellevue State Park	5,099
Brandywine Creek State Park	4,116
Lums Pond State Park	3,566
First State Heritage Park at Dover	2,649
Fort Delaware State Park	2,631
Division Central Office	1,747
Garrison Lake	1,712
Wilmington State Parks	1,453
Alapocas Run/ Blue Ball Barn	1,437
Holts Landing	1,071

### Top # Intern Home States:

Delaware: 26  
 Pennsylvania: 11  
 Maryland and New Jersey: 4

### Top Intern Universities:

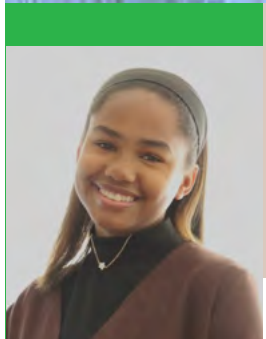
University of Delaware: 15  
 Lock Haven University: 3  
 Frostburg University: 3  
 Delaware Valley University: 3  
 University of North Carolina: 3

### Top activities our interns assisted us with:

- Environmental education
- Outdoor summer camps
- Zoo camp education
- Environmental stewardship
- Historical interpretation

*"I got to meet and be friends with so many others this summer that never had a similar background as me."*

– Noah Dixon, 16



*"I really appreciate the fact that everyone came together to keep this program running even during the tough times and am so glad I decided to join."*

– Jasmyne Kinslow, 15

## YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS (YCC)

Members of the Youth Conservation Corps, an eight-week summer program for youth between the ages of 14 and 23, logged

**8,563 hours of outdoor environmental stewardship and conservation work** among 14 Delaware State Parks and in all three counties.

That's the equivalent of 4.4 full-time employees. Supported by a combination of grant and division funding, participants worked on key aspects of running a park, including grounds maintenance, boat rental, program assistance, environmental stewardship and administration. At the end of the program, the participants overwhelmingly indicated that the program provided them with a valuable experience.

As part of workforce development funding allocated by the Delaware General Assembly, **the Delaware Workforce Development Board and the Delaware Department of Labor Division of Employment and Training provided \$190,476 to the YCC and Work-Based Learning programs in 2020.** This grant provided funding for the YCC summer employment program including transportation, team tools, personal protective gear, and wages for 44 members, one assistant program manager and two field team leaders. It also funded the Work-Based Learning two field teams of five students each, two team leaders, transportation and tools. The students in this program work in Delaware State Parks during the school year as part of career pathway learning for school credit. Additionally, the grant provided funding for a longitudinal report, a third-party evaluation of the YCC's last five years and its plan for the future.

### Program Outcomes

- Overall participant rating of program – **4.9 out of 5**
- **100%** participants would recommend program to others.
- **85%** indicated time in program helped them understand expectations of an employer.
- **97%** of members indicated they learned a new skill as a result of time in YCC.
- **100%** indicated increased confidence in nature.
- **97%** indicated increased knowledge of recreational and environmental awareness activities/programs in Delaware State Parks.
- **77%** indicated this was their first job experience.
- **85%** of members indicate they plan to continue conservation and stewardship activities beyond summer 2020 as a result of their time in YCC.



## AMERICORPS/VETERANS CONSERVATION CORPS

Nine veterans served 12,746.75 volunteer work hours as members of the AmeriCorps/Veterans Corps team. During this time, 872 acres of natural area lands were treated and improved, and 183 miles of trails maintained and/or improved, in addition to park projects including hurricane cleanup.



## VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHERS

In 2020, the Marketing department kicked off the Delaware State Parks Volunteer Photography program with 13 skilled photographers. These talented individuals were charged with photographing programs, natural landscapes, events, exhibits and experiences within the parks. The goal of the program is to grow the Division's vast photography archives and use photos to inspire outdoor adventure, educate others about Delaware's natural and cultural resources, and lead people to meaningful outdoor experiences. Every year, Delaware State Parks will select a new team of volunteer photographers.

Silhouette was shot by  
Volunteer Photographer Todd Yates at  
Cape Henlopen State Park.



## JUDGE MORRIS ESTATE INVASIVE SPECIES TEAM

A team of volunteers has assembled weekly for several years to remove non-native invasive species in the woods surrounding the Judge Morris Estate at White Clay Creek State Park and restore the forest. In 2020, the group received a grant from the Delaware Invasive Species Council for tools to help with the invasive plant removal and a second grant from the Delmarva Sustainable Communities Grant for \$5,000 to jumpstart the forest restoration. The second grant allowed the group to build seven fenced areas and plant more than 330 trees and shrubs in the spring. In the fall, they planted an additional 400 plants.

This group regularly battles about a dozen invasive plant species and has cleared many acres of park land to help native plants grow.

The Southern YCC team, along with Work-Based Learning program leaders Danny Korinth and Tanner Hollis, and Bellevue State Park Volunteer Manager Mark Wise helped spread a total of 50 cubic yards of mulch at the Carpenter Rec Playground.



# FRIENDS OF DELAWARE STATE PARKS

There are

14

Friends groups that actively support Delaware State Parks

Friends groups are independent, nonprofit organizations whose members are dedicated to assisting our parks: helping with special events and programs, park maintenance, planning, fundraising, staffing the nature centers and advocating for the parks.

## **The Delaware Seashore Preservation Foundation**

Supports Delaware Seashore State Park and the Indian River Life-Saving Station.

## **The Delaware Zoological Society**

Supports the Brandywine Zoo's educational and conservation mission through business operations, fundraising, membership and events.

## **The Fort Miles Historical Association**

Committed to the preservation of the Fort Miles Historical Area in Cape Henlopen State Park. Members raise funds and write grants to support the Fort Miles Historical Area and Museum.

## **The Friends of Auburn Heights**

Maintains a unique steam car collection and miniature railway, and supports and maintains garden trails.

## **The Friends of Bellevue State Park**

Supports the Summer Concert Series, provides camp scholarships, funds summer interns, and champions historic preservation of the Mt. Pleasant Parsonage, Meeting House and cemetery.

## **The Friends of Brandywine Creek State Park**

Sponsors clean-up projects, supports park events, and provides environmental education scholarships.

## **The Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park**

Coordinates monthly trail maintenance, purchased the live Osprey Camera, supports park projects and events, host special events and sponsors the Bike Barn/Park Pedalers Program.

## **The Friends of Holts Landing State Park**

Dedicated to the preservation and constant improvement of a natural resource treasure. Members help maintain the park, conduct trail maintenance and coordinate the park's Summer Concert Series.

## **The Friends of Killens Pond State Park**

Maintains the trails and gardens, supports the Summer Concert Series and children's nature programs, and helps with park projects and special events.

## **The Friends of Lums Pond State Park**

Raises funds and helps maintain the park.

## **The Friends of Old Dover**

Sponsors the iconic Dover Days each spring and supports First State Heritage Park in Dover.

## **The Friends of White Clay Creek State Park**

Staffs the nature center, monitors bluebird boxes, conducts trail maintenance, supports the Summer Concert Series, and provides fundraising and grant support to the park.



### The Friends of Wilmington Parks

Coordinates the Summer Concert Series, hosts special events, raises funds and offers grant-writing support. They also sponsor and maintain the Jasper Crane Rose Garden and provide maintenance for Wilmington State Parks.

### Trap Pond Partners

Sponsors an annual bike rally, supports the Summer Concert Series and bike rental program, writes grants and provides scholarships for environmental education. They also host special events and help fund projects around the park.

## FRIENDS PROJECTS

### Friends of Delaware State Parks

Friends groups are independent, non-profit organizations whose members are dedicated to assisting a particular park: helping with special events, and programs, park maintenance, planning, fundraising, staffing the nature centers, and advocating for the parks. The Division has 16 recognized Friends groups statewide.

### Partners

The Division works closely to develop strong private-public partnerships to further the Division's mission and improve visitor experiences. Seventeen businesses served as concessionaires in the parks in FY20, providing food, experiences, and rental equipment for park visitors.



## FRIENDS AND PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF DELAWARE

- **Jeffrey Miller Group Bellevue Mansion and Cauffiel House**

The Bellevue Mansion and Cauffiel House have seen a number of improvements, including renovating the Cauffiel barn as a rental space, upgrading all HVAC at Cauffiel, refinishing the floors at Bellevue Mansion, removal of the mansion's front porch, landscaping, and room renovation/redecoration.

**Project Cost: \$825,000**

- **Big Chill Beach Club ramp**

The Big Chill Beach Club ramp was added to replace the challenges associated with the elevator.

**Project Cost: \$180,000**

- **Go Ape Adventure Element upgrades**

Go Ape added a number of upgrades including a Junior Course, Monkey Drop that simulates a free fall, and a continuous belay system.

**Project Cost: \$261,000**





Steam Museum  
Renovation at Auburn  
Valley State Park

- **Friends of Auburn Heights Museum addition**

Working with the Division, the Friends of Auburn Heights fundraised and constructed a museum addition that improves the space for exhibiting the collection and adds a bathroom facility, along with improved interior and exterior space and design.

**Project Cost: \$1,100,000**



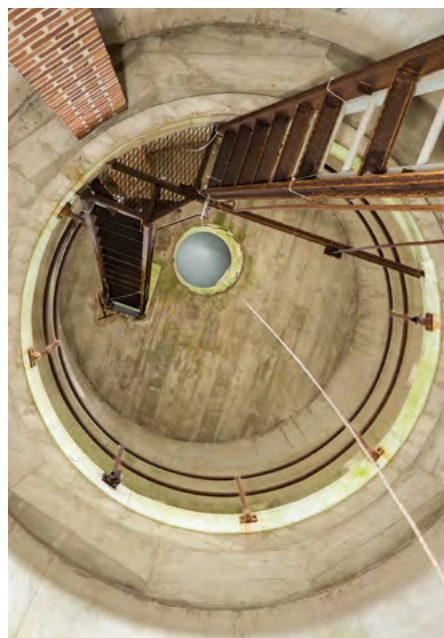
Mount Pleasant Schoolhouse Restoration  
Bellevue State Park

- **Friends of Bellevue Mount Pleasant Schoolhouse restoration**

Working with the Friends of Bellevue, the Division began work on the restoration of the Mount Pleasant Schoolhouse including removing the addition on the back of the existing structure, roof repair, and repointing and stabilizing the structure.

**Project Cost: \$140,745**

**Friends Contribution: \$20,000**



Tower 3 Interior  
Delaware Seashore  
State Park

- **Delaware Seashore Preservation Foundation and Fort Historical Association**

Working with the Delaware Seashore Preservation Foundation and the Fort Miles Historical Association, the Division is renovating and rehabbing Tower 3 in Delaware Seashore State Park. The work completed to this point includes lighting the tower at night, cleaning the exterior and interior of the tower, excavating down to the door opening, adding a ramp and new door to allow access and replacing the windows on the bottom level.

**Project Cost: \$300,000**

# ADVISORY COUNCILS

## PARKS AND RECREATION COUNCIL

The Parks and Recreation Council serves in an advisory capacity to the director of the Division of Parks and Recreation. The council considers matters related to the planning, acquisition, development, management, conservation, and programming of lands and services. The council may also study, research, plan and advise the director, DNREC secretary and the governor on matters it deems appropriate to enable the Division to function in the best manner possible.

### **Ronald A. Breeding, Chair**

Joseph D. Smack, Vice Chair

Brenda Bramble

Isaac Daniels

Janice Durham

Gregory Johnson

Ed Lewandowski

Linda Parkowski

Clyde Shipman III

Bobbi Steele

Jim White



## OPEN SPACE COUNCIL

The Open Space Council advises the DNREC secretary on matters relating to the administration, implementation and financing of this protection program; site selection; methods of protection; and interagency and intergovernmental coordination among public and private land preservation agencies.

### **John R. Schroeder, Chair**

Paul H. Boswell

Representative Gerald L. Brady

Dennis Coker

Sen. Bruce C. Ennis

Lorraine M. Fleming

D. Wayne Holden

David A. Humes

David Sheppard

### **Open Space Ex-Officio Members**

Michael Scuse, Secretary, DDA

Jeffrey Bullock, Secretary, DOS

Raymond Bivens, State Liaison Officer



## COUNCIL ON GREENWAYS AND TRAILS

The Council on Greenways and Trails is an advisory group to the Division of Parks and Recreation. A major council role is to promote and encourage the development and use of trails and the protection of greenway conservation corridors. The council may participate in venues to promote active and healthy lifestyles.

### Charles Emerson, Chair

Mack Cochran  
Laura Johnson  
Gary Kirk  
John Martin  
Jean Rapley  
Lauri Webber

### Agency Members

Raymond E. Bivens, DNREC  
Betsy Gant, Historical and  
Cultural Affairs  
Elizabeth Keller, Director,  
Delaware Tourism Office  
Jimmy Kroon, Agriculture  
Todd Pryor, Transportation,  
DelDot

### Legislative Members

Rep. Franklin Cooke  
Rep. Krista Griffith  
Rep. Bryan Shupe



## NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Governor-appointed Delaware Natural Areas Advisory Council advises the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control on the administration of nature preserves and the preservation of natural areas. The council includes members of the public, private educational organizations, conservation organizations and industry leaders active in environmental matters, among others



### Debbie Heaton, Chair

James White Jr., Vice-Chair  
Richard Bergold  
Dr. Christopher Heckscher  
Edward Lewandowski  
Theodore Harold Palmer Jr.  
John Williams, Esq

# THINGS WE DO

## PRESERVING, SUPPORTING, TEACHING

### WE PRESERVED OPEN SPACE

The Land Preservation Office coordinates the acquisition of state parks and preserves, fish and wildlife areas, state forests and cultural resource sites for Delaware's Open Space Program. Four state land management divisions qualify for funding under the Open Space Program: DNREC's Divisions of Parks and Recreation and Fish and Wildlife, Department of Agriculture Forest Service and the Department of State Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.

More than 110,000 acres of the Delaware landscape have been set aside for expanding state parks and preserves, fish and wildlife areas, state forests and cultural resource sites. Since the Open Space law was passed in 1990, 63,703 acres of Open Space had been preserved by the end of 2020.

### STEWARDS OF OUR MOST SPECIAL PLACES

From a Civil War fort and World War II bunkers to horse stables, historic homes, former church buildings, and even a 100+-year-old zoo, there is a wide variety of buildings that we manage in state parks, all requiring care and maintenance. The Division manages more historic structures than any other entity in Delaware.

### WE PROVIDED HOME COURSES AND FIELDS FOR HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE AND LEAGUE TEAMS

to play soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, tennis, softball, baseball, flag football and ultimate Frisbee. Teams include:

- Catholic Youth Ministries
- Delaware Tennis & Paddle
- Delaware Ultimate Frisbee
- Delaware Sports League's Flag Football
- Howard High School
- Howard Laws Summer Cross Country Series
- Immaculate Heart of Mary School
- Joe O'Neill Cross Country Invitational
- John A. Debenedictis League
- Rehoboth Little League
- Smyrna High School Golf
- St Elizabeth School's Soccer
- St Mary Magdalene School's Soccer
- Salesianum School
- United States Tennis Association
- University of Delaware Cross Country
- University of Delaware Women's Golf
- Wilmington Lacrosse
- Wilmington Lawyer League's Baseball
- Wilmington Little League
- Wilmington Rugby

Our park trails serve most of the high school cross country meets in Delaware. White Clay Creek State Park is also the home course for the University of Delaware cross-country team. Killens Pond State Park is the home course for five high schools and averages two dual meets per week from September through November. In 2020, Killens Pond also served as the course for the Henlopen Conference Championship.



Covid-19 greatly affected attendance numbers in 2020. From March 15 to June 15, 2020 all programs were cancelled and nature centers / museums were closed. Summer camps and concerts were cancelled for the month of June and had partial cancellations and limited registration for July and August. No in-person school programs were held this spring. Despite lower overall attendance numbers we are proud of the amount of in-person attendance and online interactions that occurred in 2020 and for the innovation in providing safe opportunities for families and the community to connect with the vast cultural and natural resources of Delaware State Parks.

# PROGRAMMING BY THE NUMBERS

Delaware State Parks offer a variety of programs about our environmental, historical, and cultural heritage for all age groups.

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

- More than **143,759** people visited state park nature/interpretive centers.
- More than **99,105** members of the general public attended more than **3,943** programs.
- More than **72,154** members of the general public attended more than **2,988** programs.
- More than **51,234** people attended more than **1,923** free programs.
- **99.3%** of participants surveyed reported enjoying the program they attended, and **98.9%** stated that they would attend another Delaware State Parks program.
- **1,187** people came out to enjoy more than **19** concerts.

## EDUCATING YOUNG PEOPLE

- **577** school programs educated **17,819** school children, in environmental, historical, and cultural heritage.
- **1,111** Girls Scouts and Boy Scouts participated in **36** tailored programs.
- **37** state park day camps provided nature-based experiences to **324** campers, totaling **1,097.5** contact hours.

Contact hours = the duration of the programs (i.e., the amount of time participants are engaged with park staff)

## VIRTUAL PROGRAMS AND ONLINE SPECIALTY ACTIVITIES

In FY20, Delaware State Parks began revising our data collection to include virtual programs and specialty online content in response to COVID-19. Virtual Programs are defined as any live, interactive virtual program that has registered participants and is listed in our attendance data chart below. Online Specialty Activities include openly accessible livestreams, park created videos, interpretive blogs, video series and specialty social media posts. These special activities are tracked and counted by their interactions. In the spring of 2020, when in-person programs were suspended, Delaware State Parks offered a daily social media campaign called #DailyDEStateParks which provided daily videos, blogs and specialty posts from March 23 – May 29, 2020. In 10 weeks, these activities totaled **133** posts, with **36,373** in public engagement and **358,044** people reached.

### PROGRAM ATTENDANCE FY20

	Number of Programs	Number of Participants
Nature Center/Historic Building Visitation	-	143,759
Total Program Participation	3,943	99,105
General Public Programs	2,988	72,154
Virtual Programming	20	820
School Programs	577	17,819
Summer Day Camps (June – August 2020)	37	324
Summer Concerts (May – September 2020)	19	1,187
Online Specialty Activities	-	242,864

Not all categories are reported. Some programs such as scout and group programs may fall into multiple categories. Concerts and camps are reported on the calendar year instead of fiscal year.

# PROTECT AND SERVE

More than 6 million people visit the state's 17 parks each year, and it is up to the Division's 24 full-time Natural Resource Police officers to help ensure that everyone's visit is enjoyable and safe.



## PARK RANGERS

Park rangers combine duties in law enforcement and protection of Delaware's natural resources and environment.

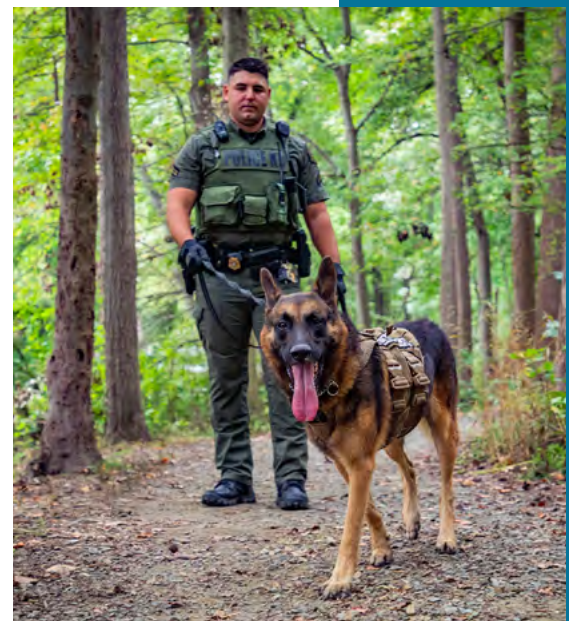
The ratio of park rangers to state park visitors in 2020 was **1 to 259,910**. The ratio of park rangers to acres of managed land is **1** park ranger for every **1,104** acres of land managed.

### Highlights from 2020 include:

Statewide, the rangers handled more than 4,000 calls for service ranging from park regulation violations, traffic and criminal offenses, motor vehicle collisions, medical emergencies, lost or missing person(s)/children and ensuring visitors were abiding by Governor John Carney's Executive Orders relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 brought various challenges for the enforcement staff, including social distancing, mask requirements and limiting visitors during peak times in high-use areas. In the early spring, areas were often at capacity for parking before 10 a.m. and stayed busy until late in the day.

More than 200 tickets and more than 400 written warnings were issued for various surf fishing violations.



## BEACH PATROL

The Division employed 66 ocean lifeguards along beaches from Cape Henlopen to Delaware Seashore to Fenwick Island state parks. Delaware State Parks remains a desired employer for lifeguards. Our Beach Patrol includes members of all ages and backgrounds. The Beach Patrol's extensive training was crucial as they adjusted to guarding our beaches with the additional challenges COVID-19 presented.



Of the 21 rookies, 15 lifeguards finished training and remained throughout the summer.

**106** water rescues and assists at the beach parks

**249** major and minor first aid administrations

**53** missing persons, generally children that were missing and found then reunited with their families

# WE PROVIDED GRANTS



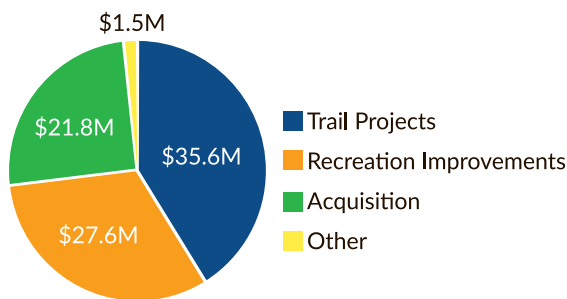
Providing grants  
for community parks  
and outdoor recreation experiences

## OUTDOOR RECREATION, PARKS AND TRAILS PROGRAM

The Division awarded more than **\$944,737** in grants for **18** new parks and trail projects statewide through The Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Trails (ORPT) Program.

This program was established in 1986 to provide funding for parkland and greenway conservation and for outdoor recreation facility development. City and county governments and park districts are eligible for grant funding under the program.

### ORPT FUNDING ALLOCATIONS TO DATE



### Grants awarded by county and project:

#### New Castle

- Battery Park design for trail, New Castle: **\$24,106**
- City-wide park wayfinding and signage, Newark: **\$35,000**
- Cool Spring Park Improvements, Wilmington: **\$100,000**

**Total: \$159,106**

#### Kent County

- Watermans Park lighting and cameras, Bowers Beach: **\$3,000**
- Dover Park splash pad, Dover: **\$100,000**
- New Frederica Park construction, Frederica: **\$48,000**
- Park lighting design, Milford: **\$75,000**
- Green Meadows basketball court, Smyrna: **\$17,627**
- Sunnyside basketball court, Smyrna: **\$18,777**

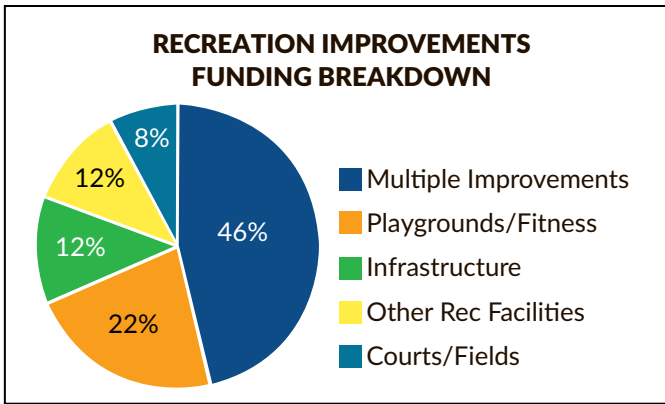
**Total: \$262,403**

#### Sussex County

- Blades Park equipment, Blades: **\$2,727**
- Parson's Lane Trailhead, Georgetown: **\$12,500**
- Tidewater Park nature play, Laurel: \$100,000  
Evans Park pickleball courts, Millville: **\$80,000**
- Gov. Walk Trail design/construction of bulkhead, Milton: **\$100,000**
- Sports Complex fence and sidewalk, Seaford: **\$20,000**
- Oyster House Park floating docks, canoe/kayak and gangway, Seaford: **\$80,000**
- Pickleball court, Selbyville: **\$28,000**
- James Farm Phase 2, Sussex County: **\$100,000**

**Total: \$523,227**





## WE RECEIVED GRANT FUNDING

Delaware State Parks and Friends Groups received grant funding from private, state and federal funders, including the following:

**The Friends of Auburn Heights** received **\$79,147** in grant funding from the Delaware Relief Grant, Delaware Humanities, PPP and the Marshall-Reynolds Fund.

**The Brandywine Zoo** received **\$400,000** in DNREC penalty funds to go toward the Madagascar exhibit, along with **\$95,600** in grant funding from the Johnson Foundation, Grant-in-aid, the Delaware Community Foundation, Greenville Zoo in North Carolina, the Chichester duPont Foundation, Christmas Shop, the Delaware Relief Grant and the Dragotta Family. The zoo also received \$44,800 from its annual fund.

**The Fort Miles Historical Association** received **\$111,000** in grant funding from Grant in Aid, the Delaware Humanities CARE Grant, and the Delaware Community Foundation Grant, and also received **\$37,253** in donations.

**White Clay Creek State Park** received **\$6,675** in grant funding from the Delaware Invasive Species Council, Delmarva Power and the WCC Wild & Scenic River Program.

**Wilmington State Parks** received **\$29,500** in grant funding from Grant in Aid, the Bayard Monument, Delaware Supermarkets, Ciro Adams/summer concert series, the Milton and Haddie Kurtz Foundation, and the Wilmington Trail Club.

**Community Transportation Funding** is provided to Delaware legislators for projects within the community. Delaware State Parks obtained funding from:

Rep. Gerald Brady contributed **\$25,000** for improvements to the **Auburn Valley State Park Marshall Steam Museum**.

**The Brandywine Zoo** received **\$100,000** from Sen. Harris McDowell for its new entrance design.

Funding was given for **Delaware Seashore State Park's Tower 3** rehabilitation by every Sussex County legislator, including Reps. Briggs King, Gray, Short, Dukes, Collins, Schwartzkopf, Smyk, Vanderwende and Shupe; and Sens. Lopez, Wilson, Pettyjohn, Hocker and Richardson.

Sen. Bryant Richardson and Rep. Timothy Dukes contributed **\$68,743** for trail work, sidewalk repair, parking lot lighting and trail bridge replacement at **Trap Pond State Park**.

# HOW WE PAY FOR IT

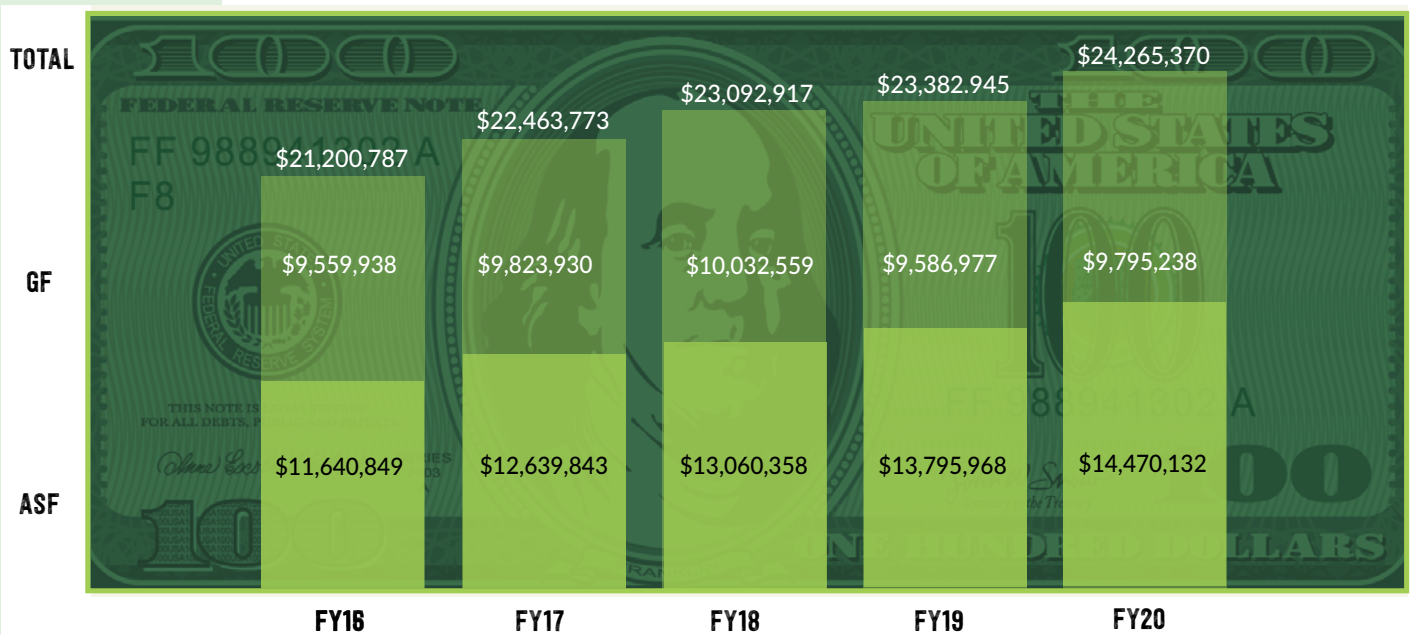
## FUNDING THE PARKS

The Division of Parks and Recreation is primarily self-funded, with more than 70% of its operational funding coming from user fees, which is unique within Delaware state government. This requires the Division to project and manage a budget of fixed expenses with a revenue stream that fluctuates annually due to variables beyond our control. Those include:

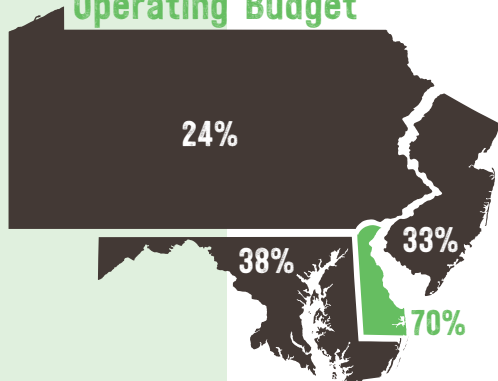
- The COVID-19 pandemic
- Weather (rainy summer season, hurricanes, excessive heat)
- Gas prices and economic swings that affect the amount of discretionary money available to vacationers
- Carrying capacity limitations at ocean parks and other large revenue-generating management units

Fees and other revenue pay for annual increases in operating expenses and unfunded mandates. Operating expenses have remained stable for the last three years.

### OPERATING EXPENSES: FY16 TO FY20



#### Self-Sufficient Operating Budget

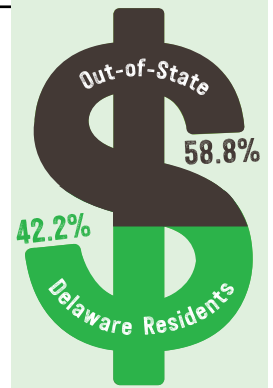
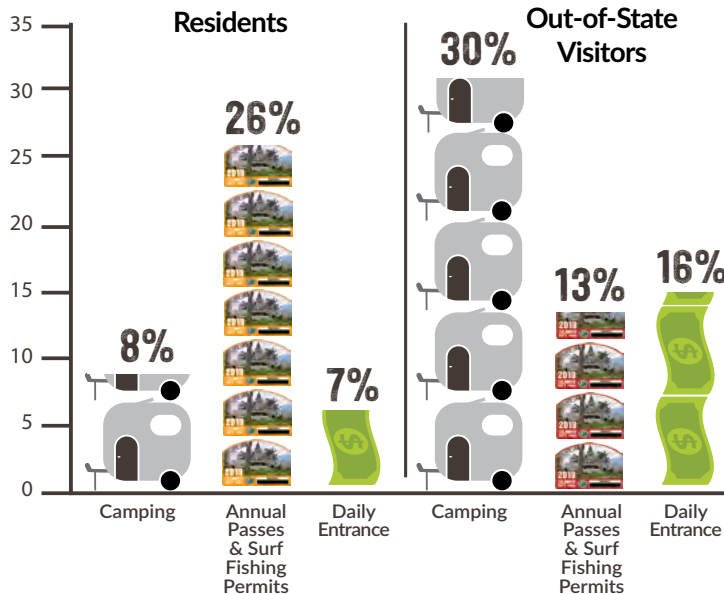


In Delaware, most of the funding for operating state parks comes from park-generated revenue such as camping, fees, passes and permits. Roughly 30% of park operating revenue funds come from the state budget. This is quite different from our neighboring states, which receive more of their states' general fund support.

Park fees address day-to-day operational expenses in the state parks and provide critical funding for deferred maintenance on buildings and utilities, and for replacement of aging equipment.

**FY2020 revenue from fees totaled \$10,913,031**

## SOURCES OF REVENUE



**59%** of the revenue in 2020 came from out-of-state visitors to the parks.

## TAKING AN ENTREPRENEURIAL APPROACH

In addition to fee revenue, Delaware State Parks added innovative entrepreneurial sources of revenue.

### Low-Digit Surf Tag Auction

Since the inception of the program, the Division has sold **195 plates** for a total of **\$500,696**.

### Yurts, Cottages and Cabins

Yurts, cottages and cabins have proven to be in high demand. They had a **59%** occupancy rate for FY2020 with an **92%** occupancy rate during the peak season of Memorial Day through Labor Day.

### State Park Concessions

Privately-owned concessionaries and partners run businesses and deliver services at the state park locations and paid **\$555,109** in negotiated fees back to the Division. Services provided included head boat fishing, food service, horseback riding, non-motorized boat rentals, tennis, bait and tackle, and a high-ropes adventure course.

The revenue from retail products decreased in **calendar year 2020**, **down 8%** from **\$735,685** in 2019 to **\$674,984** in 2020. This reduction was also due to COVID-19. Some of the top-selling items included firewood, ice, camping necessities, food, maps, clothing, decals handmade pottery, jewelry, collectibles and stuffed animals.

### Camping By The Numbers

- Camping generates **40%** of park fee revenue
- **32,501** reservations were made for Delaware State Parks campsites, cabins, yurts and cottages across the state in FY2020

# INVESTMENTS IN OUR PARKS

The Division saw the completion of many projects in 2020 that will enhance visitor experiences and strengthen our parks for years to come. The following are examples from throughout the park system.



## Trap Pond Cabin Area Bathroom

The composting toilets that serviced the cabin area at Trap Pond were failing and needed to be replaced. The Division constructed a new bathhouse with multiple bathrooms and showers to service the cabin/ yurt area and the eastern side of the campground.

**Project cost: \$706,928**

## Bellevue State Park Improvements

Thanks to the support of the Friends of Bellevue, state bond bill and park rehabilitation funds, the Division completed multiple projects including repaving the entrance road in the park, exterior work on the Mount Pleasant School House, planning for the Percheron Barn and track, and improved connectivity to the Interpretive Center.

**Project Cost: \$623,644**



## Indian River Marina Fire Suppression System Replacement

The existing fire suppression system at the marina was at the end of its lifecycle and was replaced. This was completed prior to the summer boating season.

**Project Cost: \$415,000**

## Tower 3 Restoration Phase II

Phase II of the restoration was completed with the restoration of the exterior concrete and new electric panels.

**Project Cost: \$300,000**

## Electrical repair and upgrade at Lums Pond State Park

A section of three-phase buried primary electric cable between the park office and the nature center was replaced, and new line was run.

**Project Cost: \$150,000**



## Garrisons Lake Event Pavilion

The Division completed construction of a new pavilion at Garrisons Lake Golf Course. The pavilion will attract new business by providing event space for golf outings, tournaments and fundraisers.

**Project Cost: \$82,348**

## Boat Storage shed at Lums Pond State Park

The Lums Pond boat rental operation is an extremely popular destination for visitors to the park. In an effort to improve the quality and longevity of the kayaks, the Division added a boat storage unit on site.

**Project Cost: \$80,000**

# CUSTOMER SERVICE ADVANCES

## Campground Reservation System enhancement

With the execution of the new Campground Reservation contract, fulfillment of our online annual passes and surf permits is no longer handled in-house by Parks staff. Fulfillment is now handled by Aspira, our campground reservation vendor. This was incorporated in a new contract that was effective Dec. 1, 2020, in response to a steady increase in online sales and limited resources available to handle this increased demand. This provides expedited fulfillment and shipment of orders. The Division saw a 233% increase in sales from 2017 to 2020. Delaware State Parks had unprecedented online sales in 2020 due to COVID-19 as offices were shut down for sales for more than two months.

## Online and Mobile Sales Increase

Among camping reservations alone, the Division has seen a decreased reliance on the call center, with online taking a larger share of sales, over the last several years.

Orders	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
% Online Res	71%	73%	75%	78%	81%	83%

Among online transactions for annual passes, surf fishing permits, tickets and reservations, the Division has also seen an increase in mobile device usage over the past four years.

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
% Mobile Transactions	75%	78%	81%	83%

## Investing in Technology

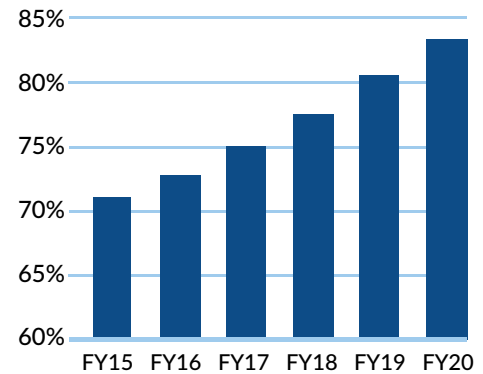
The Division added an additional 20 Parkeon automated fee collection machines in 2020, bringing the total of Parkeons to 40 across our parks. The automated fee machines enable visitors to use credit cards in many locations and help collect revenue in some of the toughest-to-staff locations. Previously, park visitors without an annual pass had to pay with cash to enter. The Parkeons collected nearly \$910,000 by the end of 2020.



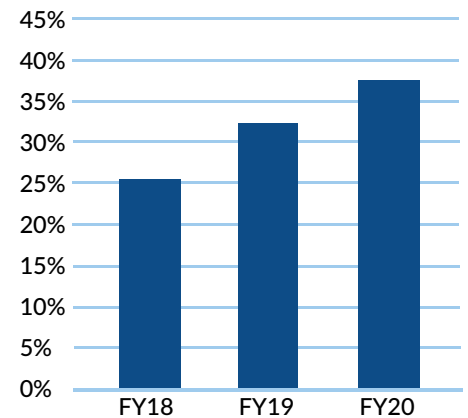
## Corporate and Group Passes

The Corporate and Group Pass Program added eligibility to nonprofit groups this year and continued to grow in 2020, selling 1,010 annual passes and generating \$29,640 in revenue. Archmere Academy, Capital One, Delaware Electric Cooperative, Delaware Disc Golf Club, Delaware Nature Society, and Pike Creek Valley Running Club participated in the program. The Corporate Pass Program also boosted interest in corporate volunteer projects in the parks.

**% RESERVATIONS MADE ONLINE**  
(FY15-FY20 ORDERS)



**% MOBILE TRANSACTIONS**



# PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships with local and national business, government, and nonprofit groups enable Delaware State Parks to offer additional services and programs at our parks, enriching the visitor experience. It is also one of the ways Delaware State Parks fulfills its mission.

## **Bancroft Mills**

Through a public private partnership that will permanently allow public access to Alapocas Run State Park from the Bancroft Mills site, the historic Bancroft Mill train platform was restored to a useable space for day camps, environmental education programs and events.



## **Center for Inland Bays**

The Center for Inland Bays, located within Delaware Seashore State Park, conducts an Oyster Recycling Program in partnership with Delaware State Parks. The CIB acquires oyster shells from local restaurants to support the program.

## **Delaware Community Foundation**

The Delaware State Parks Trust Fund is a charitable endowment fund established with the Delaware Community Foundation. The fund is designed to provide protection for Delaware's precious resources, now and in the future. Donors' gifts are managed responsibly, and have the greatest possible impact because of the creativity and spirit of resourcefulness that the fund fosters.

## **Delaware River and Bay Authority**

Each year, Delaware State Parks partners with the Delaware River and Bay Authority to offer accessible transportation for visitors to Fort Delaware State Park from Delaware City via the Delafort ferry.

### **First State Heritage Park**

The First State Heritage Park at Dover is Delaware’s first urban “park without boundaries” linking historic and cultural sites in the city that has been the seat of state government since 1777. It is a partnership of Delaware’s Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, Delaware Public Archives, and other state and city agencies, under the leadership of Delaware State Parks.



### **The Grand Cinema at Bellevue State Park**

The Grand nonprofit arts organization launched a popular drive-in fall movie series called The Grand Cinema at Bellevue State Park to offer socially distanced entertainment at Bellevue State Park. Six movie events were held and were met with acclaim from those who participated.



### **Salesianum High School and City of Wilmington**

The Division worked with local stakeholders on reconstruction of a 100-year-old high school stadium in the Delaware State Parks-managed historic Brandywine Park. The goal was to turn the aging sports complex into a state-of-the-art recreational space that incorporated administrative and maintenance facilities for Wilmington State Parks. The stadium now serves the public through both game days and a variety of non-athletic functions, with dawn-to-dusk access to the public.

### **Sussex County Habitat for Humanity**

Delaware State Parks partnered with Sussex County Habitat for Humanity to provide campsites for Care- A-Vanners from Habitat for Humanity International at Trap Pond State Park in Laurel. Each spring, Care- A-Vanners spend two weeks volunteering on housing projects in Sussex County.

### **Sussex County-Wolfe Neck Trail**

In partnership with Sussex County, the Division is planning a 6-mile single-track trail at the Wolfe Neck area of Cape Henlopen State Park. The trail includes connection to a canal overlook and the Junction Breakwater Trail. This project is being undertaken in cooperation with Sussex County as part of a new wastewater irrigation process that will allow for increased public access and a new bathroom facility in the area.

# SMALL BUSINESSES AT THE PARKS

**18** businesses served as concessionaires in the parks in 2020, providing food, experiences, and rental equipment for park visitors.

## Food Vendors

- The Big Chill
- Hammerheads Dockside
- Jay Vending Company



## Service Providers

- Coastal Kayak
- Excellence Tennis Academy
- Forewinds Hospitality (Garrisons Lake and Deerfield Golf Courses)
- Go Ape High Ropes Aerial Adventure Course
- Hook'em & Cook'Em
- Jeffrey Miller Catering
- Kurtz Live Bait
- Lighthouse View Bait & Tackle
- Old Inlet Bait & Tackle
- Prime Hospitality
- ProTrade LLC
- Quest Kayak
- Summit North Marina
- Sunset Stables
- Wellspring Farm

**Total gross revenue for these businesses was more than**

**\$9.24 million** in 2020

This is not all the revenue earned by small businesses in the parks. Caterers, photographers, charter boats, camps, farmers, and other businesses generate revenue from operations in the parks. These revenue numbers, however, are not reported to the parks.

Forewinds Hospitality, which manages Garrisons Lake and Deerfield golf courses in partnership with the Division of Parks and Recreation saw an increase in golf rounds played in 2020 over 2019.

Garrisons Lake Golf Course saw an increase of nearly 2,000 rounds of golf, or 11%, in 2020 compared to 2019, with a total of nearly 17,5000 rounds in 2020, while Deerfield Golf Course saw an increase of 4,000 rounds of golf, or 13%, with nearly 30,000 rounds.





# MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

## LIMITED GENERAL FUND SUPPORT

Since 2010, the Division of Parks and Recreation has seen its general operating funding support decline by **16%**, requiring management to come up with new ways to fund the state park system. At the same time, the Division has experienced an increase in expenses, visitors and responsibilities. Over the last decade, the Division has continued to find creative ways to meet visitor demand and expectation.

2010	2020	% Change
<b>General Fund Support</b>		
11,636,000	\$9,795,238	<b>-16%</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>		
19,551,818	\$24,265,370	<b>+24%</b>

## CARRYING CAPACITY AT THE BEACH PARKS

### Why is this an issue?

In 2020, Delaware State Parks saw capacity issues like never before at Brandywine Creek, Auburn Valley and White Clay Creek state parks in addition to normal beach capacity issues at Delaware Seashore, Cape Henlopen and Fenwick Island state parks, which regularly fill their parking capacity and are forced to turn vehicles away most summer weekends. Campground nights booked grew by 57% from 70,880 nights in 2012 to 111,376 nights in 2020. Because they are in the park 24 hours a day, campers utilize more park resources than daily visitors. The dramatic increase in camping requires more staffing to support the growth



## MORE VISITORS, FEWER FULL-TIME STAFF

### Why is this an issue?

Park visitation has grown to 6,237,844 visitors annually, an increase of 1.5 million visitors since 2010. That is a 30% increase in visitors. During that same period, the Division of Parks and Recreation has experienced an 11% decrease in its full-time staff. Increasingly, our parks are being used by schools, nonprofits and other organizations to hold special events such as 5Ks, half marathons, and special days of respite and recreation for organizations like Special Olympics Delaware. These visitors rely upon our staff to ensure events run smoothly and everyone enjoys a safe, fun-filled day at Delaware State Parks.

2010	2020	% Change
<b>Number of Full-Time Employees</b>		
184	164	<b>-11%</b>
<b>Number of Park Visitors</b>		
4,789,780	6,237,844	<b>+30%</b>

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEFERRED MAINTENANCE NEEDS

### Why is this an issue?

The Division has \$155 million in capital backlog across our 17 state parks, nature preserves, Brandywine Zoo, marinas and golf courses. Without investments, infrastructure will age well beyond its life expectancy. Examples of deferred maintenance and infrastructure projects include:

- Cape Henlopen State Park Fishing Pier planning and upgrades. Estimated Cost: \$18 million
- Fenwick Island State Park parking lot and amenity upgrade. Estimated Cost: \$5 million
- Killens Pond Boat Ramp Parking Improvements. Estimated Cost: \$600,000

# COVID-19 RESPONSE

Delaware State Parks staff met the COVID-19 pandemic without missing a beat, starting with rapidly rolling out extra duties to do our part the week of March 15, 2020. That week, Gov. John Carney addressed the state from the front of the Biden Environmental Training Center in Cape Henlopen State Park, along with leadership of Beebe and Bayhealth hospitals, and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Services Dr. Odom Walker.

## COVID-19 IMPACTS

As part of precautions against the spread of COVID-19, the campgrounds and playgrounds closed March 24, and campground reservations scheduled through May 31 were canceled. Full refunds were issued to all customers affected.

- **34,543 cancellations** processed, resulting in **\$987,000 in refunds**.
- A liberal cancellation policy was implemented due to quarantine restrictions from nearby states in the Northeast.

Thanks to Governor Carney, all state parks remained open during this time frame to allow the public a place to safely social distance. Entrance fees were waived from March 17 through May 8 to allow every person and family in Delaware to enjoy their state parks. The Division saw:

- Historic visitation to day use areas, with a **67% increase in New Castle County parks alone**.
- **Trail usage increased 72% from 2019 to 2020**

The campgrounds opened back up June 1 and the Division saw:

- **135,883 nights booked** since June 1, a **67% increase** from the year before
- **37% increase** in groups of one to two people
- **71% increase** in groups of three or more people

State park beaches and drive-on surf fishing areas were **reduced to 60% capacity** per state-mandated restrictions.

**The Killens Pond Water Park was reduced to 30% total capacity**, and morning and afternoon sessions were developed to allow more visitors to come to the water park.

**Boat rentals** at the inland pond parks – Lums, Killens and Trap, **increased by 55 percent** in 2020 compared to 2019, as another great way for the public to social distance.



## SAFETY

Staff were tasked with ensuring the safety of our visitors, especially at common areas like part offices. Social distancing stickers along with plexiglass shields were placed in these areas to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. In addition, round-the-clock cleaning had to be implemented with staff providing full sanitation of public restrooms, playgrounds and touch points multiple times each day. Where possible, automation came into play such as with scannable QR codes in place of paper materials.

The Creative Services team quickly designed and produced large orders of COVID-19 banners, signs, posters, flyers and floor decals that were used at state parks, nature preserves and wildlife areas. Information changed rapidly in the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, and many materials needed to be produced quickly.



## PROGRAMMING

From March 15 to June 15, 2020 all programs were canceled, and nature centers/museums were closed. Summer camps and concerts were canceled for the month of June and had partial cancellations and limited registration for July and August. In spite of COVID-19, the Division offered 4,400 programs at reduced attendance with safety measures in place.

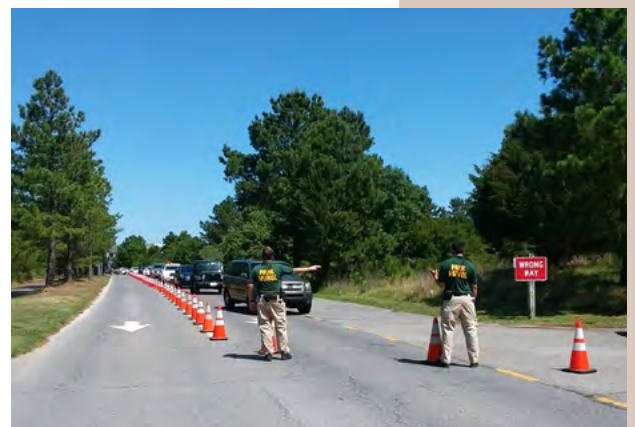
The Programming section launched #DailyDEstateparks with **online specialty activities that reached 358,044 people** who were able to enjoy Delaware State Parks from the comfort and safety of home. Indian River Life Saving Station Manager Laura Scharle was one of many interpretive staff members to appear in one of the #DailyDEstateparks videos. Here, Scharle conducts a “Terrapins at Delaware Seashore” program.



## REDUCING AND REACHING CAPACITY

To help keep visitors spread out during the pandemic, capacity at the beach state parks was reduced to 60%.

Staff directs traffic on a busy July Saturday, in which the park was at capacity by 10:45 a.m. and had to turn vehicles away until more space opened up. This was a common occurrence during COVID-19 as people flocked outdoors. On one Saturday in July, 1,000 cars were counted through the main gate at Brandywine Creek State Park.





## ENFORCEMENT - BEACH PATROL

Delaware State Parks Beach Patrol was equipped with additional personal protective equipment to help minimize physical contact with others, including masks made specifically for lifeguards. Additional supplies were added to Beach Patrol medical kits, and strict sanitization practices were implemented.

## IN MEMORIAM: STEVEN MORGAN AND RONNIE SHOCKLEY

The Delaware State Parks family was affected by COVID-19 with the loss of two members.



**Steve Morgan** started his career with Delaware State Parks in 2006 as a physical plant maintenance trades mechanic at Delaware Seashore. He later became the Chief of Maintenance at Delaware Seashore State Park, where his work and dedication was recognized by his peers when he received the Division's Employee of the Year Award in 2014. Steve was promoted again to the Park Manager position at the Indian River Marina. Those who worked closely with Steve got to witness daily his can-do attitude, amazing craftsmanship, the pride he exuded in the park and the service he provided to park visitors.



**Ronnie Shockley**, physical plant and maintenance trades mechanic from Delaware Seashore State Parks, had a lifelong passion for and commitment to caring for and providing beautiful places for others to enjoy. Ronnie started with Delaware State Parks in the summer of 2018 after a 30-year career with Maryland State Parks. His service included stops at Pocomoke and Janes Island state parks, where he worked as a maintenance chief and assistant park manager. He was good natured, a caring team member and was never afraid to jump right in when there was hard work to be done. His work ethic and drive were only surpassed by his determination to make every situation better.

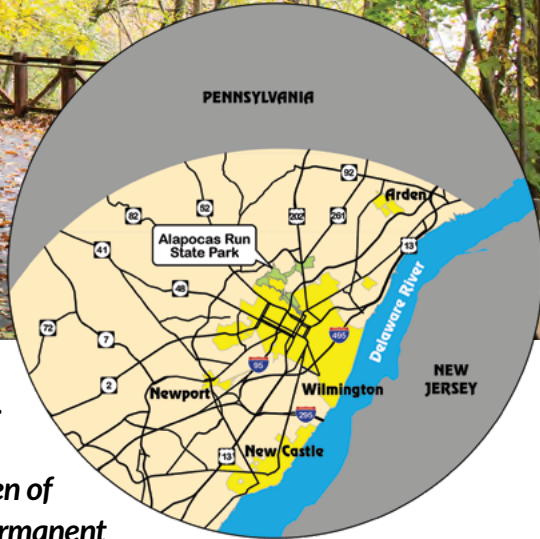
# INFO BY PARK

*"Nature can win if we  
give her a chance."*

— Jane Goodall



# ▶ ALAPOCAS RUN STATE PARK



*Alapocas Run State Park is a lush getaway in the heart of Wilmington. It offers trails through fields and forest, Delaware's only natural-rock climbing area, and innovative Can-Do Playground, which gives children of all abilities a place to play together. The park's Blue Ball Barn is the permanent home of the Delaware Folk Art Collection.*

## ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

Journey through mature forest and Blue Granite cliffs along the Northern Delaware Greenway Trail to experience Delaware's only natural rock-climbing wall and the Blue Ball Barn.

### ALAPOCAS RUN at a Glance

-  **359**  
Acres
-  **6.5**  
Miles of trails
-  **150,130**  
Visitors
-  **5/24**  
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff
-  **1,437.25**  
Volunteer hours
-  **91/5,073**  
Programs/Participants
-  **5/32**  
Day Camps/Campers

**FY2020**

## INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK



The Can-Do Playground transfer platform was replaced.

The Storybook Trail near the Can-Do Playground was completed with a bonded rubber path and storybooks along the trail to read. Storybooks change throughout the year.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

The children's Storybook Trail opened among a garden of native plants and storybook pages while encouraging movement and literacy. The story "Owl Babies" could be read on wayside boards along the path and free books were given to visitors while supplies last.

The Story on the Go program offered families opportunities to explore the trail through themed packets and book giveaways.

The Blue Ball Barn was used as a local polling place during the 2020 General Election, and park staff worked to ensure it was a safe environment for voters.

## FRIENDS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Volunteers from the Church of Latter-Day Saints logged 538 volunteer hours with Wilmington and Alapocas Run State Parks in 2020.



### Critical

#### CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

- Alapocas Woods waterfall bridge stone walls stabilization. Cost Estimate \$250,000
- Add electric service and restroom to Bancroft Mills pavilion. Cost Estimate: \$200,000
- Weldin Road pedestrian crossing between Lot D and CanDo playground area. Cost Estimate \$100,000



"Thank you so much! Everything went great, from the beginning to the end, all of the staff I worked with were wonderful!"

Kate Smagala,  
Host of a  
Blue Ball Barn  
wedding

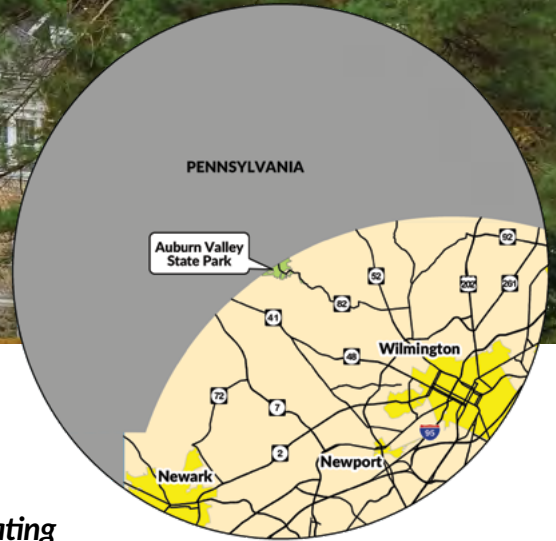


The Blue Ball Barn has earned a "Best of 2020" award as an event venue on Wedding Spot.

# AUBURN VALLEY STATE PARK



Auburn Valley State Park is home to an 1897 Queen Anne Victorian mansion and the Marshall Steam Museum. The park also includes a 1/8-sized operating railroad system encircling the property. The collection of Stanley Steamer cars in the museum is the largest operating collection in the world.



## ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

Appreciate the beauty of Auburn Valley by exploring Red Clay Creek. Discover the role of water in the industrial development of Yorklyn and the revitalization of this community. Step back in time to the magic age of steam as you ride in a vintage steam car, on a miniature steam railway, or on a tour of the Marshall Estate.

### AUBURN VALLEY

#### at a Glance

-  **471**  
Acres
-  **4.56**  
Miles of trails
-  **17,958**  
Visitors
-  **3/8**  
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff
-  **9,369.5**  
Volunteer hours
-  **97/3,008**  
Programs/Participants

**FY2020**

## INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

The Steam Museum at AVSP spent most of 2020 under construction for much needed renovations, including an addition to the existing space, a bathroom facility and improved interior and exterior space and design. The Division worked with the Friends of Auburn Heights to complete this project.



The AVSP walkway and stairs leading to the park office received handrails to ensure the safety of park visitors coming to the office.

The second of three historic bridges was installed on the abutment on Farm Lane. This bridge came to the park by way of Pennsylvania and is a traditional late 19th-Century truss bridge.



## SPECIAL EVENTS

A Virtual Steamin' Day was held in place of the usual monthly Steamin' Days at Auburn Valley State Park.

The Auburn Heights Invitational was held with people enjoying the classic cars and mansion tours. New Auburn Valley State Park Superintendent Pat Thompson was married at the park.

## FRIENDS OF AUBURN HEIGHTS PRESERVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Friends began virtual live and pre-recorded children's programming and a new speaker series launched in December, for which they were invited to present to the Delaware Museum Association on the successful transition to virtual programming and hosting successful, safe and socially distanced events.



### Critical

#### CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

- *New pump station adjacent to Papermill for the museum and mansion complex. Cost Estimate \$350,000.*
- *Design/construction of mansion septic tank replacement and sewer connection. Cost Estimate: \$1 million*
- *New National Vulcanized Fiber sewer pump station and force main. Cost Estimate: \$3,841,250*

The Friends of Auburn Heights got creative with their COVID-19 reminders to stay masked and socially distanced at in-person events, including affixing a car-sized mask to one of the steam engine



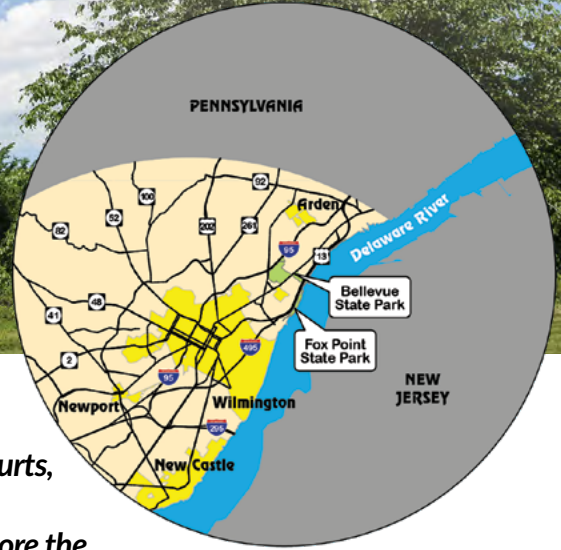
**Friends of  
Auburn Heights Preserve Inc.**

## OTHER

A bench was dedicated in honor of the late Joseph DeStafney, a WWII veteran and lifelong General Motors employee who farmed the land where the Auburn Valley Trail now runs.



# BELLEVUE AND FOX POINT STATE PARKS



*Bellevue State Park was once an elegant estate belonging to the prominent DuPont family. The park features Bellevue Hall, tennis courts, horseback riding stables, gardens and an 1 1/2-mile fitness track surrounding a picturesque pond. Visitors can stroll the grounds, explore the state's small arboretum, enjoy a summer concert or just escape the hustle and bustle of Wilmington.*

*Fox Point State Park gives the entire family a relaxing place to stroll, picnic or just watch the boats go by on the Delaware River. Families also will enjoy the horseshoe pits, the volleyball court and children's play area. The park serves as the most northern park of the 90-mile-long Coastal Heritage Greenway. The greenway stretches south to Cape Henlopen State Park and highlights Delaware's natural, cultural and recreational diversity.*

**BELLEVUE/FOX POINT**

## at a Glance

- 330.01**  
Acres
- 9.4/2.3**  
Miles of trails (Including Fox Point)
- 312,867**  
Visitors
- 9/64**  
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff
- 5,099**  
Volunteer hours
- 346/5,753**  
Programs/Participants
- 11/113**  
Day Camps/Campers

## ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

Escape into the duPont's tranquil life of leisure. Stroll the paths of this elegant DuPont estate, visiting Bellevue Hall, the tennis and equestrian facilities, natural areas, the pond and racetrack.

Waterways and railroads are still relevant at Fox Point State Park. See working rail lines and deep-water shipping at this sprawling recreational site along the Delaware River.



## INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

Thanks to the support of the Friends of Bellevue, state Bond Bill and park rehabilitation, the Division completed multiple projects including repaving the entrance road in the park, exterior work on the Mount Pleasant School House, planning for the Percheron Barn and track, and improved connectivity to the Interpretive Center.

The Figure 8 Barn lighting fixtures were upgraded, including new chandeliers, string lights and rope lighting. The upgrade in the lighting improves the visitors experience in the rustic event space.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

The Grand, a nonprofit organization, held an extremely popular drive-in movie series in the fall. A total of six successful events were held.

## SPORTING EVENTS

Bellevue State Park was host to the Blue Hen Conference Cross Country Championship meet with a dozen schools participating.

## FRIENDS OF BELLEVUE STATE PARK ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2020, the Friends of Bellevue State Park provided funding for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts projects, school programs and camp scholarships.



The Friends of Bellevue State Park obtained grants to complete restoration of the Mount Pleasant Cemetery markers. The group also pursued funds to complete rebuilding of the crumbling cemetery walls that, once repaired, will complete a seven-year project to restore the entire Mount Pleasant Complex to its 1800s grandeur.

## PARTNERSHIPS

Members of the Delaware Disc Golf Association and multiple Delaware State Parks maintenance staff from around the region rebuilt the tee pads at disc golf course holes 1 and 3 during a volunteer work day.



**Winter Programs at the Park**  
above left; *From Sap to Syrup*, above right: *Bat Box Building*

## Critical

### CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

#### Bellevue State Park

- Percheron Barn Roof- structural repairs and roof shingles. Cost Estimate \$235,000
- Mount Pleasant School House interior rehab. Cost Estimate: \$750,000
- Figure 8 barn roof repair and replacement. Cost Estimate \$700,000

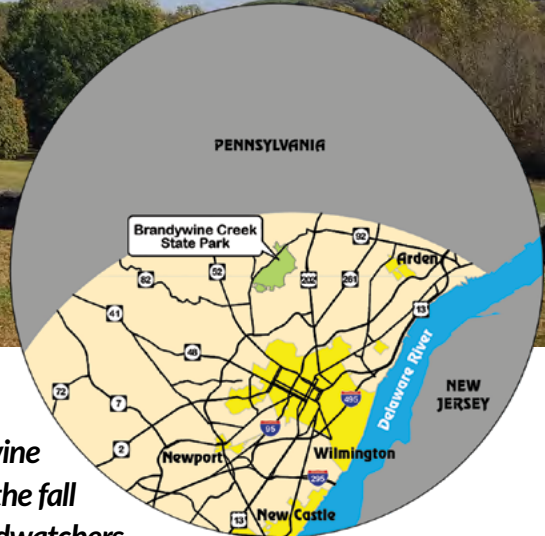
#### Fox Point State Park

- Pave Phase II road and parking area. Cost Estimate \$300,000
- Parking lot light repairs. Cost Estimate \$75,000
- Pave bike path from railroad tracks to park entrance. Cost Estimate \$125,000

*"My friends and I, eight couples total, had a wonderful time celebrating my birthday at the Bellevue Murder Mystery. It was exciting and interactive, with great food and drinks. Everyone had an absolute blast and two of our group won!"*

Hillary Belles  
Wilmington

# ▶ BRANDYWINE CREEK STATE PARK



*Brandywine Creek State Park is home to many different habitats, including rolling hills, meadows and the forested banks of the Brandywine Creek. The variety of birds and wildlife at the park, particularly during the fall hawk migrations, makes this a prime location for nature lovers and birdwatchers. Popular activities include hiking, mountain biking and leisure summertime canoe or tubing trips down the creek.*

## ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

The stone wall and rolling hills at Hawk Watch Overlook provide a stunning backdrop for soaring birds, majestic sunsets, and man’s indelible impact on the natural world.

Enter Tulip Tree Nature Preserve, Delaware’s first nature preserve, and hike among 200-year-old Tulip Poplar giants, discover the “Hidden Pond” vernal pool, and listen to the babbling of the Brandywine Creek.

### BRANDYWINE CREEK at a Glance

 **952.02**  
Acres

 **18.74**  
Miles of trails

 **124,935**  
Visitors

 **5/32**  
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff

 **4,115.5**  
Volunteer hours

 **132/1,946**  
Programs/Participants

## **FY2020** INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

Brandywine Creek completed the installation of 18 additional baskets on the disc golf course. The location of the baskets was determined with input from the Delaware Disc Golf Club and installation done by park staff.

The pollinator garden in front of the Nature Center had the first “full bloom” after three years of hard work. The project has been driven by volunteer Don Coats and monitored/maintained by staff interns at Brandywine Creek.

Brandywine Creek State Park parking lots reached capacity a handful of times throughout the year due to an increase in visitation that started with the COVID-19 pandemic. The Thompson Bridge lot was full by 10 a.m. each morning with warm weather.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

The park held its first Why Rocks Rock program, which taught participants about rocks around Brandywine Creek.

A good group of guests and one dog enjoyed the parks' Signs of Spring hike.

The park hosted several Pop-Up Nature Centers, which were offered outdoors and enjoyed by socially distanced visitors.

The Virtual Terrific Toddler program run by the park offered fun activities like learning about the park's corn snake Cornelius and creating a fun fake snake and habitat at home.



## PARTNERSHIPS

Brandywine Creek continued its relationship with concessionaire Wilderness Canoe Trips.

The park also worked on management and enforcement with the neighboring First State National Historical Park.



BCSP Youth Conservation Corps members help with mulching.



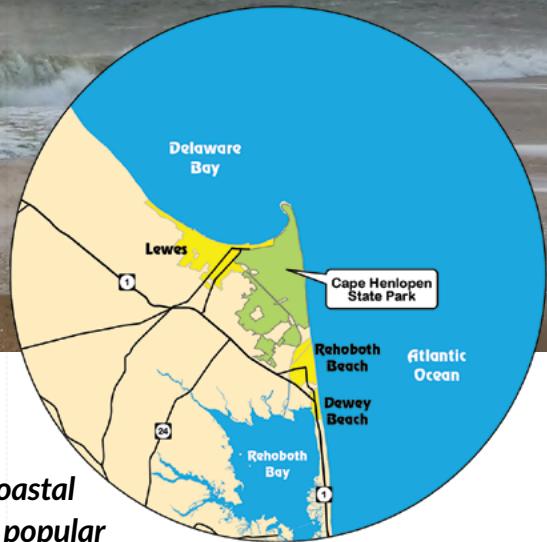
DNREC Secretary Shawn Garvin and Department of Labor Secretary Cerron Cade joined Youth Conservation Corps at the Brandywine Creek State Park's pollinator garden to mark the end of the members' service.

## Critical

### CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

- *Pave and fix erosion of existing stoned trails. Cost Estimate: \$500,000*
- *Redesign and retrofit composting toilets at Thompsons Bridge. Cost Estimate: \$250,000*
- *Historic barn structural stabilization and roof repairs. Cost Estimate: \$250,000*

# CAPE HENLOPEN STATE PARK



Delaware's largest state park lies along the Atlantic Ocean, providing beautiful beaches, coastal dunes, trails, pine woodlands and military history. The Cape's Great Dune is one of the highest coastal points between Cape Hatteras and Cape Cod. The park is home to popular swimming beaches, a family campground, a fishing pier stretching into the Delaware Bay, and the Seaside Nature Center, which hosts year-round activities for all ages and houses saltwater aquaria and a gift shop.

## CAPE HENLOPEN

### at a Glance



**5,328.4**  
Acres



**19.3**  
Miles of trails



**182**  
Campsites



**1,493.147**  
Visitors



**18/100**  
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff



**24**  
Lifeguards



**25,592**  
Volunteer hours

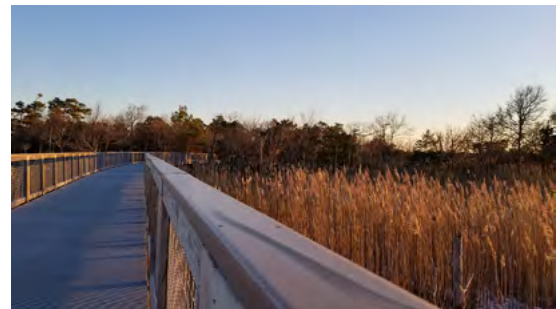


**334/9,160**  
Programs/Participants

## ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

Discover Cape Henlopen's military history with a guided tour of the Fort Miles Museum and Historic Area.

Experience the park's recreational opportunities from the fishing pier to Gordons Pond by fishing, hiking, paddling, swimming, and surfing along the bay and ocean coast.



Gain a new perspective of the park's natural and cultural landscapes by visiting overlooks at The Point, Herring Point, the Great Dune at Battery 519 and Tower 7.



## INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

Water lines were added to the event space at Fort Miles.

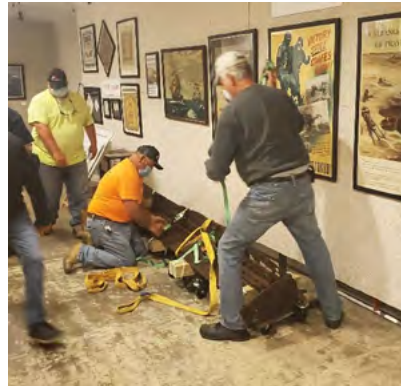
The Youth Camp III bathrooms received new roofing, and mason work and painting was completed at the dorms in Youth Camp II.

Two of the camper cabins received new HVAC units.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

A Time Travelers program was held at the archaeological site at Wolfe Neck Glade. The group also found a headstone from 1771.

In June, an artifact from the USS Arizona was moved to Battery 519 to be housed in the Fort Miles Historical Association art gallery as an exciting storyline until an exhibit on the USS Arizona is complete. U.S. Sen Tom Carper, a veteran of the U.S. Navy, made a special trip to view the artifact.



Nemours held a fundraiser at the park, in which guests got take-out dinner from Fish On! This also included a picnic and individual family photo shoots at the park.

## SPORTING EVENTS

The Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park held their annual youth fishing tournament at the fishing pier.

The Seashore Striders Running Club held their second Great Pumpkin Run Event, encouraging everyone to wear costumes. The Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park volunteered to assist with the event.



**CAPE HENLOPEN STATE PARK**

**Voted Best Camping and  
Best Downstate Hike**

**2020 Delaware Today**

## Critical

### CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

- Repairs to the World War II-era fishing pier pilings to maintain safety and integrity. Cost Estimate: \$400,000
- Sewer Plant replacement and upgrades. Coordination with City of Lewes is underway. Cost if the park is required to maintain and replace existing septic fields. Cost Estimate: \$5.5 million
- Biden Environmental Education Training Center renovations. Planning underway. Cost Estimate: \$11.5 million



## FRIENDS GROUPS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### **Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park**

The Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park funded a new youth camp pavilion, which was built in part with the help of M&T Bank staff members.

The Friends raised funds for the Grain on the Rocks/Dogfish Benevolence Concert series. The group also made its Osprey Camera available online at YouTube. The Friends performed monthly trail and beach cleanups throughout the year and decorated the park entrance kiosks for the holidays.



### **Fort Miles Historical Association**

The Fort Miles Historical Association conducted a ceremony to mark the 75th anniversary of Victory in Japan Day with brief remarks, followed by a reading of names of 100 Delawareans who died during World War II. The event was livestreamed online.

The FMHA completed several capital projects, including installation of a North Gun Room/Event Room HVAC system.

Fort Miles staff conducted a special small arms demonstration for the Labor Day holiday weekend. Staff demonstrated the operations of the M1903 Springfield rifle and the M1 Garand rifle.



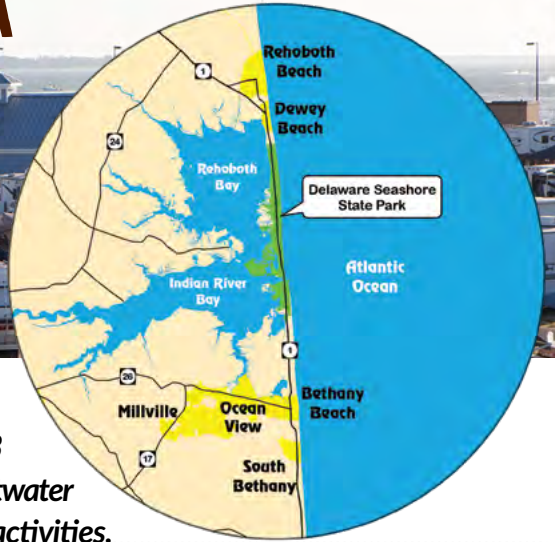
Sections of Beach Plum Nature Preserve were temporarily closed due to an oil spill along the Delaware shoreline in October.

*“Our family had the opportunity to take a guided tour of Fort Miles. My two children were engaged the entire one-hour tour. This experience was outstanding. Thank you for a great experience.”*

The Rogers family



# DELAWARE SEASHORE STATE PARK AND INDIAN RIVER MARINA



Delaware Seashore State Park borders the Atlantic Ocean and the Delaware Inland Bays with six miles of coastal shoreline. More than 1.3 million visitors come each year to enjoy the guarded swimming beaches, saltwater fishing, camping, and many other watersports and outdoor recreation activities.

## DELAWARE SEASHORE at a Glance

-  **1,937**  
Acres as of 12/31/20
-  **9**  
Miles of trails
-  **359**  
Campsites
-  **12**  
Cottages
-  **1,308,893**  
Visitors (including IRLSS)
-  **19/132**  
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff\*
-  **28**  
Casual/Seasonal Lifeguards
-  **7,406**  
Volunteer hours
-  **275/4,302**  
Programs/Participants
-  **194/154**  
Marina Wet Slips/Dry Storage

\* The casual/seasonal staff number does not include the lifeguards.

Conveniently located on the north side of the Indian River Inlet, the Indian River Marina is home to some of the finest fishing on the East Coast. Boaters and fishermen alike can enjoy this first-class state-of-the-art facility with full service amenities and a professional staff to greet you.

## ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES

### Delaware Seashore

Hike over the Indian River Inlet Bridge and along the coastline to take in the sweeping vistas of the Inland Bays and Atlantic Ocean.

Tour the Indian River Life-Saving Station to learn about maritime heritage, the role of surfmen and the heroic rescues they performed.



### Indian River Marina

Experience the sights and sounds of a bustling marina while you enjoy fishing, dinner, or a stroll along the water's edge as the sun sets over the Inland Bays

"Highly recommend the crabbing 101. The instructor [Olivia] was great. We ended up catching over 20 crabs in an hour and let them go."

Won Yi, Program participant

**FY2020**

## INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

### Delaware Seashore

Phase II of the Tower 3 restoration was completed with the restoration of the exterior concrete and new electric panels. The final phase of the project is funded, which will complete the interior steps and access to the roof.

The Division constructed a trail under Route 26 at the Assawoman Canal that ties into the existing sidewalk to minimize road crossings and developed a new accessible kayak launch on the canal to allow users to safely launch their boats to access the canal.

**BIG CHILL BEACH CLUB AT DELAWARE SEASHORE STATE PARK**

**Voted Best Waterview and Al Fresco Dining**

**2020 Delaware Today**

## Critical

### CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

#### Delaware Seashore

- Erosion of the jetty under the Indian River Bridge, which is the responsibility of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. Cost Estimate: Unknown
- Tower Road day area parking lot drainage and paving. Cost Estimate: \$750,000
- Tower 3 restoration and renovation, which is underway. Cost Estimate: \$1 million

#### Indian River Marina

- Dry stack roof replacement and exterior skin. Cost Estimate: \$1,300,000
- Piling sandblast, seal and pile jackets. Cost Estimate: \$800,000
- Moving the fuel dock to resolve fueling and maintenance concerns. Cost Estimate: \$300,000



The popular small fishing pier on the north side of the Indian River Inlet was re-decked and the 35-year-old steel railing was replaced with new galvanized railing.

The 3Rs Road parking area, one of Delaware Seashore's most popular multi-use beach/surf fishing vehicle access areas, was stabilized with crushed concrete.

Indian River Marina staff installed a new roof on maintenance sheds at the marina. A metal roof was used to replace the original failing shingles, which will increase the life of each shed.

A new railing was installed at the public boat ramp along the south side of the Indian River Marina. This installation has added an extra safety measure for visitors at the ramp.

### Indian River Marina Investments

The existing fire suppression system at the marina was at the end of its lifecycle and was replaced. This was completed prior to the summer boating season.

## PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Guests of a Squid Dissection program got a front-row seat when Park Interpreter/Program Coordinator Olivia McDonald got engaged as she dissected a squid and found a ring inside.

For the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed women the right to vote, the Indian River Life-Saving Station was lit up in purple at the request of Governor John Carney.

A lantern-lit Moonlit Shipwreck Hike on the desolate beach between the Indian River Inlet and the Life-Saving Station was held with interpreters who taught guests about notable shipwrecks off the Delaware coast.

Beach Driving Clinics at the Indian River Life-Saving Station exploded in popularity. A slip holders-only Tuna Blast tournament was a hit at Indian River Marina. First place won 50% off their 2021 boat slip rental, second place won 30% off and third place won 20% off.



## PARTNERSHIPS

The Indian River Marina worked with Center for Inland Bays in 2019 and 2020 as a staging area for the Oyster Reef Replenishment Program, in which the Inland Bays replenished some Rehoboth Bay Reef sites.

DSSP partnered with Thompson Island Brewery to provide Thompson Island Hikes in early 2020.



Dylan Baker, 13, of Lewes set a new state record in July while fishing a boat that hailed from the Indian River Marina. His 52-pound, 12.8-ounce catch measured 45 1/2 inches long with a girth of 34 inches.

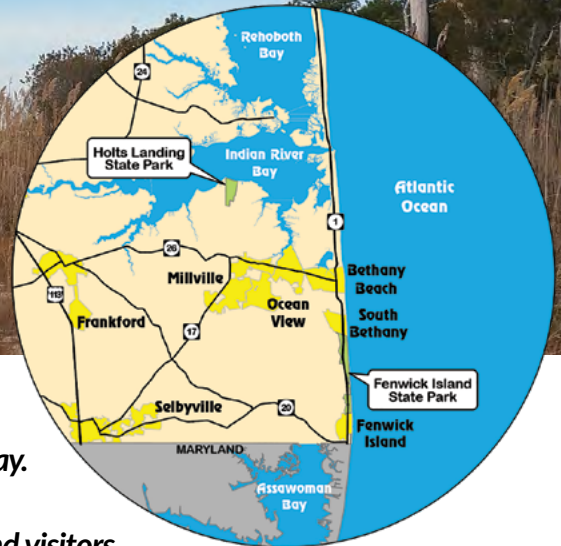


*"We were at tower beach yesterday. The lifeguards did an awesome job. I have never seen so many people helped in one day, but they were on it."*

*Facebook comment*

*"Every person [at the marina], from the front office to the ship store and to the men working in the yard has been exceptional to work with! Thank you for all you have done to develop a great team and a great marina. I will never forget what a great marina experience I had while keeping my boat at IRM!"*

# FENWICK ISLAND AND HOLTS LANDING STATE PARKS



Fenwick Island State Park has three miles of beautiful beaches along the Atlantic Ocean and bayside access points along Little Assawoman Bay.

Holts Landing State Park is a 205-acre facility popular with locals and visitors alike for its quiet location. Providing both a crabbing pier and access to the Indian River Bay from one of the last public boat ramps along the inland bays, it is a great spot for fishing, hiking and picnicking.

## FENWICK/HOLTS at a Glance



## ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES

### Fenwick Island

Take in the setting sun at the Assawoman Recreation Area as it dips below the undeveloped shoreline of the Little Assawoman Bay.

Swim, stroll, bask or play on the picturesque beaches of Fenwick Island for a true Delaware beach experience.

### Holts Landing

Hike the shoreline and Sea Hawk Trail through the park's intertidal zone, salt marsh, maritime forest and borrow pits.



## INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK



### Fenwick Island State Park

Potholes in the main parking lot were repaired as a temporary fix until future parking and paving improvements can be made.

A 100-foot long ADA-accessible beach access mat was purchased for the Fenwick Island State Park swimming beach.

## Holts Landing

The boat ramp at Holts Landing was repaired after damage from a winter storm.



## SPECIAL EVENTS

Hikers enjoyed the Sea Hawk Trail during its debut at the Winter Hike Series in January.

Holts Landing hosted several virtual “Sharks of the Inland Bays” programs, in which participants learned about why sharks might be in our waters, the important role they play in the coastal ecosystem, and how we can help with shark conservation.

## FRIENDS OF HOLTS LANDING STATE PARK

The Friends of Holts Landing State Park hosted several concerts, including Hope for Success: Biggest Little Band and John Smith of The Acoustic Jam.



## Critical

### CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

#### Fenwick Island State Park

- Parking expansion, amenity upgrades, entrance queuing and emergency access. Cost Estimate: \$5 million

#### Holts Landing State Park

- Upgrade septic system for the park. Cost Estimate: \$250,000
- Relocate the kayak launch closer to the existing boat launch. Cost Estimate: \$250,000
- Staff housing. Cost Estimate: \$300,000



# FIRST STATE HERITAGE PARK



*First State Heritage Park is Delaware's first "urban park without boundaries," linking cultural and historic sites in the city that has been the seat of state government since 1777. Each site of the First State Heritage Park has a wealth of stories associated with it, and visitors get a chance to learn about Delaware's capital-rich history.*

## ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

Walk in the footsteps of Delaware's patriots with an interpreter in period clothing to experience the stories of Dover, capital city of the First State.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

In celebration of 100 years since the 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote, First State Heritage Park, the Old State House, the Delaware Public Archives and the historic Dover Century Club hosted a free special "Women & the Vote: 100 Years" commemoration.

### HERITAGE PARK at a Glance

- 
14,487\*  
Visitors
- 
11  
Historic Partner Sites
- 
2/7  
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff
- 
2,649  
Volunteer hours
- 
533/4,907  
Programs/Participants

\* The number of visitors to First State Heritage Park is based on estimates. First State Heritage Park has 11 partner sites and does not issue tickets or passes, admission is free



Musicians entertained guests throughout the year as the Friends of Folk Concert Series continued.

## FRIENDS OF OLD DOVER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Friends of Old Dover held virtual lectures, town halls and historical programs, and received the James Jackson Historical Preservation Award.

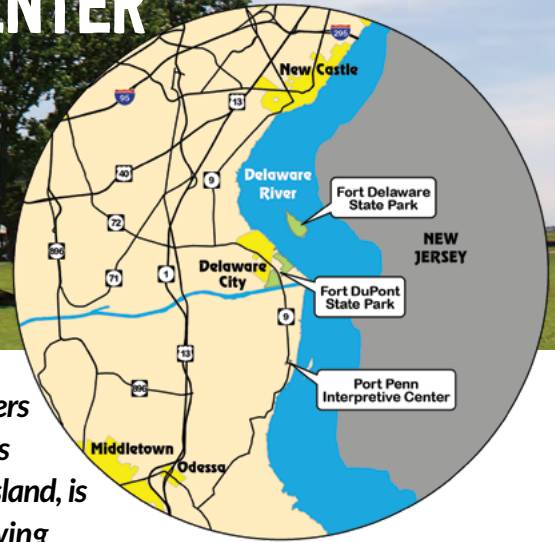
## PARTNERSHIPS

**First State Heritage Park partners with 11 other historic sites:**

- Biggs Museum of American Art
- Delaware Public Archives
- Johnson Victrola Museum
- Kent County Courthouse
- Legislative Hall
- The Old State House
- Woodburn and Hall House
- John Dickinson Plantation
- Air Mobility Command Museum
- John Bell House and The Green



# FORT DELAWARE AND FORT DUPONT STATE PARKS PORT PENN INTERPRETIVE CENTER



Fort Delaware was used to house close to 33,000 Confederate prisoners of war during the Civil War. The fort's living history programming offers visitors the chance to experience life in 1864. Its location, Pea Patch Island, is also home to a large heron rookery that provides outstanding viewing opportunities for birders.

During World War II, Fort DuPont served as a training base and also housed German prisoners of war. Both forts tell the story of Delaware's importance to defending our coast.

The Port Penn Interpretive Center in the village of Port Penn offers displays and programs about the historic wetland communities along the shores of the Delaware River. Programs and walking tours featuring the town and its scenic marshlands are available.

## FORT DELAWARE/DUPONT at a Glance



**240.7/295.5**  
Acres Fort DE/Fort DuPont



**.8/1.3**  
Miles of trails Fort DE/Fort DuPont



**9,769/4,112**  
Visitors - Fort DE/Fort DuPont



**3/44**  
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff



**2,631.25**  
Volunteer hours



**375/9,272**  
Programs/Participants

## ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

### Fort Delaware

Travel back to 1864 with a first person interpreter where you will experience life during the Civil War and the firing of a cannon from the 1850s. View the island from the fort's ramparts and visualize the complex of structures and 12,000 prisoners that once resided on the island.

As you travel from the ferry terminal to the dock on Pea Patch Island, observe the flight of herons, ibises, and egrets to and from the heronry in Pea Patch Island Nature Preserve.

### Fort Dupont

Walk south along the River View Trail past Batteries Read and Gibson. Stop at the point to consider the role of Fort DuPont as part of a three-fort system in the evolution of coastal defense.

### Port Penn Interpretive Center

Walk the Port Penn Interpretive Trail and discover how people made a living from the natural resources of the Delaware River.



**FY2020**

## INVESTMENTS IN THE PARKS

Rebuilt island gangway from storm damage, repaired dock and installed floats on the mainland dock, and rebuilt deck leading to the Fort.

Masonry work was done in the hallway, mess hall and visitor center, including rebuilding the archway next to the Endicott battery.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Fort Delaware hosted Paranormal Adventure Tours.

The Escape the Fort event was so popular the park had to add a second event.

Fort Delaware River Cruises were also a hit with guests.

“Ex-Confederates Defending the Delaware River,” a program about galvanized Yankees at Fort Delaware, was presented over Zoom and received good participation and social media coverage.

## PARTNERSHIPS

**Diamond State Ghost Investigators** conducted paranormal tours for the Pea Patch Paranormal Adventure in October.



### Critical

#### CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

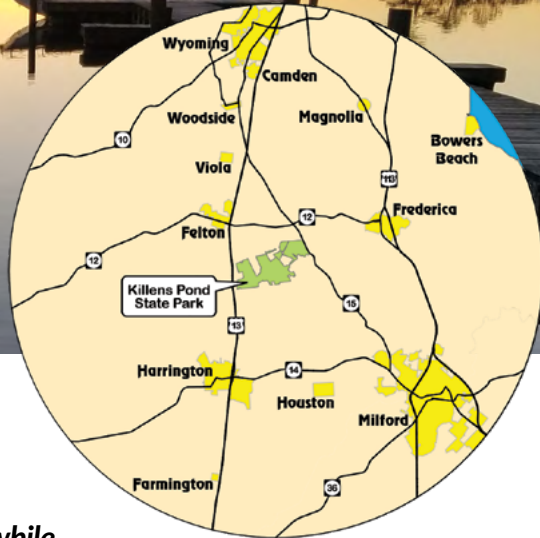
- Island Tram path repair and resurfacing. Cost Estimate: \$1,800,000
- Masonry repairs to the brick work throughout the historic fort. Cost Estimate: \$500,000
- New Island maintenance shop for storage and equipment. Cost Estimate: \$400,000

*“I really enjoyed the adventure, from check in to the return ferry ride it was perfect. Your whole team deserves a hearty well done. Thanks for a great night.”*

- Paranormal Tour of Fort Delaware guest



# KILLENS POND STATE PARK











Natural and recreational opportunities abound at Killens Pond State Park. The park's centerpiece is the 66-acre millpond, perfect for boating and fishing. Wooded campgrounds, cabins, and the very popular Pondview Cottage invite visitors to a relaxing stay, while the Killens Pond Water Park offers resort entertainment in a natural setting.

## ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

Journey along the pond's edge to experience the natural, historical and cultural stories that shape Killens Pond State Park.

**KILLENS POND**  
*at a Glance*

-  **1,441.4**  
Acres
-  **7.4**  
Miles of trails
-  **87**  
Campsites
-  **257,305**  
Visitors
-  **10/144**  
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff
-  **15,102**  
Volunteer hours
-  **248/6,895**  
Programs/Participants
-  **7/307**  
Concerts/Attendees

## FY2020 INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

- The maintenance shop received a new roof.
- The water park was upgraded with new lily pads, wall and tile repairs were made to the main pool, the waterpark slides were repaired and cleaned, and the mushroom feature was repainted.
- The Nature Center received a new geothermal heat pump.



## SPECIAL EVENTS

Puppies in The Pool had a nice turnout with around 60 pups enjoying the water together.

Summer concerts were a blast, with one concert even continuing during rain showers.

Participants in the Pumpkin Carving program smile with their finished projects. The park also hosted a costume contest and private wagon rides to celebrate autumn.

The park hosted a series of fall private hayrides that were a success.



## SPORTING EVENTS

The Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association State Cross Country Championship and Henlopen Conference Cross Country Championship meets were held at the park.



## Critical

### CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

- Safe pedestrian connector between boat rental and boat ramp requiring an elevated boardwalk. Construction is underway. Cost Estimate \$2,400,000
- Boat ramp and parking relocation and improvements. Cost Estimate \$500,000
- Campground bathroom renovations. Cost Estimate \$200,000

## FRIENDS OF KILLENS POND STATE PARK ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Friends held a great photo contest with some gorgeous entries.



## PARTNERSHIPS

Eagle Scout Jacob Landry installed six benches at Killens Pond's Nature Play Area.



*"We were visiting family in the area and your park was our favorite part of the whole trip. I loved that there was something for everyone in my family to do. We are proud to say that this is the best waterpark that we have ever been to and if given another chance, we would come back."*

*The Albanese Family*

# LUMS POND STATE PARK




A dense forest of oak, poplar, and other hardwoods surrounds Delaware's largest freshwater millpond at Lums Pond State Park. This is one of the First State's most diverse parks, offering everything from a relaxing paddle around the pond to the excitement of a first-class ropes course, making it a perfect day trip or a fun family camping destination.

## ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

Embrace the tranquility of the pond's edge, exploring its diverse habitats by foot, horseback, bike or boat..

### LUMS POND at a Glance

-  **1,990**  
Acres
-  **17.5**  
Miles of trails
-  **75**  
Campsites
-  **321,713**  
Visitors
-  **9/25**  
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff
-  **3,565.5**  
Volunteer hours
-  **113/2,462**  
Programs/Participants
-  **5/39**  
Day Camps/Campers

**FY2020**

## INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

A section of three-phase buried primary electric cable between the park office and the nature center was replaced and new line was run.

The Division added a boat storage unit on site to improve the quality and longevity of the kayaks.



## SPECIAL EVENTS

The park hosted a successful Valentines Hike and S'mores Campfire.

The park hosted a special two-day social media post called the Naturalist Name Game, where photos of animals found around Lums Pond were posted with a description and the public was asked to guess what they were. Several successful concerts were held in the park. Guests were able to enjoy live music with proper social distancing and masks.

The model airplane club had a small event with overnight RV camping.

The Halloween Hoot at the Campground was a hit. Pumpkins and art supplies were passed out to all of camp sites and a competition was held for best decorated campsite and pumpkins.

## SPORTING EVENTS

Nearly 250 participants in a downsized version of the Rip It Sports foot race.

Lums Pond was host to several cross country meets, and flag football and cricket games.



## Critical

### CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

- Replacement of wooden docks with aluminum docks in the campground. Cost Estimate: \$150,000
- New waterfront cabin complex. Cost Estimate: \$3 million
- Replacement of boat rental docks with floating aluminum docks. Cost Estimate: \$600,000



## PARTNERS

The Go Ape adventure course opened its newest attraction - "The Monkey Drop," and welcomed steady business.

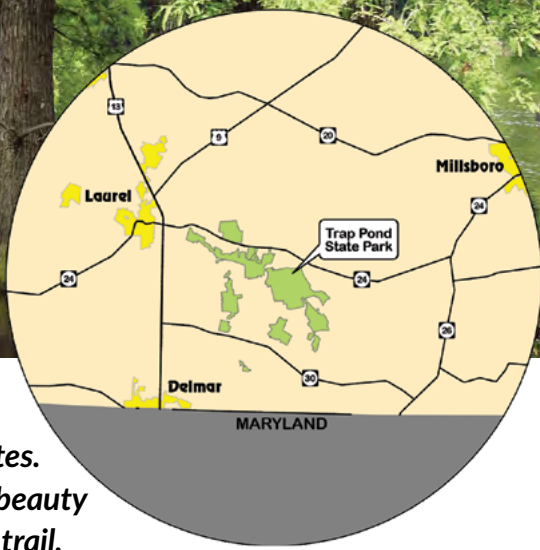
On Aug. 4, 2020, a tornado with windspeeds upward of 110 miles per hour passed through Lums Pond State Park and inflicted severe damage to grounds that required several months of cleanup efforts by Division of Parks and Recreation staff. The tornado knocked down several hundred trees and blocked trails, campsites, roadways and the entrance to the park campground. An all-star team of Division staff went above and beyond to clean up after the storm.



*"You have worked so hard and have done such an amazing job in not only cleaning the aftermath of the tornado, but also running the daily operations ... a big thank you for all you do."*

*Susan, a happy camper*

# TRAP POND STATE PARK



One of Delaware's first state parks, Trap Pond is home to the northernmost natural stand of baldcypress trees in the United States. The park provides visitors with many opportunities to explore the beauty of the wetland forest and swamp while hiking, paddling the canoe trail, fishing, camping, birdwatching, and stargazing.

## ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

Experience the solitude of the cypress swamp. Immerse yourself in the sights, sounds and smells as you travel beyond the pond.

### TRAP POND at a Glance

- 4,163** Acres
- 11.5** Miles of trails
- 147** Campsites
- 147,376** Visitors
- 7/40** Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff
- 12,424.5** Volunteer hours
- 520/8,612** Programs/Participants
- 5/271** Concerts/Attendees



## INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

The composting toilets that serviced the cabin area at Trap Pond were replaced.

A new bathhouse was constructed with multiple bathrooms and showers to service the cabin/yurt area and the eastern side of the campground.



## SPECIAL EVENTS

Several concerts were held at the park and enjoyed by guests.

The Delmarva Adult and Teen Challenge hosted their annual Crab Feast at Cypress Point.

The Halloween Howl looked a bit different in 2020 but received all positive feedback. Sites, costumes and decorating were judged at individual campsites.

## SPORTING EVENTS

Delaware Bass Anglers and Castin' Away Bass Club hosted fishing tournaments on Trap Pond.

## TRAP POND PARTNERS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Friends of Trap Pond took over responsibility of the old Trap store just outside Trap Pond State Park, and it now serves as the organization's headquarters.



Trap Pond Partners



## Critical

### CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

- Bathroom and septic replacement at Cypress Point. Cost Estimate: \$600,000
- Repair the lift station at the campground and recondition of wet well. Cost Estimate: \$100,000
- Bob Trail reroute with elevated trail. Cost Estimate: \$250,000

### TRAP POND STATE PARK

**Voted Best Hiking Trail - The Bob Trail and Best Kayaking**

2020 Delaware Today



**Trap Pond State Park was named Reader's Digest Most Scenic Campsite in Delaware.**

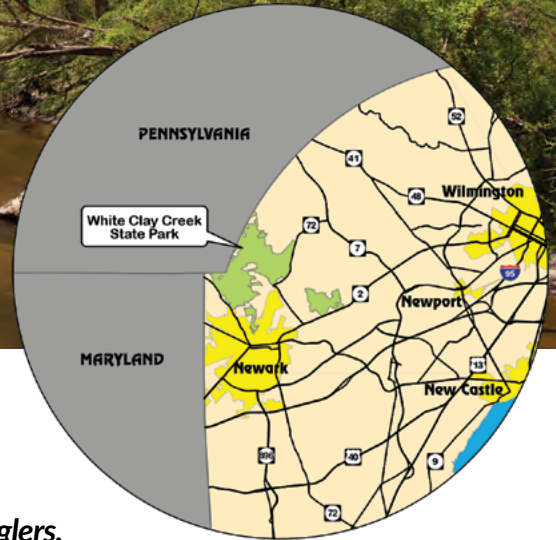
*"Love Trap Pond. We just had our wedding there and the staff was excellent. We had family and friends stay with us at the campground, and the venue [the Nature Center] is beautiful."*

-Sharon Price

*"Thank you so much for your quick response to finding our lost grandchild. The quickest, most caring, organized, diligent and successful retrieval I've ever seen. State parks bring out the adventurous side in all of us. They offer unique opportunities to be self-reliant and knowing that if we really get in a jam, there are people around who are willing, able, and have the skills to get things right."*

-Janet Littleton

# WHITE CLAY CREEK STATE PARK



Located along White Clay Creek, a nationally-designated Wild and Scenic River, White Clay Creek State Park offers something for everyone. Hikers, bikers, runners, and birders enjoy nearly 40 miles of trails, and the park is a regional trout destination popular with anglers. The park offers summer concerts for music enthusiasts and is home to a very popular disc golf course.

## ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

Discover White Clay Creek's National Wild and Scenic Watershed by exploring the Chambers House area. Experience the watershed on trails that meander from the bank of the creek to scenic views of the valley.

Explore the most diverse trail system in Delaware State Parks with scenic views, the Millstone Pond, Mason-Dixon marker, and bridges spanning White Clay Creek.

**WHITE CLAY CREEK**  
*at a Glance*

-  **3,647**  
Acres
-  **38.6**  
Miles of trails
-  **177,434**  
Visitors
-  **8/28**  
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff
-  **11,786.5**  
Volunteer hours
-  **143/4,295**  
Programs/Participants
-  **12/107**  
Day Camps/Campers



## INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

The Tri-Valley Trail project was completed, rounding out the accessible hub of White Clay Creek. The accessible trail joins the accessible docks for fishing and wildlife viewing, hay wagon rides and primitive group camping.





## SPECIAL EVENTS

The park hosted a seven-week series, Wednesday Wonder and Nature Nuggets, that was so popular parents of participants asked for another series to be held.



The park got creative with programming, including hosting virtual educational field trips like seen in this photo at White Clay Creek State Park.

The park hosted several VolunTEEN events during the summer and fixed dozens of areas of damage along the trails.

A Walk with Harriet group came through the park on their journey to follow Harriet Tubman's footsteps from Cambridge, Md., to Oxford, Pa.



## FRIENDS OF WHITE CLAY CREEK ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Friends were successful throughout the year in securing new volunteers and maintaining their donation levels. The Friends of White Clay Creek State park hosted Nature Center rides in the fall. Several of the group's volunteers installed a memorial bench.



*"The kids opening [fishing] day was a nice touch this year. Always nice to put the kids first. Keep up the good work White Clay!"*

*-A happy angler*

**WHITE CLAY CREEK STATE PARK**

**Voted Best Hike Upstate and Best Place to Experience Nature**

**2020 Delaware Today**

## Critical

### CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

- Nature Center bridge evaluation and replacement. Cost Estimate: \$275,000
- Replacement of barn roofs. Cost Estimate: \$250,000
- Robinson house upgrades for ADA and structural stability. Cost Estimate: \$100,000

## PARTNERSHIPS

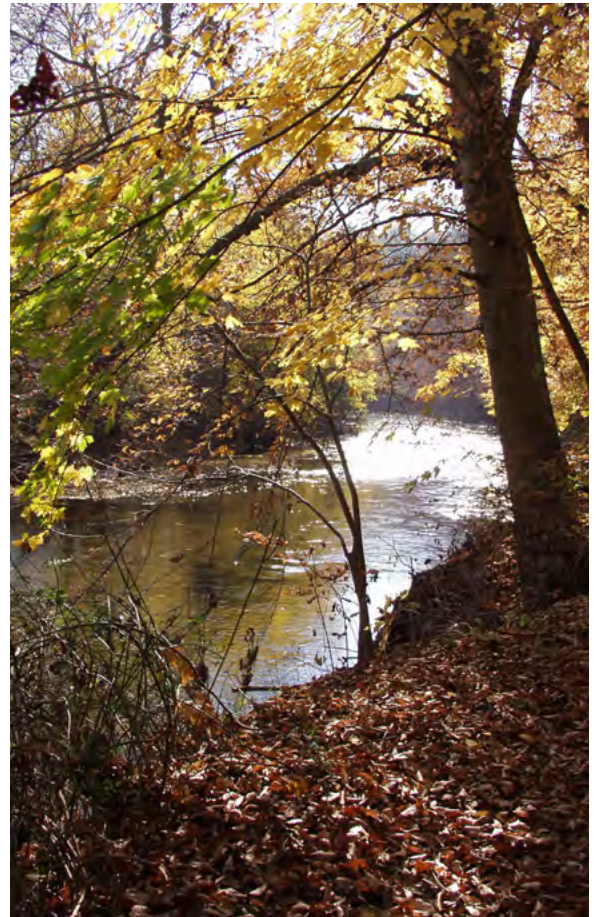
Wilmington Charter students visited and helped pull rose shrubs at White Clay Creek State Park.



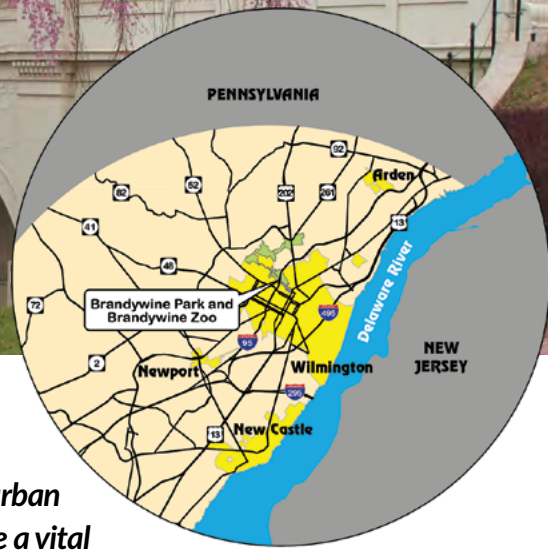
The park worked with 27 volunteers for their Adopt-A-Trail program, in which volunteers help prepare deer stands for the fall hunting season.

The Adopt-A-Trail and Bluebird Box Monitoring programs were conducted by individual volunteers.

The park worked with several volunteer groups, including Nickle Electric, students from Salesianum School and Delaware's Chapter of the Sierra Club.



# WILMINGTON STATE PARKS BRANDYWINE ZOO



*Wilmington State Parks is comprised of Brandywine, Rockford, H. Fletcher Brown and Kentmere Parkway, which embrace the rich history of Delaware's largest city. The park areas have served as an urban retreat for Wilmington residents since 1883, and they continue to be a vital part of the city. On any given day, visitors of all ages participate in all types of recreational pursuits.*

*The Brandywine Zoo, along the Brandywine River in beautiful Brandywine Park in Wilmington, is home to birds, reptiles and mammals, including condors, red pandas and the world's largest rodent: the capybara. The Brandywine Zoo is managed by the Division of Parks and Recreation with the support of the Delaware Zoological Society. The Brandywine Zoo is the only Association of Zoos & Aquariums accredited zoo in Delaware.*

## WILMINGTON STATE PARKS at a Glance



## ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

### Wilmington State Parks

Walking the river's edge in Brandywine Park, adjacent to the Josephine Fountain, Brandywine Zoo, Swinging Bridge and Jasper Crane Rose Garden, witness the development of Wilmington State Parks as the recreational hub for the city of Wilmington.

Drive along Wilmington's iconic streets to appreciate the cultural history preserved in Wilmington State Parks, stopping at the Sugar Bowl, H. Fletcher Brown Park, Rockford Park, and numerous memorials and sculptures throughout the city.





**FY2020**

## INVESTMENTS IN THE PARKS

### *Wilmington State Parks*



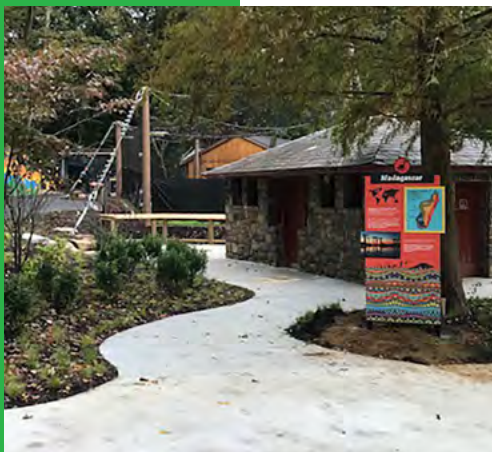
Wilmington State Parks new office and maintenance facilities were completed at the former Baynard Stadium site, which is now Abessinio Stadium.

The African American Medal of Honor Monument was repaired to fix moisture damage and be protected from moisture in the future.

H. Fletcher Brown Park received repairs to the stonework and cement wall, which was deteriorating.

The failing 18th Street playground retaining wall was removed and replaced with all new timbers. A chain-link fence was also installed in the area where the wall was more than 30 inches high along the adjacent sidewalk for safety and compliance.

### *Brandywine Zoo*



The new Madagascar exhibit, the first major new exhibit in more than a decade, opened in November with a collection of lemurs and radiated tortoises, improved animal holding, keeper workspace, and an event space for fundraising and programming.


## BRANDYWINE ZOO

### at a Glance

 **4.7**  
Acres

 **49**  
Species

 **28,979**  
Visitors

 **8/28**  
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff

 **13,341.75**  
Volunteer Hours

 **772/31,371**  
Programs/Participants

 **4/33**  
Day Camps/Campers

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Wilmington State Parks

The park hosted 50 weddings, celebrations and memorials, a Pure Barre pop-up class, a Flute Pro Shop outdoor concert and the Rockford Park Concerts.

### Brandywine Zoo

A scavenger hunt was held featuring vulture silhouettes created by a zoo curator.

The Madagascar Exhibit opened just before Thanksgiving with a socially distanced ribbon cutting that featured dignitaries and was streamed online.



## SPORTING EVENTS

### Wilmington State Parks

Football returned to Wilmington State Parks with the completion of Abessinio Stadium. The inaugural home game was held in November.

Wilmington State Parks were host to several sporting organizations, including First State Squash, Delaware Tennis & Paddle, CYM Cross Country, Cutters Baseball and the m12 Baseball League.

## Critical

### CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

#### Wilmington State Parks

- *H. Fletcher Brown Park renovation.*  
Cost Estimate: \$1,250,000
- *Lovering Avenue Phase II improvements of courts and accessible pathway.*  
Cost Estimate: \$250,000
- *Steps connecting the Delaware Greenway to the Swinging Bridge to improve alignment and safety, while reducing erosion.*  
Cost Estimate: \$200,000

#### Brandywine Zoo

- *Construction of an animal support building that will provide improved space for veterinary care, quarantine and keeper space.*  
Cost Estimate: \$5.5 million
- *Implementation of Phase II of the master plan.* Cost Estimate: \$5 million
- *Complete renovations to the Pudu and Tuscan enclosures, including replacing the rain shield and failing wood structures.*  
Cost Estimate: \$150,000

## FRIENDS OF WILMINGTON PARKS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Friends of Wilmington Parks secured \$10,000 in funding from Incyte and Highmark Delaware, in addition to their initial contribution of \$5,000, to purchase the new fitness equipment stations for Brandywine Park.

In partnership with the Friends of Wilmington Parks and despite COVID-19 and the weather, concerts were safely and successfully held at Rockford Park.

## DELAWARE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The education department, working with the keeper staff, produced several virtual programs that allowed the zoo to stay engaged with its educational partners and the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Delaware Zoological Society was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Chichester duPont Foundation, which will allow the society to provide scholarships for Title 1 schools for an upcoming Virtual Traveling Zoo program.

The society was able to host two successful and safe children's events: Boo at the Zoo for Halloween and Breakfast with Santa around the holidays.



Two white faced Sakis arrived from the Bronx Zoo in July. The males have black fur with large white facial discs and the females are a grizzled gray color.







Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control  
Division of Parks & Recreation  
89 Kings Highway, Dover, DE 19901

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