

DELAWARE STATE PARKS

2018

Annual Report



Inside front cover

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TIMELINE ANNIVERSARIES

2008

10 YEARS AGO

Auburn Valley State Park

Tom and Ruth Marshall donated Auburn Heights to the Division, completing the **Auburn Heights Preserve**. Shortly after, the remediation and development of the former NVF property began.

1998

20 YEARS AGO

White Clay Creek State Park

The Judge Morris Estate, which includes 505 acres, was purchased by the Open Space Program and added to **White Clay Creek State Park**.

1993

25 YEARS AGO

Killens Pond State Park

Delaware State Parks built the first cabins in the park system at **Killens Pond State Park**.

1993

25 YEARS AGO

Delaware State Parks

A **Carry-In/Carry Out** trash-free policy was implemented. Trash cans were removed from the parks, encouraging visitors to recycle and create less waste.

Wilmington State Parks/Brandywine Zoo

The Division took over the management of the **Brandywine Zoo** and three parks in the City of Wilmington: **Brandywine Park**, **Rockford Park** and **Alapocas Woods**.

1998

20 YEARS AGO

Brandywine Creek State Park
Alapocas Run State Park
Bellevue State Park
Fox Point State Park

Fort Delaware State Park
Fort DuPont State Park

Lums Pond State Park

White Clay Creek State Park

The first parcels of land that make up **White Clay Creek State Park** were purchased.

1968

50 YEARS AGO

First State Heritage Park

Cape Henlopen State Park

Peter Geldof Jr., division director at the time, appeared before the House Armed Service committee to request land from Fort Miles. In 1964, 543 acres of land that established **Cape Henlopen State Park** was donated to the state. More land would follow over the years.

1963

55 YEARS AGO

Cape Henlopen State Park

The Junction & Breakwater Trail, located on the western edge of **Cape Henlopen State Park**, was dedicated.

2003

15 YEARS AGO

Trap Pond State Park

Delaware Seashore State Park
Holts Landing State Park

Fenwick Island State Park

PARK RATINGS

TOTAL SATISFACTION RATING FROM VISITOR SATISFACTION SURVEYS:

4.5 OUT OF 5.0




INDIVIDUAL:

Alapocas Run State Park:	4.6	Delaware Seashore State Park:	4.4	Killens Pond State Park:	4.4
Bellevue State Park:	4.4	Fort Delaware State Park:	4.5	Lums Pond State Park:	4.6
Brandywine Creek State Park :	5.0	Fox Point State Park:	3.8	Trap Pond State Park:	4.5
Cape Henlopen State Park :	4.5	Indian River Marina:	4.6	White Clay Creek State Park:	5.0

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:

5.8 
million+
visitors

17 
Parks 

26,167
 Acres 

624

Buildings
on Park Land



160

Miles of
Trails

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

“The residents of Chimes and our staff have always enjoyed spending time in Delaware’s beautiful parks. This year, with the addition of the wheelchair lift at White Clay Park, for the first time many more Chimes’ residents were able to enjoy the fun of a hay ride. We cannot thank the Delaware Park Services enough for their commitment to all Delawareans.”

— Michele A. Mirabella
Director of Residential Services for Chimes

ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

Delaware State Parks provide recreation, nature, environmental and educational opportunities to all Delawareans. It is important that all people have the ability to enjoy our 17 parks and more than 26,000 acres of parklands. Each year, we update and improve our parks with this all-access vision in mind. In 2018, we added several amenities that will provide more access for individuals of all abilities.

Cape Henlopen State Park

- More wheelchair-accessible mats were added at the beach to allow a greater number of individuals to enjoy Delaware’s pristine coast.
- The Division installed a pole shower that accommodates individuals who use wheelchairs.

Delaware Seashore State Park

- The Cottages at Indian River Marina are now wheelchair-accessible, providing beautiful views and the joys of a park stay for all.

Holts Landings State Park

- Holts Landing had its parking lot repaved to compliment the accessible docks that provide individuals in wheelchairs the ability to fish and crab at one of the state’s premier spots for crabbing.



Lums Pond State Park

The Division spent \$103,000 on renovations to its Area One bathrooms, making them accessible to all individuals.

Trap Pond State Park

- The Division installed an accessible dock, adding to the number of parks that allow people of all abilities to fish.

White Clay Creek State Park

The park added an accessible hayride wagon in 2018 to allow people who use walkers and wheelchairs to access the wagon. These hayrides have proved popular with organizations such as Newark-based Chimes, which offers services to individuals with special needs throughout the state.

- The park added two accessible docks that allows individuals in wheelchairs to enjoy fishing at the park. The new docks are already being used by the Newark-based YesUCan organization for adaptive sports.
- Park staff built two accessible hunting stands that use gradually inclining steps with railings to assist individuals who might otherwise not be able to physically access deer stands.

OUR PEOPLE PUT US ON TOP IN FY18

WHO WE ARE

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



722 casual/seasonal staff, including:

- 51 ocean lifeguards to protect swimmers at the Atlantic Ocean beaches
- 58 lifeguards to protect visitors at the Killens Pond Water Park
- 57 Youth Conservation Corps Members



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

22 full-time Delaware State Park rangers handled over **3,750** complaints this year. That breaks down to **170** complaints per ranger in 2018.

The ratio of park rangers to state park visitors in 2018 was **1** to **267,844**. The ratio of park rangers to acres of land managed is **1** park ranger for every **1,241** acres of land managed.

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



WE SUCCEED WITH OUTSTANDING STAFF

Outstanding Employees Recognized

Laura Lee, superintendent of Auburn Valley State Park, was named **2017 Employee of the Year** at the annual Delaware State Parks Employee Recognition Awards ceremony in March of 2018 at Deerfield in Newark.

Laura has provided the organization with outstanding service, ensuring its needs and its partners' needs have been met. She worked with Fish and Wildlife to reintroduce trout fishing back into the park and with the University of Delaware on improving the Auburn Valley estate's landscaping, which served as a capstone project for UD students. She also wrote an article for *Outdoor Delaware* that focused on the Division's grassland management strategies.



Other honorees at the March ceremony were:

Outstanding Customer Service Award

David Wolzansky
Hannah Pretz
Mazie Barbosa
Michele Restucci Hill

Outstanding Achiever Award

Lauren Cook
Alison Romano
Karen Minner
Lynn Klein
Mandy Fischer

Outstanding Innovator Award

Abby Shepard
Colin Adams-Toomey
Elizabeth Androskaut

Outstanding Motivator Award

Barbara Woodford
Sarah Zimmerman
Jacob Miller

Outstanding Mentor Award

Vincent Porcellini
John Wales
Mike Moyer

Outstanding Organizer Award

Becky Lovin
David Redgraves
Kurt Blattner



Director's Cup

The NVF Team

Clyde L. Shipman Award for Excellence in Park Management

Sue Staats

OTHER AWARDS



Tourism Partner of the Year

Southern Delaware Tourism named Delaware State Parks as its Tourism Partner of the Year for its collaboration with the agency and Sussex County Chamber of Commerce. A panel of impartial travel writers selected the Division for its collaboration with the groups on family-friendly events such as Boo-B-Que: Barbeque & Brews Festival and Winter WonderFest.



30 Shining Stars of Interpretation

Teresa Pierce was recognized by the National Association for Interpretation as one of its 30 Shining Stars. Teresa has been a historical interpreter for First State Heritage Park since 2015 and has taken the lead developing her own programs. In 2018, she developed a historical program exploring the African-American experience during WWI.

2018 Park Ranger Institute Awards

Several rangers attended the 2018 Park Ranger Institute at the North Carolina Justice Academy in Edneyville, North Carolina. Cpl. Randy Burrridge from Auburn Heights/White Clay Creek State Park was the winner of the Top Gun Shooting Competition, with a perfect score of 100 and more rounds in the center than any other participant. Randy is the seventh Delaware ranger to earn the prestigious award. Cpl. John Lister of Cape Henlopen State Park received the Sworn Ranger of the Year award, and Capt. Steve Savidge received the Robert L. Leathers Appreciation award.

2018 GDUSA American Inhouse Design Awards

The Creative Services team, which included Chris Polo, Shirley Blankers, Sarah Sellers, Drew Clark, April Abel, Greg Abbott and Alissa DeMont, received two national awards in *Graphic Design USA* magazine's 2018 American Inhouse Design Award competition. GDUSA recognized the team in the annual report category for the *Delaware State Parks 2016 Annual Report* and in the logo design category for the Fort Miles Museum logo.



"I went on the Instameet for Delaware State Parks, it was so much fun!!! You guys know what you're doing!"

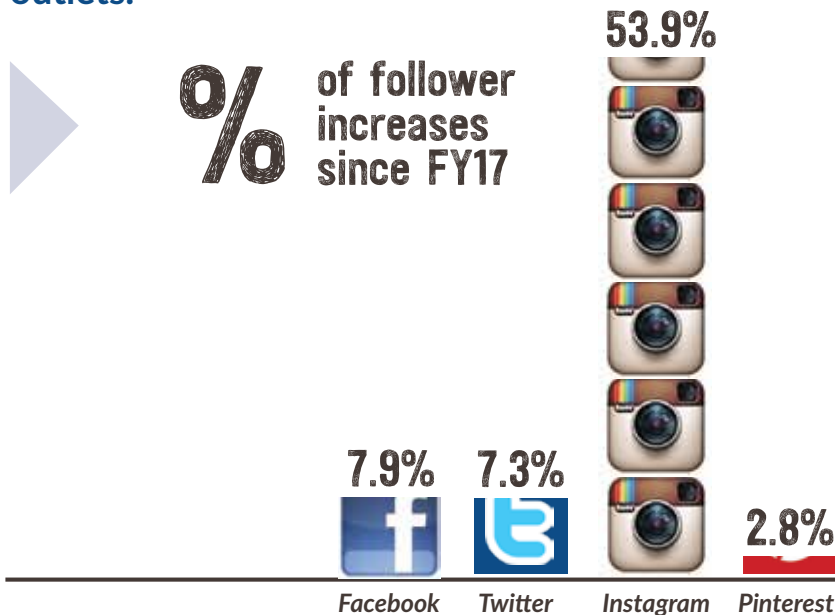
— Trinity Marks
Facebook

"Great public destinations!
Accessible and variable for all ages and abilities."

— Helen Mallett
Facebook

WE ROCK SOCIAL MEDIA!

The Division's social media accounts continued to grow tremendously in 2018, adding **6,077** new followers across all four major social media outlets.



WE HAD INNOVATIVE MARKETING CAMPAIGNS

- We partnered with over 10 local wedding industry professionals to create a styled photoshoot for a new wedding venue at Holts Landing State Park.
- We worked with Miles Media to create a welcome video for Cape Henlopen State Park.
- We started a new partnership with Caesar Rodney High School, where the Division works with a digital media class to create promotional videos for Delaware State Parks.
- We created a video and blog post announcing the opening of Delaware's 17th state park, Auburn Valley State Park. The video was viewed 17,000 times, and the blog post is the top-performing post at 2,407 unique views.
- We partnered with local radio station 88.7 The Bridge to promote First Day Hikes across the state.

WE WERE FEATURED IN MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Throughout the year, both individual parks and the organization as a whole were featured in several major publications, including:

- The News Journal
- The Washingtonian
- The Dover Post
- Cape Gazette
- The Washington Post
- D.C. Military.com
- Newark Post
- Only in Delaware
- USA Today

VOLUNTEERS

Our park system depends heavily on people who show their love of Delaware State Parks by volunteering. They come to us from businesses, non-profits and other groups, or find our volunteer opportunities on the internet. They generously give their time by participating in Friends' groups, the AmeriCorps/Veteran Corps and our Youth Conservation Corps, and take part in a wide array of volunteer activities throughout our park system all year long.

The total impact of park volunteers is tremendous. In FY2018, the park system had 3,505 volunteers. Our volunteers contributed more than 145,716 hours in FY2018, a record for Delaware State Parks.

3,505 volunteers contributed **145,716** hours = **74.7** full-time employees

Value: **\$1,457,160**

Based on average seasonal wage of \$10/hour

Top activities our volunteers help us with:

- Park Operations and Maintenance
- Environmental Education
- History
- Administration
- Environmental Stewardship
- Trails
- Special events
- Zoo
- Partnerships
- Arts
- Recreation

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Interns represented seven high schools and 52 colleges and universities from 17 different states. Delaware residents make up 41 percent of our interns. 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.

103 active interns served **37,623** hours = **19.29**

full-time employees

Value of service: **\$376,230**

(based on \$10/hour)

Cost of program: \$136,550 in stipend payments

Cost per hour: \$3.62

"It was great to work hard every day knowing that what we were doing helped the community."

— Kathryn Steward, YCC 2018 Intern

Where Volunteers Spent Their Hours

Cape Henlopen State Park	32,017
Trap Pond State Park	15,371
Brandywine Zoo	14,908
White Clay Creek State Park	12,480
Killens Pond State Park	12,107
Lums Pond State Park	9,672
Auburn Valley State Park	8,993
Division Central Office	8,987
Delaware Seashore State Park	8,173
Bellevue State Park	5,178
Brandywine Creek State Park	4,324
Wilmington State Parks	2,367
Alapocas Run State Park/ Blue Ball Barn	2,176
First State Heritage Park	1,818
Holts Landing State Park	1,695
Fort Delaware State Park	1,627
*Other DNREC Partners	3,825
	145,716

Top 3 Intern

Home States:

Delaware: 41
Pennsylvania: 26
Maryland: 11

Top Intern Universities:

University of Delaware: 27
Penn State University: 6
Frostburg University: 5
NC State University: 3
Salisbury University: 3
West Chester University: 3

"I can genuinely say that all the experiences I had and all the information I learned were more beneficial than I could have ever imagined."

— Gregory Biddle
White Clay Creek
State Park Youth
Conservation Corps
Member



"The program was a life-saving program that helped me transition into a career that I have always wanted."

— Andrew Hansen
Vet Corps alumni

YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

During the nine-week summer program for youths between the ages of 14 and 21, **67 YCC participants logged over 12,095 hours of volunteer work, the equivalent of 6.5 full-time employees.** Supported by a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, participants worked on most aspects of running a park, including grounds maintenance, boat rentals, program assistance, environmental stewardship, and administration. At the end of the program, many indicated that the program provided them with valuable experience.

- 93% indicated increased confidence in job-seeking
- 97% learned a new skill
- 4.8 out of 5 cited "comfort with nature" as a result of the program.



AMERICORPS VETERANS CONSERVATION CORPS

22 veterans served 22,502 volunteer work hours as members of the AmeriCorps/Veterans Corps team. Members assisted with installing turtle fencing at Delaware Seashore State Park, Garrisons Lake tree removal and cleanup, painting at the Kranz and Killens Pond intern houses, hanging banners at First State Heritage Park, and a White Clay Creek bridge project.



Meet **Andrew Hansen**: After graduating from high school in 2000, Andrew Hansen joined the Army and served his country for four years, with multiple tours of duty in the Middle East. After leaving the military, Andrew wasn't sure what to do next. He loved the outdoors and making a difference, so he joined the Delaware State Parks Veterans Conservation Corps. There, Andrew developed the knowledge and skill to pursue a career in natural resources. After two terms with the program, Andrew was hired as the Environmental Stewardship Program Team Leader for Delaware State Parks.

FRIENDS OF DELAWARE STATE PARKS

Friends groups are independent, nonprofit 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 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 at Brandywine Creek State Park.

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 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, 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.

The Port Penn Area Historical Society

Raises funds and provides assistance to the Port Penn Interpretive Center.

Trap Pond Partners

Sponsors an annual bike rally, raises funds, writes grants, and provides scholarships for environmental education. They host special events and recently helped bring a new playground to the park.



There are
14
Friends
groups that
actively
support
Delaware
State Parks



ADVISORY COUNCILS

"In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks."

- John Muir
Naturalist

PARKS AND RECREATION COUNCIL

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

Ronald D. Mears, Chair

Brenda J. Bramble
Ronald A. Breeding
Isaac J. Daniels

Janice A. Durham
Gregory E. Johnson
Ed Lewandowsk
Clyde L. Shipman, III

Joseph D. Smack
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 the Open Space program, including 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
Senator Bruce C. Ennis
Lorraine M. Fleming
D. Wayne Holden
David A. Humes
Dorothy P. Leventry
David Sheppard

Ex-Officio Members

Raymond E. Bivens
*State Liaison Officer, Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund
Director, Division of Parks & Recreation*
The Honorable Jeffrey W. Bullock
Secretary, Department of State
The Honorable Michael Scuse
Secretary, Department of Agriculture



COUNCIL ON GREENWAYS AND TRAILS

The Council on Greenways and Trails is an advisory group to DNREC's Division of Parks & Recreation. The Council promotes and encourages the development and use of trails, the protection of greenway conservation corridors, and promotes active and healthy lifestyles.

Governor Appointees

Charles Emerson, Chair

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

Agency Members

Raymond E. Bivens, *DNREC*
Scott Blaier, *Agriculture*
Betsy Gant, *Historical & Cultural Affairs*
Elizabeth Keller, *Tourism*
Todd Pryor, *Transportation*

Legislative Members

Rep. Franklin Cooke
Rep. Raymond Seigfried
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

Richard L. Bergold
Christopher Heckscher
Edward A. Lewandowski
Theodore Harold Palmer Jr.
James F. White Jr.,
John L. Williams, Esq.



"To have all the dedications on one day — Arbor Day — was quite an exciting event. It took many people working together to make the dedications go smoothly. Even the Governor attended and spoke to the schoolchildren about the importance of trees for our atmosphere."

— Joan Maloo
Executive Director
Old-Growth Forest
Network

THINGS WE DO

PRESERVING, SUPPORTING, TEACHING

WE PRESERVED OPEN SPACE

The Land Preservation Office identifies areas of high ecological value and protects these areas by working with landowners who would like to protect their property from development and preserve it in perpetuity. Four state land management divisions qualify for funding under the Open Space Program: the Divisions of Parks & Recreation and Fish & Wildlife (DNREC), State Forestry (Agriculture), and Historical and Cultural Affairs (State).

On Arbor Day, Delaware became the first state in the nation to be recognized by the Old Growth Forest Network for designating a mature forest in each of its counties. The organization, which is dedicated to preserving mature forests, believes that less than one percent of ancient forests remain in the eastern part of the United States. Delaware has three such forests.

WE MAINTAINED STRUCTURES OLD AND NEW

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 the state of Delaware.

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

Baynard Stadium and Alapocas Run State Park are the home fields for the following schools:

Baynard Stadium

- Howard High School of Technology
- Delaware Military Academy
- Salesianum High School
- St. Elizabeth High School

Alapocas Run State Park

- St. Mary Magdalen School
- Immaculate Heart of Mary School
- Charter School of Wilmington (soccer)
- St. Elizabeth High School (lacrosse)
- Salesianum School (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. The park also served as the course for the Henlopen Conference Championship.

There are
624
buildings
in the state
park system.

Almost
600
school
sporting
events take
place in state
parks each
year.

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 **195,544** members of the general public attended more than **4,762** programs.
- **2,623** or **55.08%** of all state park programming presented to the general public is free.
- More than **178,108** people visited state park nature centers in FY2018.
- **99.7%** of participants reported enjoying the program they attended, and **98.2%** stated that they would attend another Delaware State Parks program.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- **16%** of all park programs are delivered to school groups
- **1,069** school programs educated **26,643** school children, totaling **1,028** contact hours in environmental, historical, and cultural heritage.
- In FY2018, **111** state park day camps provided nature-based experiences to **1,400** campers
- **53,791** people came out to enjoy over **76** summer concerts



"Delaware State Parks provide a wonderful combination of access to nature and the expertise to help us experience it. They help our students learn both about our natural wonders and our rich history."

– Bill Nelson
Environmental Education Coordinator at The Jefferson School, Georgetown

Program Attendance FY18

	Number of Programs	Number of Participants	Contact Hours
FY 2018 Total Participation	6,887	403,412	30,706
General Public Programs	4,672	195,544	25,291
Nature Center/Historic Building Visitation		178,108	
School Programs	1,069	26,643	1,029
Summer Day Camps (June - August 2018)	111	1,400	3,515
Summer Concerts (May - September 2018)	76	53,791	

PROTECT AND SERVE



“There are more times than not where our visitors get turned around at Cape Henlopen and get lost. My personal opinion is that, (the K-9 team) is a great public relation asset.”

— Stu Schmidt
President, Friends of
Cape Henlopen State
Park



More than 5 million people visit the state's 17 parks each year, and it is up to the Division's 22 full-time park rangers to help ensure that everyone's visit is enjoyable and safe.

The Division added K-9 units this fiscal year to help make Delaware State Parks even safer for everyone. Vos, a Belgian Malinois, is partnered with Cpl. John Lister at Cape Henlopen State Park, where they serve the Delaware State Parks beach area. Leo, a German Shepard, is partnered with Officer Tyler Ditmore at Lums Pond, serving northern Delaware State Parks.



Both Vos and Leo can assist with search and rescue missions, detect narcotics and explosives, track individuals, and assist with community outreach. The addition of the K-9 teams was made possible through funds raised by the Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park, the Blue Heron Agility Association of Delaware, and from private donors. An endowment has been established at the Delaware Community Foundation for the program.

WE PROVIDED GRANTS

OUTDOOR RECREATION, PARKS AND TRAILS PROGRAM

The Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Trails 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. In FY 2018, DNREC's Division of Parks & Recreation awarded more than \$1,047,286 in grants for 19 new parks and trail projects statewide through the program.



Grants awarded by county and project:

New Castle

- Pomeroy Trail Connector, Newark: **\$37,000**
- Preston's Playground, Newark: **\$60,000**
- Eden Park, Wilmington: **\$100,000**
- Banning Park, Wilmington: **\$100,000**

Total: \$297,000



Kent County

- Town Park, Bowers Beach: **\$3,033**
- Bicentennial Playground, City of Dover: **\$5,000**
- Silver Lake Park, City of Dover: **\$9,000**
- Big Oak Park, Smyrna: **\$100,000**
- George Wright Municipal Park, Smyrna: **\$36,000**
- Lake Como Park, Smyrna: **\$17,500**

Total: \$170,533



Sussex County

- Tidewater Park, Laurel: **\$16,000**
- Rails to Trails, Milton: **\$90,000**
- Grove Park, Rehoboth Beach: **\$90,000**
- Canalfront Park, Lewes: **\$35,000**
- Town Open Space, South Bethany Beach: **\$8,000**
- Millville Park, Millville: **\$100,000**
- Waterfront Park and Access: **\$90,000**
- James Farm Ecological Preserve, Ocean View: **\$67,000**
- Route 9 Trailhead and Recreational Trail, multiple municipalities in Sussex County: **\$83,753**

Total: \$579,753



"DNREC's Outdoor Recreational and Trails Program has been essential in the development and implementation of the Master Plan for the James Farm Ecological Preserve. Through financial support and the technical guidance from their talented staff, our community's vision has become a reality."

— Chris Bason
Executive Director,
Delaware Center for
the Inland Bays

"We were honored to be a grant recipient from DNREC for Preston's Playground. Their generous contribution helped make this amazing playground a reality. We cannot thank them enough for helping us achieve our goal."

— Nic DeCaire
Co-founder,
Preston's Playground

WE RECEIVED GRANT FUNDING

Delaware State Parks and Friends Groups received grant funding from private, state and federal funders. In FY18, we obtained funding from:



Blue Heron Agility Dogs of Delaware: **\$2,000** for protective vests for two new K9 police dogs

Corporation for National and Community Service: **\$285,653** for the Veterans Conservation Corps

Delaware Division of the Arts: **\$10,000** for art programing at the parks

Delaware Division of Public Health: **\$5,000** for Healthy Kids Day at Killens Pond and Trap Pond State Parks

Delaware Humanities Forum: **\$2,500** for the WWI Mobile Museum

Division of Watershed Stewardship: **\$10,000** for the Youth Conservation Corps

State Office of Volunteerism: **\$18,989** for the Youth Conservation Corps

Wilmington Area Rotary Clubs, which received **\$46,850** for the Can-Do Playground from the following organizations: Chichester DuPont Foundation, Discover Bank and Wilmington Flower Market.



OTHER FUNDING:

- State Senator Bryant Richardson and State Representative Timothy Dukes: **\$49,396** in Community Transportation Funding for a new playground at Trap Pond State Park.
- State Senator Ernesto B. Lopez and State Representative Peter C. Schwartzkopf: **\$50,000** in Community Transportation Funding for a pickleball court feasibility study.
- State Senator Gerald Hocker and State Representative Ron Gray: **\$145,000** in Community Transportation Funding for an accessible boat launch and parking at Holts Landing State Park.

WE ARE INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

The Delaware State Parks Trust Fund is an endowed fund at the [Delaware Community Foundation](#), which partners with generous people to expand opportunities for all Delawareans.

By pooling and investing charitable gifts from philanthropists, the Delaware Community Foundation stewards a permanent source of funds to support community resources such as Delaware State Parks.

The Delaware State Parks Trust Fund allows the Division to accept the following types of donations:

Gifts of Cash

Outright gifts of cash are a simple and easy way to sustain Delaware State Parks.

Gifts of Securities

Appreciated stock may be transferred to the Delaware State Parks Trust Fund, allowing donors to put the full use of their investments to work for Delaware Parks while avoiding capital gains taxes. Donors may also take a charitable deduction for the stock's full value.

Gifts of Real Estate

Individuals can gift land and real estate to Delaware State Parks and realize certain tax advantages. In the case of a personal residence or farm, they can retain the right to continue to occupy or rent the property through a special type of gift arrangement.

Gifts of Life Insurance

Donors can make the Delaware State Parks Trust Fund the owner and beneficiary of a life insurance policy. In many cases, the donor will receive a current income tax deduction.

Gifts of Retirement Plan Assets

IRAs and retirement plan benefits often are reduced by estate taxes at death, and then by income taxes. It may be possible to avoid these taxes by designating the Delaware State Parks Trust Fund as the beneficiary of an IRA or employee benefit plan.

Charitable Bequests

Bequests take many forms and are deductible against the estate tax. The Delaware Community Foundation's planned-giving specialists work directly with donors or with the donor's estate-planning advisor to maximize the effectiveness of the gift and the tax advantages associated with it.

To learn more, go to [delcf.org](#), or call (302) 571-8004.



HOW WE PAY FOR IT

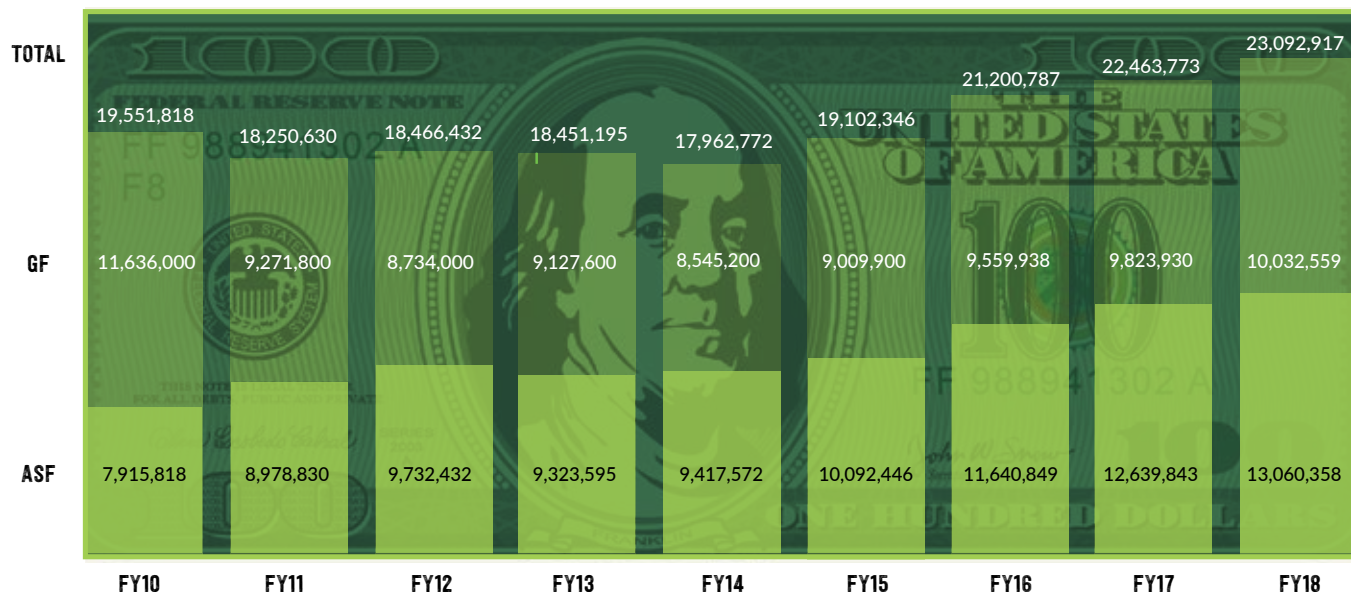
FUNDING THE PARKS

DNREC's Division of Parks & Recreation is primarily (65%) self-funded, which is unique within Delaware 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. These include:

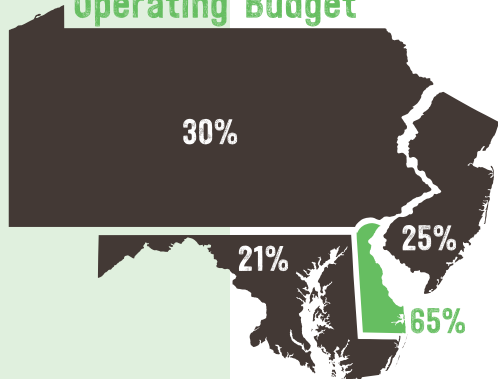
- Weather (rainy summer season, hurricanes, excessive heat, etc.)
- Gas prices and economic swings that affect the amount of discretionary money available to vacationers
- Carrying capacity limitations at ocean parks and other large revenue-generating management units

Fees and other revenue pay for annual increases in operating expenses and unfunded mandates. Operating expenses have increased during the last four years due to the Division's assumption of items once paid for with general funds and from investments made in revenue-producing improvements such as cabins and campsites.

OPERATING EXPENSES: FY10 TO FY18



Self-Sufficient Operating Budget

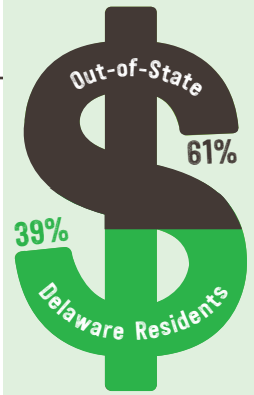
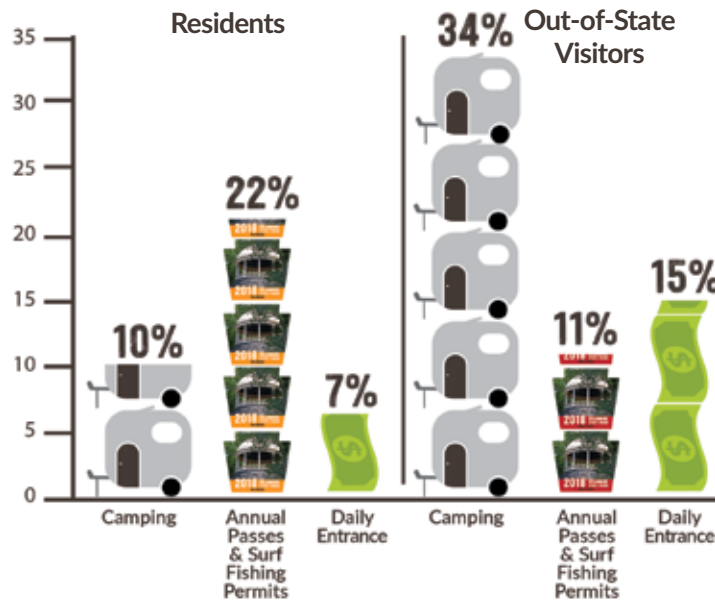


In Delaware, most of the funds for operating state parks come from park-generated revenue such as fees, permits, and passes. Only 35% of park operating funds comes from the state budget. This is quite different from our neighboring states.

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.

FY18 revenue from camping, annual passes and permits, and daily entrance fees alone totaled \$10,859,271

SOURCES OF REVENUE



Over 61% of revenues came from out-of-state visitors to the parks.

TAKING AN ENTREPRENEURIAL APPROACH

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

Low-Digit Surf Tag Auction

Since the inception of the program, the Division has sold **172** plates for a total of **\$457,188**.

Yurts, Cottages and Cabins

Yurts, cottages and new cabins are in high demand and have proven to be a good investment. They enjoyed a **56%** occupancy rate for FY2018, with an **89%** occupancy rate during the peak season of Memorial Day through Labor Day.

State Park Concessions

Privately-owned concessionaires and partners are running businesses at state park locations, paying **\$415,874** in negotiated fees back to the Division in 2018. Services provided included head boat fishing, food service, horseback riding, non-motorized boat rentals, tennis, bait and tackle, and a high-ropes adventure course.

Camp Store

The Division opened a new camp store at Cape Henlopen State Park that generated **\$178,572.19** in 2018. The newly-renovated Cape Henlopen State Park Nature Center also generated **\$102,197.89** in retail sales during that time.

Retail operations have grown significantly in 2018, **up 24 percent from \$516,244 in 2017 to \$640,890 in 2018**. Some of the top-selling items include clothing, handmade pottery, jewelry, collectibles, stuffed animals, maps, decals, food, ice, firewood and camping necessities.

Camping By The Numbers

- Camping generates **44%** of park fee revenue
- **37,660** reservations were made for Delaware State Parks campsites, cabins, yurts and cottages across the state in FY18
- The occupancy rate for campgrounds, cabins, cottages and yurts was **56%** in FY18. During peak season, Memorial through Labor Day, the occupancy rate was **89%**

INVESTMENTS IN OUR PARKS

This past year has seen the completion of many projects that will enhance visitor experiences and strengthen our parks for years to come. The following are examples from throughout the park system.

- **Park Office at Auburn Valley State Park**

The Auburn Valley State Park office was moved from the basement of the Auburn Heights mansion to the building that previously housed the paper mill. The newly-renovated Paper Mill building now has a modern feel that still preserves its historic past and is in a more central location for the park. The new office was completed in February 2018.

Project Cost: \$268,000

- **Tower Restoration and Renovation at Delaware Seashore State Park**

Phase One of the restoration and renovation of Delaware Seashore Tower 3 was completed in February 2018. New sidewalks, a glass door, and night lighting were all installed.

Project Cost: \$52,998

- **New Playgrounds at Delaware Seashore, Trap Pond, and Holts Landing State Parks**

The Division made its largest-ever investment in new playgrounds in 2018, with new installations at three parks. The state-of-the-art equipment was installed in the spring of 2018.

Project Cost: \$330,262





- **Officers Club at Cape Henlopen State Park**

The Officers Club had its roof replaced, asbestos abated, and new ceilings installed. A new HVAC system and energy-efficient water heaters were also installed. The remediation and repairs will allow for additional summer rentals while reducing energy use.

Project cost: \$204,277

- **Roof at White Clay Creek's Deerfield Golf Course**

The roof at Deerfield, which has been in disrepair for a number of years, was replaced in April. The new roof has 50-year shingles and flashings made of stainless steel.

Project Cost: \$823,230

- **Charging Stations at Holts Landing State Park**

Clean energy charging stations were installed in the spring at Holts Landing State Park, Indian River Marina, and Bellevue State Park. The charging stations are in keeping with DNREC's commitment to reducing the use of fossil fuels. The project was funded through an energy grant from DNREC's Division of Climate, Coastal & Energy.

Project Cost: \$25,264

- **Parking Lot at Holts Landing State Park**

With more visitors using the accessible boat ramp installed the previous year, the parking lot at Holts Landing State Park expanded by 36 truck and trailer spots to accommodate the increase in visitation.

Project Cost: \$477,000



- **Dock Extension at Indian River Marina Inlet**

A new queuing dock extension was installed in 2018.

Project Cost: \$372,000

- **Culvert at Brandywine Creek State Park**

Brandywine Creek State Park had a culvert installed along a trail to mitigate excessive water runoff. The improved drainage will decrease erosion along the trail.

Project Cost: \$93,000

PARTNERSHIPS



Partnerships with local and national business, government, and nonprofit groups enable Delaware State Parks to offer additional services and programs, enhancing the visitor experience and helping to fulfill the Division's mission.

The University of Delaware

The University of Delaware designated Lums Pond State Park as the official campground site for its athletics department in 2018. The partnership included a video played at all home football games and a season-long social media campaign designed to encourage football fans to camp at the park.



Wilmington Blue Rocks

Delaware State Parks partnered with the Wilmington Blue Rocks baseball team to provide fans with video commercials, game-day announcements, and radio commercials. Rocky Bluewinkle, the team's mascot, also visited six state parks for photo opportunities.

"Delaware's Gold Medal State Parks are a big part of Sussex County's \$1.7 billion tourism industry. Aside from serving as tremendous natural attractions, more and more visitors are participating in park programs and attending events staged within the parks system."

— Scott Thomas
Executive Director,
Southern Delaware Tourism

Southern Delaware Tourism

Tourism is vital to Southern Delaware's economy, accounting for \$1.7 billion in GDP annually and supporting 18,000 jobs, and Cape Henlopen, Delaware Seashore, Holts Landing, Fenwick Island and Trap Pond State Parks all play a huge role in bringing tourists to Southern Delaware. In recognition of this, Southern Delaware Tourism selected Delaware State Parks as its **2018 Tourism Partner of the Year**. The Sussex County parks drew more than 3 million visitors to Southern Delaware in 2018 and contributed more than \$290 million to Southern Delaware's economy by offering overnight accommodations and family-friendly events such as Delaware Seashore State Park's Boo-B-Que Festival and Cape Henlopen State Park's Winter WonderFEST drive-through light show.



Winter Wonderfest

For the third year in a row, the nonprofit Festival of Cheer partnered with Delaware State Parks to bring family-friendly fun to the Delaware shore during the off-season. Cape Henlopen State Park was the backdrop for the *Dashing Through the Show* 5K event and the *Light Spectacular*, which allows visitors to enjoy more than 100 light displays from the warmth of their vehicles. Since its inception in 2016,

WinterWonderFEST has attracted more than 60,000 visitors from 31 states to Sussex County. The festival draws people to the Delaware shore just before Thanksgiving and wraps up on New Year's Eve.

Boo-B-Que Barbeque & Brews Festival

The fourth annual Boo-B-Que, a Kansas City Barbeque Society-sanctioned competition and family festival, was held in October at Delaware Seashore State Park. The event included a cornhole tournament, a barbeque competition, musicians, a beer garden, and trick-or-treating and a costume contest for children. The festival supports the Delaware Children in Nature Initiative.



Smyrna High School and the University of Delaware

Deerfield and Garrisons Lake, both initially opened as private clubs, are today considered two of the best public golf courses in the state. By working collaboratively with Forewinds Hospitality, the Division has made both courses available to the public for recreation, weddings, golf camps and other special events. Deerfield is the practice site for the University of Delaware's Women's Golf Team, while Garrisons Lake hosts Smyrna High School's golf team.



"When I started the Women's Golf Program at the University of Delaware 8 years ago, Deerfield welcomed us as our home facility. We continue to enjoy playing and practicing at Deerfield a few days a week. The course provides a great test for our players."

— Patty Post
Women's Golf Coach,
University of Delaware



Hispanic Heritage Festival

The Hispanic Heritage Festival, hosted by *Hoy En Delaware*, saw more than 1,000 attendees in its second year at Bellevue State Park's Figure 8 Barn, attracting visitors from the tri-state area and all three Delaware counties. Multiple Hispanic countries were represented at the festival through music, dance, food, and exhibits. The festival will return in 2019.



Cabela's

Cabela's, a major sporting goods retailer, now sells Delaware State Parks annual passes and surf fishing permits at their Newark location. Cabela's also supports programming and events by providing gear and donations.



Sussex County Habitat for Humanity

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



ENTREPRENEURIAL ADVANCES



Corporate and Group Passes

The Corporate and Group Pass Program added eligibility to nonprofit groups this year and continued to grow in 2018, selling 1,109 annual passes and generating \$33,270 in revenue. Cross-country teams from Ursuline and Archmere academies, Delaware Premier League cricket clubs, and Delaware Sports League soccer teams participated in the program. The Corporate Pass Program also boosted interest in corporate volunteer projects in the parks.

Summer Concert Series Sponsorships

The 2018 Summer Concert Series included 76 musical performances and hosted 53,791 attendees. The title sponsor for the series was the Delaware Office of Highway Safety, which promoted its *Arrive Alive* campaign. Other sponsors included Dogfish Head Craft Brewery, Friends of Bellevue State Park, Friends of White Clay Creek State Park, Friends of Wilmington State Parks, Friends of Killens Pond State Park, Friends of Holts Landing State Park and Trap Pond Partners.



SMALL BUSINESSES

18 businesses served as concessionaires in the parks in FY18, providing food, experiences, and rental equipment for park visitors.

Food Vendors

- Hook'em and Cook'em Tackle and Seafood
- Jay Vending (at Killens Pond, Cape Henlopen, Fenwick Island and Delaware Seashore State Parks)
- Jay Kay Snacks
- La Vida Hospitality (Big Chill Beach Club)
- Hammerheads Dockside
- Pineapple Catering

Service Vendors

- Coastal Kayak
- Excellence Tennis Academy
- Forewinds Hospitality (Garrisons Lake and Deerfield)
- Go Ape Treetop Adventures
- Lighthouse View Bait & Tackle
- Old Inlet Bait & Tackle
- ProTrade LLC
- Summit North Marina
- Sunset Stables
- Quest Kayak
- Wellspring Farm

"It's been an exciting two seasons working with Cape Henlopen State Park! We look forward to families, friends, and youth groups experiencing Kayaks, Stand Up Paddleboard tours and rentals... for years to come."

— Matt Carter
Owner, Quest
Adventures



Total gross revenue for these businesses was over

\$15 million

in FY2018 — a 36% increase in revenue generated by park businesses

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

The Big Chill Beach Club at Delaware Seashore State Park enjoyed its second year of operation. The restaurant, with its views of the Atlantic Ocean, the inlet and inland bays, **served 200,000 customers** in 2018. The restaurant also **served 70,000 pounds of french fries**. The restaurant **contributed \$100,000 a year in daily entrance fees to the park**.

"We're proud of our partnership with DNREC and the location of our Go Ape course in Lums Pond State Park. DNREC has balanced preserving the natural beauty of the park while maintaining an entrepreneurial approach that has made Lums Pond a premium destination for all park visitors. Their successful management of Lums Pond has made for an ideal location for Go Ape and is the gold standard for public-private partnerships."

— Suzanne Coblenz
Head of Marketing
Go Ape!

MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

There has been a **16%** decline in general fund support since 2009

LIMITED GENERAL FUND SUPPORT

Why is this an issue?

Since 2009, the Division of Parks & Recreation has seen its general 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 had to accomplish a lot more with much less.

2009	2018	% Change
General Fund Support		
11,945,300	10,032,559	-16%
Total Expenses		
19,681,789	23,092,917	+14.7%

2009	2018	% Change
Number of Full-Time Employees		
197	153	-22.3%
Number of Park Visitors		
4,649,525	5,892,564	+26%



MORE VISITORS, FEWER FULL-TIME STAFF

Why is this an issue?

Park visitation has grown to 5,892,564 visitors annually, an increase of 1.1 million visitors since 2009. During that same time period, the Division experienced a 22.3 percent decrease in its full-time staff. Increasingly, our parks are being used by schools, nonprofits, and other public and private entities to hold special events like 5K races, half marathons and group outings. The drop in the number of staff, along with the increase in visitation, makes it more challenging to ensure the smooth running of events and the safety and enjoyment of our visitors.



CARRYING CAPACITY AT THE BEACH PARKS

Why is this an issue?

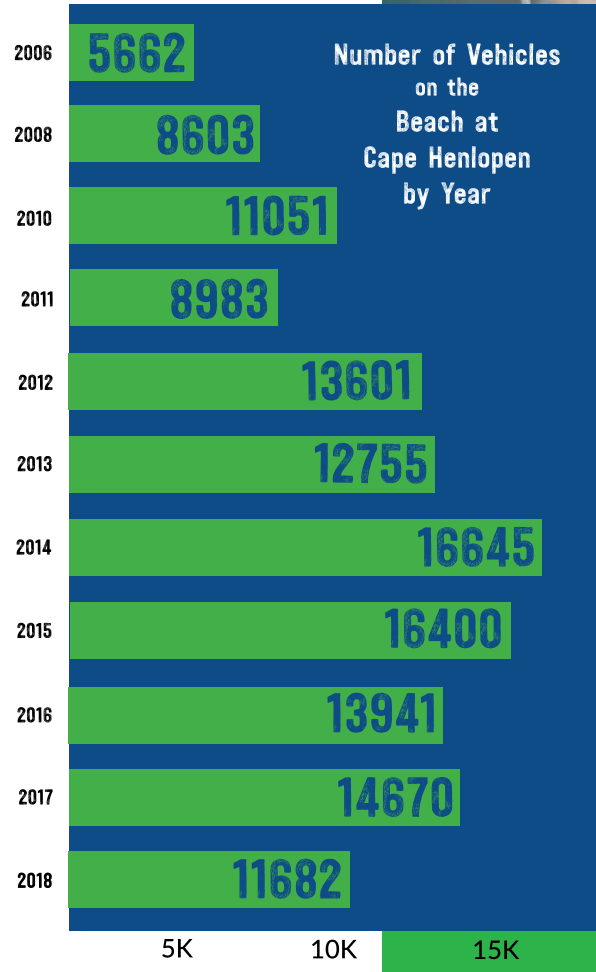
Delaware Seashore, Cape Henlopen and Fenwick Island State Parks regularly fill their parking capacity and are forced to turn vehicles away on most summer weekends. These parks are the main revenue generators for the park system, and limited parking capacity places a cap on the amount of revenue these parks can generate. Carrying capacity for vehicles on the beach also is an issue. For safety and environmental protection, single-file surf-fishing beach parking was initiated in 2015, further reducing the amount of space available for parking.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEFERRED MAINTENANCE NEEDS

Why is this an issue?

The Division has a limited capital budget and \$160 million in capital needs across our 17 parks. Examples of deferred maintenance and infrastructure projects include:

- The Cape Henlopen State Park sewer system is more than 50 years old. It will cost approximately \$5 million to repair and replace it.
- The park system maintains 624 buildings. About 200 of those buildings are historic structures that require costly repairs and maintenance.
- In a given year, we spend \$8 to \$10 million on rehabilitating the park system, including repairing roads, resurfacing parking lots, replacing roofs, and updating bathrooms and other structures to make them more accessible for individuals with disabilities.



200
of the park system's historic structures are in need of repair

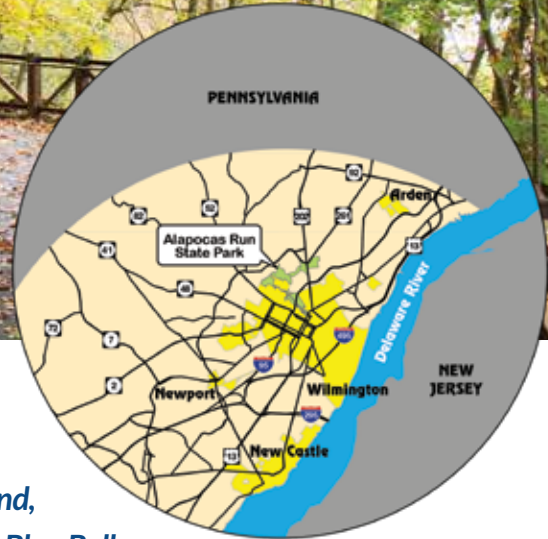
INFO BY PARK



“ These are the people’s parks,
owned by young and old. ”

-Harry S. Truman

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 the 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.

ALAPOCAS RUN
at a Glance

-  **359.28**
Acres
-  **6.4**
Miles of trails
-  **124,853**
Visitors
-  **5/24**
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff
-  **2,175**
Volunteer hours
-  **64/15,934**
Programs/Participants
-  **5/55**
Day Camps/Campers

FY2018 INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

The Division entered into a land swap agreement with **Rockford Falls Partners LLC**. In exchange for 1.53 acres of land, Rockford Falls Partners gave the Division 3.92 acres of land along the Brandywine Creek at the former Bancroft Mills site. The partnership included an agreement to install bathrooms, renovate an old train platform, maintain 25 parking spaces and build a new pavilion at the park.

Other projects completed in 2018 include:

- Electric service to the maintenance facility
- Expansion of the automatic irrigation system to two of the three athletic fields
- HVAC repairs at Blue Ball Barn

SPECIAL EVENTS

The park partnered with the Friends of Wilmington Parks and different community groups to offer four **Foodie Friday** events between May and October, more than 1,000 people attended

The **Meandering Meal**, featuring food and drinks provided by Café Gelato, catered to a sold-out crowd.



Local breweries, including Dogfish Head, Brick Works Brewing and Eats, Big Oyster Brewing Company, Crooked Hammock, and Wilmington Brew Works, participated in the annual **Delaware Brew Story** event, which celebrated women in brewing in the First State.



SPORTING EVENTS

The Delaware Sports League uses the park for its adult kickball, flag football and soccer programs.

Delaware Ultimate League uses the park to play Ultimate Frisbee



"This special playground, where dreams are never disabled, has been such a success and benefit to our community thanks to the partnership of the greater Wilmington area Rotary Clubs and the Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation. It is always a thrill to go to the playground to talk with parents and children and watch them experience the real benefit of play with one another no matter who they are.

— Tom Talley
Board Chairman,
Wilmington Delaware
Area Rotary Clubs
Community Fund

PARTNERSHIPS

In November, the Wilmington Area Rotary Clubs installed educational waysides at the Can-Do Playground. The new signs provide information about birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and insects found at the park.

FRIENDS OF WILMINGTON PARKS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Two bike repair stations were added, with the first installed just outside the historic Blue Ball Barn, and the second located near the Can-Do Playground and playing fields.

Friends of Wilmington State Parks provided support and sponsorship of STEM-based education and programming for Title I urban schools and community groups, impacting nearly 1,900 students this year.



"Delaware Ultimate has been utilizing the fields at Alapocas Run State Park for most of our 10+ years as an organization. On any given week you can show up to the fields and meet someone new who is willing to challenge you to play harder and/or teach you a new skill. We pride ourselves on being inclusive to all."

— Andrew Wisor
Council member, Delaware Ultimate Council

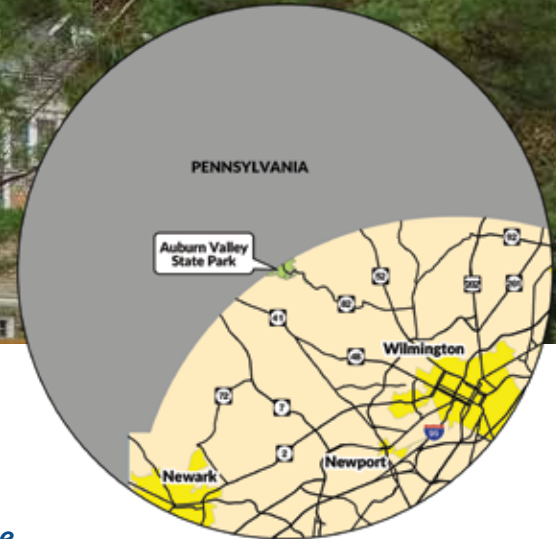
Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

- Alapocas Run waterfall bridge stonewall stabilization project
- Design and install stormwater devices



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. Auburn Valley is also Delaware's 17th state park.

AUBURN VALLEY
at a Glance

-  **488**
Acres
-  **4.56**
Miles of trails
-  **17,503**
Visitors
-  **3/5**
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff
-  **8,993.10**
Volunteer hours
-  **104/17,503**
Programs/Participants

"The Wilmington & Western Railroad, operated by Historic Red Clay Valley, Inc. is pleased to work with the State of Delaware on a number of projects, including maintaining and upgrading our track and grade crossings, and the development of the NVF site at Auburn Valley State Park."

— P. Alexander Horneman
Executive Director, HRCV, Inc.

FY2018 INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

The **Auburn Valley State Park office** was moved from the basement of the Auburn Heights mansion to the building that previously housed the paper mill. The newly-renovated Paper Mill building now has a modern feel that still preserves its historic past and is in a more central location. The new office was completed in February 2018.

Cost: \$268,000

A 120-foot-long, 15-foot-wide **pedestrian bridge** that was built in 1883 was removed from an Iowa park and installed in Auburn Valley State Park.

Cost: \$479,750



Site work was required to install **The Marshall Bridge** over Red Clay Creek near the original paper mill. The site work and bridge connect the park trails.

Cost: \$2,745,017

Restroom renovations were completed in the spring. **Cost: \$49,900**

Dams in the park were repaired. **Cost: \$250,000**

“..My boyfriend and I spent the afternoon exploring Delaware’s newest state park. We loved it! What a neat area and beautiful trails. We definitely plan to come back when the steam car museum is open, too. I can totally see how the park will help redevelop Yorklyn”

— Madeleine Overturf
Bureau Chief for WBOC-TV

SPECIAL EVENTS

In January, Gov. John Carney and members of DNREC received the **2017 Pisces Award** from the Environmental Protection Agency for the work done to remediate the land that housed the former National Vulcanized Rubber Factory, now part of Auburn Valley State Park. The Auburn Valley site was one of only five nationally to receive the award.

On Nov. 9, 2018, **Auburn Valley officially became Delaware’s 17th state park.** Tom and Ruth Marshall donated the mansion and steam car museum to the state in 2008. A historic bridge in the park is named after the Marshall family.

A railroad turntable was shipped to the park from the Illinois Railroad Museum. The turntable was built in 1910 by the American Bridge Company of New York. DNREC bought the turn table for \$4,900, saving it from being sold as scrap metal.



The Marshall Steam Museum Egg Hunt, held over two days in April, drew **1,008 people** to the park.

Yorklyn Day, a partnership with the Center for the Creative Arts, was held in June. The festival, which includes live music, food, antique autos, and train rides, drew **1,500** to the park.

FRIENDS OF AUBURN HEIGHTS PRESERVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Friends hosted the **Eastern Invitational Steam Car Tour** in July. The event drew 38 operating steam cars and more than **120 operators and passengers**. Visitors came from 24 states and Canada, with one from Australia.

The Friends completed the successful **Marshall Tribute Challenge Campaign**, raising \$52,500

The Friends have published a compilation of Tom Marshall’s Weekly News: **“How it was: Selections from Tom Marshall’s Weekly News.”**

Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

- Secondary emergency exits for Carriage House offices
- Public restroom renovation in mansion for Americans with Disabilities Act compliance
- Trail system and historic bridge improvements
- Steam Car Museum renovation and asphalt resurfacing
- Mansion parking lot plan, design and construction, and septic tank replacement
- Parking lot construction and lighting to facilitate evening events
- Long-term solution to fire suppression

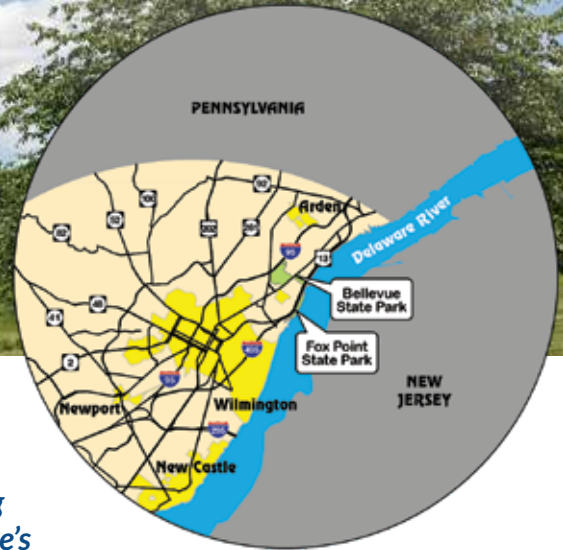
“Magical, Historical, worth the trip.”

— Kristin Marinelli
Facebook review



Friends of
Auburn Heights Preserve Inc.

BELLEVUE AND FOX POINT STATE PARKS




Once an elegant estate belonging to the prominent du Pont family, Bellevue State Park features Bellevue Hall, tennis courts, equestrian stables, gardens, and a 1½-mile fitness track surrounding a picturesque pond. Visitors can stroll the grounds, explore the estate's small arboretum, take in a summer concert, or just get away from the hustle and bustle of Wilmington.

Fox Point State Park offers a relaxing outing to stroll, picnic, or just watch the boats go by on the Delaware River. Horseshoe pits, a volleyball court, and a children's play area are some of the more active pursuits available. The park serves as the northern terminus of the 90-mile-long Coastal Heritage Greenway, which stretches south to Cape Henlopen State Park and highlights Delaware's natural, cultural, and recreational diversity. Fox Point is also the eastern-most point of the Northern Delaware Greenway.

BELLEVUE/FOX POINT at a Glance

 **330.05**
Acres

 **11.02**
Miles of trails (Including Fox Point)

 **309,697**
Visitors

 **8/64**
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff

 **5,177.58**
Volunteer hours

 **253/79,481**
Programs/Participants

 **26/371**
Day Camps/Campers

FY2018

INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

Design concepts to **renovate the Hunter Barn restrooms** for facility rental and trail users were completed in 2018. The project was bid out, and the six-month project is expected to be completed in 2019.

Cost: **\$559,800**

An **electric charging station** was installed at the park, offering visitors an energy source for electric and hybrid vehicles. Bellevue State Park joins Delaware Seashore State Park and Holts Landing State Park in offering the alternative energy source.

Cost: **\$7,974**



SPECIAL EVENTS

The park hosted 24 concerts during its **31st Annual Summer Concert Series, which drew 37,525 people**, an increase of 2,165 attendees over the previous year.



In September, the park held its first **Dining with History event**, which sold out. Attendees visited Bellevue Hall, Cauffiel House and Mount Pleasant Meeting House and Parsonage, with a three-course meal and interpretive tour at the sites. Park staff worked with the Friends of Bellevue to provide wine with dinner and host dessert at Mount Pleasant Parsonage.

In April and May, Bellevue interpreters presented **Lifecycles**, a multi-sensory exploration into the life cycles of three different organisms: butterflies, dragonflies and frogs.

Bellevue **park interpreters provided 41 programs to 781 students** from both public and private schools during the month of May, including Title 1 schools in **Brandywine, Red Clay and Christiana School Districts**. Several schools from Pennsylvania also participated.



On June 7, the Figure 8 Barn hosted more than 650 people for events ranging from a graduation party and Boy Scout awards to Delaware Claims and the Five Fifty 5K.

SPORTING EVENTS

The 2018 **Delaware Walk for Autism** was held at Fox Point on April 21. The event drew about 2,500 participants and raised more than **\$150,000** for statewide autism services.



PARTNERSHIPS

The Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church and Parsonage received a historical marker at a November dedication ceremony attended by DNREC Secretary Shawn M. Garvin and State Representative Deb Heffernan, among others. The funding for the marker was provided by the Friends of Bellevue, The Longwood Foundation, Crystal Trust, Crestlea Foundation and Representative Heffernan. The meetinghouse is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural significance.



FRIENDS OF BELLEVUE STATE PARK ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In May, The Friends provided **10 motion-detecting solar lights** to improve security around Bellevue Hall, the Figure 8 Barn and the main parking lot. They also secured the following grants:

- A \$40,000 grant from the Longwood Foundation for **repairs to the Mt. Pleasant Meeting House** that will be matched with state funds.
- A \$5,000 grant from the Crestlea Foundation to complete the **restoration of grave markers** in the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.

The Friends worked with staff to decorate a wagon for the **Claymont Christmas parade**. The hayride featured outdoor activities at Bellevue.

The Friends also received \$6,815 from the Eastern Brandywine Hundred Coordinating Council for **historic cemetery markers at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery** and to design kiosk and brochures.



"The park staff was extremely helpful and went above and beyond to help us make our event great! Fox Point with its views of both the trains and the passing ships is a hit year over year with our families."

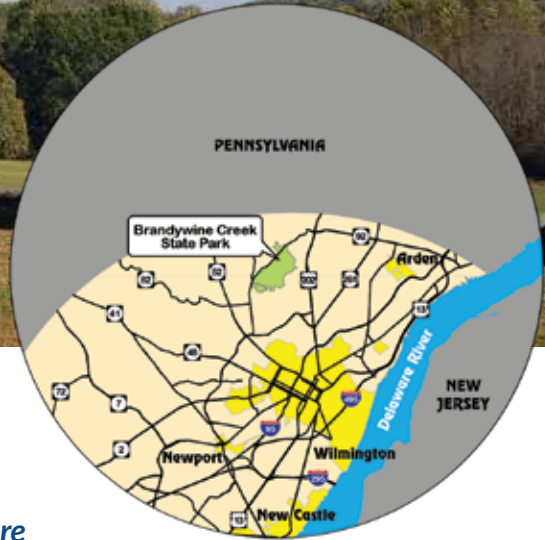
— Deanna Principe
Events Manager, Autism Delaware

Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

- Water tower exterior repairs
- Cabana restroom renovation
- Sidewalk between the arts building and mansion
- Cauffel Barn renovations
- Park office improvements to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Repair of Percheron Barn and office roads
- Damaged bike path repair
- Barn painting
- Complete the second and third floor of Bellevue Hall
- Cauffel House HVAC repair and replacement
- Fox Point parking lots lights replacement
- Paving of parking lots, roadways, Phase II roads and parking lots at Fox Point
- Renovations of all public restrooms and an increase in the size of the main restroom
- Renovations to historic buildings

BRANDYWINE CREEK STATE PARK



Brandywine Creek State Park is home to many different habitats, from rolling hills and meadows to the forested banks of 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 leisurely summertime canoe or tubing trips down the creek.

BRANDYWINE CREEK at a Glance

 **952.02**
Acres

 **18.74**
Miles of trails

 **108,876**
Visitors

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

 **4,323.88**
Volunteer hours

 **179/11,043**
Programs/Participants

 **14/174**
Day Camps/Campers

Readers Digest listed Brandywine Creek as the No. 1 spot for picnicking in Delaware

FY2018

INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

The **Wilson Farm house**, located in the center of the park, underwent an interior renovation.

Cost: **\$100,000**



Sinkhole and shore bridge abutments were repaired.

Cost: **\$30,000**

Repairs were made to the **historical stone wall** surrounding the park.

Cost: **\$53,000**

The stone fascia at the **Kirk Animal Barn** was repaired.

Cost: **\$97,000**

Three garages in the park received new roofs.

Cost: **\$16,000**

The **nature center** received a new entrance sidewalk and water fountain.

Cost: **\$15,000**

SPECIAL EVENTS

Brandywine Creek hosted the **Delaware Outdoor Family Campout** on April 21 and April 22. The event drew 11 fourth-grade students from Academia Antonia Alonso and their families, with a total of 42 people spending the night under the stars. The program taught participants how to set up a tent, fish and cook over an open fire. Campers received a special visit from DNREC Secretary Shawn M. Garvin, Deputy Secretary Lisa Borin Ogden, and a special guest appearance by Smokey the Bear.



The **Tulip Tree Nature Preserve** within Brandywine Creek was dedicated as part of the Old Growth Forest Network on Arbor Day 2018, with Governor Carney and DNREC Secretary Garvin on hand.

Ramsey's Revenge Mountain Bike Race was held in June, attracting 300 competitors. Bicycling.com, a national publication dedicated to health and fitness, included the race as one of 15 that cyclists should seriously consider entering in 2019.

SPORTING EVENTS

The park hosted 12 cross country meets in 2018, including the **Salesianum Invitational** and the **State Championship meet**. Both events drew about 2,000 spectators. Brandywine Creek also serves as the practice course for many area high schools.

Brandywine Creek teamed up with **Green Grazers** to use **goats** as a natural invasive plant control in one of the meadows. The initial concept worked well, and the park plans to place goats into a larger meadow next summer.

PARTNERSHIPS

Brandywine Creek State Park partnered with **First State National Historical Park** on maintenance, programing and enforcement. First State National Historical Park was established by the federal government in 2013 as the 400th unit of the national park system.

FRIENDS OF BRANDYWINE CREEK STATE PARK ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Friends of Brandywine Creek champion volunteerism, education, and stewardship at the park.



Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

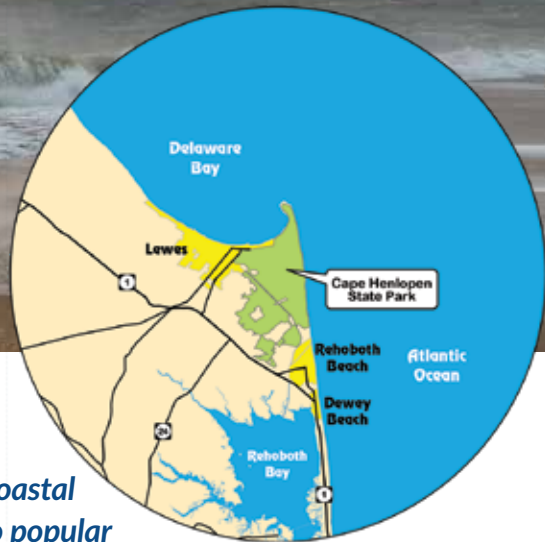
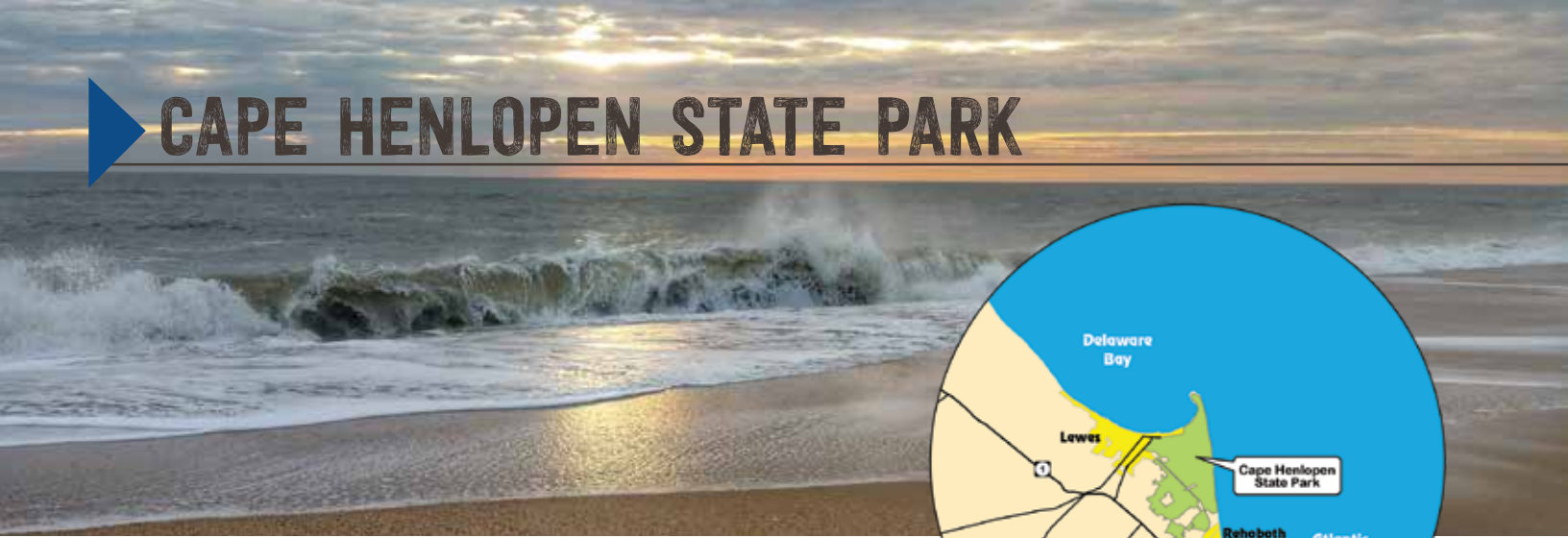
- Maintenance shop security fence
- Park entrance road sinkhole repairs
- Pave and fix erosion on existing stone trails
- Fenton Barn pricing demolition
- Road repaving, pothole repairs
- Nature center upgrade: restrooms, classrooms and ranger office
- Replacements for failed composting restrooms at Thompson's Bridge
- ADA-compliant bathrooms at the park office that are available outside of office hours



"The annual Salesianum Invitational would not be the great event it is if we did not have the unbelievable venue of the Brandywine Creek State Park. This cross country course is known throughout the region for being one of the most challenging and also one of the best to run. Delaware State Parks keeps the course in great shape and is integral in helping us host one of the region's best, and biggest cross country invitationals."

— Michael LoSapio
Cross Country Coach at Salesianum High School

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, great fishing, 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

-  **5,302.01**
Acres
-  **18.3**
Miles of trails
-  **171**
Campsites
-  **1,438,492**
Visitors
-  **16/100**
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff
-  **32,016.77**
Volunteer hours
-  **511/103,636**
Programs/Participants
-  **10/125**
Day Camps/Campers

FY2018 INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

In January 2018, the **Officers' Club** received a much-needed overhaul. A leaky roof caused mold and ceiling damage. The Division abated asbestos, replaced the ceiling, installed a new HVAC system, installed energy-efficient water heaters, and replaced the roof. The improvements should make additional summer rentals possible.

Costs: \$204,277

Accessible pole showers were installed at Gordon's Pond, replacing the foot showers.

Cost: \$10,200

The **pavilion** at Gordon's Pond was painted. **Cost: \$6,960**

Dormitory staff housing received new flooring and an energy-efficient water heater. The dormitory houses 25 educational interns, seasonal park patrol officers, and life guards.

Cost: \$37,000

SPECIAL EVENTS

More than **1,000 people** attended the **50th Anniversary of the Great Delaware Kite Festival**. The event is a partnership between the Lewes Chamber of Commerce and Delaware State Parks.

Winter Wonderfest held its *Light Spectacular* show at the campground for the third straight year. The event draws about **60,000 people** from 31 states annually.

A record-breaking **2,000 people** attended the **Delaware Goes to War** annual event in April. The event is a partnership between Delaware State Parks, the Fort Miles Historical Association, the 261st Artillery Historical Interpreters, and other units. Interpreters dressed in period clothing re-enacted the lives of military personnel stationed at Fort Miles during WWII.

About **450 people** attended the **100th anniversary of World War I** event at the Fort Miles Museum in December. Visitors learned what soldiers experienced during the war from six guest presenters.

Special Olympics Delaware held its annual **Families Day at The Beach** in September. The event gives families an opportunity to enjoy a day in the park and learn to fish at the fishing pier.



Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

- Sewer replacement and upgrades
- Biden Center renovations
- Resurface main beach house parking lot
- Stair repair at Tower 7
- Youth camps air conditioning
- Entrance along Cape Henlopen Drive from Freeman Highway
- New fishing pier
- Fort Miles entrance road and parking lot
- Fort Miles Historical Association plan development and implementation
- Replacement of WWII-era roadways, including Fort Miles' roads, parking, and accessibility
- Major renovation and potential expansions of the main beach comfort station in response to increased visitation
- Planning for replacement of the fishing pier

“Over the years, Special Olympics have utilized Cape Henlopen State Park for a variety of events and activities... It is the annual "Families Day at the Beach" that year after year has stood out the most. On that Saturday in September, Cape Henlopen State Park is a destination for our families from all over the state. Cape Henlopen State Park, and the people involved with it, truly have made a difference in the lives of our athletes, their families and our volunteers!”

— Ann Grunert
Executive Director
Special Olympics Delaware

“My son was caught in a rip current. I thought I was going to lose him when he kept going under. Your guard fought hard to get out there and then get them both back safely. My son is still here because of him. I could never repay him. Please extend my gratitude to the guard. Thank you.”

— Katrina Smith
Cape Henlopen State
Park visitor

“The collaborative sponsorship for the Great Delaware Kite Festival has been going on a very long time – 51 years. It’s a perfect partnership, with the park providing a wonderful venue and staff to accommodate the thousands of people who come to fly a kite on Good Friday and the chamber’s members sponsoring awards for the competitors.”

— Betsy Reamer
Executive Director, Lewes Chamber of Commerce

SPORTING EVENTS

The Friends of Cape Henlopen held their annual **Kids Fishing Tournament, Wine and Cheese Event, Flea Market, and Chocolate Tasting**. They also organized monthly trails days throughout the year.



More than 200 visitors enjoyed artillery demonstrations, Battery 519, lantern tours and Cold War Bike Tours at Fort Miles during the week of July 19.

The **Coastal Delaware Marathon**, which benefits the Delaware Seashore Preservation Foundation, took place on April 22. The marathon began in Rehoboth Beach and ran through much of Cape Henlopen State Park. About 3,000 people participated in the event.

The **Rehoboth Beach Seashore Marathon** took place on December 8. The marathon drew about 3,000 attendees and raised funds for multiple organizations, including the Friends of Cape Henlopen.



The Fort Miles Historical Association partnered with Fins Restaurant Group to hold the inaugural **Big Oyster Brewery "For the People" 4.25-mile run/walk**, which drew 200 people to the park. Proceeds raised benefited the park.

The park hosted 21 other sporting events, drawing more than 5,000 attendees. The events included: The **2018 Autism Walk**, the **DE-Foot Breast Cancer 5K run/ walk**, the **Kidney Walk**, **Loopin' the Library** bicycle event, the **Lewes Farmers' Market Hoedown**, the annual **Beth Coltman Memorial Ultimate Frisbee Tournament**, the **Wilmington Rugby Tournament**, and two different surf-fishing tournaments.

FRIENDS GROUPS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

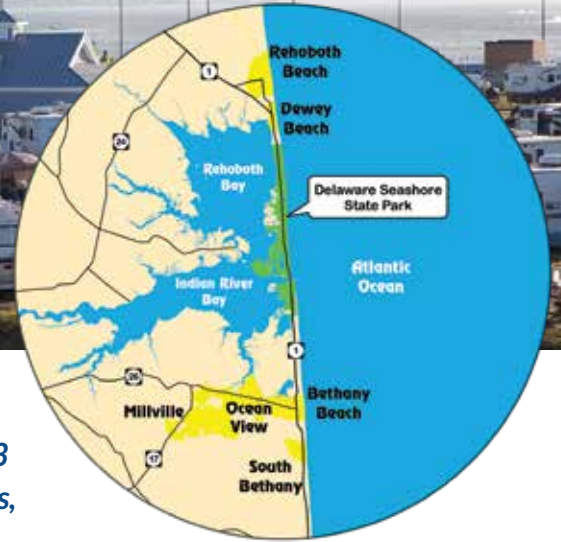
New air stations were installed at Gordon's Pond and Beach Plum Island. The air stations allow those with surf-fishing permits to deflate their tires for beach-access, then re-inflate them upon leaving the park. The new air stations were made possible by funds raised by the Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park. **Cost: \$15,000**

The Friends of Cape Henlopen provided **\$2,500** toward the purchase of one of the two **K9s** who joined the DNREC Park Rangers this fall.

The Fort Miles Historical Association secured a **\$538,000** grant from the **Longwood Foundation** to build an event venue, install new parking and make additional upgrades throughout the Fort Miles Historical Area.



DELAWARE SEASHORE STATE PARK



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 water sports and outdoor recreation activities.

DELAWARE SEASHORE
at a Glance

-  **1,970.05**
Acres
-  **6.7**
Miles of trails
-  **359**
Campsites
-  **1,305,929**
Visitors (including IRLSS)
-  **13/92**
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff
-  **8,172.83**
Volunteer hours
-  **330/6,359**
Programs/Participants

FY2018

INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

Paving to make pads even and repair potholes began in November at the **south campground's 145 full-hookup campsites**. This is the first time since 1978 that roadway and site pads have been repaved. The addition of 4-inch-deep asphalt is expected to make the campground pads stronger and more stable, helping to alleviate low-level flooding.



Cost: **\$300,000**

Phase I Tower 3: An initial study in 2016 determined that adding a plaza and pavilion would attract more visitors to the park. New sidewalks, a glass door, and nighttime lighting were installed, raising awareness and sparking more interest in Tower 3.

Cost: **\$52,998**





Assawoman Canal House received a makeover and opened to guests for the first time in the summer of 2018.

Cost: **\$90,000**



A new **nautical-themed state-of-the-art playground** replaced a 17-year-old playground in the spring.

Cost: **\$233,300**

Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

- Marina boat ramp north side railing
- Lighting for South Inlet parking lot
- Lifeguard housing
- Tower Three renovations
- Flood mitigation for Mitchell House road
- WiFi for campgrounds and marina
- Towers Ocean parking lot repaving
- Upgrades to water line system on docks

The **Towers Ocean Day Area beach bathhouse** was painted prior to the summer season.

Cost: **\$17,000**

At the Indian River Marina

A new **queuing dock extension** was installed, allowing easier docking.

Cost: **\$372,000**

The park and marina office received a **fresh coat of exterior paint**.

Cost: **\$22,400**

Six cottages had **new flooring** installed. Cost: **\$40,526**

An **electric charging station** was installed at the park, offering individuals with electric or hybrid vehicles a place to recharge. The park joins Bellevue State Park and Holts Landing State Park in providing the alternative fuel source.

Cost: **\$12,000**

A **new travel lift** was purchased in 2018.



SPECIAL EVENTS

The fourth annual **Kids Catch-All Tournament** was held in June. The tournament drew 75 children between the ages of 3 and 18 and raised more than \$10,000 for the Lyme Disease Association of Delmarva.

The **July Fourth Slipholder Tuna Fishing Tournament** drew 30 boats to the competition, with an award ceremony catered by Bethany Blues.

The **Delaware Seashore Lighthouse Weekend** package in April brought 30 guests to the park for a relaxing getaway. Guests enjoyed the park's maritime history along with oysters and chardonnay, and were treated to a tour of the Fenwick Island Lighthouse, walking tours of the Indian River Inlet Bridge and boat tours of the Lewes Harbor breakwater.

The fourth annual **Boo-B-Que: Barbeque & Brews Festival** was held in October. The two-day barbecue cook-off competition is sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbeque Society. The family-friendly event raises funds for the **Delaware Children in Nature Endowment Fund**, which provides opportunities for children to participate in outdoor activities.

The **38th Annual Sandcastle Contest** was held on July 14 with more than 70 participants.

Brews by The Bay, featuring more than 50 kinds of beer from the First State, food trucks and live reggae music, was attended by more than 800 people.

The **2018 Paddlefest** drew 170 paddlers to the 4-mile kayaking and SUP course. At the end of the course, paddlers received a certificate and enjoyed food from The Big Salami food truck.



WEDDINGS

The Indian River Life-Saving Station facility booked **14 weddings** during the summer of 2018 and collected \$53,975 in revenue. Money raised from the weddings is earmarked for the maintenance and operation of the historical museum.

The Indian River Marina hosted **four weddings**.



"Boo-B-Que has become regionally and nationally known as one of the very top barbecue competitions in the U.S. It provides a beautiful showcase of our state parks. The cooperation of Delaware State Parks is beyond description." -

*— John Hollis
Director of Sussex
Outdoors*

PARTNERSHIPS

Blue Moon Restaurant in Rehoboth Beach donated all of the food for the Delaware Seashore Lighthouse weekend.



"I am writing this email to commend the life guards at all Delaware State Park beaches, but in particular the seashore state park at the inlet. I know people appreciate what they do for us every day in the summer. This past Friday, I did get into trouble with the rip current and I signaled for help. I don't know where this life guard came from. He was a life saver. These young men and women are called life guards but when they do a rescue they are life savers. Thanks again to the young men and women."

— Bernie
Myszkiewicz
Park visitor



Capital One employee volunteers built much-needed picnic tables for the Delaware Seashore State Park region.

FRIENDS GROUP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ernie Felici, the former president of the Delaware Seashore Preservation Foundation, earned the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's **Administration and Coordination Award** for organizing an annual run that raised \$20,000 in 2018 for the Tower 3 restoration project. Ernie, a current board member, also coordinates a run that directs all proceeds to the Children in Nature initiative. The foundation's members are trying to raise an additional \$500,000 to complete the restoration of the tower.





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's a great spot for fishing, hiking, and picnicking.

FENWICK/HOLTS
at a Glance

-  **378/203**
Acres Fenwick/Holts
-  **2.7**
Miles of trails - Holts
-  **3**
Primitive Campsites -Holts
-  **230,638/18,667**
Visitors Fenwick/Holts
-  **40**
Casual Seasonal Staff Fenwick/Holts
-  **1,694**
Volunteer Hours - Holts
-  **31/1,582**
Programs/Participants

FY2018

INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

The roof was replaced at the **Fenwick Island State Park bathhouse**.
Cost: **\$35,000**

Holts Landing State Park added **36 new boat-trailer parking spaces** this summer. State Representative Ron Gray and state Senator Gerald Hocker helped secure the funding for the project. The **paving upgrades** and the **new playground** complement the upgrades made to the park in 2016.

Cost: **\$477,500**

Holts Landing State Park is one of three Delaware State Parks that now have **automated fee collection machines**. The easy-to-use machines dispense an entry pass that visitors display on their dashboards, and they also accept credit cards, fulfilling one of park visitors' top requests.

Cost: **\$9,000**

"The State Parks are an amazing asset; wonderful programming, great family activities, and a beautiful space to make memories."

— Lauren Weaver, Executive Director Bethany-Fenwick Area Chamber of Commerce

Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

- Parking expansion, amenity upgrades, drop-off, renovation, entrance queue and evacuation route improvements at Fenwick Island State Park
- Fenwick Island parking lot paving
- Holts Landing bathhouse remodel
- Holts Landing State Park sign
- Holts Landing trail connector/marsh boardwalk

"MERR has enjoyed working on many stranding events with Delaware State Parks over the years, but the loggerhead sea turtle nest in Fenwick Island was certainly one of the most exciting events to date! We really appreciate all of the efforts of State Park personnel, who helped to make this sea turtle nesting event reach a successful outcome. Forty-eight little loggerhead hatchlings emerged from their nest and entered the ocean in September, and we all hope that they are thriving and surviving."

— Suzanne Thurman
Executive Director
of The Marine
Education, Research
and Rehabilitation
Institute

PARTNERSHIPS:

For the first time in 45 years, **loggerhead turtles hatched on Fenwick Island**. The endangered turtle typically nests on beaches between Florida and North Carolina and has not nested in Delaware since 1973. The Division partnered with **DNREC's Divisions of Fish & Wildlife and Water Stewardship** and with the **Marine Education, Research and Rehabilitation Institute** to protect the nest and the hatchlings. In September, hatchlings successfully emerged from the nest and headed to the ocean.



Holts Landing State Park was among the first three park properties to receive an **electric charging station**.

Cost: **\$6,000**

SPECIAL EVENTS

Operation Second Chance held its annual **Paddle Second Chance paddleboard and kayak race** at Holts Landing State Park in June. It is considered the largest paddleboard race on Delmarva and benefits wounded warriors and their families. The race raised \$50,000 for 39 Delmarva peninsula families, or about 100 people.



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 the sharing of these stories is a highlight for the park's visitors.

HERITAGE PARK

at a Glance



24,430*
Visitors



11
Historic Partner Sites



2/8
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff



1,817.50
Volunteer hours



1,991/24,430
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

FY2018

SPECIAL EVENTS

November's **eighth annual 18th Century Market Fair** drew 3,516 people to The Green and other downtown Dover landmarks. The fair featured 41 vendors, six of whom were new to the event in 2018. An Instagram photo contest generated interest in downtown Dover's historic attractions and amazing photos that will be used in future promotions.



Advertisements placed in Southern Living magazine and Coastal Living magazine brought in requests for information about First State Heritage Park from **49** states.

The third annual **Arts, Culture and Heritage Preservation Field Days** reached 1,296 fourth-grade students and their chaperones in the spring of 2018. Students from 12 elementary schools participated in the event, which celebrates Delaware's role in American history through the arts.



Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

- Accessible outbuilding restroom and accessible brick walkway at the Bell House
- Bell House brick front step and railing for safety of visitors entering and exiting the 18th-century structure
- Bell House perimeter fence to allow for the planting of a kitchen garden to use for educational programming

PARTNERSHIPS

First State Heritage Park partners with the Biggs Museum of American Art, The Delaware Public Archives, Johnson Victrola Museum, The Kent County Courthouse, Legislative Hall, The Old State House, Woodburn and Hall House and The John Bell House.

First State Heritage Park continued its partnership with the **First State Club of Campus Community School in Dover**, with approximately 18 students volunteering at First State Heritage Park on a regular basis. In 2018, the club created two historical Mummies plays, operated a fourth grade program for ArCH Field Days, and volunteered at First Saturday events. For their efforts, DNREC awarded First State Club its **Youth Group Volunteer award**.

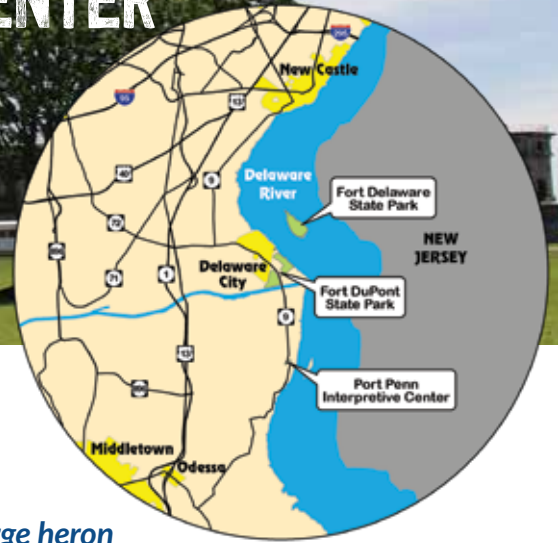
Visitors in 2018 came to First State Heritage Park from **49** states,* **21** countries and **6** continents.

**Wyoming was the only exception*



First State Heritage Park partnered with **Delaware Friends of Folk** for a free concert series at The Old State House. The series drew nearly 300 attendees.

FORT DELAWARE AND FORT DUPONT STATE PARKS PORT PENN INTERPRETIVE CENTER



Fort Delaware housed close to 33,000 Confederate prisoners of war during the Civil War. Today, its living history programming offers visitors the chance to experience life in 1864. The fort is located on Pea Patch Island, which is also home to a large heron rookery that provides outstanding viewing opportunities for birders.

During World War II, Fort DuPont served as a military 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**

-  **535.55**
Acres
-  **1.3/1.1**
Miles of trails Fort DE/Fort DuPont
-  **21,164**
Visitors - Fort Delaware
-  **3/44**
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff
-  **1,627**
Volunteer hours
-  **637/15,432**
Programs/Participants

FY2018

INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

A **floating dock** was renovated at Pea Patch Island, allowing safe passage to the site.

Cost: **\$300,000**

SPECIAL EVENTS

A dedication ceremony was held at Fort Delaware in April to celebrate the installation of 5,400 solar panels at the fort. **U.S. Senators Tom Carper and Chris Coons, Gov. John Carney, DNREC Secretary Shawn M. Garvin,** and other local dignitaries also were on hand, along with students from **Gunning Bedford Middle School.** The new panels provide \$18,000 to \$20,000 of clean, renewable energy each year.

Fort Delaware State Park hosted two **Civil War-era P.O.W. weekends** in July and August. The events drew 766 visitors to the park.

Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

- Delaware City dock repairs
- Pavilion construction on Pea Patch Island
- Replacement and bracing of pilings at the Pea Patch Island ferry landing
- Heronry overlook replacement
- Masonry repairs
- Fuel dock piling replacement
- Island tram path repair and resurfacing
- Restoration of enlisted barracks room
- Outdoor blacksmith shop



Pea Patch Paranormal Adventures

attracted 268 people to Fort Delaware on Oct. 12 and 13. Visitors were part of an actual paranormal investigation using electronic magnetic field detectors, data recorders and other scientific equipment.



During the fall and spring, more than **4,000 Delaware students** from **57 schools** visited Fort Delaware. Visiting schools included William Henry Middle School and Cedar Lane, W.B. Simpson, and Olive B. Loss elementary schools.

In November, DNREC's Division of Fish & Wildlife

conducted a **bat survey** that documented 37 bats, including one new species, the silver-haired bat.

The weekend of April 28, **46 participants from Dover Air force base** spent the night camping at Fort Delaware.

"No matter the size of the group, folks at Dover Air Force Base always seem to have fun camping out at Fort Delaware. ...The Delaware State Park staff always seem to make the experience an enjoyable one."

— Samantha Herold, Dover Air Force Base Outdoor Recreational Programmer

"Ft. Delaware is a fun and engaging way for students to step back into time and experience life as a soldier, prisoner, and/or family member of a Union soldier stationed there during that time period. We learned many historical and geographic tidbits that helped us understand why Pea Patch Island was a useful place to build the Fort, it gave us insight into the importance of waterways and surrounding areas that were selected based on strategy and protection plans."

— Jessica Melvin

W. B. Simpson Elementary School,
special education case manager/504 Coordinator



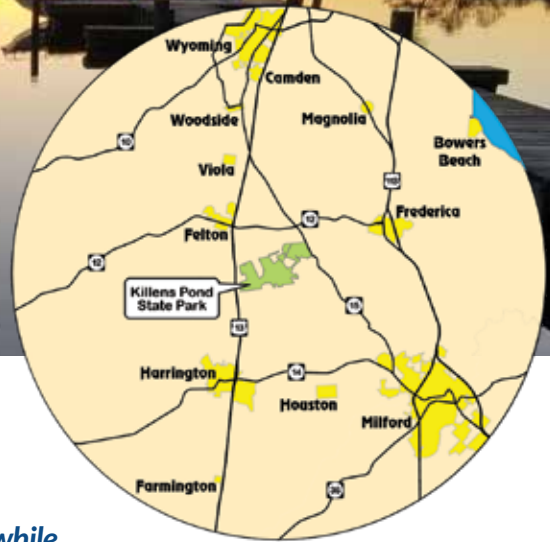
PARTNERSHIPS

Diamond State Ghost Investigators conducted paranormal tours in October. The partnership has been in place since 2009.

The American Birding Association offered Sunset River Cruises to Pea Patch Island.

The **Diamond State Base Ball Club**, part of the Mid-Atlantic Vintage Base Ball League, used Fort DuPont as their home base.

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. A wooded campground, 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.

KILLENS POND at a Glance



1,441
Acres



6.34
Miles of trails



87
Campsites



240,129
Visitors



9/144
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff



12,107
Volunteer hours



179/18,706
Programs/Participants



8/79
Day Camps/Campers

FY2018

INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

Cabin updates included new dining room sets, bunk beds, and a futon for three cabins, a kitchen renovation for Cabin 10, and new tile and shower doors for the cabin bathhouse.

Cost: **\$21,000**

Building updates included new roofs for two maintenance buildings, and new siding and structural support beams for Pavilion Four.

Costs: **\$63,060**

Waterpark repairs included concrete replacement and edging work, and repair and replacement of roofing in some areas.

Cost: **\$49,660**

With five new full-time staff members hired in 2018, **Killens Pond State Park is fully staffed**. The park has a new nature center manager, two maintenance staff members, an administrative specialist, and a park manager.

A one-mile loop trail in the **Anne Clements Woods Tract in the Fork Branch Nature Preserve** opened to the public on Arbor Day. This section of the preserve was among three ancient forests in Delaware recognized by **The Old Growth Forest Network**. The section boasts more than 200 acres of mature forest, with trees that are more than 140 years old. The tract is one of the few remaining ancient forests on the East Coast.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Killens Pond held its third annual **Healthy Kids Day** on October 17. The event drew about **400 fourth-grade students** from four Kent County Schools for a day of fun outdoor learning at the park. The free

event, which encourages children and their families to get outdoors, is made possible through a partnership with Nemours Health and Prevention, Delaware State Parks and The Division of Public Health. The Friends of Killens Pond also made the day possible by providing volunteers.



"We absolutely love having camp at Killens. Athletes are bussed in from their homes around the state each day. Killens is an ideal location to draw athletes from around the state due to its central location."

— Maria Lepore-Stevens
MA, CAPE, COMS
Director, Camp Abilities Delaware

Camp Abilities Delaware held its second camp at Killens Pond in July. The day camp is designed as an educational sports camp for blind or visually impaired children between the ages of 5 and 21 who receive services through the **Delaware Division for the Visually Impaired**. The free camp introduces children to a variety of sports, including soccer, boating, dance, and cross-country running. The camp

is designed to empower children and to encourage them to be physically active. More than 100 campers participated in 2018.

The **Henlopen Conference Cross Country Championship** was held in November. The conference draws high school student athletes from 12 schools in Kent and Sussex counties.

The **Lake Forest Cross Country Invitational** took place in September, drawing 20 schools and their athletes to the park.

Puppies in the Pool was held on Sept. 3, with 121 dogs cooling off in the pool to close out the summer season.



FRIENDS OF KILLENS POND STATE PARK ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Friends organized and managed a **family scarecrow-making fundraiser** in October.

The Friends provided **need-based scholarships** to summer camp attendees and supported **field trips for Title I schools**.

The Friends continued to support the **Summer Concert Series** through sponsorships and donations.

Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

- Safe pedestrian connector between boat rental and boat ramp
- Boat rental dock replacement to meet accessibility requirements
- Maintenance shop roof replacement
- Trail around the pond, including a separate bridge off of Killens Pond Road and over the spillway
- Additional phases of the waterpark to include the splash park/kiddie area, new concession building, and new guard house
- Full hookups and expansion of the campground pads for larger RVs
- Boat ramp repairs and courtesy dock

"The cross country course at Killens Pond State Park is the best course in the state! The course is well-marked, well-maintained, and creates the perfect blend of simple and challenging with its differing running surfaces and subtle elevation changes,"

— Mike Tucci
Head track coach at
Caesar Rodney High
School

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.

LUMS POND at a Glance

 **1,791**
Acres

 **19**
Miles of trails

 **81**
Campsites

 **301,997**
Visitors

 **8/48**
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff

 **9,672.25**
Volunteer hours

 **85/3,115**
Programs/Participants

 **10/82**
Day Camps/Campers

Reader's Digest listed Lums Pond State Park as Delaware's best RV Park

FY2018 INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

The **parking lot at the dog park** was repaved.

Cost: **\$300,000**

The **culvert along the entrance of the park** was replaced.

Cost: **\$35,625**

Area one bathrooms were renovated to add storage and make them ADA-compliant.

Cost: **\$103,206**

New restroom partitions were added in the park's day camp building, nature center, and Area Three restrooms.

Cost: **\$13,000**

Staff **enlarged 22 campsites**. Cost: **\$49,000**

Energy-efficient LED lighting was installed in the nature center and boat rental bathroom. Cost: **\$4,585**

A **new roof** was installed on the boat rental restrooms.

Cost: **\$10,100**



"Lums Pond is a beginners' course and is more heavily used because it is easier to play. State parks are designed for recreational play."

— Ted Sammons
Disc golf player at
Lums Pond

"Lums Pond offers gorgeous scenery and is a prime spot for kayaking where you can easily get up close to a wide variety of aquatic birds. While paddling along the shoreline, I took one of my favorite photos of a very large great blue heron standing motionless and showing off its gorgeous blue-gray plumage."

- Rachel Cooper
Author of Quiet
Water Mid-Atlantic:
AMC's Canoe and
Kayak Guide to the
Best Ponds, Lakes
and Easy Rivers

SPECIAL EVENTS

In April, the park was the host site for the **Wilmington and Penn Treaty Kennel Club Show**. This prestigious dog show attracts dogs and handlers from across the country, some of which have gone on to compete in the Westminster Kennel Club Show.



In July, **Warbirds Over Delaware** held its annual event at Lums Pond. The event draws enthusiasts from across the country.

Summer programs included **Sunset Yoga** and **astronomy events**, and in October, the park offered **Harvest Hayrides** and **After-School Hayrides**.

SPORTING EVENTS

Lums Pond's Area 3 cricket fields hosted **more than 350 cricket games** with more than 500 registered players.

The **Treeze disc golf tournament** and the **Grumpy Old Men tournament** were both held at Lums Pond State Park. The tournaments collectively drew 120 people to Lums Pond State Park to play disc golf.

"Having played cricket on baseball fields, to now be playing cricket on a perfect circular pitch complemented by a spectator viewing area at Lums Pond State Park is priceless for cricket enthusiasts in the state of Delaware. This venue provides a relaxing environment for the spectators, particularly the pavilion and grassy banks where BBQ is often in action. Fun-loving local crowds deliver a festival-like atmosphere for big matches and are ably supported by park authorities. DPL is grateful to Lums Pond State Park for allowing DPL to call Lums Pond Cricket Fields their home turf!"

- Sid Reddy
Commissioner, Delaware Premier League

PARTNERSHIPS

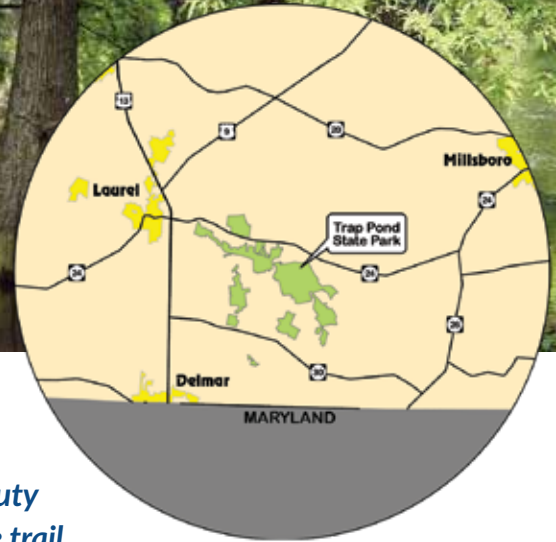
Eco System Connections, a new nature program for school students designed to help students see the connections between what they're learning and everyday life, was developed by programming staff. The program was made possible through the **Making Climate Change Clear** grant program.

Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

- Summit North erosion issues, bank stabilization rip rap
- Wastewater treatment plant replacement
- Cabins to replace yurts
- Boat rental dock repair
- Tennis court resurfacing
- Storage building for rental boats
- Improvements to roadways and parking lots throughout the park
- Development and construction of a new nature center
- A new playground pavilion and overflow parking for the campground
- Accessible walkway at the campground, accessible boat rental dock, and a pontoon boat

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 U.S. 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.

TRAP POND at a Glance



3873
Acres



11.57
Miles of trails



133/8/2
Campsites/Cabins/Yurts



138,176
Visitors



7/20
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff



15,371
Volunteer hours



637/19,060
Programs/Participants



4/41
Day Camps/Campers

FY2018

INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

The maintenance shop and Bethesda Methodist Episcopal Church both received **new HVAC systems**. The previous systems were over 25 years old. **Cost: \$17,865**

The screened-in pavilion received **upgrades to the electrical system**, which will allow guests to enjoy their devices and lights. The pavilion is a guest favorite for events. **Cost: \$10,198**

The Baldcypress Nature Center will now be able to handle more visitors and events, thanks to the center's **septic tank field replacement**. **Cost: \$117,000**

Eight cabins had metal roofs installed, making them more algae-resistant than the asphalt shingles they replaced. **Cost: \$22,680**

A new playground was installed this spring. The playground features a natural theme that is in keeping with the park's setting. **Cost: \$149,840.09**





SPECIAL EVENTS

The Laurel Chamber of Commerce held its annual **Jeep Jamboree** at Trap Pond. Nature center staff provided two wagon rides, a youth fishing tournament, and a scavenger hunt. About **50 Jeeps** were registered for the “Show and Shine.”

“About two years ago, I moved to the area and Trap Pond State Park has become one of my favorite places for work and play. The staff is always knowledgeable and engaging when we partner with them on school field trips. Even when I am not on the clock I find myself paddling through the picturesque cypress swamps.”

— Lisa Wool
Executive Director,
Nanticoke Watershed
Alliance

In June, **The Broad Creek Bike and Brew event** passed through Trap Pond State Park. The Trap Pond Partners assisted bikers by handing out bananas, pickle juice and granola to keep them energized for their ride.

Trap Pond Partners held their **15th Annual Bike Rally**, this year partnering with the DNREC Wetland Festival. More than 200 participants enjoyed live music, boat rentals, and vendors promoting healthy waterways.

The Nanticoke Watershed Alliance held their annual **Wade In** event at Trap Pond in June. Trap Pond staff assisted with several programs, including pontoon tours and a mobile science lab display.

Teen Challenge of Seaford held its Annual Teen Challenge Crab Feast fundraiser at Cypress Point pavilion. The event drew more than 700 people who enjoyed food, drink and the park.



More than 1,000 visitors attended Trap Pond Partners' **4th Annual Beer & Wine Festival** in September. The Bob Trail was lined with 60 vendors offering beer, wine, spirits, crafts and food. A total of 75 volunteers helped run the event, which raised **\$22,941**.

“Trap Pond is a truly wonderful park within the DE State Park system. One minute you can feel as if you're wandering through an endless forest, and the next find yourself along the shoreline of an ancient swamp. Fall was my favorite time to visit and camp, as you can really feel like you have the whole place to yourself, minus the wildlife that is. As a whole, the DE State Park system is wonderful. They do an incredible job of highlighting all of the diverse areas that DE has to offer.”

— Chris Maust
Photographer and contributor to The Outdoor Project

Cheer, a nonprofit serving seniors in Sussex County, held its picnic at the park, drawing 500 attendees.

More than 1,805 people enjoyed **Halloween Howl**, which featured games, pumpkins, hayrides, dancing, costume contests and trick-or-treating.

Lions Walk for Sight was held at the park in November, with 125 attendees.

SPORTING EVENTS

Altis Endurance Sports held its 50K Run on April 8, with 85 runners choosing between running a marathon, half marathon, or 25K, 35K or 50K races. More than 50 participants completed the 50K portion of the race, running just over 31 miles, or about seven full laps around the Bob Trail.

PARTNERSHIPS

88.7 The Bridge radio station hosted **Consumed by Fire** in June as part of the Summer Concert Series. About 1,350 people attended the event. The event also featured six food trucks, ranging from Chick-fil-a to Vanderwende Farm Creamery.



TRAP POND PARTNERS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Governor John Carney and DNREC Secretary Shawn M. Garvin

honored Trap Pond Partners as the **2018 DNREC Volunteer of the Year – Friends Group**. The group is a dedicated team that supports special events such as Healthy Kids Day, Halloween Howl and the Summer Concert Series. They also organize their own events to raise much-needed funds for the park, including the Bike Rally, Jeep Jamboree, and the increasingly popular Beer and Wine Festival.

State Representative Tim Dikes, state Senator Bryant Richardson and Deputy Secretary Lisa Borin Ogden helped dedicate Trap Pond State Park's new campground playground in September. **Trap Pond Partners secured \$20,000 in funding** from McKee Foods, maker of Little Debbie Snacks, and **\$25,000** from the Crystal Trust for the playground. In addition, they raised **\$57,800** from events and sponsors to support the playground project.

Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

- New campground bathhouse and replacement of composting facility
- James Branch canoe/kayak launch at Hitch Pond Road
- Fishing dock replacements
- Park office roof replacement
- Boat rental building roof
- Primitive youth camping area pavilion roof
- Campground bathhouse upgrades
- Hitch Pond Road parking area construction for safe access to the James Branch canoe trail
- Campground infrastructure upgrades: replace aging water lines, replace 30-amp electrical service in C and D loops with 50-100 amps, and enlarge sites to accommodate modern rigs

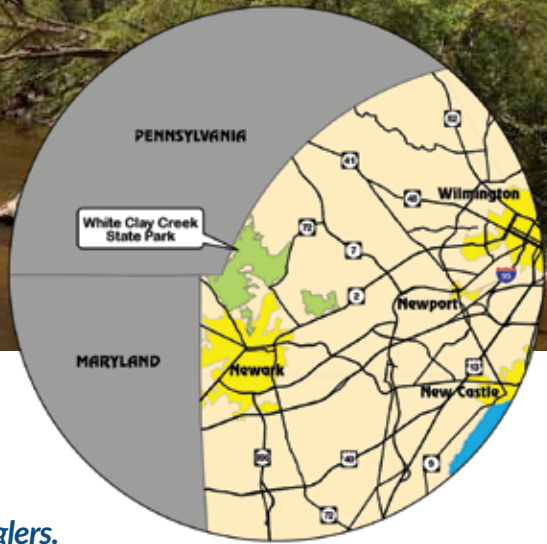
"I wanted to thank everyone at the park for helping my son Jacob out of the woods on Saturday, July 21st. It was very frightening to get that call from him that he couldn't find his way out of the woods, and I couldn't be there to help. Everyone involved was very professional and understanding of the situation and I wanted to give kudos to all involved."

— Jennifer Vannicola Truitt
Park visitor



Trap Pond Partners

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.

WHITE CLAY CREEK at a Glance

- 3,647** Acres
- 37.84** Miles of trails
- 164,514** Visitors
- 8/28** Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff
- 12,479** Volunteer hours
- 276/25,447** Programs/Participants
- 15/199** Day Camps/Campers

FY2018

INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK



Phase I of the Tri-Valley Trail has been completed. Smith Parking Lot received 40 new parking spaces and year-round restrooms.

Cost:
\$2 million

A **new deck** was added to the Robinson House, which is used for summer camps.

Cost: \$22,900

The collapsing foundation of the **J. Cloud Barn** was repaired by digging a new footer and rebuilding a wall.

Cost: \$22,000

SPECIAL EVENTS

Hayrides brought in more than 270 visitors, and 130 individuals attended the **Mystery at the Mansion** program in November. Interpreters presented programs to more than 300 students.

The park's **accessible hayride wagon** was popular with organizations such as **Chimes**, which serves individuals with special needs.

Krush, a Rush tribute band, drew 1,780 fans to the park in August, and **Karen Rodriguez and the Latin Jazz Ensemble** entertained more than 1,300 visitors in July.

On October 12, **The University of Delaware Blue and Gold High School meet** was held at the park, with 11 teams competing.

On April 22, **University of Delaware staff and students celebrated Earth Day** at the park. About 60 volunteers, including **DNREC Secretary Shawn M. Garvin** and **U.S. Senator Tom Carper**, spent the day pulling weeds and removing vines from trees at the park.

Eagle Scouts built two accessible hunting stands in the park, enhancing the park's overall mission to serve all people.



The Division began the **White Clay Creek State Park Master Plan process**, which will provide the vision and framework for stewardship of the park. The public was invited to provide input by means of a survey during the month of August and four open houses.



“The docks will allow participants to fish without requiring them to cast the bait, providing them with increased personal satisfaction of actively doing more of the fishing activities. For other participants, the docks will provide them access to fishing without being tangled in trees and grass.”

— Wayne Hunter
YesUCan, a nonprofit offering adaptive sports to people with disabilities

Critical CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

- *Life Course bridges replacement*
- *Nature center bridge evaluation and replacement*
- *Judge Morris Estate updates: Interior and exterior repairs and painting, floor, and new decorative entrance gate*
- *Renovations of club house and cart barn at Deerfield*

PARTNERSHIPS

Creek Fest 2018, a partnership between the park and the National Park Service's *Wild and Scenic Rivers Program*, was held in May and drew **1,600 people** to the park. Creek Fest 2018 sponsors included Suez, The Pennsylvania Mushroom Association and Friends of White Clay Creek State Park.

"This was actually my favorite Creek Fest of all time. I met so many interesting and cool people, truly interested in what I was saying and a few exhibitors came up to me and said the event was very worthwhile because of the interest expressed by the attendees."

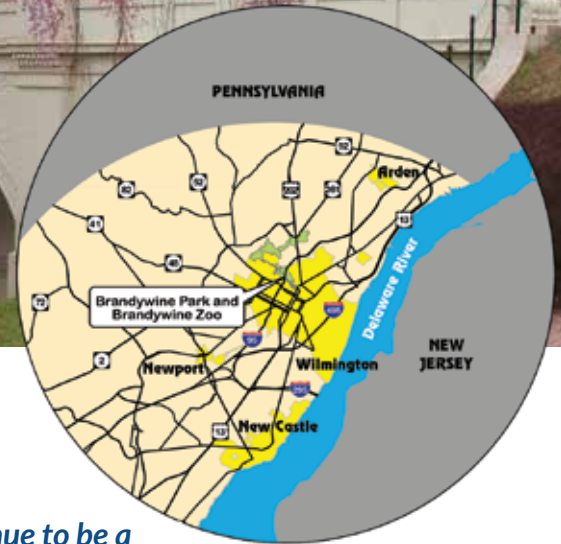
— Shane Morgan
Management Plan Coordinator, White
Clay Creek and Scenic Rivers Program



"...What a beautiful park. I stop every time on my way to and from lower Delaware. The park and restrooms are always spotless. It's always quiet and has a peaceful setting. To all the staff that keeps it this way, I just wanted to say that it all never goes unseen and would like to give a special thank you for all that's put into it."

— Joe DeLellis
Park visitor

WILMINGTON STATE PARKS BRANDYWINE ZOO



Wilmington State Parks – comprising Brandywine, Rockford, and H. Fletcher Brown Parks – embrace the rich history of life in Delaware’s largest city. These park areas have served as an urban retreat for the citizens of Wilmington since 1883, and they continue to be a vital part of daily life in the city. On any given day, visitors of all ages participate in all types of recreational pursuits: tennis, baseball, softball, football, lacrosse, soccer, track and field, kickball, rugby, Ultimate Frisbee™, kickball, and basketball. The Brandywine Zoo, located in Brandywine Park, is home to birds, reptiles, and mammals, including condors, red pandas, and the world’s largest rodent, the capybara.

**WILMINGTON STATE PARKS
at a Glance**

-  **345**
Acres
-  **4.48**
Miles of trails
-  **1,419,594**
Visitors
-  **16/20**
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff
-  **2,367**
Volunteer hours
-  **191/11,006**
Programs/Participants

FY2018

INVESTMENTS IN THE PARKS

Wilmington State Parks

The **African American Medal of Honor Recipients Memorial** received some much-needed attention. The staff at Wilmington State Parks replaced all of the pedestal and surrounding flagpole lights, removed several trees, and are keeping the vegetation around the medal tidy until a permanent landscape plan is developed.



Cost: \$16,076.51

The **World War I Todd Memorial statue**, plaque, and flagpole bases were washed and waxed by Materials Conservation, and the granite steps and pillars were repaired. New flagpoles were also installed, thanks to a grant secured by the Friends of Wilmington Parks. The monument has been recognized by the nationwide **100 Cities/100 Memorials initiative** as a World War I Centennial Memorial.

Cost: \$38,250.00



The Vietnam Memorial and its plaques were washed, waxed and restored, and the order of two of the plaques was switched for greater accuracy.

Cost: **\$5,632.97**

In October, **Delaware Center for Horticulture** and **Bank of America employees** planted 100 trees and volunteered 102 hours.

"At Bank of America, we are focused on growing in a responsible and sustainable manner. We believe that one way to help is to improve the environment where we live and work. We're proud that our employees in Delaware and throughout the world donate their time and efforts to making our communities better places for all."

— Chip Rossi
Delaware Market
President at Bank of
America



Brandywine Zoo

In May of 2018, the Division completed a **masterplan** for the Brandywine Zoo. The multi-year plan is designed to enhance the visitor experience and improve attendance.



Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

Brandywine Zoo

- Zoo hospital and quarantine upgrades required for AZA recertification
- Implementation of the Zoo masterplan
- Conversion of the otter exhibit to a goat yard
- Installation of a new viewing area at the condor exhibit
- New public interactive area at the bee exhibit
- Conversion of the duck exhibit to provide more space for the capybara
- Paving of the trail that leads to the amphitheater

BRANDYWINE ZOO

at a Glance



5
Acres



50
Animal Species



48,351
Visitors



7/28
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff



14,908
Volunteer Hours



1,085/44,304
Programs/Participants



20/278
Day Camps/Campers



SPECIAL EVENTS

Wilmington State Parks

Brown Box Theatre returned for a second year with a free performance of Shakespeare's *As You Like It* at Rockford Park.

More than **3,500 visitors** enjoyed the **98th Wilmington Flower Market** the weekend of May 10 at Rockford Park. The event features live music, food vendors, local artists and plant sales.



Brandywine Zoo

A **red panda** arrived at the Brandywine Zoo in January from the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in Front Royal, Virginia.

Children were treated to a **stuffed animal clinic** with Dr. Erica Miller on July 7.



In September, more than 450 people attended **Brew at the Zoo**.

The Zoo acquired a **Greek tortoise** from a private collection in September.

"Year after year, we are thrilled to see the streets of Wilmington packed with dedicated runners, who have become part of our American Lung Association family throughout the years, at the annual Caesar Rodney Half Marathon, Relay and 5K. Each runner can challenge their lungs in this exhilarating course, while benefiting more than 35 million Americans, including more than 123,000 Delawareans, who live with lung disease."

— Dina Gordon, Executive Director, Development, American Lung Association

SPORTING EVENTS

The 55th Annual Caesar Rodney Half Marathon, the oldest half marathon in the country, held its event on March 18 with approximately 850 runners competing. The course started in downtown Wilmington and continued through Brandywine Park and Rockford Park.

About 330 people attended the **Epilepsy Foundation's 5K** at Rockford Park in June.

Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

Wilmington State Parks

- Renovation of H. Fletcher Brown Park
- Curb, walkway and fence replacement at Brandywine Park's North Park Drive
- One-way traffic flow and parking development for Rockford Park
- Full-service restroom
- Renovation of the Lovering Street tennis and basketball courts
- Restoration of the Josephine Fountain
- New park office to replace trailers





DELAWARE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Zoological Society secured a **\$5,000 grant** from an anonymous donor to buy a new projector for education presentations.

FRIENDS OF WILMINGTON PARKS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Friends of Wilmington Parks welcomed **Donald Jackson** as its new executive director. Donald is an author and has also served as the curator of horticulture at the Atlanta Zoo.

In October, the **Delaware Center for Horticulture, Friends of Wilmington Parks,** and **Bank of America** employees planted 100 trees in Brandywine Park along Rattlesnake Run, volunteering 102 hours.



Friends of Wilmington Parks offered **19 concerts** throughout the summer of 2018, attracting more than 3,000 attendees.

The Friends partnered with **FourYouth** for a “paint in the parks” event. FourYouth offers educational programs for underprivileged youth.

The group’s **67 volunteers logged 1,821 hours of services** in 2018. They cleared invasive species, tended to the Jasper Crane Rose Garden, and more.

The Friends continued to support and sponsor STEM-based education and programming for **Title I urban schools and community groups**, impacting 1,900 students in 2018.

Friends of Wilmington State Parks received **\$8,507 from the Community Environmental Penalty Fund** to provide summer camp scholarships statewide.

Inside back cover



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