

DELAWARE STATE PARKS

2019

Annual Report

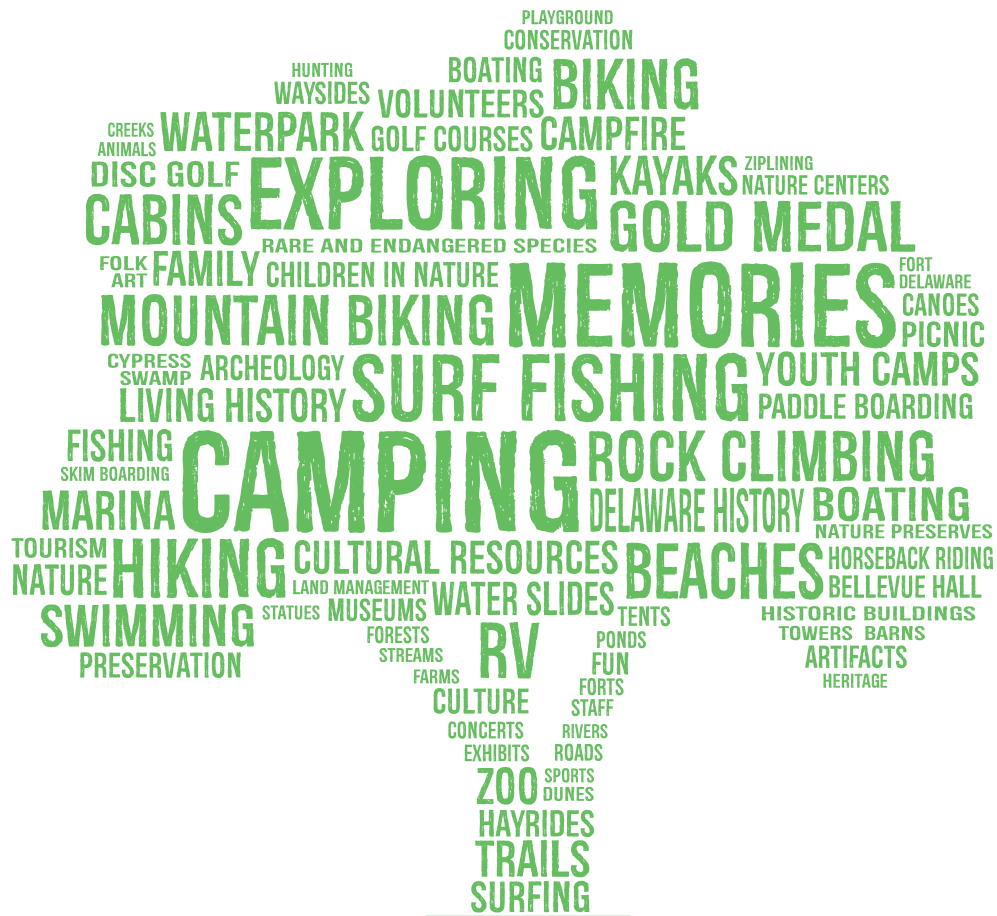


Delaware State Parks

2019

Annual Report

Voted America's Best



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

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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.

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

**DELAWARE
STATE PARKS**
by the
Numbers:

6 
million+
visitors

17 
Parks


26,500
 **Acres** 

622
Buildings
on Park Land



158

Miles of
Trails

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, zoo and more than 26,000 acres of parklands. Each year, we update and improve our parks with this all-access vision in mind. In 2019, we added several amenities that will provide more access for individuals of all abilities.

Bellevue State Park

- Built a new accessible bathroom facility and trail at the Hunter Barn for trail users, day campers, and special event rentals.



Brandywine Zoo

- A new accessible goat encounter area, an interactive bee exhibit and a condor viewing area was added.

Cape Henlopen State Park

- The Henlopen Drive trail over the former railroad was completed to allow all-accessible use and separate trail users from vehicular traffic.

Lums Pond State Park

- The Division spent \$103,000 on renovations to its Area I bathrooms, making them accessible to all individuals.
- A new accessible pavilion was added in Area I.
- A 14-passenger minibus with a wheelchair lift and multiple seats that can be converted to transport passengers with wheelchairs was purchased. The minibus is used to transport summer campers around the park and local field trips, and can be used for events. The bus can also be used by other Delaware State Parks as needed.

Holts Landings State Park

- The boardwalk for the Sea Hawk trail was completed to improve a fully accessible view and trail experience along the bay.
- The park also opened a new accessible playground.

White Clay Creek State Park

- Phase II of the Tri-Valley Trail was completed, rounding out the accessible hub of White Clay Creek. This accessible trail joins hay wagon rides, primitive group camping and accessible docks for fishing and wildlife viewing.
- Accessible docks for anglers of all abilities were added at Smith Mill Pond.
- The park relocated the primitive group camping area and installed a fire ring, picnic table and accessible trail for all abilities to enjoy and experience.

OUR PEOPLE PUT US ON TOP IN FY19

WHO WE ARE

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

53  electrical, mechanical, and maintenance staff

24  park rangers

22  park superintendents and assistant superintendents

21  managers and administrators

15  administrative specialists

10  educators

5  animal keepers and zoo managers

2  canines

1  director

713 casual/seasonal staff, including:

- **65** ocean lifeguards to protect swimmers at the Atlantic Ocean beaches
- **59** lifeguards to protect visitors at the Killens Pond Water Park
- **64** Youth Conservation Corps Members



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

24 full-time Delaware State Park rangers handled more than **4,700** complaints this year.

That breaks down to **196** complaints per ranger in 2018.

The ratio of park rangers to state park visitors in 2019 was **1** to **251,112**.

The ratio of park rangers to acres of land managed is **1** park ranger for every **1,112** 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



PEOPLE ARE OUR GREATEST RESOURCE

Outstanding Employees Recognized

Chief Enforcement Officer **Wayne Kline** was named the **2018 Employee of the Year** at the annual Delaware State Parks Employee Recognition Awards ceremony in March 2019. Chief Kline oversees the Division's Enforcement section, which includes the park ranger and the ocean lifeguard programs.



He has led the enforcement section during a period of exceptional growth at Delaware State Parks. With limited staff, Chief Kline's team has provided world-class service, including performing 400 rescues at the park's guarded beaches during the last three summers. The section also added a K-9 program to the enforcement team.

Chief Kline can often be found working side-by-side with fellow rangers on busy holidays and weekends. He also represents Delaware State Parks by working with outside agencies such as DEMA, Delaware State Police Council, Special Olympics, The North Carolina Ranger Academy, and he serves as the liaison to the Friends of Cape Henlopen.

Other honorees at the March ceremony were:

Outstanding Achiever Award

Grant Melville
Jim Thomas
John Lister
Rachel Phillos
Trevor Ditmore
Wayne Knolls

Outstanding Innovator Award

Brint Spencer
Gary Laudeman
Jennifer Bradford
Laura Scharle
Sarah Zimmerman
Sean Carrow

Outstanding Customer Service Award

Jennifer Gomez
Joseph Shockley
Vincent Imhof
Wayne Kline

Director's Cup

Wilmington State Parks
Baynard Stadium Team

Outstanding Organizer Award

Alison Romano
Elizabeth Adroskaut
Laura Scharle
Theresa Mosier



Clyde L. Shipman Award for Excellence in Park Management

Barbara Woodford

Outstanding Mentor Award

Eric Dawson
James Wagner
Jill DeFelice

Outstanding Motivator Award

Ian Drummond
John Wales
Lauren Barczak
Michael Hitch
Patrick Thompson

Laura Scharle, manager of the Indian River Life Saving Station, won DNREC's Innovator Distinguished Employee Award. **Alison Romano**, volunteer manager, won the Department's Organizer Distinguished Employee Award.

OTHER AWARDS

Brandywine Zoo won a Plume award from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Avian Scientific Advisory Group, recognizing the zoo's achievements in avian husbandry and conservation to help restore American kestrel populations.



National Association of Government Web Professionals awarded a Members' Choice Pinnacle Award to the Delaware State Parks website, www.destateparks.com. The site was recognized for its organization, informative content, and the wide variety of information it presents, as well as for the small size of its web team for the "immense amount of time, resources and attention" they had put into creating an expansive and highly functional site. Pictured is Web Developer Jenn Bradford and Chief of Creative Services Chris Polo.

Director Ray Bivens was selected as Public Official of the Year for 2019 by the American Public Works Association's Delaware State Chapter. Ray was recognized for his outstanding leadership of the Division of Parks and Recreation.



The Division of Parks & Recreation received the National Association of State Park Directors (NASPD) President's Award for Innovation at its annual conference for its remediation and conversion of the abandoned National Vulcanized Fiber (NVF) plant through a public-private partnership. This brownfield-to-wetlands conversion project utilized natural systems to remediate water bodies impaired by decades of industrial activity and is the first of its kind in Delaware. In addition to remediation of the site, the division created acres of wetlands to abate flooding in the area and provide for wildlife habitat. The property spans across the historic Red Clay Valley and, along with a historic mansion and the largest operational Stanley steam car collection in the country, became Delaware's newest state park: Auburn Valley State Park.

Corporal Randy Burrige won the annual The Park Ranger Institute Top Gun Award at the North Carolina Justice Academy facilities in Salemburg and Edneyville, NC.

Rehoboth Beach Mayor Paul Kuhns presented a proclamation for National Service Recognition Day to members of the Veterans Conservation Corps on March 18.



OTHER AWARDS
continued on next page



The News Journal named Delaware State Parks beaches the cleanest in the state, with no advisories issued since DNREC began monitoring them in 2002.



Delaware State Parks Staff Adam Keever, Mike Krumrine, Robert Terry, Jim Charney and Mark Kammer were honored by Gov. John Carney for their service battling forest fires in Idaho with The Delaware Wildland Fire Crew.



IN MEMORIAM: APRIL ABEL

Delaware State Parks Photographer April Allyson Abel slipped away peacefully on Sept. 8, 2019, after a brief battle with cancer. She was 54 years old.

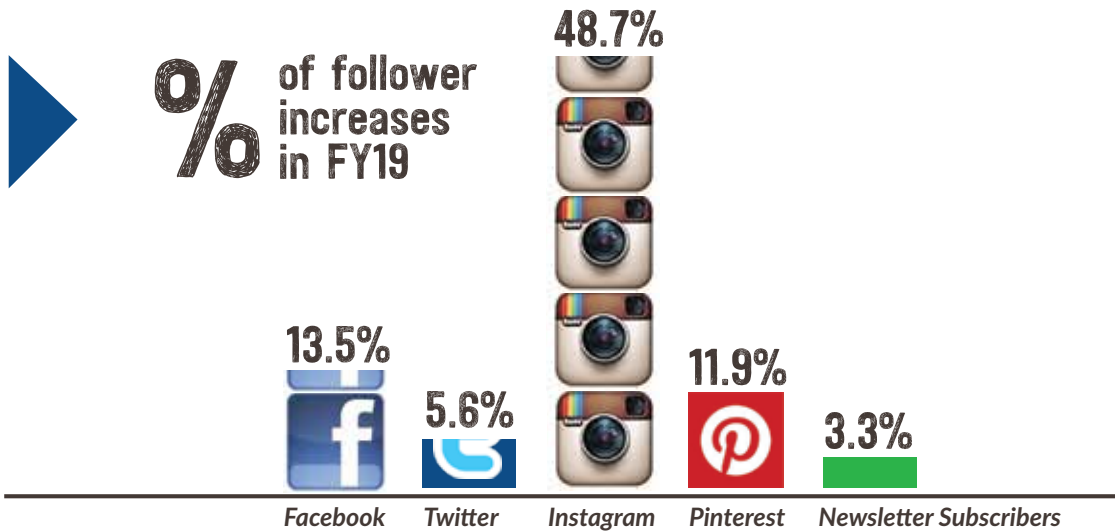
April began her career with Delaware State Parks in 2014 as an exhibits coordinator, before transferring to Creative Services to become the official Delaware State Parks photographer. In addition to her work for the Division, she was published in the News Journal, Delaware Beach Life Magazine, Outdoor Delaware Magazine, and the Milford Chronicle. In 2015, she was one of four photographers nationwide chosen by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a story on wildlife photographers in the national wildlife refuges.

April graduated magna cum laude from Wesley College in Dover, DE in 2009, with a Bachelor of Arts in Media Arts, having achieved an Associate of Applied Science summa cum laude in Office Administration Technology from Delaware Technical and Community College in 2007. As a young woman, she was an integral part of her family's bakery business, Cosmic Bakers, in Rehoboth Beach. From 2008 to 2013, she was the Assistant Volunteer Coordinator at Delaware Hospice.

April possessed an abiding love of nature and a deep appreciation for the wetlands and wildlife along the coastal marshes. She also had an exceptional eye for finding beauty in her surroundings and took great pleasure in making art. Her photographs will continue to be featured in Delaware State Parks publications for many years to come.

WE ROCK SOCIAL MEDIA!

The Division's social media accounts continued to grow tremendously in 2019, adding **9,016** new followers across all four major social media outlets.



WE HAD INNOVATIVE MARKETING CAMPAIGNS

- The Division partnered with the University of Delaware (UD) Athletics, and Lums Pond was named the Official Campground of UD Athletics.
- The Marketing Department created an official style guide for the Division. The guide has created incredible consistency across publications and designs throughout the Division.
- InstaMeets: For the first time we brought an InstaMeet to Fort Delaware. The InstaMeet was the largest one in the history of our InstaMeets, with 100+ visitors to the Fort.
- The Delaware Mobile Surf Fishing Association helped fund a new surf-fishing video, filmed and launched by the Marketing Department, to educate the public on proper rules, regulations, and best practices for surf-fishing at Delaware State Parks.
- The Annual Fall Photo Contest had more than 200 entries, and the public vote reached 30,000 people across social media.
- Delaware State Fair: The marketing department oversaw all exhibit designs for the renovated DNREC building at the state fair.
- The Delaware Tourism Office contributed \$10,000 toward the purchase of an Airstream camper
- Airstream for use as a mobile exhibit/retail space and also is used as the Division's own vendor booth at travel shows.



VOLUNTEERS

Where Volunteers Spent Their Hours

Cape Henlopen State Park	41,308
Brandywine Zoo	15,696
Trap Pond State Park	14,363
Auburn Valley State Park	13,557
Killens Pond State Park	10,174
White Clay Creek State Park	8,025
Delaware Seashore State Park	7,278
Division Central Office	6,085
Lums Pond State Park	5,593
Bellevue and Fox Point State Parks	4,422
Brandywine Creek State Park	2,849
Wilmington State Parks	2,175
Fort Delaware State Park	1,500
First State Heritage Park	1,319
Alapocas Run State Park/ Blue Ball Barn	1,285
Holts Landing State Park	1,276
Fenwick Island State Park	25
	136,905

Top activities our interns assisted us with:

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

Top 3 Intern Home States:
 Delaware: 28
 Pennsylvania: 15
 Maryland: 7

Top Intern Universities:
 University of Delaware: 18
 Salisbury University: 3
 West Chester University: 3
 Frostburg University: 3
 Wilmington University: 2
 Delaware Valley University: 2
 Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University: 2



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

In 2019, **2,955** volunteers contributed **141,238** hours = **72** full-time employees

Value: **\$1,412,380**

Based on average seasonal wage of \$10/hour

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Interns represented seven high schools and 35 colleges and universities from 16 different states. 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.

Value of service: **\$313,407**

based on \$10/hour

Cost of program: **\$102,700** in stipend payments

INTERN SPOTLIGHT

Julia Boyer, Trap Pond State Park

Julia created an in-park opportunity for Sussex County High School students to engage in scientific methods and real-world contexts for conservation. She often received questions about the health of the pond. She connected with teachers from Sussex Central and Indian River high schools, who coordinated a day for their students to monitor and report on nutrients and E.Coli in Trap Pond.

YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

Members of the Youth Conservation Corps, an eight-week summer program for **youth between the ages of 14 and 21, logged more than 17,000 hours of outdoor environmental stewardship and conservation work** among 12 of Delaware State Parks, 23 community partners, and in all three counties. That's the equivalent of nine full-time employees. Supported by a combination of grant and division funding, participants worked on key aspects of running a park, including grounds maintenance, boat rental, program assistance, environmental stewardship, and administration. At the end of the program, the participants overwhelmingly indicated that the program provided them with a valuable experience.



- **98%** indicated increased confidence in job-seeking
- **100%** learned a new skill
- **4.8** out of **5** cited "comfort with nature" as a result of the program.



AMERICORPS VETERANS CONSERVATION CORPS

18 veterans served 14,705 volunteer work hours as members of the AmeriCorps/Veterans Corps team. During this time, 664.5 acres of natural area lands were treated and improved, and 160 miles of trails maintained and/or improved.

"I feel that there are many more opportunities available to me than there were before this program began. I would love to pursue a career in parks, and this has been a fantastic first experience working within Delaware State Parks."

— Caleb Hayman
YCC Member

The scale of the jobs that were tackled would not have been possible without the invaluable help from everyone within [the Veterans Conservation Corps] ... through some of the most difficult weather conditions imaginable in central Delaware. I am honestly amazed how much work they accomplished for us ... and a positive work environment and attitude was always present."

Golf Course
Superintendent
Garrisons Lake Golf Club

There are

15

Friends groups that actively support 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.

The Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park

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

The Friends of Holts Landing State Park

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

The Friends of Killens Pond State Park

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

The Friends of Lums Pond State Park

Raises funds and helps maintain the park.

The Friends of Old Dover

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

The Friends of White Clay Creek State Park

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

The Friends of Wilmington Parks

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

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.

PARTNERS/FRIENDS PROJECTS

- **Auburn Heights Steam Museum**

Working with the Friends of Auburn Heights, plans are underway to improve the Steam Car Museum. This gives the Friends an improved space for exhibiting the collection and adds a bathroom facility, along will provide improved interior and exterior space and design.

Project Cost: \$1,000,000 Friends of Auburn Heights

- **Bellevue Mansion and Cauffiel House Renovation and Repairs**

Working with the Jeffrey Miller Group, Bellevue Mansion and Cauffiel House have seen a number of improvements, including renovating the Cauffiel barn as a rental space, upgrading all HVAC at Cauffiel, refinishing the floors at Bellevue Mansion, and removal of the mansion's front porch, which was not historic.

Project Cost: \$300,000 state parks
\$300,000+ from Jeffrey Miller Group (concessionaire)

- **Bellevue Parsonage, Mount Pleasant Meeting House, and Cemetery Rehabilitation and Restoration**

The Friends of Bellevue, with assistance from the Division, successfully raised funds for the restoration and rehabilitation of the Mount Pleasant Meeting House, parsonage and cemetery. Work included interior and exterior improvements, restored windows and sills, and restoration of cemetery stones.

Project Cost: \$216,000

- **Tower Three Renovation**

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

Project Cost: \$250,000 state parks
\$750,000 Delaware Seashore Preservation Foundation

- **Fort Miles Event Space and Parking Lot at Cape Henlopen**

The Fort Miles Historical Association, through grant writing and fundraising efforts, worked with the Division to create an event space at the northeast entrance of the Fort Miles Museum. The space is an ideal location for special events, concerts, and weddings. The work also included a new parking lot area, and improved pathway and lighting.

Project Cost: \$368,571 State
\$650,000 from Fort Miles Historical Association grants and fundraising



ADVISORY COUNCILS

PARKS AND RECREATION COUNCIL

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

Ronald A. Breeding, Chair

Brenda Bramble
Isaac Daniels
Janice Durham

Gregory Johnson
Ed Lewandowski
Clyde Shipman III
Joseph D. Smack

Bobbi Steele
Jim White



IN MEMORIAM: RON MEARS

The Division was saddened by the passing of Ron Mears, long-time chair and member of the Parks and Recreation Council. Ron, a former Delaware State Police Trooper and an avid outdoorsman, died June 17, 2019, at the age of 79. He served on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Council for 26 years, of which he was the chair for more than 10 years. He worked diligently to improve, protect and conserve the nature and beauty of Delaware's State Parks.

We thank him for his dedicated service and commitment to Delaware State Parks. A Delaware Community Foundation endowment to benefit his favorite park, Lums Pond, was established in his honor by his family.

OPEN SPACE COUNCIL

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

John R. Schroeder, Chair

Paul H. Boswell
Representative Gerald L. Brady
Senator Bruce C. Ennis
Lorraine M. Fleming
D. Wayne Holden
David A. Humes
Dennis Coker
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 & Trails is an advisory group to the Division of Parks and Recreation, DNREC. A major council role is to promote and encourage the development and use of trails and the protection of greenway conservation corridors. The Council may participate in venues to promote active and healthy lifestyles.

Governor Appointees

Charles Emerson, Chair

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

Agency Members

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

Legislative Members

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



NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Debbie Heaton, Chair

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



THINGS WE DO

PRESERVING, SUPPORTING, TEACHING

WE PRESERVED OPEN SPACE

The Land Preservation Office coordinates the acquisition of state parks and preserves, Fish and Wildlife areas, state forests and cultural resource sites for Delaware's Open Space Program. Four State land management Divisions qualify for funding under the Open Space Program: the Divisions of Parks & Recreation and Fish & Wildlife (DNREC), State Forestry (DDA), and Historical and Cultural Affairs (DOS).

Since the Open Space law was passed in 1990, more than 105,516 acres of the Delaware landscape have been set aside for expanding state parks and preserves, fish and wildlife areas, state forests and cultural resource sites.

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

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

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

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

There are
622
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 **177,121** people visited state park nature/interpretive centers.
- More than **275,928** members of the general public attended more than **4,205** programs.
- **99.8%** of participants reported enjoying the program they attended, and **98.3%** stated that they would attend another Delaware State Parks program.
- **51,430** people came out to enjoy over **75** concerts.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- **18%** of all park programs are delivered to school groups.
- **1,062** school programs educated **30,286** school children, totaling **902** contact hours* in environmental, historical, and cultural heritage.
- **1,165** Girls Scouts and Boy Scouts participated in **43** tailored programs, totaling 68 contact hours.
- **111** state park day camps provided nature-based experiences to **1,532** campers, totaling **3,996** contact hours.



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

Program Attendance FY18		
	Number of Programs	Number of Participants
Total Program Participation	6,209	376,497
*General Public Programs	4,205	275,928
Nature Center/Historic Building Visitation		177,121
*School Programs	1,062	30,286
*Summer Day Camps (June - August 2019)	111	1,532
*Summer Concerts (May - September 2019)	75	51,430

*Not all categories are reported. Some programs such as scout, group, and school programs, may fall into multiple categories. Concerts and camps are counted on a different reporting schedule.

DNREC Secretary Shawn M. Garvin was joined on April 26 by children and members of the Friends of Bellevue State Park in planting a tree to celebrate Arbor Day at the park. A group of young people from Wilmington Friends School, Willmington Montessori School and several Bellevue State Park spring break day campers were on hand at the event.



PROTECT AND SERVE

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

Here are a few of their highlights from 2019:

In February, a joint investigation with the State Fire Marshall's Office resulted in the arrest of a juvenile who charged with arson and other related charges after allegedly setting fire to a historically significant Division of Parks & Recreation shack and cabin in Port Penn. Fire damage to the buildings was estimated at \$20,000, but the historical loss has not been determined. The shack and cabin dated back to the 1850s and were the last-known preserved structures of their kind.

In August 2019, Division Officer Ditmore and his K9 partner Leo, who are trained in scent tracking, were called to look for an individual that was reported missing at White Clay Creek State Park. The individual's car was found which gave the Rangers and other agencies a general idea of where the person could be. After a long night of searching, Leo and Ditmore was able to locate the person.



In the spring and early summer of 2019, Lums Pond State Park staff noticed the revenue from the self-pay station at the boat ramp seemed to be down compared to previous years. Division Rangers began an investigation over several weeks and used a variety of covert surveillance methods of the area. Eventually, Rangers caught a subject pulling self-pay envelopes from the safe and retaining the money. The suspect was charged with numerous thefts.

Senate Bill 66 Gives Limited Authoritative Powers to Seasonal Park Patrol Officers

Senate Bill 66, which unanimously passed the Delaware Senate and House of Representatives in June 2019, gives seasonal park patrol officers the authority to write simple citations. Longer-tenured park patrol rangers who attend additional training are now able to cite park visitors for minor violations such as failure to pay park entrance fees, littering, driving on the beach without a surf-fishing permit, and having a dog off-leash.

TARGETED ENFORCEMENT OF SURF-FISHING REGULATIONS

Park rangers issued more than 500 citations and warnings for various violations of surf fishing regulations during targeted enforcement operations in the summer of 2019. The enforcement efforts were conducted in response to complaints about visitors failing to abide by regulations, particularly the “actively engaged” rule of surf fishing.



Beach Patrol

The Division employed 65 ocean lifeguards along beaches from Cape Henlopen to Delaware Seashore to Fenwick Island state parks. The number of lifeguards increased by 12% from 2018 thanks to a bonus and retention program, robust social media campaign, social media ads, posters, rack cards, online tryout registrations, recruitment funnel, email campaign, newsletter articles, guard testimonials, landing pages, website updates and photoshoot. State Parks remains a competitive employer for lifeguards.

Of the 25 rookies in 2019, 21 lifeguards finished training and remained throughout the summer, and will hopefully return in 2020.



WE PROVIDED GRANTS

OUTDOOR RECREATION, PARKS AND TRAILS PROGRAM

The Division awarded more than **\$1,192,977** in grants* for **17** new parks and trail projects statewide through The Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Trails (ORPT) Program.

**These awards are tentative and not effective until a Grant Agreement is fully executed between the Department and Grantee*

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



Grants awarded by county and project:

New Castle

- Old Paper Mill Road Park, Newark: **\$50,000**
- White Clay Creek bike/pedestrian bridge, Newark: **\$200,000**
- Reservoir Park, Newark: **\$50,000**
- Commons Boulevard Pathway, New Castle: **\$100,000**
- Municipal Park, Townsend: **\$87,400**
- Eastlake Park improvements, Wilmington: **\$100,000**
- Helen Chambers Park, Wilmington: **\$100,000**
- Kirkwood Park Improvements, Wilmington: **\$100,000**

Total: \$787,400

Kent County

- Silver Lake and Kirkwood parks capital projects, Dover: **\$18,000**
- Dover Park Multi-Use Trail, Dover: **\$34,000**
- Wyoming Park, Wyoming: **\$64,855**

Total: \$116,855

Sussex County

- Park Security, Frankford: **\$8,982**
- George H.P. Smith Park, Lewes: **\$36,941**
- Canalfront Park, Lewes: **\$38,550**
- Mispillion Greenway Vinyard Extension, Milford: **\$24,500**
- Rails to Trails lighting, Milton: **\$97,500**
- Sussex County's James Farm Ecological Preserve, Ocean View: **\$82,250**

Total: \$288,723

WE RECEIVED GRANT FUNDING

Delaware State Parks and Friends Groups received grant funding from private, state and federal funders. In 2019, we obtained funding from:

- The Friends of Auburn Heights: More than **\$800,000** for improvements at the Auburn Valley State Park Steam Museum
- Delaware Health and Social Services Office of Volunteerism: **\$150,466** for Veterans Conservation Corps
- The Trap Pond Partners: **\$50,000** for a new playground at Trap Pond State Park
- FEMA: **\$45,090** for flood study at Delaware Seashore State Park South Campground
- Longwood Foundation: **\$40,000** for restoration of Mt. Pleasant Meeting House windows
- DHSS/State Office on Volunteerism: **\$33,600** for an internship education award
- Community Environmental Penalty Funds: **\$14,840** for Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)
- Delaware Division of the Arts: **\$10,000** for environmental education programming
- Delaware Department of Agriculture: **\$9,997** for trees planting
- Crestlea Foundation: **\$5,000** for Mt. Pleasant Parsonage cemetery markers
- Perdue Foundation: **\$4,000** for environmental education programming

COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION FUNDING:

Community Transportation funding is provided to Delaware legislators for projects within the community. We obtained funding from:

- Sen. Gerald Hocker and Rep. Gray contributed **\$500,000** to Holts Landing State Park for a new parking lot and playground.
- Rep. Melanie Smith gave **\$150,000** for a new playground at White Clay Creek State Park.
- Rep. Smith contributed **\$100,000** to Lums Pond State Park for a playground.
- Reps. Dukes and Richardson provided nearly **\$50,000** for a new playground at Trap Pond State Park.
- Sen. Sokola and Rep. Baumbach gave **\$30,000** to pave the parking lot at White Clay Creek State Park's Nature Center.



HOW WE PAY FOR IT

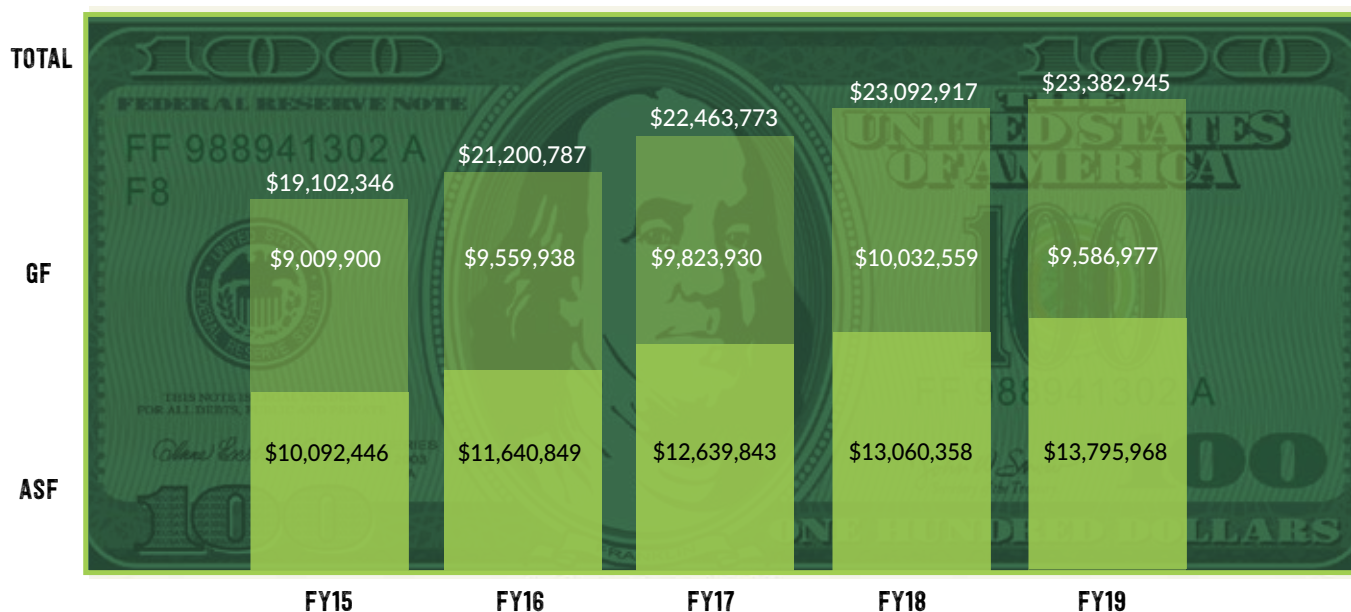
FUNDING THE PARKS

The Division of Parks & Recreation is primarily self-funded, with more than 60% of its funding coming from user fees. This 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. Those include:

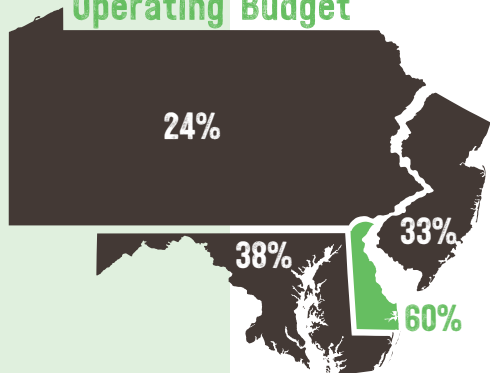
- Weather (rainy summer season, hurricanes, excessive heat, etc.)
- Gas prices and economic swings that affect the amount of discretionary money available to vacationers
- Carrying capacity limitations at ocean parks and other large revenue-generating management units

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

OPERATING EXPENSES: FY15 TO FY19



Self-Sufficient Operating Budget

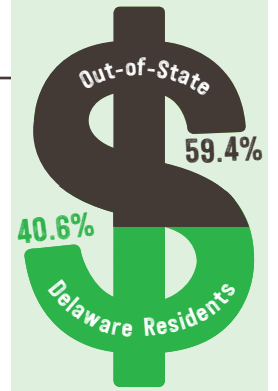
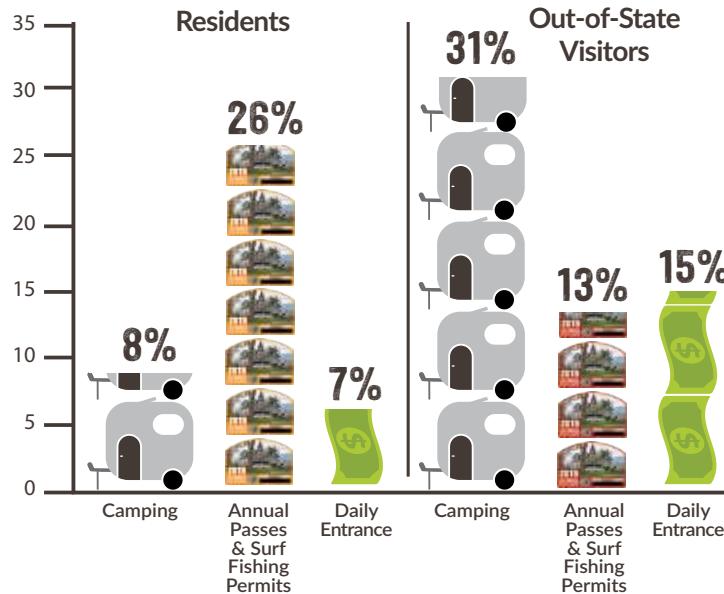


In Delaware, the majority of funding for operating state parks come from park-generated revenue such as camping, fees, passes and permits. Roughly 40% of park operating revenue funds come from the state budget. This is quite different from our neighboring states.

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.

FY2019 revenue from fees totaled
\$11,730,215

SOURCES OF REVENUE



More than **59%** of the revenue in 2019 came from out-of-state visitors to the parks.

Camping By The Numbers

- Camping generates **43%** of park fee revenue
- **37,846** reservations were made for Delaware State Parks campsites, cabins, yurts and cottages across the state in FY19
- The occupancy rate for campgrounds, cabins, cottages and yurts was **58%** in FY19. During peak season, Memorial through Labor Day, the occupancy rate was **89%**

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 **182** plates for a total of **\$471,552**.

Yurts, Cottages and Cabins

Yurts, cottages and cabins have proven to be in high demand. They had a **58%** occupancy rate for FY2019, with an **89%** occupancy rate during the peak season of Memorial Day through Labor Day.

State Park Concessions

Privately-owned concessionaries and partners run businesses and deliver services at the state park locations and paid **\$453,779** in negotiated fees back to the Division in FY19. Services provided included head boat fishing, food service, horseback riding, non-motorized boat rentals, tennis, bait and tackle, and a high-ropes adventure course.

The camp store at Cape Henlopen State Park generated **\$222,731.12 (up 25%)** during calendar year 2019, while the park's nature center generated **\$109,176.68 (up 7%)**

Retail operations have grown significantly in **calendar year** 2019, up 15% from **\$640,890 in 2018 to \$735,685 in 2019**. Some of the top-selling items include clothing, handmade pottery, jewelry, collectibles, stuffed animals, maps, decals, food, ice, firewood and camping necessities.

INVESTMENTS IN OUR PARKS

The Division saw the completion of many projects in 2019 that will enhance visitor experiences and strengthen our parks for years to come. The following are examples from throughout the park system.



- **Tri-Valley Trail at White Clay Creek**

The Tri-Valley Trail Phase I and II projects are completed, rounding out the accessible hub at White Clay Creek. The accessible trail complements the accessible docks for fishing and wildlife viewing, hay wagon rides, and primitive group camping.

Project Cost: \$3,113,232

- **Auburn Valley Wetlands, Bridge, and Trails**

Auburn Valley continues to advance, with the completion of all wetlands projects, the Yorklyn tract trail and bridge, the Snuff Mill bridge, and a new pavilion.

Project Cost: \$9,484,154



- **Pavilions at Lums Pond, Fox Point, Alapocas Run, Auburn Valley and Deerfield Golf Course**

The Division continues to look at ways to expand revenue-producing opportunities within the state. The new pavilions were placed in areas of high demand.

Project Cost: \$478,101



- **Day Camp Yurt at Brandywine Creek**

Brandywine Creek's day camp has relocated from inside the maintenance shop area to a more visible area near the park office. The addition of a yurt adds a gathering area for day camp attendees and expands year-round programming opportunities.

Project cost: \$24,245



- **Lums Pond Campground Improvements**

As part of the recently rehabilitated Lums Pond campground, the Division invested in turning the old bathhouse into a new laundry facility and camp store. This brings the amenities to the center of the campground, near the existing stage for programming, shade structures, and playground.

Project Cost: \$327,926



- **Bathroom, Roof, and Trail at Bellevue's Hunter Barn**

The Division has filled a much-needed void at Bellevue State Park with the addition of an accessible bathroom at the Hunter Barn. The bathroom has an accessible trail from the parking lot, as well as interior and exterior access that allows the bathrooms to be used for day camps and rental events

Project Cost: \$702,108

- **Brandywine Zoo Improvements**

In order to maintain Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accreditation, the Division invested in key upgrades to existing facilities. This includes a new animal encounter area for the goats, a condor viewing area, an interactive bee area, and additional safety updates in the keeper areas.

Project Cost: \$834,560



- **New Playgrounds at Lums Pond and White Clay Creek**

The Division continues to make significant investments in playgrounds at the Lums Pond campground and White Clay Creek, with funding provided in part by Community Transportation Funds.

Project Cost: \$252,032



ENTREPRENEURIAL ADVANCES

Investing in Technology

The Division added 20 Parkeon automated fee collection machines that enabled visitors to use credit cards in many places and helped to collect revenue in some of the toughest-to-staff locations. Previously, Park visitors without an Annual Pass were only able to pay with cash to enter the parks. The Parkeons generated nearly \$48,871 by the end of 2019.



Corporate and Group Passes

The Corporate and Group Pass Program added eligibility to nonprofit groups this year and continued to grow in 2019, selling 1,365 annual passes and generating \$40,950 in revenue. Archmere Academy, Delaware Electric Cooperative, Discover, Delaware Center for Inland Bays, Delaware Disc Golf Club and Delaware Supreme Court participated in the program. The Corporate Pass Program also boosted interest in corporate volunteer projects in the parks.



Summer Concert Series Sponsorships

The 2019 Summer Concert Series included 75 musical performances and hosted 50,650 attendees. The title sponsor for the series was the Delaware Office of Highway Safety, which promoted its Arrive Alive campaign. Other sponsors included Schlosser & Associates Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning, 88.7 The Bridge, Dogfish Head Craft Brewery, the Delaware Division of the Arts, the Friends of Bellevue State Park, Friends of Holts Landing State Parks, Friends of Killens Pond State Park, Trap Pond Partners, Friends of White Clay Creek State Park and the Friends of Wilmington State Parks.



SMALL BUSINESSES AT THE PARKS

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

Food Vendors

- Hammerheads Dockside
- Jay Vending Company
- The Big Chill



Service Providers

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



“Our team is honored to operate two of the best and most popular golf courses in the region on behalf of Delaware State Parks. It’s been a privilege to proudly serve the golfers and dining guests of our great state at these two venues for so many seasons.”

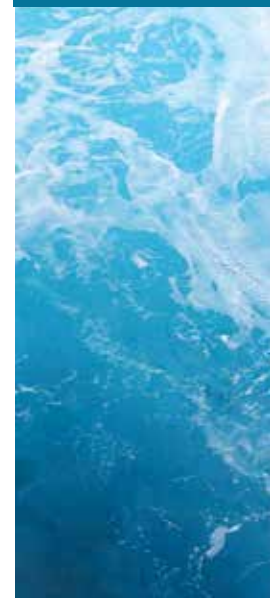
*Jeffrey Robinson
Director of
Hospitality
Operations
Forewinds
Hospitality*

Total gross revenue for these businesses was more than

\$13.7 million in FY2019

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

The Big Chill Beach Club at Delaware Seashore State Park enjoyed its third year of operation. The restaurant, with its views of the Atlantic Ocean, the inlet, and inland bays, **served almost \$2 million in food and contributed more than \$100,000 in daily entrance fees to the park.**



PARTNERSHIPS

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



Airstream

The Division purchased an authentic, 23-foot Airstream camper for use as a mobile exhibit/retail space. It made its debut at the 2019 Delaware State Fair and is set to become a long-standing icon for Delaware State Parks. The \$25,000 recreational vehicle was purchased with the support of a \$10,000 sponsorship from the Delaware Tourism Office. The Airstream has already been a hit at multiple out-of-state tradeshows, where it's marketed Delaware tourism to much acclaim.



88.7 The Bridge

Delaware State Parks partners with the 88.7 The Bridge radio station for monthly spots on their radio station to promote Parks campaigns, programs, events, and contests. The Bridge shared a contest where one person won a weeklong cabin stay at Killens Pond State Park by marking interest and attendance in one of the Park's First Day Hikes online.



Caesar Rodney High School

The Division's marketing department partners with a digital media class from Caesar Rodney High School. With direction from the marketing program, the class films videos about the parks that are then shared on the Division's social media accounts. In 2019, the class created videos for the Indian River Life-Saving Station, First State Heritage Park, Trap Pond and Killens Pond state parks



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.



Delaware Community Foundation

The Delaware Community Foundation (DCF) voted to accept the transfer of the \$2.2 million Brandywine Creek Woodlawn Fund, a land trust to benefit Brandywine Creek State Park in June. More than \$10 million in private endowment funding benefiting Delaware State Parks is now invested with the DCF.



DE Turf Sports Complex

The new Delaware Turf Sports Complex promoted Delaware State Parks during the National Lacrosse Classic in July via several multimedia outlets, including on the complex's roadside digital sign along Route 1. In return, players who participated in the National Lacrosse Classic received one complimentary ticket to the Killens Pond Waterpark, located just minutes from the Turf Sport Complex.

Friends Group/Business Partner Celebration

The Division implemented its first Friends Group/Business Partner Celebration in October to thank them for their contributions to the success of all Delaware State Parks. DNREC Secretary Shawn M. Gavin joined more than 100 friends and Division business partners in a celebration of their efforts.

The 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 around the tristate area. Multiple Hispanic countries were represented at the festival through music, dance, food, and exhibits.

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.

The University of Delaware (UD)

A Delaware State Parks Getaway was a two-week sweepstakes from Delaware State Parks and University of Delaware Athletics, which offered the chance to win a free three-night camping stay at Lums Pond State Park, the Official Campground of UD Athletics, and four tickets to a home UD Football game. This resulted in 1,363 entries and more than a thousand new email contacts.

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.

The Nature Conservancy and Mt. Cuba Center

The acquisition of 86 acres of land to expand the recently created Auburn Valley State Park was made possible through a \$475,000 donation from The Nature Conservancy in Delaware and a \$585,000 grant funding through Mt. Cuba Center. The preservation of the two parcels, each about 43 acres in size, will enable future expansion of recreational activities at the 452-acre park.

Gov. John Carney and Secretary Shawn Garvin recognized several of Bellevue's volunteers at the 2019 DNREC Volunteer Awards. Kathy and Charles Shattuck, volunteers from Wild Birds Inc., received the



Volunteer of the Year Research award. Kevin Nemeth, a volunteer with the Delaware Disc Golf Association, was recognized with the Volunteer of the Year Outdoor Recreation Award.



MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

There has been a **20%** decline in general fund support since 2009

LIMITED GENERAL FUND SUPPORT

Since 2009, the Division of Parks & Recreation has seen its general funding support decline by 20%, 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	2019	% Change
General Fund Support		
11,945,300	9,586,977	-20%
Total Expenses		
19,681,789	23,382,945	+18.8%

INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEFERRED MAINTENANCE NEEDS

Why is this an issue?

The Division has a limited capital budget and \$118 million in capital needs across our 17 state parks and the Brandywine Zoo. Without investments, infrastructure will age well beyond its life expectancy. Examples of deferred maintenance and infrastructure projects include:

- Cape Henlopen State Park Sewer System upgrades. **Estimated Cost: \$2 million**
- Fenwick Island State Park parking lot and amenity upgrade. **Estimated Cost: \$2.65 million**
- Fort Delaware dock repairs. **Estimated Cost: \$750,000**

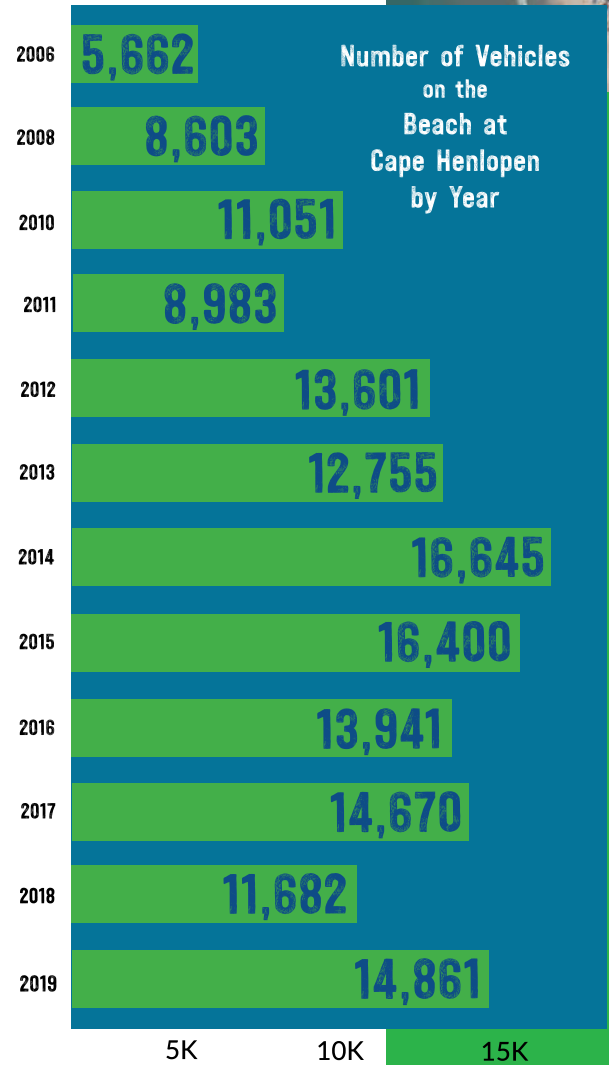




CARRYING CAPACITY AT THE BEACH PARKS

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. Due to the popularity of these beach destinations, carrying capacity for vehicles on the beach also is an issue.



MORE VISITORS, FEWER FULL-TIME STAFF

Why is this an issue?

Park visitation has grown to 6,026,697 visitors annually, an increase of 1.4 million visitors since 2009. That is a 30 percent increase in visitors. During that same time period, the Division of Parks and Recreation has experienced a 17.3% percent decrease in its full-time staff. Increasingly, our parks are being used by schools, nonprofits and other organizations to hold special events such as 5K events, half marathons and special days of respite and recreation for organizations such as Special Olympics Delaware. These visitors rely upon our staff to ensure events run smoothly and everyone enjoys a safe, fun-filled day at Delaware State Parks.

2009	2019	% Change
Number of Full-Time Employees		
197	163	-17.3%
Number of Park Visitors		
4,649,525	6,026,697	+30%

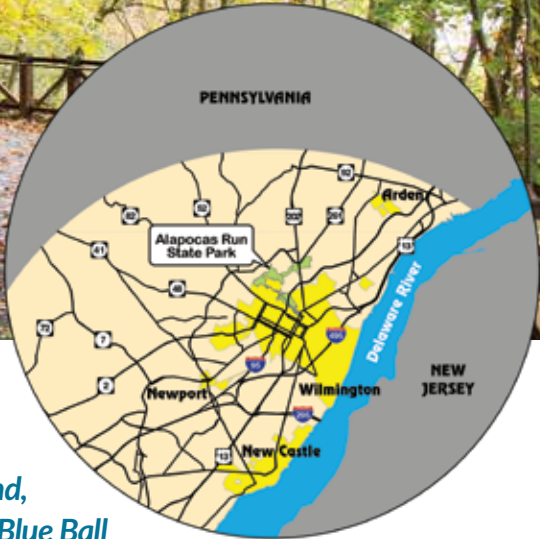
INFO BY PARK

“ *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.

ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

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

ALAPOCAS RUN at a Glance

- 
359
 Acres
- 
6.5
 Miles of trails
- 
137,374
 Visitors
- 
18/24
 Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff
- 
1,285
 Volunteer hours
- 
70/15,096
 Programs/Participants
- 
5/52
 Day Camps/Campers



INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

The Blue Ball Barn's floor heating system, replacement of the boiler, and maintenance were connected to the heating pumps. The air conditioning system also received necessary maintenance and adjustments.

A new pole building was constructed, a new fuel tank was installed and electricity was brought to the site in addition to paving, fencing, several sheds and a cargo box. These additions along with the renovation of



the former New Castle County maintenance yard provided storage and workshop space for the staff at Alapocas and Wilmington state parks during the reconstruction of the new Abbessino Stadium, which will replace Baynard Stadium.

Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

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



SPECIAL EVENTS

The **5th Annual Delaware: A Brew Story** was held at Blue Ball Barn and featured tastings from Delaware breweries, meaderies, distilleries, and Deerhead Hot Dogs, plus raffles and ax throwing from Battle Ax Delaware. **More than 200 people attended the event.**

The second **Meandering Meal** was held at the park and offered a hike along the Northern Delaware Greenway Trail with park naturalists who taught participants about the area's history and natural environment. Participants also experienced a three-course meal prepared by Bchetti Brothers. Live music, wine and beer were provided courtesy of the Friends of Wilmington Parks.

The Annual Pawpaw Folk Festival was held in August and visitors enjoyed music, storytelling by Clem Bowen, folk art, and demonstrations from Woodcarver Rich Schuman and Duck Carver George Wilson. Bob Meadows gave a presentation on Pawpaws.

SPORTING EVENTS

Rugby players from around the state participated in the **Delaware Rugby Foundation's tournament** and the **Brandywine Women's Rugby Football Club tournament.**

Alapocas State Park hosted several **Ultimate Frisbee tournaments** with Delaware Ultimate Frisbee, Delaware Sports League's Flag Football, St Elizabeth School's Soccer, St Mary Magdalene School's Soccer, Wilmington Lacrosse, Wilmington Rugby and Immaculate Heart of Mary.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Wilmington Area Rotary Clubs secured the Discover Card grant that funded the park's new Storybook Trail. Panels that each feature a page of storybooks are set along the trail, which is surrounded by more than 2,000 native plants in a variety of species. A landscape plan that winds the trail through the garden was created by the University of Delaware Landscape Architecture program.

FRIENDS OF WILMINGTON PARKS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

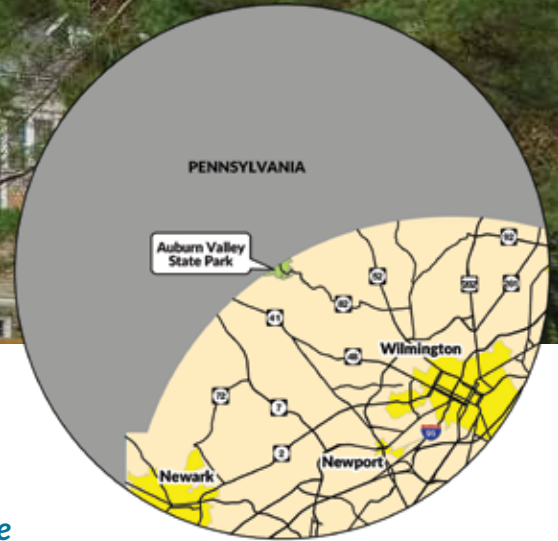
The Friends of Wilmington Parks, along with REI and Delaware Greenways, funded two additional bike repair stations at Alapocas.

The Friend's group also supported multiple scholarships for environmental education and rock climbing.



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 1/2-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.



ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

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

AUBURN VALLEY at a Glance

 **457.5**
Acres

 **4.56**
Miles of trails

 **14,271**
Visitors

 **3/5**
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff

 **13,557**
Volunteer hours

 **126/2,666**
Programs/Participants

FY2019

INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

Abutments were completed to support the recently restored **historic Farm Lane and Snuff Mill bridges**, which will be installed across the Red Clay Creek and become strategic links in the Auburn Valley State Park trail system.

Three wetland areas were created and a stream was restored at the Auburn Valley State Park. These wetlands will serve as the critical line of defense against flooding.



The park's first pavilion, designed to be sensitive to the industrial past, historic structures and view scapes of the Yorklyn area, was completed in late 2019.

Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

- *New pump station adjacent to Papermill for the museum and mansion complex. Cost Estimate \$350,000.*
- *Mansion, parking lot plan, design/ construction of septic tank replacement and sewer connection. Cost Estimate \$1,000,000*
- *New NVF sewer pump station and force main. Cost Estimate \$3,841,250*



Friends of
Auburn Heights Preserve Inc.

SPECIAL EVENTS



The **Annual Yorklyn Day** was a success. The event showcases the natural and cultural resources of the village and includes live music, food, nature programs, antique autos and train rides.

The **first Yorklyn Storytelling Festival** was a hit and drew many guests, young and old. It featured a lineup of nine nationally known storytellers and included workshops, an open mic, and fun-filled storytelling concerts in Yorklyn.

FRIENDS OF AUBURN HEIGHTS PRESERVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Friends hosted two successful **Egg Hunts**, which sold out both days.

The Friends' Invitational Car Show and Garden Party drew great crowds.

Friends group member **Bob Koury was one of many to receive the Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Awards** for his commitment to the park and leadership in the Auburn Valley railroad, which resulted in the completion of critical work. His dedication preserved the legacy of the Marshall family's miniature railroad for the enjoyment of families for years to come.

IN MEMORIAM: TOM MARSHALL

The Friends of Auburn Heights were integral in honoring Tom Marshall, a founding director of the Friends of Auburn Heights Preserve, following his passing in February 2019. Every Friends group volunteer worked hard in the following months to help the Auburn Heights museum capital improvement project, which Tom championed.

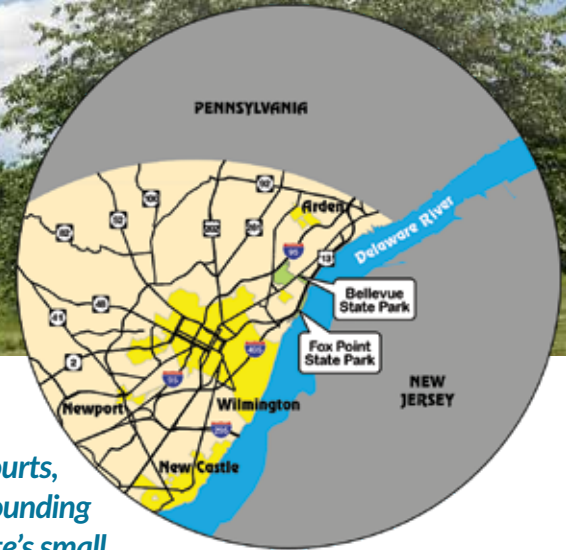
Tom spent his first 84 years living at Auburn Heights, the grand Victorian-era home built by his grandparents in 1897. In 2008, he and his wife moved and donated the home to the State of Delaware to become the centerpiece of Auburn Valley State Park. The approximately 360-acre park also consists of open space donated by Tom and his cousin, Eleanor Marshall Reynolds.

After leaving Auburn Heights, Tom remained active in his role as founding director of the Friends of Auburn Heights Preserve, and he could be found working in the museum and workshops at Auburn Heights daily well into his 90s.

In the 1990s, Tom became to share his love of antique cars and steam trains through a series of talks and workshops on steam car technology that he gave at Auburn Heights. The group attending these gatherings became known as the "Marshall Steam Team" and evolved into the non-profit Friends of Auburn Heights Preserve in 2004. Tom donated his collection of antique cars, trains and other collectibles to the Friends, whose volunteers still maintain and operate the cars and miniature steam railroad for the public to enjoy at Auburn Valley State Park.



BELLEVUE AND FOX POINT STATE PARKS




Bellevue State Park was once an elegant estate belonging to the prominent DuPont family. The park features Bellevue Hall, tennis courts, horseback riding stables, gardens and a 11/2-mile fitness track surrounding a picturesque pond. Visitors can stroll the grounds, explore the estate's small arboretum, enjoy a summer concert or just escape the hustle and bustle of Wilmington.

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

BELLEVUE/FOX POINT at a Glance

 **330.01**
Acres

 **9.16**
Miles of trails (Including Fox Point)

 **308,215**
Visitors

 **10/64**
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff

 **4,421.75**
Volunteer hours

 **514/42,269**
Programs/Participants

 **23/31,350**
Concerts/Participants

 **25/417**
Day Camps/Campers

ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

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

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

FY2019

INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

The Hunter Barn now has new restrooms with a handicap-accessible trail from the parking lot to the bathroom entrance. The new additions will provide attractive and convenient facilities for groups renting the facility.

The Friends of Bellevue, with assistance from the Division, successfully raised funds for the restoration and rehabilitation of the **Mount Pleasant Meeting House, parsonage and cemetery**. Work included interior and exterior improvements, restored windows and sills, and restoration of cemetery stones.

Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

Bellevue State Park

- Percheron Barn Roof- structural repairs and roof shingles. Cost Estimate \$235,000
- Mt. Pleasant School House interior rehab. Cost Estimate \$1,000,000
- Figure 8 barn roof repair and replacement. Cost Estimate \$700,000

Fox Point State Park

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

The historic **Mount Pleasant School House** main structure was stabilized and restored, and a dilapidated addition that was not original to the building was demolished.

The new **Fox Point Pavilion**, which overlooks the Delaware River and the Delaware Memorial Bridge, will provide additional income and programming space.



SPECIAL EVENTS

The Bellevue State Park hosted the inaugural **Fusion for a Cause 5K Music & Brew Fest**, during which **\$5,821** was raised for charities chosen by 5K participants.

Bellevue hosted its annual **Bellevue Murder Mystery program**, an interactive whodunit puzzle set in the historic Bellevue Hall mansion activity that includes live actors and props. The events hosted 130 participants. **Proceeds benefited the Friends of Bellevue.**

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

*Hillary Belles
Wilmington*

Dog Gone Fun Day was a hit. The park partnered with Rockwood Park and seven private vendors to host dogs and their owners for a facilitated hike between the parks along the Northern Delaware Greenway Trail with fun activities at each site for the animals.



Stargazers joined the **Delaware Astronomical Society** for an introduction to observing the night sky.

Crafty park visitors took part in the annual **Candy Wreath Making** event.

SPORTING EVENTS

The **Diamond State Roller Derby team**, based out of Newark, hosted their inaugural race event that combined a traditional 5K running race with a 5K skating race, as well as a skating half-marathon and full marathon. The event raised funds for the Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition and Wilmington's Serviam Girls Academy.

The **Delaware Disc Golf Association** hosted its inaugural Disc Wars tournament, with a Star Wars theme, at the park.



PARTNERSHIPS

Members of the Friends of Bellevue board worked with Superintendent Bill Fasano to secure food trucks for the Bellevue Summer Concert Series.

Friends group member MaryAnn Korant was one of many to receive the Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Award for her integral role as the group's treasurer, in which she secures and manages tens of thousands of dollars in grant funds. These funds are dedicated to historic preservation projects and cultural programs in Bellevue State Park.

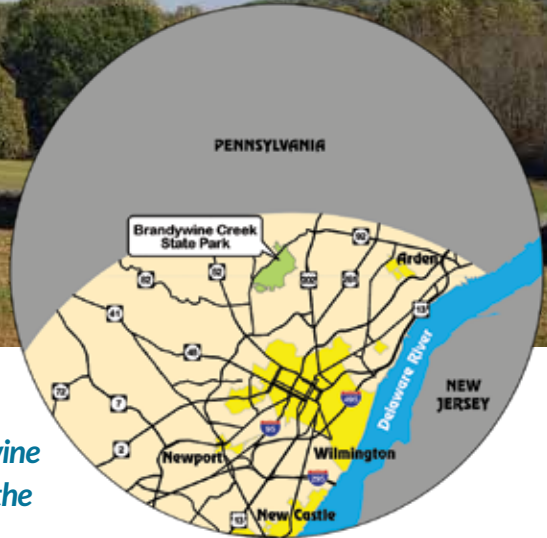


Parks staff members John McCarthy, Katie Wilson and Max Kichline began an investigation of reported unmarked burials in the south east corner, known as "Strangers Row," of **Bellevue's Mount Pleasant Cemetery**. Using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), approximately 10 potential burials were identified.





BRANDYWINE CREEK STATE PARK



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

ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

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

BRANDYWINE CREEK
at a Glance

- 952.02**
Acres
- 18.74**
Miles of trails
- 108,742**
Visitors
- 5/20**
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff
- 2,849**
Volunteer hours
- 232/13,239**
Programs/Participants
- 14/182**
Day Camps/Campers

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

Enjoy the tranquility of the Brandywine Valley while floating down Brandywine Creek, hiking Rocky Run Trail's bed of blue granite from Thompson Bridge to Rocky Run Bridge, or quietly fish the creek's edge.



INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

Brandywine Creek's day camp was relocated from inside the maintenance shop area to near the park office, where the



addition of a yurt added a gathering area for day camp attendees and expands year-round programming opportunities.

Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

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

Drainage 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.

Stone wall repairs

Repairs were made to the historical stone walls that surround the park; a portion of which as supported by insurance payouts due to vehicular accidents.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Brandywine Creek hosted the **Wilmington Trail Club** for their **annual End to End hike**, which covers 36 miles of trail in one day.

The park hosted the **Gary Laseko Special Needs and Senior Citizens Trout Fishing Derby**.

The annual **Ramsey's Revenge Mountain Bike Race** drew about 500 people.

Brandywine Creek State Park hosted **nine cross country meets in 2019, including the popular Salesianum Invitational that drew about 2,000 people**.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Brandywine Creek State Park partnered with the First State National Historical Park for maintenance projects, programming and enforcement throughout 2019.

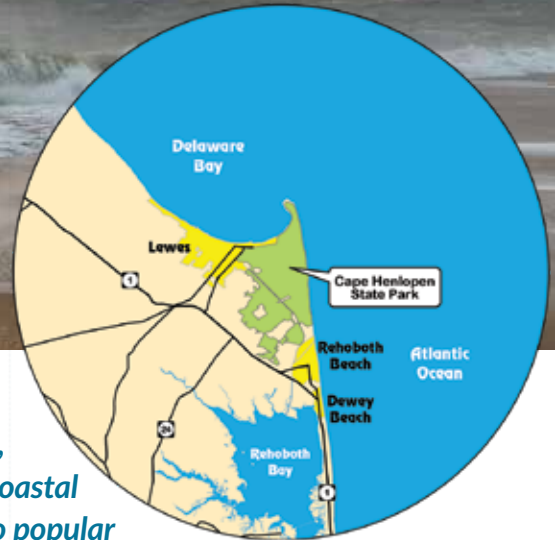
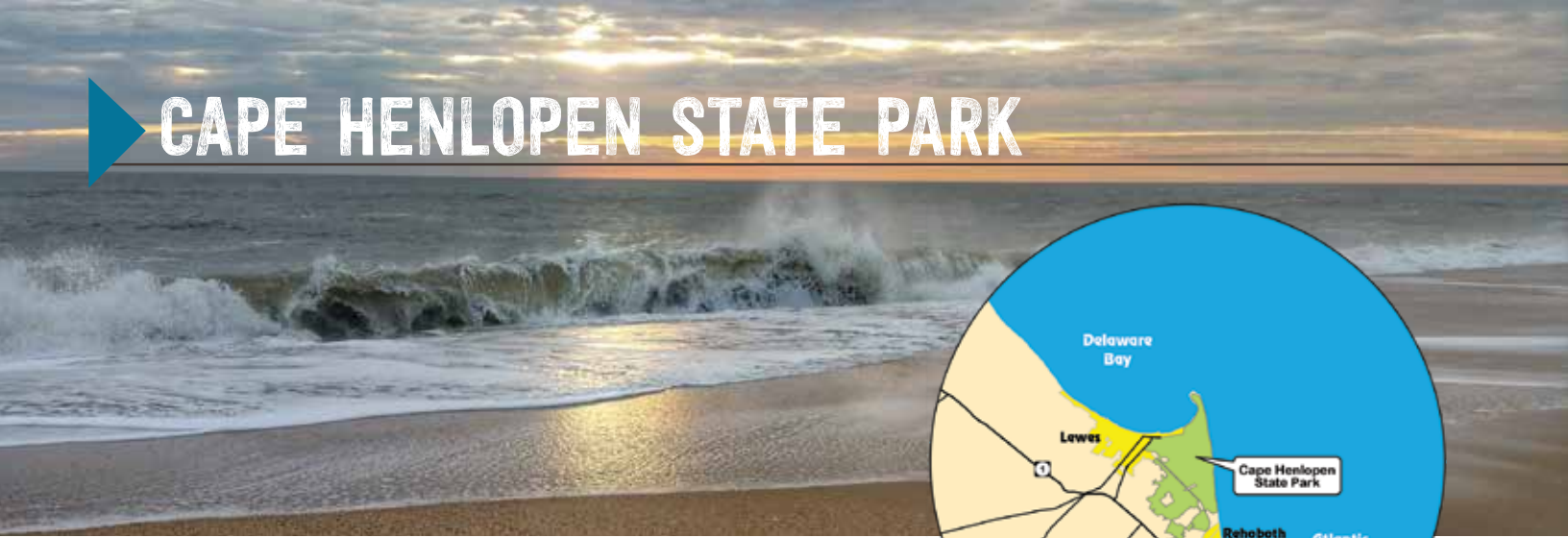


FRIENDS OF BRANDYWINE CREEK STATE PARK ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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



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

 **5,328.4**
Acres

 **19.3**
Miles of trails

 **182**
Campsites

 **1,493.147**
Visitors

 **17/105**
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff

 **15**
Lifeguards

 **41,307.75**
Volunteer hours

 **775/127,260**
Programs/Participants

 **9/111**
Day Camps/Campers

ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

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

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

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

FY2019

INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

The Officers Club received a new roof, underwent asbestos abatement, and had new ceilings, a new HVAC system, and energy-efficient water heaters installed. The remediation and repairs will allow for

additional summer rentals while reducing energy use.



The Fort Miles Historical Area received numerous upgrades, including a first-class event venue and meeting space, heating and air conditioning.

Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

- *The park's pier from World War II requires regular repairs to the pilings to maintain its safety and integrity. Cost Estimate \$280,000*
- *Sewer Plant replacement and upgrades. Coordination with City of Lewes is underway. Cost if the park is required to maintain and replace existing septic fields. Cost Estimate \$5,500,000*
- *Biden Environmental Education Training Center renovations. Planning underway. Cost Estimate \$7,250,000*

The interior of **Tower 7** was rehabilitated with new lighting, reinforced stairs, new paint, and a new door. All of these upgrades have made climbing the tower a more enjoyable and safer experience.

Work commenced on several upgrades to the **Youth Camp dormitories**, including heating and air conditioning, paint and repairs to masonry.



The interiors of the park's **camping cabins** received new paint and blinds.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Kite Day brought in vendors and live performers from all over the state.

The Delaware Goes to War event exceeded expectations and saw 20% more attendees than the previous year.

Fantasy Trail, a park event which offers Halloween activities for youth and children, attracted nearly 3,000 visitors over two nights.

Twenty weddings were held at the park on both the bay and ocean beaches, and the new Fort Miles event space. **In June, Cape Lifeguard Lt. Nick Sobota, center, celebrated his wedding with current and former Delaware State Parks Beach Patrol guards.**



Charity events such as the **Autism, Kidney, and Huntington's Disease walks** took place at Cape Henlopen State Park throughout the year and attracted **more than 1,200 people** from the Tri-State area



SPORTING EVENTS

Patrons tracked a total of **125 miles** by participating in races and walks in the park. Races included **two marathons and half marathons, a triathlon, and numerous 5Ks and fun runs.**

The Special Olympics Fishing Tournament was held at the Fishing Pier. The park was also host to several other fishing tournaments with partner organizations.



FRIENDS GROUPS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park raised **\$24,600** through six fundraisers and contributions to the Bike Barn.

The friends funded multiple other projects, including a new **Youth Camp Pavilion and accessibility mats for dune crossovers.**

The group hosted the **4th Annual Youth Fishing Tournament.**

The Fort Miles Historical Association

The Fort Miles Historical Association, through grant writing and fundraising efforts, raised **\$650,000** for the new Fort Miles event space at the northeast entrance of the Fort Miles Museum. The space is an ideal location for special events, concerts, and weddings. The work also included a new parking area for

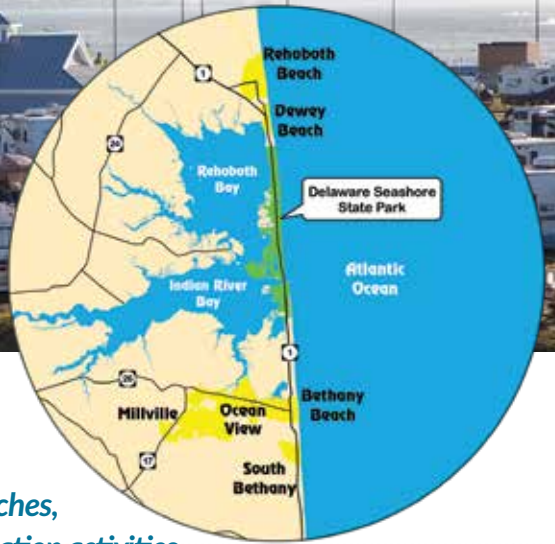
The association also operated the Fort Miles Museum and Gift Shop five days per week from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

PARTNERSHIPS

Along with the Parks Environmental Stewardship Office, Cape Henlopen State Park invested **\$18,000** in predator controls to further protect beach nesting species.



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, saltwaterfishing, camping, and many other water sports and outdoor recreation activities.

DELAWARE SEASHORE at a Glance

 **1,939.6**
Acres


 **9**
Miles of trails

 **359**
Campsites

 **12**
Cottages

 **1,371,751**
Visitors (including IRLSS)

 **17/64**
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff*

 **28**
Casual/Seasonal Lifeguards

 **7,277.50**
Volunteer hours

 **300/33,880**
Programs/Participants

 **274/156**
Marina Wet Slips/Dry Storage

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

ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

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

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

FY2019 INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK



Working with the Delaware Seashore Preservation Foundation and the Fort Miles Historical Association, the Division continues to renovate Tower 3 in Delaware Seashore State Park. The next phase of work includes interior stairs and access to the top for a first-class view. Cost: \$1 million



At the Indian River Marina

New signature signs installed at the **Visitor Center at the Indian River Life-Saving Station Museum**.

The historic **Indian River Life-Saving Station Museum**, built in 1896, received siding repairs and complete historical painting services on the structure that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



SPECIAL EVENTS

The Delaware Seashore's **3rd Annual Paddlefest** attracted hundreds of paddlers for the four-mile course through the park's marshes and inland bays. Interpreters were stationed along the water trail to talk about points of interest. An after party featured live music, food trucks, kids activities, and various outdoor adventure vendors and exhibitors.

The Outdoor Afro Washington, D.C. Chapter, participated in the Annual Paddlefest after being recruited by the parks' events coordinator to try out the event. The kayakers that signed up also camped at the park's campground for the weekend event.



DSSP Interpreters Research Records at National Archives

Delaware Seashore Team meticulously recorded and helped digitize 4,000 documents at The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Philadelphia. The now digitized documents include nearly all of the Indian River Life Saving Station keeper's daily logbook entries from 1876 through 1915, as well as surfman medical records and shipwreck reports.

Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

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

Indian River Marina Critical Needs

- Dry stack roof replacement and exterior skin. Cost Estimate \$750,000
- Piling sandblast, seal, and pile jackets. Cost Estimate \$800,000
- Moving the fuel dock to resolve fueling and maintenance concerns. Cost Estimate \$300,000

PARTNERSHIPS

The Bethany-Fenwick Area Chamber of Commerce sold several hundred Delaware State Park passes on behalf of the Division.

FRIENDS GROUP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Delaware Seashore Preservation Foundation was recognized for 20 years of chamber and community support from the Rehoboth Beach-Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce.



More than \$300,000 was raised for Fire Control Tower #3 renovations, including repairs to the exterior windows, installation of a ramp, a permanent door and electric for the tower.

Indian River Lifesaving Station

Your park staff were all very enthusiastic and knowledgeable about the history of the Station and its occupants. Looking forward to other park event like this.

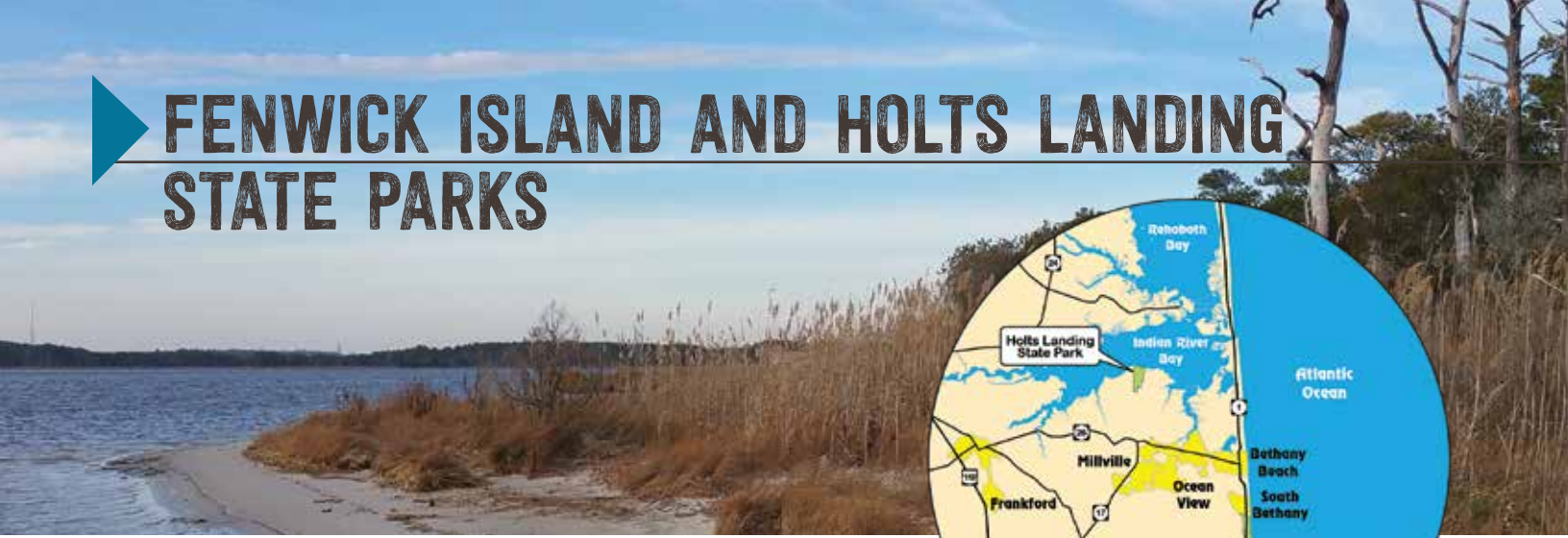
Jack Neylan
IRLSS program attendee



"Today I observed an amazing act of kindness. There were three people bringing an elderly woman to the beach just to put her feet in the water. A lifeguard at the inlet pushed the woman down to the edge of the surf, helped the family lift her out of the chair and watched with a smile till he knew they were comfortable.

Carol Stapleford
Stiltz

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

-  **375.5/205.6**
Acres Fenwick/Holts
-  **2.4**
Miles of trails - Holts
-  **3**
Youth Group Campsites
-  **237,194/8,883**
Visitors Fenwick/Holts
-  **64**
Casual Seasonal Staff
-  **14**
Lifeguards
-  **1,276.5**
Volunteer Hours - Holts
-  **16/982**
Programs/Participants - Holts
-  **9/619**
Concerts/Participants - Holts

ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

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

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

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



INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK



Park staff identified and repaired numerous potholes to stabilize the main parking lots in advance of the summer season. These repairs mainly focused on the access lanes of the parking lots. New air compressors were put in existing air stations at drive-on surf crossings.

The Fenwick Island Beach Bathhouse received a new roof, overhead lighting, skylights, granite countertops, interior painting and partitions.



The Sea Hawk Trail was upgraded with 1.5 miles of improved surface and a 600-foot-long boardwalk over the marsh, which connects the northeast and northwest portions of the trail. The trail, which is now completely ADA accessible, was funded with Federal Recreational Trail Program and state trail monies.

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. In addition, **Holts Landing received a new playground.** The projects were made possible with funding from **Sen. Gerald Hocker and Rep. Ron Gray and the Friends of Holts Landing State Park.**



The Holts Comfort Station was upgraded with a new roof, skylights, cement board siding, granite counter tops, new tile floor, and restroom partitions.

A new kayak launch, along with dredging and site maintenance, was established along the **Assawoman Canal** providing park visitors with easy access to the 4-mile long waterway.

PARTNERSHIPS:

The Friends of Holts Landing hosted **Outdoor Family Fun Nights** on Tuesday evenings. Visitors were able to pack a picnic dinner and enjoy live music, games and other activities before the sun sets. Attendance increased in 2019 with nearly 200 people each week.



Critical
CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

Fenwick Island State Park

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

Holts Landing State Park

- Upgrade septic system for the park. Cost Estimate \$100,000
- Relocate the kayak launch closer to the existing boat launch. Cost Estimate \$250,000
- Staff housing. Cost Estimate \$300,000

FIRST STATE HERITAGE PARK



First State Heritage Park is Delaware's first "urban park without boundaries," linking cultural and historic sites in the city that has been the seat of state government since 1777. Each site of the First State Heritage Park has a wealth of stories associated with it, and the sharing of these stories is a highlight for the park's visitors.

ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

Walk in the footsteps of Delaware's patriots with an interpreter in period clothing to experience the stories of Dover, capital city of the First State. the role of surfmen, and the heroic rescues they performed.

HERITAGE PARK at a Glance

-  **29,569***
Visitors
-  **11**
Historic Partner Sites
-  **1/7**
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff
-  **1,318.50**
Volunteer hours
-  **1,052/9,084**
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

FY2019 SPECIAL EVENTS

The park saw almost **1,000 fourth-grade students** on the Green over four days for the **Arts, Culture and Heritage (ArCH) Preservation Field Days**.





The state's park without boundaries hosted its annual **Market Fair** held in 2019, a 30% increase over 2018's attendance.

Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

- Addition of public restroom and John Bell House storage. Cost Estimate \$200,000



“The winning 2019 Fall Photo Contest photo features Josiah Rich of Dover as the young Thomas Rodney during a special historical reenactment of the Black Munday Insurrection, specially written for the 2019 Market Faire by Delaware State Parks historical interpreter, Teresa Pierce.”



Visitors from Germany, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Belgium, Russia, Kuwait, New Zealand and Australia came to the park in 2019.

The park was also host to nearly 4,000 school children during field trips.

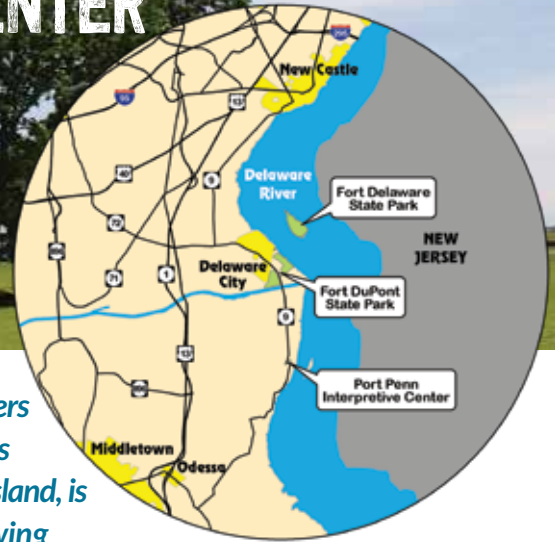
PARTNERSHIPS

First State Heritage Park partners with 11 other historic sites:

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



FORT DELAWARE AND FORT DUPONT STATE PARKS PORT PENN INTERPRETIVE CENTER



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

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

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

FORT DELAWARE/DUPONT at a Glance



240.7/295.5
Acres Fort DE/Fort DuPont



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



15,913
Visitors - Fort Delaware



3/44
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff



1,499.75
Volunteer hours



733/16,805
Programs/Participants

ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

Fort Delaware

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

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

Fort Dupont

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

Port Penn Interpretive Center

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Fort Delaware hosted volunteers for **P.O.W. Weekend** and told the story of Fort Delaware.

The Fort sold out its first two inaugural **escape room** experiences, "Escape the Fort: The Disloyalty Files."

The Delaware Outdoor Family Campout allowed families to spend the night at Fort Delaware State Park.

Fort Delaware once again hosted **Paranormal Adventure Tours**.

PARTNERSHIPS

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

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

Delaware River & Bay Authority

The Delafort Ferry transports park visitors from Delaware City out to Pea Patch Island and over to Fort Mott State Park, N.J.



In February, the Division of Fish & Wildlife visited Pea Patch Island and counted 63 hibernating bats around Fort DuPont.

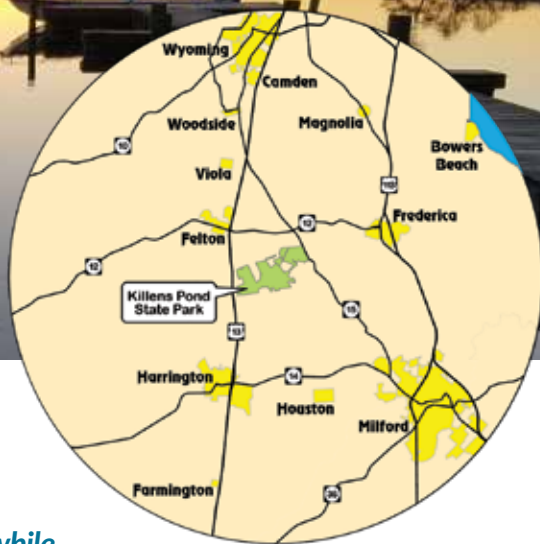
Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

- *Island Tram path: repair and resurfacing. Construction documents are underway. Cost Estimate \$1.8 million*
- *Masonry repairs to the brick work throughout the historic fort. Cost Estimate \$500,000*
- *New Island maintenance shop for storage and equipment. Cost Estimate \$400,000*



KILLENS POND STATE PARK



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

ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

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

KILLENS POND
at a Glance

-  **1,441.4**
Acres
-  **7.4**
Miles of trails
-  **87**
Campsites
-  **263,323**
Visitors
-  **11/144**
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff
-  **10,174.25**
Volunteer hours
-  **227/17,203**
Programs/Participants
-  **10/3,413**
Concerts/Attendees
-  **7/82**
Day Camps/Campers



INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

Upgrades were made to the **Water Park** slides, including a new sound system and paint.

The Division completed trail and parking lot construction at the nearby **Fork Branch Nature Preserve** in Dover.

Campground cabins were upgraded to include new roofs, stone fire rings, renovation of the pavilion and improved electrical in multiple loops.



The park constructed a **40- by 60-foot pole building** with electricity, a concrete floor, storage capacity for statewide material and the Division's new Airstream marketing and retail camper, and an upgraded stone driveway.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Governor John Carney, DNREC Secretary Shawn M. Garvin and Delaware Department of Education Secretary Susan Bunting joined a group of third-graders and their families from South Dover, W. Reily Brown, and Star Hill elementary schools, for the **4th Annual Delaware Outdoor Family-Governor's Campout** at Killens Pond State Park.



It was perfect. We liked being in a quiet spot and we enjoyed the views. We only wish more state parks took after your setup and your entire park.

*- Bruce Douglas,
KPSP cabin
camper*

Dogs had a blast with the Water Park pool all to themselves during the **Annual Puppies in the Pool** event.

A comfy bonfire warmed guests after a fall paddle during the **Kayak and Campfire** event.

The popular **Summer Concert Series** featured everything from big band to Broadway, rock and country music.

FRIENDS OF KILLENS POND STATE PARK ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The group's annual **Halloween scarecrow making** activity attracted many families to the park.

The group met several times to perform **trail maintenance**, during which they cleaned bluebird boxes, cleared and replaced trail water bars and replaced several timber steps leading to the pond.

Friends of Killens Pond Member and **Master Gardener Wendy Aycoth** hosted participants to design and create a festive door hanging swag.

The Friends group hosted a **Floral Design class**, which was a hit.



Maintenance staff revamped to the front desk to serve visitors more efficiently and give them more privacy.



Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

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

When we walked in we were amazed at how beautiful and clean the waterpark was. It was seriously immaculate, and a lot bigger than we imagined. You can tell that management and associates take great pride in the appearance. So much to do for kids of all ages. We will definitely be making the 1 hr and 20 min ride again for many more summer's to come.

Tamara Jenkins

LUMS POND STATE PARK



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

ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

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

LUMS POND at a Glance

- 1,990**
Acres
- 17.5**
Miles of trails
- 75**
Campsites
- 305,083**
Visitors
- 9/25**
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff
- 5,593**
Volunteer hours
- 165/6,484**
Programs/Participants
- 9/97**
Day Camps/Campers

FY2019 INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

The Division made several accessibility improvements in Area I, including a **new pavilion** and **renovations to the existing bathroom**

With monies provided in part by **Community Transportation Funds**, a **new playground** was added to the Lums Pond campground.

The old campground bathhouse was turned into a **new laundry facility and camp store**.



Lums Pond was the first to receive one of the Division's **new state park entrance signs** that include stone bases and lighting.



SPECIAL EVENTS

The Fish & Wildlife Becoming an Outdoors Woman event featured several outdoor activities, including hiking, camping, kayaking and archery.

Lums Pond hosted a **Delaware Outdoor Family Campout with the Delaware School of the Deaf** with programs offered throughout the weekend, including a hayride, campfire and dip-netting.



Smokey Bear paid a visit to the park for his 75th birthday.

Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

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

SPORTING EVENTS

Lums Pond State Park hosted games for two cricket leagues, **Delaware United Cricket League** and the **Delaware Premier League**, and **flag football games**.

PARTNERSHIPS

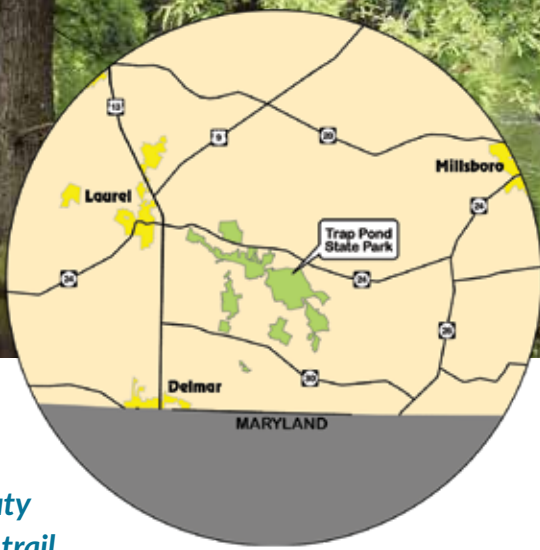
Dr. Anthony Alfieri donated a large professional exhibit aquarium to the Lums Pond Nature Center. The aquarium was filled with native pond fish and now serves as a centerpiece for the center's exhibits.



From the minute we walked in the door, we were warmly welcomed, even introduced to the critters who share your space. Our wreaths turned out fantastic. And not having to clean up, what a luxury, but the staff insisted it was ok as we hadn't made much of a mess.

Ellen, Holiday Wreath Making workshop

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

- 4,086** Acres
- 11.5** Miles of trails
- 147** Campsites
- 138,111** Visitors
- 7/20** Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff
- 14,363.25** Volunteer hours
- 567/16,703** Programs/Participants
- 10/948** Concerts/Attendees
- 6/62** Day Camps/Campers

ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

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

FY2019 INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

The Division made improvements to several of its restroom areas including renovations at the A Loop Women's restroom.

SPECIAL EVENTS



The annual **Jeep Jamboree** was held at the park. The three-day event included a youth fishing tournament, a scavenger hunt, wagon rides, vendors and live music.

The Trap Pond Partners hosted its 16th Annual "Get-in-Gear" **Bike Rally** and participants biked around the Bob Trail and then enjoyed live music and raffles.

Approximately 2,000 participants came out to the park's **Annual Halloween Howl**, which offered games, free pumpkins, hayrides, dancing, costume contests and Trick or Treating.

SPORTING EVENTS

The **Timber Two Step Disc Golf Tournament** was sponsored by Ocean Downs.

The park hosted **five Youth Fishing Tournaments** from April through September.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Division partnered with **Sussex County Habitat for Humanity** to provide camping spaces at Trap Pond State Park for out-of-state volunteers who volunteered their skills to build houses in the Laurel community.

TRAP POND PARTNERS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Trap Pond Partners received a **\$10,000 grant from the Division of Forestry** to plant trees in the campground and main picnic area. The species of trees planted are Red Bud, Willow Oak, White Oak, Loblolly Pine, American Beech and Sweet Bay Magnolia.

The group also **gifted the park with an all-terrain vehicle for Natural Resource Police** at the park, two new leaf blowers for maintenance, three new pairs of binoculars and three birding scopes with tripods.

Diane Twining was one of many to receive a Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Service Award for her invaluable service as a Trap Pond **campground host**, where she also assisted administration, maintenance, environmental stewardship and Nature Center programs.

Smokey Bear

Special guest Smokey Bear celebrated his 75th birthday by meeting campers and spreading the word on fire safety at Trap Pond.



Trap Pond Partners



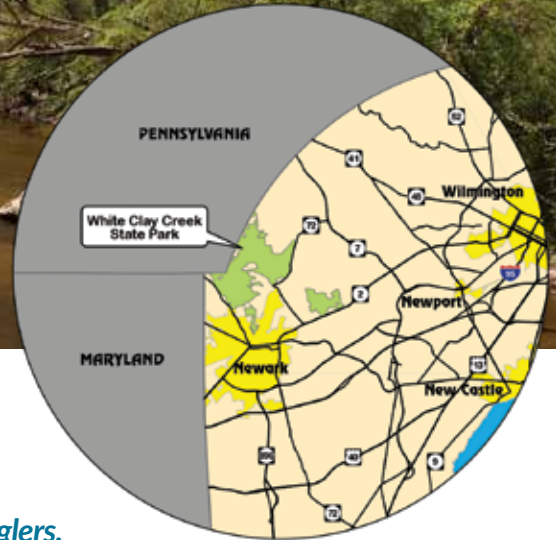
Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

- Bathroom and septic replacement at Cypress Point. Cost Estimate \$600,000
- Repair the lift station at the campground and recondition of wet well. Cost Estimate \$45,000
- Replace old sewage building. Cost Estimate \$40,000



WHITE CLAY CREEK STATE PARK



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

ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

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

WHITE CLAY CREEK at a Glance



3,647
Acres



38.6
Miles of trails



820
Visitors



8/26
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff



8,025
Volunteer hours



343/21,318
Programs/Participants



11/12,028
Concerts/Attendees



16/229
Day Camps/Campers

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



INVESTMENTS IN THE PARK

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



The Division continues to make its largest investment ever in **playgrounds** for younger age groups at White Clay Creek, with funding provided in part by **Community Transportation Funds**.

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

Eagle Scout Justin Boykin raised funds for and engaged 17 volunteers over three weeks to build a shade structure along the Tri-Valley Trail.

The project took 215 hours of volunteer time and more than three months to complete.

In partnership with the Friends of White Clay Creek State Park, the Division has created a **new primitive group camping area** that is completely accessible. Visitors to the area can also enjoy accessible hay wagon rides, trails and a dock for fishing.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Newark Easter Egg Hunt at White Clay Creek State Park featured more than 10,000 hidden eggs and \$13,000 worth of prizes donated by local businesses.

The park took part in the **Annual Christina River Watershed Cleanup** in April to help keep the White Clay Creek clean.



SPORTS

Newark High School hosted its White Clay Creek **Classic Cross Country Meet**.

Gravel Grape Crusher's Tri-State Mountain Bike Race was hosted at the park.

The first Delaware Cornhole Tournament and Community Event was held at the Park in October and featured local food and drink vendors, live music, and hours of cornhole competition.

The park was also home to **three disc-golf tournaments**.

White Clay Creek hosted its **Special Needs Youth Fishing Tournament** in the spring.



Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

- Nature Center bridge evaluation and replacement. Cost Estimate \$175,000
- Replacement of barn roofs. Cost Estimate \$250,000
- Robinson house upgrades for ADA and structural stability. Cost Estimate \$100,000

A huge thank you to White Clay Creek State Park and Italo Carrieri-Russo for making our Thursday so amazing! Our campers enjoyed exploring for creatures with the naturalists.

Facebook comment from The Goddard School, June 2019



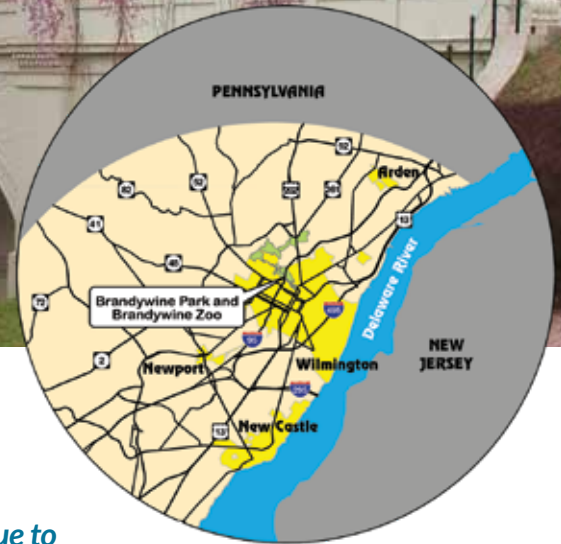
FRIENDS OF WHITE CLAY CREEK ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Friends of White Clay Creek State Park were able to raise **\$22,500** for the park's new **accessible primitive camp site**.

The group started to host a **Beer Garden** at the park's concerts.

Terri Tipping was recognized at the annual Friends Meeting for **Outstanding Volunteer Services to WCCSP with 644 hours**. Terri was able to solicit assistance from more than 40 other volunteers, totaling 1,266 hours removing invasive species from the Judge Morris Estate.

WILMINGTON STATE PARKS BRANDYWINE ZOO



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

The Brandywine Zoo, along the Brandywine River in beautiful Brandywine Park in Wilmington, is home to birds, reptiles, and mammals, including condors, red pandas, and the world's largest rodent: the capybara. The Brandywine Zoo is managed by the Division of Parks and Recreation with the support of the Delaware Zoological Society. The Brandywine Zoo is one of more than 200 Association of Zoos & Aquariums accredited and zoos and aquariums in North America.

WILMINGTON STATE PARKS at a Glance



576.4
Acres



3.5
Miles of trails



1,376,273
Visitors



18/24
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff



2,174.5
Volunteer hours



156/12,240
Programs/Participants



12/2,772
Concerts/Attendees

ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

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

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



INVESTMENTS IN THE PARKS

Wilmington State Parks

A complete restoration of the Josephine Fountain commenced.



The Division was able to complete Phase I of a Lovers Courts project in Wilmington with the resurfacing of tennis courts and new fencing, thanks to Community Transportation Funds.

BRANDYWINE ZOO at a Glance



4.7
Acres



175/55
Specimens/Species



46,061
Visitors



11/10
Full Time/Casual Seasonal Staff



15,696
Volunteer Hours



925/41,223
Programs/Participants



20/300
Day Camps/Campers

Brandywine Zoo

The Division received final approval for its the new **Madagascar exhibit**, holding area and pavilion, which opened in late 2020. The Madagascar exhibit is part of the Brandywine Zoo's recently approved master plan and is the largest capital improvement in the zoo's history.

The **otter habitat was converted into a goat yard**. Three adorable Goat breeds are now on display and ready to pet. These include the Nigerian Dwarf, African Pygmy and Angora.



A large glass viewing window was installed in the front of the **condor exhibit**, just inside the zoo entrance.

An **interactive bee exhibit** with large flowers, a climbing structure and a wildflower garden was created.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Wilmington State Parks

The **Eighth-Annual Delaware Burger Battle** was held at Rockford Park in Wilmington. **Rawstrom's Maiale Deli and Salumeria** took home the **Critic's Choice** award for both alternative burger and beef burger. The sold-out event benefits the Food Bank of Delaware and Delaware Prostart.

The **99th Wilmington Flower Market** attracted thousands to Rockford Park and featured plant merchants, crafters, rides, games and food.

The annual **Brandywine Arts Festival** was held in Brandywine Park near the Josephine Fountain with artists, live music, children's activities and local food vendors.

Wilmington State Parks offered a total of **16 evening concerts** at Rockford Park and the Sugar Bowl at Brandywine Park.

Brandywine Zoo

The Zoo hosted **World Oceans Day** in partnership for the Delaware Estuary with 498 guests.

Brew at the Zoo in partnership with the **Delaware Zoological Association** drew 478 visitors to the zoo in September.

Children were able to trick-or-treat at **Boo at the Zoo** welcomed 1,580 trick-or-treaters between Oct. 17 and 19.



“As my patient is nearing the end of her life, the family had two things they wished to make happen and one of them was having a visit from Rory the bunny [the zoo’s Flemish giant rabbit]. The patient and family were so excited that they got to have a special visit from Rory and that they were treated so well. I wanted to make sure you knew what great work you’ve done and how meaningful this was for a family going through such a difficult time.”

Jennifer Kelly
Child Life Specialist
Al Dupont Hospital for Children



SPORTING EVENTS

Wilmington State Parks hosted **more than 30 race events in 2019**, totaling nearly 15,000 attendees.

PARTNERSHIPS

A partnership was formed with **Rotary Club of Wilmington** to create a **Music Garden in H. Fletcher Brown Park**.



A new plaque was added to the African American Medal of Honor Monument. Other improvements include the replacement of several bronze rosettes that had fallen from the monument and a replica of a custom flag. This project was made possible thanks to the continued support and involvement of the Buffalo Soldiers, Paul Cathell, and original sculptor of the monument, Rick Rothrock.

Critical

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

Wilmington State Parks

- *H. Fletcher Brown Park renovation. Cost Estimate \$1.25 million*
- *Lovering Avenue Phase II improvements of courts and accessible pathway. Cost Estimate \$200,000*
- *Steps connecting the Delaware Greenway to the Swinging Bridge to improve alignment and safety, while reducing erosion. Cost Estimate \$200,000*

Brandywine Zoo

- *Construction of an animal support building that will provide improved space for veterinary care, quarantine, and keeper space. Requirement of accreditation. Cost Estimate \$4 million*
- *Implementation of Phase II of the master plan. Cost Estimate \$5 million*
- *Renovate the “town house” enclosures. Replace failing wood structures and add new mesh. Cost Estimate \$150,000*



FRIENDS OF WILMINGTON PARKS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Friends of Wilmington Parks (FOWP) accrued **nearly 1,200 volunteer hours**.

FOWP hosted a successful **Jasper Crane Rose Garden Party** with 275 attendees and live music. The proceeds funded 16 additional, free musical performances as part of the Friends of Wilmington Parks' Summer Concert Series.

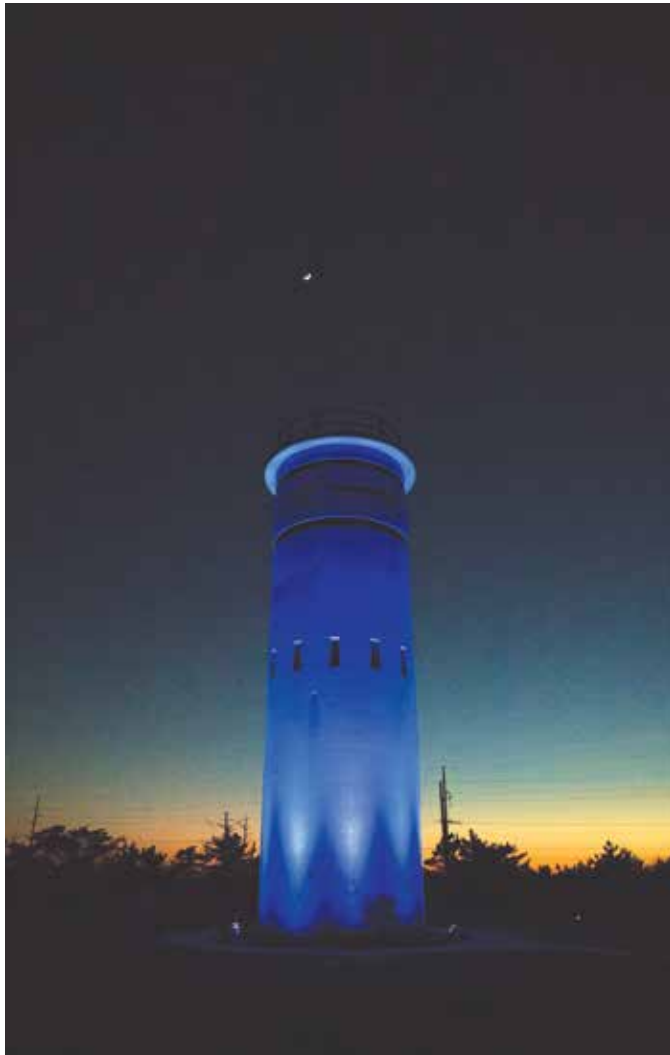
The Friends of Wilmington Parks participated in a joint **volunteer outing in association with REI** and removed many non-native and invasive plants.

To support the Wilmington Community, FOWP funded **STEM-based nature education** for nearly 2,000 students in Title I urban schools in FY19.



DELAWARE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Delaware Zoological Society **completed a strategic plan and embarked on a capital campaign to raise funds for the zoo's new Master Plan**. The DZS launched the first phase of its Capital Campaign, “Our Zoo Re-imagined,” with a \$5 million funding goal.



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