

2025 ANNUAL MEETING



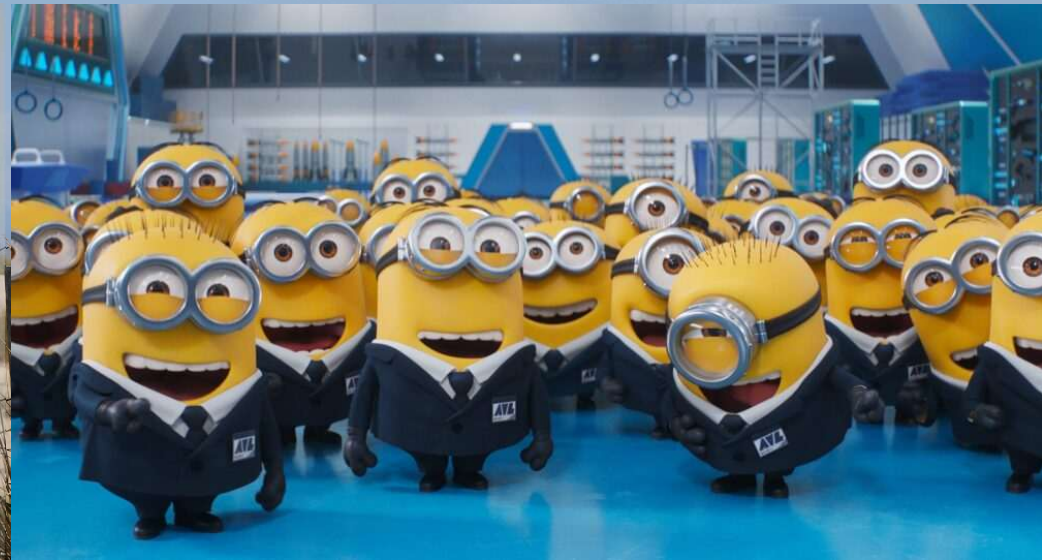
Celebrating Our Achievements and Looking to Our Future

Today's Agenda

- Board of Directors
- Member Recognition
- Accomplishments
- Meet the New Director of Delaware State Parks
- Park Update
- What in store for 2025
- Dark Skies Presentation
- Q and A

2025 FOCHSP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Jeff Underwood – President
- Polly White - Vice-President
- Bob Callahan- Treasurer
- Miguel Garces - Secretary
- Suzanne Langwell –
Media/Communications
- MJ Candaux – Merchandise
- Barry Snyder - Trails Day
Coordinator



- Four Opportunities

Vote for Continuance of Term

- **Bob Callahan-Treasurer**
- **Miguel Garces-Secretary**
- **Barry Snyder – Trails Day Coordinator**



FOCHSP Members

- 438 members
- 340 volunteers
- 10,333.75 volunteer hours to Cape Henlopen State Park in 2024
- 25% increase
- Grant equivalent = \$346,077.29 (national rate of \$33.49/hr)
- 32 volunteers ≥ 100 hrs each



Member Recognition

Polly White
Vice President



2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

\$\$ Treasure's report \$\$

- Total revenue for 2024: \$92,372
- Total expenditures: \$84,832
- 18 Thatcher Fund Educational grants: \$14,167
- 1 Youth Educational Support grant: \$650
- Nature Center Bird Feeder Cam: \$4,396
- Fantasy Trail Pumpkins: \$1,525
- Bike Barn, including 2 Adult Trikes: \$8,300



2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (cont)

\$\$ (cont)

- Playground Mulch: \$3,900
- Picnic Shelter at Playground
- Lifeguard Stand Sponsorships (2): \$3,000
- Gardening projects, including the Pollinator/Monarch garden: \$3,545
- Youth Fishing Tournament prizes: \$3,950
- Dark Sky Initiative: \$155

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONT)

Marketing/Social Media/Communications

- Refreshed/Contemporized Web Page – fochsp.org
- Face Book
- Press Releases
- Newsletter

New Editor – Jim Zambito

Assisted by – Jim McSherry

Trails Days

Nearly Half Ton of Trash Removed

Photo By Miguel Graces

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONT)

Bike Barn and Run/Walk Events

- 28th year (program started in 1997)
- 46 adult bikes (2 with small child seats)
- 14 kids bikes
- 3 Trailers which seat 2 children
- 2 new adult trikes
- More than \$27,000 - donations and bike sales
- 44 volunteers = 3,472 hours
- Bikes borrowed 13,000 times
- Supported 14 walk/run events



2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONT)



New Starter Home



Last Saturday Osprey Nest Platform Renovations

Committees

- Communications/Media
- Beach
- Dark Skies
- Events
- Fundraising
- Park Beautification/Trails
- Grants
- Administrative
- Not a committee, but Need Activity/Event Photographers





Meet the New Director of Delaware State Parks

Matthew Ritter

Photo By Miguel Graces

Cape Henlopen State Park Update

Sean Cain

Assistant Superintendent





**DELAWARE
STATE PARKS**
YOUR OUTDOOR ADVENTURE STARTS HERE

Cape Henlopen State Park 2024 Recap



Visitation

- Cape Henlopen State Park remains one of the most visited State Parks in the DE State Park system: ~2.0 Million Visitors
 - The main entrance, Gordons Pond entrance and Deauville parking lots continue to fill over the course of the season due to capacity

Fort Miles

~39,900 visitors (slight increase from 2023)

Seaside Nature Center

~73,300 visitors (small decrease from 2023)

Family Campground

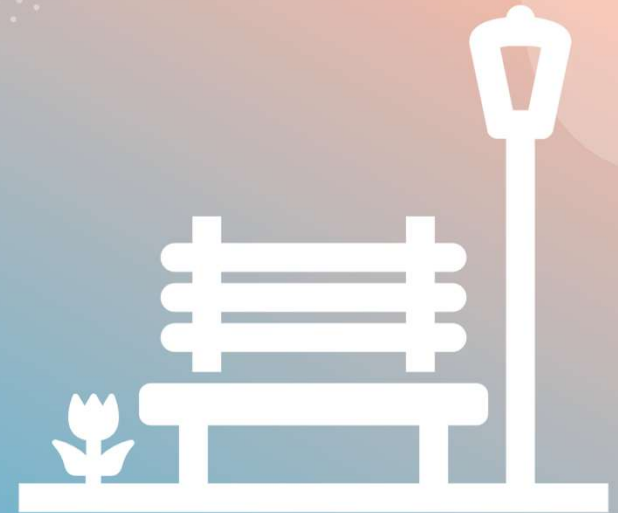
13,300 reservations between cabins, RV & tent sites

Youth Camps

~2,500 campers between Youth Camp I & II (increase from 2023)

Primitive Camping

~1,900 campers among 4 primitive camp sites (increase from 2023)

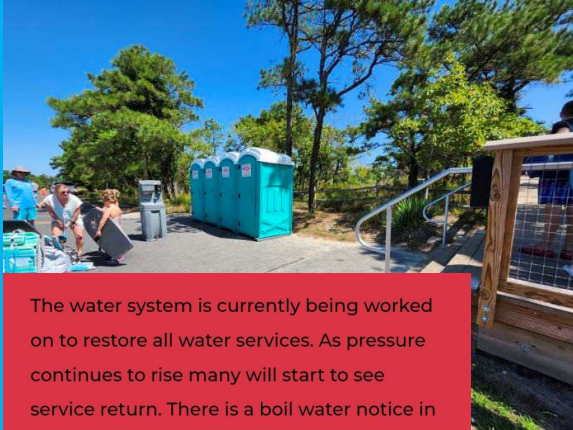
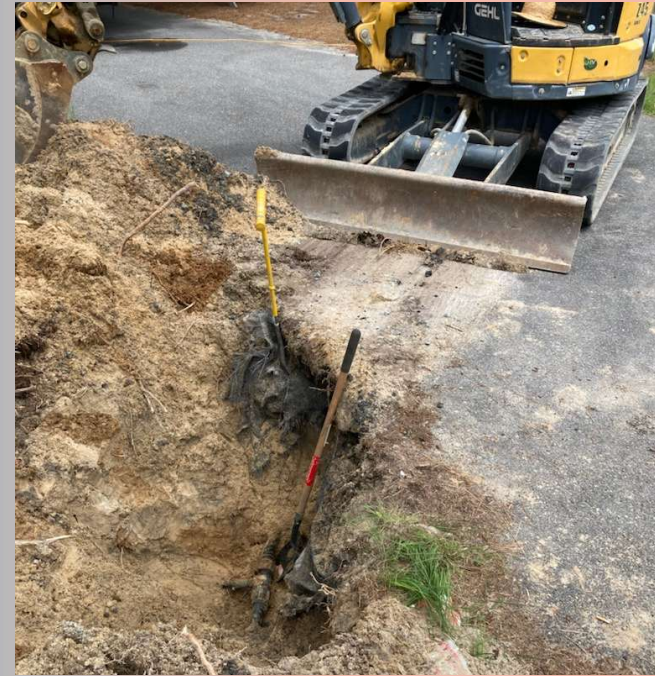


Staffing Update



- Biden Center Marketing Specialist-
 - Liz Kain-Bolen started in the summer and oversees the daily operations of the Biden Environmental Center
- Facility Coordinator-
 - Ashby Amory started with us in August and supports youth camps, special events, weddings, and seasonal housing operations in the park
- Revenue Supervisor-
 - Faun Fletcher oversees the operations and staffing of our 4 fee booths (2 main entrance, 1 Gordons Pond, 1 Deauville) and revenue generated from our park office

A Day in the Life at Cape



The water system is currently being worked on to restore all water services. As pressure continues to rise many will start to see service return. There is a boil water notice in effect.



Events & Special Use Permits

- Around 45 special use permits issued in 2024, 4 events did have to cancel. Slight dip from 2023
- We continue to add/replace 2-3 new events each year and had a large increase of both walk on walk off beach weddings and Overlook Weddings in 2024.



Park Projects

Deauville Beach

In 2024 CHSP took over management of Deauville Beach park staff worked quickly to get fee booths, parkeons, and lifeguard facilities operational before the



Track Chair

Select DE State Parks will soon add “Track Chairs” to the list of amenities offered in each region, for the coastal region CHSP will house the chair offered to park patrons



Fort Miles Battery 519 Entrance

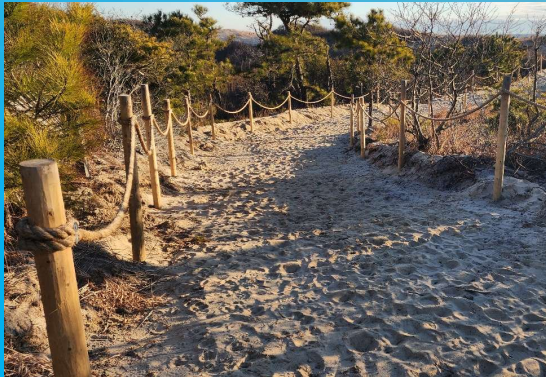
Design of a new entrance to Battery 519 and exhibit work has begun for the museum at Fort Miles



Park Projects Cont.

Beach Crossing Fence

The park has worked to coordinate with the Division of Watershed Stewardship to replace old snow fencing across dune crossings



Wave Building

The park had been working with UD to remove a large wave tank from the Wave Building as UD moved out of the facility at the end of a long term use agreement with the park



Electrical Issues

Over the course of the year the park has worked with Lewes BPW and contractors to repair multiple issues with various electrical services in the park



Park Projects Cont.

The Biden Environmental Center

The Biden Environmental Center hosted an open house on Saturday, February 22, 2025, from 11 AM to 3 PM. This event formally showcased the facility to the public for the first time, offering information on how environmental groups can utilize the training center's resources. Over 800 people showed up in support of the opening.

Upcoming Open House

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

3:00PM – 7:00PM



Main Beach Boardwalk Construction – Ocean Side



WHAT IS NEXT in 2025?

- TEDI Tree Planting – April?
- Instagram, Tic Toc, maybe a Blog
- Refine Mission Statement
- Seek More Grants
- Upcoming Photo Contest
- Campground Bathhouse and NC HVAC
- Removing Pond at Nature Center

Miguel A. Garcia

WHAT IS NEXT in 2025? (cont)

- All of March Benevolence Tips for FOCHSP @Dogfish Head Brewery, Milton
- Trap Pond Partners Nature Festival and 4x4 Car Show, April 19
- Goldenrod Planting, Point Comfort, May 7
- Coast Forward Summitt, Cheer Center, May 7
- Dogfish Head Brewings and Eats Benevolence Night - July 16
- Lefty's Benevolence Event – TBD
- Looking for more opportunities for fundraising and outreach
- We are always open to ideas/suggestions