

## Open Space Program Plan Outline

### Primary goal:

- Provide all Delaware residents and visitors with maximum opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and Delaware's natural assets

### Objectives:

- Provide safe and enjoyable public recreational opportunities
- Conserve Delaware's wildlife resources for public benefit
- Connect people with Delaware's past by preserving Delaware's heritage sites
- Leverage and maximize the use of Open Space Program funds by engaging in collaborative and innovative funding partnerships and by pursuing the strategic conservation of properties to meet the public need
- Ensure to the extent possible that all Delawareans know of the Open Space Program, its mission, and accomplishments
- Protect ground and surface waters and prevent flooding.
- Protect and connect high quality habitats for wildlife and plants.
- Protect cultural resources

### Creative and innovative methods of protection:

- Partner with counties and municipalities to develop a program enabling them to use Open Space Program funds to match their contributions toward purchasing land for parks and other public open space.
- Leverage Federal and private money with Open Space funds
- Encourage donations through the promotion of tax benefits and legacy/estate planning tools
- Target conservation easements to protect areas where outright purchase is not necessary