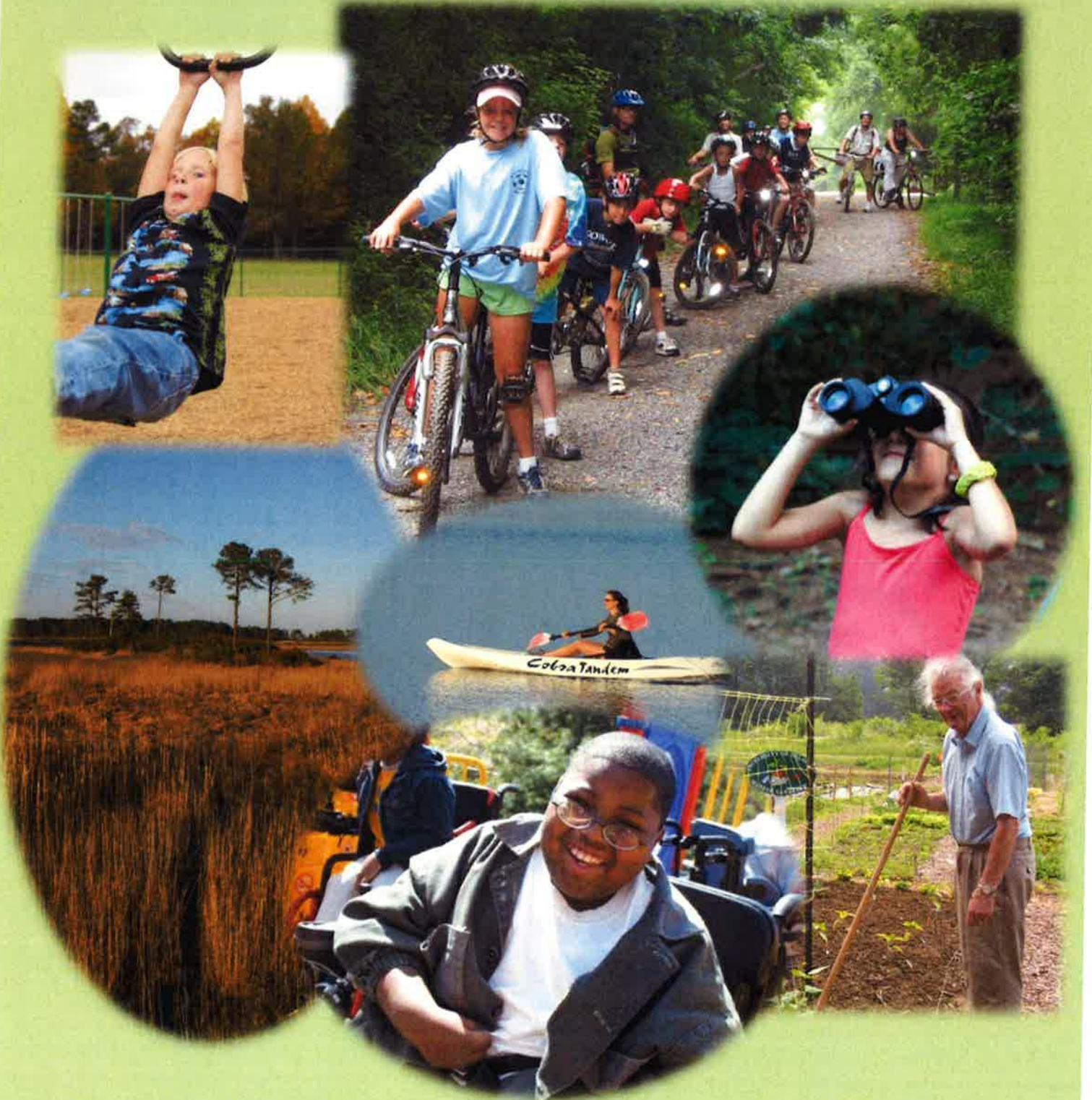


# DELAWARE OUTDOORS: BUILDING AN OUTDOOR LEGACY



2013-2018

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

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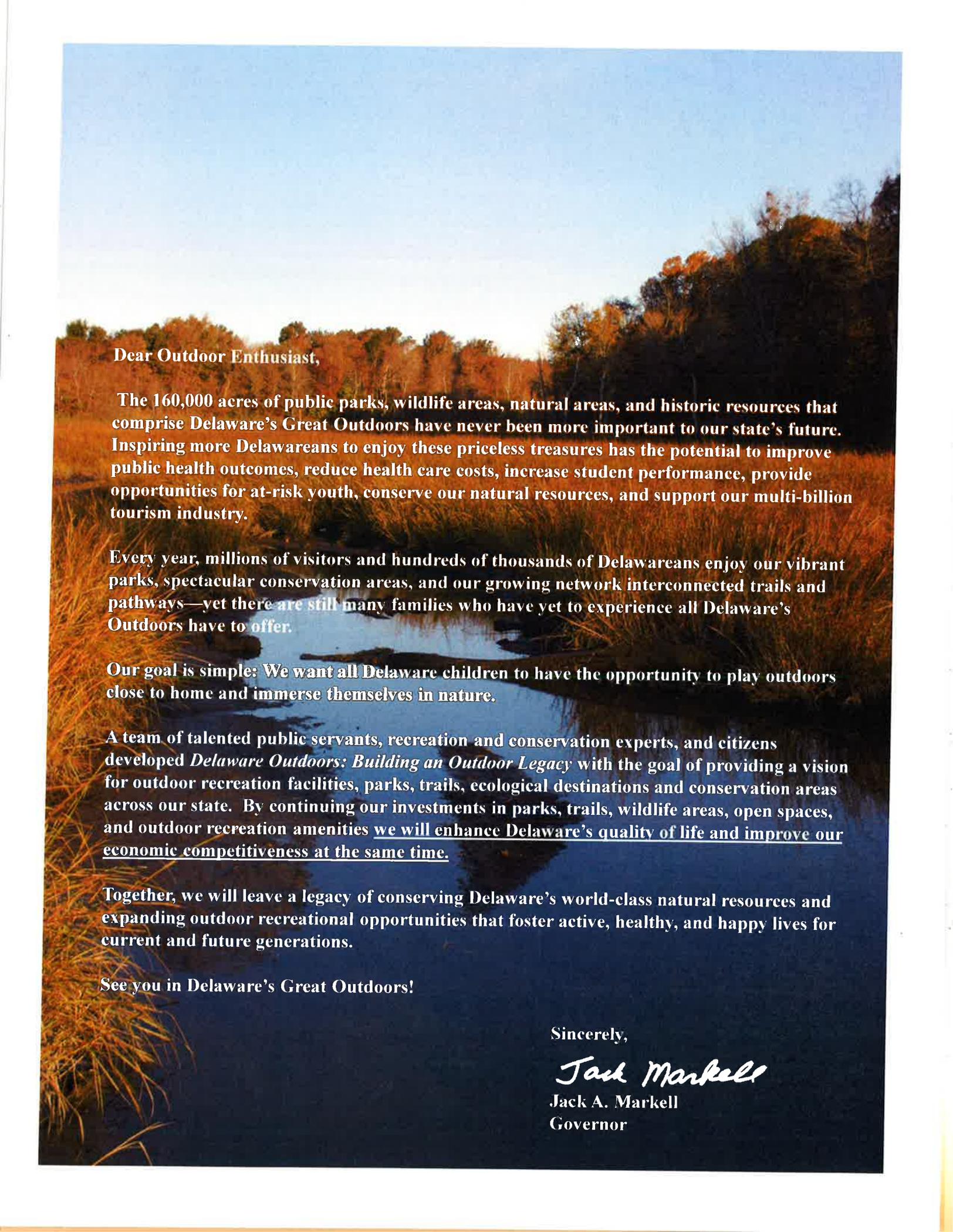
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## DELAWARE OUTDOORS: BUILDING AN OUTDOOR LEGACY

### Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

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### Appendices



Dear Outdoor Enthusiast,

The 160,000 acres of public parks, wildlife areas, natural areas, and historic resources that comprise Delaware's Great Outdoors have never been more important to our state's future. Inspiring more Delawareans to enjoy these priceless treasures has the potential to improve public health outcomes, reduce health care costs, increase student performance, provide opportunities for at-risk youth, conserve our natural resources, and support our multi-billion tourism industry.

Every year, millions of visitors and hundreds of thousands of Delawareans enjoy our vibrant parks, spectacular conservation areas, and our growing network interconnected trails and pathways—yet there are still many families who have yet to experience all Delaware's Outdoors have to offer.

Our goal is simple: We want all Delaware children to have the opportunity to play outdoors close to home and immerse themselves in nature.

A team of talented public servants, recreation and conservation experts, and citizens developed *Delaware Outdoors: Building an Outdoor Legacy* with the goal of providing a vision for outdoor recreation facilities, parks, trails, ecological destinations and conservation areas across our state. By continuing our investments in parks, trails, wildlife areas, open spaces, and outdoor recreation amenities we will enhance Delaware's quality of life and improve our economic competitiveness at the same time.

Together, we will leave a legacy of conserving Delaware's world-class natural resources and expanding outdoor recreational opportunities that foster active, healthy, and happy lives for current and future generations.

See you in Delaware's Great Outdoors!

Sincerely,

*Jack Markell*

Jack A. Markell  
Governor

## *Foreword*

*By Collin O'Mara, Secretary*

*Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control*

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More than ever before, we need to connect children and families with nature. It's good for our economy, our public health, our environment, and our overall quality of life. Fortunately, Delaware offers a cornucopia of rich outdoor experiences - sites for active recreational quests, places to reconnect with nature, and vast expanses to deepen our love of the outdoors. Delaware offers nearly 160,000 acres of publicly accessible parks, wildlife areas, open spaces, and natural and historic resources worth exploring—and more on the way. As a result of several generations' commitment to land conservation through the State Open Space and Farmland Preservation Programs, efforts of Federal and municipal partners and forward-thinking environmental organization actions, and landmark conservation state laws, close to 10% of Delaware's nature treasures are protected and publicly accessible for outdoor recreation.

More and more people are realizing that a healthy environment and access to diverse outdoor experiences play an integral role in our state's economic success, proving recreation and conservation are drivers of job growth. Delaware beaches, state parks, wildlife areas, and waterways, provide the foundation for a multi-billion dollar tourism industry that supports tens of thousands of jobs. Delaware's world-class wildlife habitat is repeatedly recognized globally significant ecologically and the State is increasingly noted as a destination for our 4Bs: beaches, bike trails, birding/hunting, and boating/fishing opportunities. By continuing to make strategic investments, we can enhance recreation and conservation opportunities for our citizens and spur local economic development and ecotourism opportunities that will strengthen communities in all three counties.

This outdoor recreation plan calls on each of us to do our part to expand outdoor opportunities for all Delawareans, improve our recreational resources, to make personal efforts to be more active, to cultivate healthy communities, and to conserve our natural resources. Together we will inspire adult and youth to get outdoors, provide more close-to-home recreational opportunities, reduce childhood obesity, connect communities with trails and pathways, expand ecotourism opportunities, foster environmental resource stewardship, and enhance conservation and recreational opportunities which appeal to all Delawareans and the thirty million people living within a three-hour drive.

By implementing the recommendations in this plan and continuing exciting efforts underway like the Children in Nature Initiative, the First State Trails and Pathways Plan, and the Delaware Bayshore Initiative, we will build upon our rich outdoor recreation tradition and in doing so cultivate healthy communities and dynamic public spaces that both meet today's needs and leave an enduring environmental legacy.

Please join us in this effort as we work to ensure that Delawareans of all ages enjoy the state's abundant recreational resources for generations to come.



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Collin P. O'Mara  
Secretary

## Protecting Lands for Conservation and Recreation

*Goal: To maintain and enhance the interconnected network of natural areas, open spaces, parks, and conservation lands*

Land use changes due to human activity have a great effect on ecological resources. Scattered patterns of 50-plus years of modern development in Delaware, especially the construction of low-density residential housing subdivisions, consumes excessive amounts of land and fragments natural landscapes. Wildlife habitat and migration corridors are lost, and normal ecosystem functions are disturbed or destroyed. When natural spaces are converted for human use, the population of species dependent on the lost habitat may decrease below the threshold needed for long-term persistence. Habitat loss and fragmentation are perhaps the greatest threat to forest wildlife, and the primary cause for species extinction by restricting the movement of plants and animals. Ecosystems with lower diversity are generally less desirable and can affect the availability of outdoor recreation opportunities.

Many species of greatest conservation need are “area-sensitive” requiring relatively large areas of mostly unbroken habitat to ensure their viability. Protecting areas of conservation need will provide an interconnected network of forests, uplands and wetlands for wildlife habitat and associated recreation activities. State, Federal and non-governmental conservation lands, which generally make up the largest parcels in preservation networks, are particularly critical for meeting the needs of sensitive species and associated low impact recreational demand. Landscape scale planning among all agencies and organizations will be necessary to comprehensively identify those areas with greatest conservation need.

The basic building blocks of a conservation network include not only those larger core areas but also natural wildlife corridors. Wildlife corridors are those linear features that provide adequate cover sufficient for the movement of wildlife. These corridors preserve the connectivity of undeveloped lands within developing areas, preserving connections between different habitats and/or large habitat blocks. Corridors are also an excellent means of providing people with connections between large open spaces. In many instances, corridors can support low impact human

activities such as hiking, biking, kayak/canoeing, wildlife viewing and nature observation.

***Recommendations:***

*Identify and prioritize lands for acquisition that protect and maintain large scale landscapes and avoid fragmentation of resources.*

*Manage core natural areas to minimize direct disturbances and the introduction and spread of non-native and invasive species.*

*Protect land through conservation easement or fee simple purchase to create conservation corridors.*



Strategically planned and managed networks of natural lands, working landscapes, and other open spaces that conserve ecosystem functions and provide associated quality of life benefits provide a systematic approach to land conservation.

A network of interconnected green spaces can provide vital habitat for wildlife, protect water supplies, improve air and water quality, and provide low impact outdoor experiences for recreation enthusiasts. The end result is a healthier environment and a better quality of life for residents. These environmental benefits can be achieved through proper planning and robust funding for land conservation. More often than not, the benefits of open land are not given adequate attention in the land use planning, engineering, and development processes. Conservation lands and residential development are not mutually exclusive. Incorporating natural spaces, wildlife habitat, and conservation corridors early in the planning process can greatly enhance the quality of a residential development or a community as a whole. Strong collaborations between private entities, local governments, non-profit organizations and conservation groups can serve as a springboard to protect and connect natural spaces throughout the state.

***Recommendations:***

*Identify conservation opportunity areas for inclusion and protection in the natural resource element of local comprehensive land use plans.*

*Protect rare landscape elements, cultural resources, and sensitive areas and associated species.*

*Leverage partnerships with state and federal agencies, conservation organizations and private landowners.*

*Develop a guide for local governments and conservation organizations that outlines available funding sources and incentives available to help protect high priority conservation and recreation areas.*

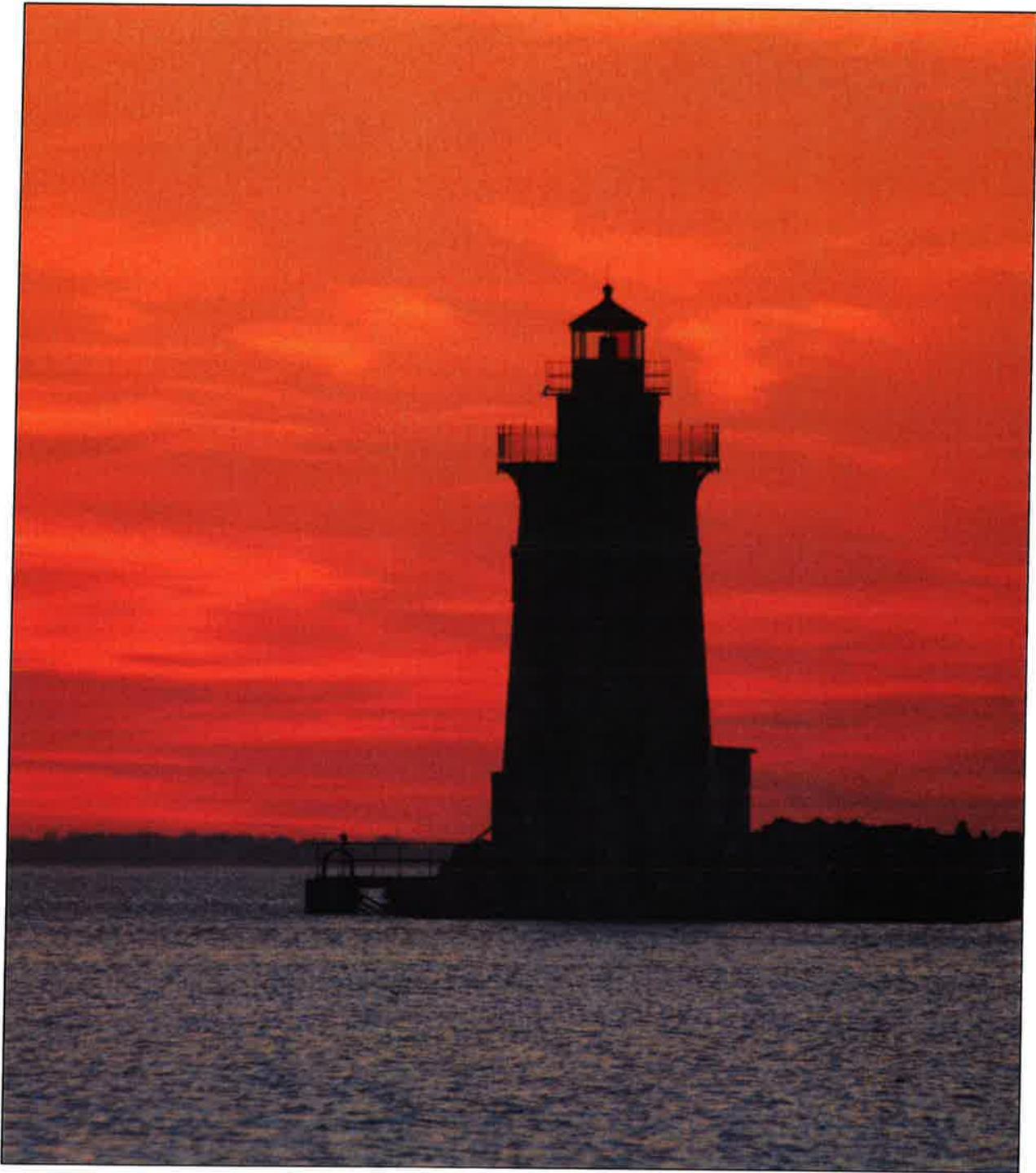
***Local Parks***

In 1986, the state enacted the Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund Act (DTF), a state law that mirrors the federal LWCF Program (30 Del. Code, Chapter 54). The DTF is a matching grant program administered by the State Division of Parks and Recreation within the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control that assists county and municipal governments and park

districts with park land acquisition and outdoor recreation facility development. Annually, \$1 million of Real Estate Transfer Tax is deposited into the Trust with the principal intact. Trust-generated income is divided equally between park and trail projects.

DTF assistance is available for parkland, open space or greenway acquisition, planning and outdoor recreation facility development projects. Up to 50% funding is available for eligible projects while a sponsor and match may be derived from the agency's budget, other grants, in-kind sources or donations. Sponsoring agencies must agree to dedicate the project site to public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity and assume responsibility for continuing operation and maintenance of the area. To date the DTF Program has assisted 44 eligible agencies with over 300 completed projects. The \$21M of DTF assistance has leveraged \$56 million. More than three quarters of the projects (237) have been for park development, 48 for acquisition projects and 27 for planning projects have been funded.





### *Delaware's Open Space Program*

One effective way the State is creating this network of conservation and recreation lands is through the Open Space Program. The Open Space Program coordinates the acquisition of various state lands: parks, fish and wildlife management areas, forests, nature preserves, and cultural sites. Protection efforts build on existing state, federal, local and private conservation organization lands and inholdings. Lands acquired under this Program are protected through fee simple acquisitions, bargain sales, donations, and conservation easements.

While state land conservation started in the 1920s, a cohesive effort with dedicated funding formally began with the passage of the Delaware Land Protection Act (7 Del. Code, Chapter 75) in July 1990. The law established the Open Space Program to acquire interest in real property to carry out conservation programs of the State. Under the purpose of the law, the State is "to protect and conserve all forms of natural and cultural resources; to protect and conserve the biological diversity of plants and animals and their habitat; to protect existing or planned parks, forests, wildlife areas, nature preserves or other recreation, conservation or cultural sites by controlling the use of contiguous nearby lands; to preserve sites of special natural, cultural or geological interest; to connect existing open spaces into a cohesive system of [conservation] greenways and resource areas; to provide for public outdoor recreation; and to allow for water resource conservation".

This legislation also established a nine member Open Space Council which advises the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control as to the administration, implementation and financing of the program. Seven members of the Council are public members appointed by the Governor, one member is appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and one member is appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Ex-Officio members of the Council are the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of State, the Director of the Delaware Economic Development Office, and the State Liaison Officer for the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.



Quarterly meetings are held to review properties brought before the Council for consideration for acquisition. These properties are first selected as priority projects by the land managing agencies that qualify for funding under the program: Division of Fish and Wildlife, Division of Parks and Recreation, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, and the Delaware Forest Service. Then the land project is recommended to an Interagency Working Group, comprised of state and county agency staffs. This group reviews the specific natural, cultural and recreational information for each site and decides which projects are taken to the Open Space Council for its consideration.

Assessing the priority of a given property for preservation is a process that involves ranking and descriptive evaluation. The ranking process is intended to provide a strategic way of preserving open space by evaluating a property on its own features and against other similarly ranked properties in order to maximize resource benefits and leverage all relevant funding sources. Additionally the property is reviewed against existing resource plans.

This ranking process is supported by science, management priorities and public needs. The ranking criteria assign points across five broad areas: ecological value, land

use, water quality, recreation, and cultural resources. Once ranked, the property is evaluated qualitatively by describing other potential benefits, challenges or factors affecting preservation of the land. The recreation potential of a project is reviewed for high priority recreation needs as defined in the SCORP. Specific conservation issues are based on species and habitat inventories and ecological modeling. The Open Space Program Property Ranking Process is found in Appendix E.

The funding for the acquisition of open space properties has come from a variety of sources, including State Conservation Revenue Bonds, a portion of the State's realty transfer tax and legislative appropriations. The original funding mechanism, also passed in 1990, was a new subchapter to the Realty Transfer Tax Act (30 Del. Code, Chapter 54, Subchapter II). Most of the funding today comes from a portion of the realty transfer tax which is imposed on the sale of real estate. The current level of funding is typically \$9.0 million annually. These State funds are often used to match or leverage federal funding from a variety of programs in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service. In addition private foundation funds are matched with state dollars.

From July 1990 through December 2012 the Open Space Program completed 353 fee simple acquisition, donation and conservation easement projects, resulting in the permanent protection of 53,714 acres. Over \$246,469,536 of Open Space funds and \$74,023,662 of other funds were expended on these projects. A breakdown by county is included here.

Open Space Program Summary By County 1990-2012					
County	Projects	Acres	Open Space Funds	Other Funds	Total Cost
New Castle	132	11,844	\$130,960,601	\$34,627,795	\$165,588,396
Kent	65	9,234	\$16,635,634	\$4,496,812	\$21,132,446
Sussex	156	32,636	\$98,873,301	\$34,899,055	\$133,772,356
Total	353	53,714	\$246,469,536	\$74,023,662	\$320,493,198

The slowed economy over the last five years (2008 through 2012) resulted in tight state and federal budgets. Over this same timeframe the funding for the Open Space Program from realty transfer taxes was reduced by 36% from the typical funding amount of \$9.0 million annually. Despite this, fifty eight land protection projects were completed conserving over 3,900 acres. These projects, included key in-holdings, critical wildlife habitats, diverse wetland and forestland areas, all added to the variety of preserved conservation and recreation lands throughout the State. A complete listing of projects for the last five years is in Appendix F. A brief five year summary is found below.

The Open Space Program will strive to build on its successes. With consistent support from the general public as reflected in many SCORP-related surveys over the years, the protection of open lands for recreation and conservation is a priority through all regions of the state. Challenges will include maintaining a consistent funding source in slow-growth economic times and developing the capacity to effectively manage the currently protected lands. The emphasis will be on making vital connections/corridors between and among conserved lands and analyzing these actions from a larger landscape perspective. The Open Space Program will continue to add to the State's outdoor recreation and conservation estate and assist in maintaining the quality of life for Delaware's citizens and visitors.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Open Space Program Summary By County 2008-2012 Five Year Report</b></p>					
County	Projects	Acres	Open Space Funds	Other Funds	Total Cost
New Castle	21	721	\$6,260,969	\$1,544,403	\$7,805,372
Kent	3	323	\$0	\$120,000	120,00
Sussex	34	2,899	\$20,293,903	\$7,788,000	\$28,081,903
Total	58	3942.77	\$26,554,872	\$9,452,403	\$35,887,274

## Protecting Lands for Conservation and Recreation

*Goal: To maintain and enhance the interconnected network of natural areas, open spaces, parks, and conservation lands*

<i>RECOMMENDATIONS</i>	<i>IMPLEMENTERS</i>	<i>AGO</i>
1. Identify and prioritize lands for acquisition to protect and maintain large landscapes and avoid fragmentation of resources.	<i>Open Space Council, Greenways &amp; Trails Council, DNREC, DE Dept. of Agriculture, private conservation organizations</i>	
2. Identify conservation opportunity areas for inclusion in the natural resource element of local comprehensive land use plans.	<i>DNREC, OSPC, County and Local officials, environmental advocates</i>	
3. Protect rare landscape elements, cultural resources, sensitive areas, and associated species.	<i>DNREC, DE Dept. of Agriculture, Delaware Historical and Cultural Affairs, USFWS</i>	
4. Balance resource protection with resource use.	<i>DNREC, DE Dept. of Agriculture, USFWS, DPH, local parks and recreation departments, private recreation and conservation organizations</i>	
5. Protect land to create conservation corridors.	<i>DNREC, DE Dept. of Agriculture, private conservation organizations</i>	
6. Leverage partnerships with state and federal agencies, conservation organizations and private landowners.	<i>State and Federal Environmental agencies, conservation organizations and private landowners</i>	
7. Develop a guide to funding sources and incentives to protect high priority	<i>DNREC, De Dept. of Agriculture, private industry</i>	

conservation and recreation areas.		
8. Manage core natural areas to minimize direct disturbances and the introduction and spread of non-native and invasive species.	<i>Federal, State, and local land managers, private landowners, volunteer groups</i>	

## Appendix E. Delaware Open Space Program Acquisition Ranking Criteria

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### OPEN SPACE PROGRAM PROPERTY RANKING PROCESS

As established by the Delaware Land Protection Act, the Open Space Program is to acquire interest in real property to carry out conservation programs of the State. Under the purpose of the law, the State is "to protect and conserve all forms of natural and cultural resources; to protect and conserve the biological diversity of plants and animals and their habitat; to protect existing or planned parks, forests, wildlife areas, nature preserves or other recreation, conservation or cultural sites by controlling the use of contiguous nearby lands; to preserve sites of special natural, cultural or geological interest; to connect existing open spaces into a cohesive system of greenways and resource areas; to provide for public outdoor recreation; and to allow for water resource conservation."

In order to carry out the purpose of the Open Space Program, the Open Space Council is to review and recommend to the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control for adoption a ranking process that establishes land preservation priorities. Typically working in a constrained environment of limited funding, the ranking process is intended to provide a strategic way of preserving open space by evaluating a property on its own features and against other similarly ranked properties in order to maximize resource benefits and leverage all relevant funding sources.

Any property proposed for preservation is first screened by the following state land managing agencies for any specific interest: Division of Fish and Wildlife (Wildlife Areas and Natural Heritage sites), Division of Parks and Recreation (State Parks, Natural Areas and Nature Preserves), Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve, Delaware Forest Service (State Forests and Forest Legacy Areas), or Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs. Typically a property of interest is an inholding to, expansion of or connection between lands protected or managed by these agencies. Additionally a property of interest may be a stand-alone site that contains critical resources. The property is also reviewed against resource plans or resource analyses, including the Delaware Ecological Network<sup>1</sup>.

Assessing the priority of a given property for preservation, either through fee-simple acquisition, donation or conservation easement is a process that involves ranking and descriptive evaluation. This ranking process is supported by science, management priorities and public needs. The ranking criteria assign points across five broad areas: ecological value, land use, water quality, recreation, and cultural

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<sup>1</sup> Weber, T. 2007. Development and application of a statewide conservation network in Delaware, *U.S.A. Journal of Conservation Planning*, Vol 3: 17-46.

resources. Once ranked, a property is evaluated qualitatively by describing other potential benefits, challenges or factors affecting preservation of the property.

**RANKING CRITERIA**

ECOLOGICAL VALUE	20 points	15 points	10 points	5 points	0 points
Plants <sup>i</sup>	Federally listed or candidate species, globally rare, or proposed state listed species documented on site or adjacent lands that may benefit from habitat protection	S1 species <sup>2</sup> documented on site or adjacent lands that may benefit from habitat protection	S2 species <sup>3</sup> documented on site or adjacent lands that may benefit from habitat protection	S3 species <sup>4</sup> documented on site or adjacent lands that may benefit from habitat protection	S1-S3 species not likely to benefit from habitat protection
Animals <sup>ii</sup>	Federally listed or candidate species, globally rare, state listed or proposed state listed species documented on site or adjacent lands that may benefit from habitat protection	S1 species documented on site or adjacent lands that may benefit from habitat protection	S2 species documented on site or adjacent lands that may benefit from habitat protection	At least 1 SGCN <sup>5</sup> likely to benefit from habitat protection	SGCN not likely to benefit from habitat protection
Habitat of Conservation Concern (HCC) <sup>6iii</sup>	Protects an existing HCC documented on site	Protects a corridor connecting two HCCs	Protects land adjacent to an HCC (potential for expansion of HCC through restoration)	Potential for establishing an HCC (must be in close proximity to other HCCs)	No potential for establishing a HCC

<sup>2</sup> S1 Species- Extremely rare with typically 5 or fewer occurrences statewide.

<sup>3</sup> S2 Species- Very rare with typically 6 to 20 occurrences statewide.

<sup>4</sup> S3 Species- Rare to uncommon with approximately 21 to 100 occurrences statewide.

<sup>5</sup> SGCN, or Species of Greatest Conservation Need, are identified according to a set of criteria provided in the *Delaware Wildlife Action Plan*. SGCN are species indicative of the overall diversity and health of the State's wildlife resources. Some may be rare or declining, may be vital components of certain habitats, and / or may have a significant portion of their population in Delaware.

<sup>6</sup> HCC, or Habitat of Conservation Concern, are habitats that are rare, have special significance in Delaware, are particularly sensitive to disturbance, and/or have a high diversity of rare plants. Because of these factors, they are known – or expected – to harbor SGCN, especially insects that are often dependent on specific host plants.

ECOLOGICAL VALUE	20 points	15 points	10 points	5 points	0 points
Fisheries Resource Protection Areas	Protects critical nursery or spawning habitat for anadromous fish, bivalves, and shellfish	Adjacent to critical nursery or spawning habitat for anadromous fish, bivalves, and shellfish	Potential to protect and/or improve nursery or spawning habitat for anadromous fish, bivalves, and shellfish		
Forest % Cover	76-100	51-75	26-50	10-25	<10
Non-forested Wetland % Cover	76-100	51-75	26-50	10-25	<10
ESH <sup>7</sup> % Cover <sup>iv</sup>		76-100	51-75	26-50	
Total (135)					

LAND USE	20 points	15 points	10 points	0 points	-10 points
Proximity to Existing Preserved Lands	Necessary to use of existing preserved lands/ inholding	Adjacent to existing preserved lands	Provides a corridor between existing preserved lands		
Development Pressure	No residences or commercial structures within 0.5 miles of property	No residences or commercial structures on adjacent parcels	<5 residences or commercial structures on adjacent parcels	>5 residences or commercial structures on adjacent parcels	Proposed / approved development on property being considered (not cost effective)
On-site Buildings			Property with no building	Property with 1 building	Property with >1 building
Site Restrictions <sup>8</sup>			No site restrictions		Site restrictions
Size of Property <sup>v</sup>	>200 acres	100 - 199 acres	25 - 99 acres	< 25 acres	
Use of Property	Primarily in a natural state (>50%)	Primarily agricultural lands (>50%)	Residential/commercial use (<25% land disturbance)	Residential/commercial use (>25% land disturbance)	Intense residential use, borrow pits, waste treatment facilities, spray irrigation, landfills etc.
Access			Access exists; no improvements necessary	Access exists but improvements	Poor or no access

<sup>7</sup> ESH – Early Successional Habitat, including mixed stand of grasses and forbs, old field habitat, pastureland, and shrubland.

<sup>8</sup> Any restrictions that would affect the use of the site. For example, a former landfill which would not allow for public use.

LAND USE	20 points	15 points	10 points	0 points	-10 points
				necessary	
Public Utilities <sup>9</sup>					Above ground utilities present
Sea Level Rise (SLR) Adaptation <sup>10vi</sup>	Adjacent to land predicted to be under water at 1.5m SLR			Predicted to be under water at 0.5m, 1.0m or 1.5m SLR	Currently under water at MHW <sup>11</sup>
<b>Total (130)</b>					

CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES	40 points	20 points	10 points
Cultural / Historical Resources <sup>12vii</sup>	Listed on National Register of Historic Places	Eligible for listing on National Register	Some cultural/historic interest
Threat to Cultural Resources	Immediate – approved subdivision	Potential – submitted subdivision	
<b>Total (80)</b>			

WATER FEATURES	15 points	10 points	5 points	0 points
Perennial (primary) Water Features Present <sup>viii</sup>	Unchannelized		Channelized	
Intermittent (secondary) Water Features Present <sup>ix</sup>	Unchannelized		Channelized	
Ditch (secondary) Water Features Present <sup>x</sup>			Buffered	No buffer
Waterway Frontage	>1000 linear feet	500-999 linear feet	250-499 linear feet	0-249 linear feet
Riparian Forest Buffer Size	>200'	100-199'	50-100'	0-50'
Other Vegetated Buffer		>200'	100-199'	<100'
<u>Nutrient Management Critical Priority Areas</u>	Low	Medium		High
<u>ERES<sup>13</sup> Waters</u>	Within ERES waters		Adjacent to ERES waters	Outside ERES waters
<u>Watershed Impairment</u>	0-50%	50-74%	75-99%	100%

<sup>9</sup> Utilities – aboveground public utilities that serve more than one entity (e.g. electric transmission/distribution lines, fiber optic/cable lines, cell tower, solar panel array).

<sup>10</sup> DNREC Sea Level Rise Scenarios. Adaptations allow for landward migration of resource or loss of land due to sea level rise.

<sup>11</sup> MHW = Mean High Water

<sup>12</sup> Cultural/Historic resources means those structures, improvements, sites or lands that are listed as significant in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, either as individual listings or as contribution elements in listed or eligible historic districts (30 Del Code §1803).

<sup>13</sup> ERES – waters of exceptional recreational or ecological significance.

**DELAWARE OUTDOORS: BUILDING AN OUTDOOR LEGACY**  
Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

**Appendix  
E**

WATER FEATURES	15 points	10 points	5 points	0 points
Total (135)				

RECREATION (Must not adversely affect ecological resources to receive points)	20 points	15 points
Potential for High Priority Outdoor Recreation Needs as Defined in the SCORP <sup>14</sup>	3+	1-2
Recreational Uses (see below)	3+	1-2
Proximity to Population Base <sup>15</sup>	Level 1	Level 2
Within a Fisheries Access Area (shoreline, piers, boat access)	Yes	
<b>Total (80)</b>		

RECREATIONAL USES (Must not adversely affect ecological resources to receive points)	Check All That Apply
Hunting	
Fishing	
Wildlife viewing (unique species or habitat)	
Boating/kayak access (ramps and / or parking)	
Walking, jogging or bike paths / ATV, hiking, mountain biking or equestrian trails	
Sport courts	
Multi-purpose fields	
Water park/ swimming pool	
Dog park/ dog training areas	
Beach access	
Access to historic sites	
Disc golf courses	
Golf courses	
Playgrounds	
Picnic areas	
Camping areas	
Rollerblading, roller skating or roller hockey areas / skate parks	
<b>Total Number of Recreational Uses</b>	

<sup>14</sup> SCORP – Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

<sup>15</sup> Strategies for State Policies and Spending 2010 update - Level 1 and Level 2 Areas of Investment

Total Points For All Categories	Total Points
Ecological Value ( /135)	
Land Use ( /130)	
Cultural / Historical ( /80)	
Water Features ( /135)	
Recreation ( /80)	

**DESCRIPTIVE EVALUATION / PROJECT-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS**

**Does the acquisition support state or regional preservation and restoration priorities or management plan goals?**

(e.g., Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Council's Interstate Fisheries Management Plans, Bird Conservation Region 30, Blackbird-Millington Corridor Plan, Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, Chesapeake Watershed Implementation Plan, Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program, Delaware Forest Action Plan, Delaware Bayshore Initiative, Delaware Wildlife Action Plan, Inland Bays Watershed Restoration Plan, Nanticoke Watershed Restoration Plan, North American Wetlands Conservation Act, Partners in Flight Priority Species, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation)

**List Regional Priorities and / or Management Plan Goals here:**

**Describe why the property is considered for preservation.** (e.g., critical wildlife habitat, water quality protection, recreational opportunities, cultural resource preservation)

**Are preservation / management goals best achieved through fee title or easement, and why?**

**Is there a discount offered on the purchase price?**

**Are there opportunities to leverage non-Open Space funds? If so, identify the funding sources and percentages.**

**Describe any potential management challenges and / or costs.**

**Is there a near term plan for development?**

**For stand-alone sites, are the resources on the property significant enough to justify preservation?**

**Describe geological features of interest on site?**

**Will preserving this property protect a viewshed? If so, describe the viewshed?**

**Is this property on the State Registry of Natural Areas?**

**Is there public interest in acquiring the property?**

**Is the owner requesting provisions in the contract / easement that would reduce the property's primary conservation values or appropriate management?**

**Is the property a potential restoration site?**

**Does the property contain a floodway? Is it in the 100 year floodplain?**

**Other comments:**

## PROJECT SUMMARY

### GENERAL PROPERTY INFORMATION

Owner Contact Information:

Tax Parcel:

Acreage:

Uplands:

Wetlands:

Watershed:

Agency Contact:

Ranking Score:

### ACQUISITION DATA

Full Fair Market Purchase: \_\_\_\_\_ Bargain Sale: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Leveraged Funds:

Endowment/Monitoring Contribution:

Contract Price:

Comments:

**APPRAISAL DATA**

**Appraiser:**

**Date of Appraisal:**

**Appraised Value:**

**Per Acre Value:**

**Uplands:**

**Wetlands:**

**Comments:**

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<sup>i</sup> EO Dots 2010

<sup>ii</sup> EO Dots 2010

<sup>iii</sup> Key Wildlife Habitats

<sup>iv</sup> J:\Early Successional Habitat2004.mdb

<sup>v</sup> Parcel data

<sup>vi</sup> J:\GISData\DNREC Sea Level Rise Scenarios

<sup>vii</sup> J:\parks\GISLab\Shapes\CulturalHistoric\National\_Register(2010)

<sup>viii</sup> J:\GISData\NHDWater.gdb\Hydrography\NHDFlowline

<sup>ix</sup> J:\GISData\NHDWater.gdb\Hydrography\NHDFlowline

<sup>x</sup> J:\GISData\NHDWater.gdb\Hydrography\NHDFlowline

<sup>xi</sup> J:\parks\GISLab\Shapes\SCORP

**Appendix F. Delaware Open Space Program Acquisition Inventory  
2008-2012 Five Year Report**

Managing Agency	General Location	Name	Acquisition Date	Open Space Funds	Total Funds	Acres	General Description
<b>Kent County</b>							
Fish and Wildlife	Little Creek Wildlife Area	The Nature Conservancy	December 17, 2009	\$0.00	\$120,000.00		59 Tidal Wetlands
Parks	Fork Branch Nature Preserve	Ashburn Homes, Inc.	August 5, 2010	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.9265	Forested Wetlands
Fish and Wildlife	Spring Creek	Kent County Levy Court (Cons. Ease.)	August 14, 2012	\$0.00	\$0.00	262.87	Tidal Wetlands, Forest, Agricultural Land
<b>Five Year Kent County Total</b>				<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$120,000.00</b>	<b>322.80</b>	

<b>New Castle County</b>							
Parks	Auburn Heights Preserve	Marshall	November 25, 2008	\$0.00	\$0.00	4.307	Cultural Site
Parks	Sunset Lake	Newark Anglers Association (Cons. Ease.)	December 18, 2008	\$650,000.00	\$650,000.00	65.6	Pond, Forest
Parks	Auburn Heights Preserve	Yorklyn Preservation, LLC (Cons. Ease.)	November 30, 2009	\$565,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	47.21	Cultural Site, Meadow, Conservation Corridor, Scenic Viewshed
Parks	Auburn Heights Preserve	NVF Company	June 15, 2010	\$0.00	\$0.00	3.69	Cultural Site
Parks	Pike Creek Watershed	Independence School, Inc (Cons. Ease.)	August 2, 2010	\$0.00	\$0.00	9.095	Non-Tidal Wetlands, Conservation Corridor
Parks	Auburn Heights Preserve	NVF Company	September 24, 2010	\$450,000.00	\$1,250,000.00	23.37	Cultural Site, Forest, Floodplain
Forestry	Blackbird State Forest	Borthwick	December 22, 2010	\$313,789.20	\$313,789.20	26.1491	Agricultural Land, Conservation Corridor
Forestry	Blackbird State Forest	Borthwick	December 22, 2010	\$365,880.00	\$365,880.00	30.49	Floodplain, Forest, Agricultural Land, Conservation Corridor
Parks	Auburn Heights Preserve	NVF Company	December 22, 2010	\$0.00	\$0.00	15.01	Floodplain, Cultural Site, Conservation Corridor
Parks	Brandywine Creek	Durham/Evans (Cons. Ease.)	December 29, 2010	\$0.00	\$0.00	4.216	Conservation Corridor, Meadow
Parks	Auburn Heights Preserve	Reynolds (Cons. Ease.)	February 4, 2011	\$1,180,000.00	\$1,180,000.00	32.84	Forest, Cultural Site, Conservation Corridor, Scenic Viewshed
Fish and Wildlife	New Castle	New Castle, City Of (Cons. Ease.)	September 22, 2011	\$0.00	\$0.00	60.34	Tidal Wetlands, Conservation Corridor

Parks	Auburn Heights Preserve	Thomas (Cons. Ease.)	September 28, 2011	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	Forest, Conservation Corridor, 8.4 Scenic Viewshed
Fish and Wildlife	Blackbird Creek Watershed	Jacobs	December 21, 2011	\$0.00	\$159,402.70	2 Floodplain, Forest
Parks	Brandywine Creek State Park	Rockford Woodlawn Fund, Inc.	February 10, 2012	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	13.77 Floodplain, Forest
Fish and Wildlife	Cedar Swamp Wildlife Area	Harmon	May 22, 2012	\$0.00	\$0.00	97.58 Agricultural Land, Non-Tidal Wetlands
Forestry	Blackbird State Forest	Sheats/Sheats	June 15, 2012	\$223,300.00	\$223,300.00	22.33 Forest, Forested Wetlands
Fish and Wildlife	Augustine Wildlife Area	Yardley Dale, LLC	September 21, 2012	\$1,003,000.00	\$1,003,000.00	Tidal Wetlands, Forest, 194 Agricultural Land
Parks	Auburn Heights Preserve	Yorklyn Hills, LLC (Cons. Ease.)	October 5, 2012	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	8.315 Forest, Scenic Viewshed
Parks	White Clay Creek State Park	Dupont, William	October 31, 2012	\$810,000.00	\$810,000.00	30.03 Forest
Parks	Auburn Heights Preserve	Delaware Nature Society, Inc.	December 18, 2012	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	22.538 Floodplain, Forest, Conservation Corridor
<b>Five Year New Castle County Total</b>				<b>\$6,260,969.20</b>	<b>\$7,805,371.90</b>	<b>721.28</b>

Sussex County						
Forestry	Redden State Forest	Fischer	April 23, 2008	\$380,000.00	\$380,000.00	39.31 Forest, Forested Wetlands
Parks	Cape Henlopen State Park	Rustic Lands, LLC (Cons. Ease.)	May 9, 2008	\$2,626,919.01	\$2,626,919.01	Agricultural Land, Scenic Viewshed 11.4
Fish and Wildlife	Inland Bays	The Nature Conservancy	May 23, 2008	\$48,446.37	\$48,446.37	Agricultural Land, Scenic Viewshed 118.3
Parks	Assawoman Canal	Elechko	July 22, 2008	\$0.00	\$490,000.00	0.752 Tidal Wetlands, Open Land
Forestry	Redden State Forest	ABC Woodlands, LLC (Cons. Ease.)	November 14, 2008	\$2,050,000.00	\$2,050,000.00	302.6765 Forest, Agricultural Land, Scenic Viewshed
Fish and Wildlife	Inland Bays	Biffen Company, LTD	January 8, 2009	\$3,819,447.20	\$3,819,447.20	Agricultural Land, Scenic Viewshed 91.9
Parks	Assawoman Canal	Mitchell	March 27, 2009	\$775,000.00	\$775,000.00	0.9744 Open Land, Scenic Viewshed
Parks	Cape Henlopen State Park	Rustic Lands, LLC	April 27, 2009	\$80,500.00	\$80,500.00	0.7 Forest, Conservation Corridor
Parks	Cape Henlopen State Park	Rustic Lands, LLC (Cons. Ease.)	April 27, 2009	\$422,500.00	\$422,500.00	4.3 Forest, Conservation Corridor
Parks	Holts Landing State Park	Murray Family LP/Rickards	June 30, 2009	\$350,000.00	\$350,000.00	Agricultural Land, Conservation Corridor 2

Parks	James Branch Nature Preserve	Durham Trust/D & N Properties, LLC	July 6, 2009	\$420,000.00	\$420,000.00	11.082	Forest, Agricultural Land, Scenic Viewshed
Fish and Wildlife	Midlands Wildlife Area	Shelah Branch Farms, LLC	October 2, 2009	\$1,275,000.00	\$1,275,000.00	127.413	Forest, Agricultural Land, Conservation Corridor
Fish and Wildlife	Midlands Wildlife Area	Delaware Technical & Community College Ed. Found.	December 17, 2009	\$2,189,934.00	\$2,189,934.00	246.06	Forest, Agricultural Land, Conservation Corridor
Fish and Wildlife	Nanticoke Wildlife Area	Niblett	December 17, 2009	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.59	Forest, Scenic Viewshed
Parks	Great Marsh Preserve	Lifetime Living, LLC	June 29, 2010	\$0.00	\$0.00	24.949	Tidal Wetlands, Forested Wetlands
Parks	James Branch Nature Preserve	Larrimore/Hitchens (Cons. Ease.)	July 15, 2010	\$588,247.00	\$588,247.00	106.954	Agricultural Land
Parks	Assawoman Canal	Short (Cons. Ease.)	August 27, 2010	\$324,276.00	\$324,276.00	4.529	Forest, Scenic Viewshed
Fish and Wildlife	Midlands Wildlife Area	Hope Farm Investments, LLC	September 30, 2010	\$0.00	\$425,000.00	65.31	Agricultural Land, Forest, Conservation Corridor
Fish and Wildlife	Midlands Wildlife Area	Saletnig/Stecklein	October 1, 2010	\$0.00	\$578,000.00	111.23	Forest, Forested Wetlands, Conservation Corridor
Parks	Salt Pond	Bethany Woods, LLC	October 28, 2010	\$0.00	\$0.00	24.21	Pond
Fish and Wildlife	Mispillion Harbor Reserve	Fitzgerald et al.	November 15, 2010	\$0.00	\$130,000.00	48.5	Tidal Wetlands
Parks	James Branch Nature Preserve	The Conservation Fund	November 22, 2010	\$933,633.00	\$933,633.00	103.737	Forest, Forested Wetlands
Forestry	Redden State Forest	Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company	January 26, 2011	\$500,000.00	\$2,700,000.00	377	Forest
Parks	James Branch Nature Preserve	Windsor	July 30, 2011	\$49,000.00	\$49,000.00	16.92	Forest, Floodplain, Conservation Corridor
Fish and Wildlife	Nanticoke Wildlife Area	The Conservation Fund	October 31, 2011	\$565,000.00	\$1,365,000.00	210	Forest, Floodplain, Conservation Corridor
Fish and Wildlife	Millford Neck Wildlife Area	Fort Saulsbury, LLC (Cons. Ease.)	December 21, 2011	\$0.00	\$0.00	5.94	Tidal Wetlands, Forested Wetlands
Forestry	Redden State Forest	J.G. Townsend, Jr. & Co.	December 22, 2011	\$385,000.00	\$1,540,000.00	216.7445	Forest, Conservation Corridor
Forestry	Redden State Forest	Marvel Investments, LLC/R/DJH, LLC	May 24, 2012	\$670,000.00	\$2,680,000.00	339.16	Forest
Parks	Inland Bays	Millsboro, Town Of (Cons. Ease.)	June 8, 2012	\$0.00	\$0.00	153.6607	Forest, Forested Wetlands, Floodplain, Conservation Corridor
Fish and Wildlife	Nanticoke River	Royal et al.	August 2, 2012	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00	0.5	Floodplain, Open Land, Scenic Viewshed
Fish and Wildlife	Mispillion Harbor Reserve	Swain	August 31, 2012	\$600,000.00	\$600,000.00	3.601	Floodplain, Open Land, Scenic Viewshed
Parks	Angola Neck Preserve	Beigbeder et al.	September 20, 2012	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	7.41	Tidal Wetlands, Forested Wetlands, Scenic Viewshed

Parks	James Branch Nature Preserve	Trap Investments, LLC	November 1, 2012	\$926,000.00	\$926,000.00	98.509	Forested Wetlands, Forest, Agricultural Land
Fish and Wildlife	Assawoman Wildlife Area	Carey et al.	December 27, 2012	\$0.00	\$0.00	22.37	Tidal Wetlands
<b>Five Year Sussex County Total</b>				<b>\$20,293,902.58</b>	<b>\$28,081,902.58</b>	<b>2,898.69</b>	
<b>Five Year Statewide Total</b>				<b>\$26,554,871.78</b>	<b>\$36,007,274.48</b>	<b>3,942.77</b>	