

## **Appendix D. 2013-2018 SCORP Recommendations**

---

### **Outdoor Recreation Inventory**

- Identify private recreation facilities to be incorporated in a statewide level of service analysis.
- Broaden the Outdoor Recreation Inventory to include facility age and condition analyses.
- Identify missing information needed to conduct more accurate spatial analyses.
- Assist county and local parks and recreation officials with level of service and spatial analyses of their local park and recreation facilities to determine geographical representation of recreational facility needs.
- Conduct outdoor recreation spatial analyses to inform health impact assessments for local and regional community designs.
- Develop an online clearinghouse of resources that disseminates detailed information for all recreation facilities in Delaware.

### **Statewide Trails and Pathways Initiative**

- Increase the system of interconnected trails and pathways by extending existing trail hubs within municipalities and state parks.
- Develop concept plans with focus on identifying new trail and pathway corridors that extend existing trails into county regions. Develop concept plans with focus on identifying new trail and pathway corridors that extend existing trails into county regions.
- Allocate a steady and reliable funding stream for trails and pathways that builds on and extends the existing network.
- Coordinate planning efforts to connect neighborhoods with places of work, schools, businesses, park and other community facilities.
- Identify gaps in trail and pathway systems to prioritize critical community connections.
- Identify needed land and support the development of future trail extensions and connections that encourage healthy lifestyles and increase recreational opportunities.

- Conduct a detailed spatial analysis to determine geographical representation of trail, pathway and sidewalk related needs.
- Conduct trail volume and use surveys to better understand and enhance trail use.
- Advocate and identify funding sources to conduct local walkability and bikability analyses.
- Promote and support bicycle and shared-use trail safety campaign.
- Develop a unified statewide trail classification and signage marking system.
- Conduct trail and pathway grade analyses to identify unsustainable and inaccessible trail sections.
- Adopt universal sustainability and trail maintenance standards for trail and pathway design and construction.
- Share trail standards and design knowledge and skills with counties, municipalities and volunteer organizations.

### **Accessible Recreation**

- Create locally specific policy briefs highlighting the importance of outdoor recreation, walkability, and inter-connectivity.
- Brief local governments on findings from in-depth spatial analyses and demonstrate the need to update local development codes to improve walkability, interconnectivity, and active recreation.
- Provide on-going training to assist agency planners to remain current on best practices for park management and playground safety.
- Provide technical assistance to state and local officials during comprehensive planning processes to incorporate trails, parks and recreation spaces in local planning efforts.
- Obtain a clear understanding of the level of public transportation services to parks and recreation facilities.
- Identify and assess outdoor recreation facility conditions to be used in spatial analyses, DTF and LWCF grant distribution and facility maintenance planning.
- Explore a State Park pass loan initiative to encourage park use and promote healthy lifestyles in economically challenged areas.
- Conduct spatial analyses of park locations juxtaposed to crime incidences.
- Gather information necessary to complete in-depth spatial analyses of outdoor recreation facilities for underserved and urban populations.

- Create an accessibility guide to all public outdoor recreation spaces.
- Develop guidance tools that address best practices for universal accessibility to outdoor recreation facilities.
- Ensure representation from the disability community throughout the conservation and recreation planning processes.

### **Improving Public Health**

- Develop an online clearinghouse of all public outdoor recreation resources.
- Provide technical assistance to ongoing statewide health initiatives (Delaware HEAL & Governor's Council on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention).
- Identify sidewalk/pathway gaps that are needed to connect people to parks.
- Support the Children in Nature Task Force Report (released Oct. 2012) to expand the model of Prescription for Health beyond Sussex County.

### **Partnerships for Conservation, Recreation and Tourism**

- Foster public/private partnerships and tourism packaging that promote the ecological beauty and recreational opportunities in Delaware.
- Conduct park and recreation economic studies to assess the benefits of parks, wildlife, conservation areas, and Delaware's outdoor recreation economy.
- Preserve and enhance large scale land conservation partnerships to make Delaware a destination for outdoor enthusiasts.
- Build on public/private partnerships by leveraging state, federal, and private resources.
- Develop the Route 9 Corridor Management Plan.
- Seek Federal designation for the Route 9 Coastal Heritage Scenic Byway.
- Examine potential corridors that would extend the existing Bayshore Byway south.
- Continue to support the establishment of the Delaware National Historic Park units.
- Promote the management of recreation areas to protect unique natural, historical and cultural resources while providing a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Provide additional interpretive information along the Captain John Smith Water Trail.
- Conserve lands within the Nanticoke watershed that are evocative of the landscapes encountered by Captain John Smith and his crew.
- Increase access to the Nanticoke River Water Trail.

- Protect water access sites identified in the National Park Service’s Access Plan.
- Collaborate to improve the shared goals of the White Clay Creek Watershed Management Plan.
- Increase the number of National Recreation Trail designations in Delaware.

## **Protecting Lands for Conservation and Recreation**

- Identify and prioritize lands for acquisition to protect and maintain large landscapes and avoid fragmentation of resources.
- Identify conservation opportunity areas for inclusion in the natural resource element of local comprehensive land use plans.
- Protect rare landscape elements, cultural resources, sensitive areas, and associated species.
- Balance resource protection with resource use.
- Protect land to create conservation corridors.
- Leverage partnerships with state and federal agencies, conservation organizations and private landowners.
- Develop a guide to funding sources and incentives to protect high priority conservation and recreation areas.
- Manage core natural areas to minimize direct disturbances and the introduction and spread of non-native and invasive species.

## **Getting Children Outdoors**

- Continue to conduct outdoor recreation participation studies aimed at specific user groups and demographics.
- Provide technical assistance to the Children In Nature Task Force.
- Provide training to develop schoolyard habitats, outdoor classrooms and/or school gardens to assist in reconnecting youth to their environment.
- Establish and maintain an environmental education resource clearinghouse.
- Coordinate discussion between Department of Education, the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and other outdoor recreation providers to share outdoor recreation facilities and resources.

- Increase community access to school recreation facilities by reducing barriers associated with use.
- Identify public school facilities that are not publicly available during non-school time.
- Ensure long-term maintenance and safety of all recreation facilities.