

Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Issues and Recommendations

As important as our understanding of public outdoor recreation preferences, so too is our understanding of issues relating to outdoor recreation. Throughout the preparation of the 2013 SCORP, meaningful comments were gathered from numerous public and professional venues including the phone survey, online surveys and workshop discussions. Furthermore, issues were identified from the Technical Advisory Committee members and the Park and Recreation Department Directors.

Combined, these sources of input are vital in understanding the public's issues and concerns about outdoor recreation in Delaware. The most relevant issues and recommendations are summarized in this chapter and are tools to direct investments in outdoor recreation and to assist local governments with their comprehensive plans. The information can also be used to gain public support for recreation, quality of life and conservation related initiatives.

Shared Priorities with America's Great Outdoors

In 2010, the Obama Administration launched the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative to develop a 21st Century conservation and recreation agenda. AGO recognizes that many of the best ideas come from local grassroots conservation initiatives, and calls for reworking inefficient policies and making the Federal Government a better partner with states, tribes, and local communities. As a result, the America's Great Outdoors Report, published in February 2011, proposed a number of recommendations and actions directed towards reigniting a commitment to conserving our natural heritage. A number of the AGO recommendations overlap with the recommendations outlined within the Delaware Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan signifying a greater support for achieving shared goals.

A matrix summarizing goals and recommendations can be found at the end of each section. Those shared recommendations that support the AGO initiative are identified within the matrix. Additionally, a complete list of all recommendations in this document can be found in Appendix D.

Partners in Implementation

Along with developing recommendations to enhance the outdoor recreation opportunities in Delaware, the Technical Advisory Committee identified key partners who are instrumental in helping achieve the goals of this SCORP. Implementation of SCORP recommendations will be accomplished through new and existing partnerships, growing collaborations and ad-hoc implementation teams. Key partners for each recommendation are identified in the matrix at the end of each issues section. It is important to note that implementation should not be limited to those individuals or organizations that are listed.

Acronyms for Implementers

CIN	Children In Nature Task Force
DAEE	Delaware Association of Environmental Educators
DART	Delaware Transit Corporation
DE HEAL	Delaware Coalition for Healthy Eating and Active Living
DEDO	Delaware Economic Development Office
DeIDOT	Delaware Department of Transportation
DF&W	Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife
DLLG	Delaware League of Local Governments
DNREC	Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
DNS	Delaware Nature Society
DOE	Delaware Department of Education
DPH	Delaware Division of Public Health
DPR	Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation
DRPS	Delaware Recreation and Parks Society

DSP	Delaware State Police
DSU	Delaware State University
GCHPDP	Governor's Council on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
NHPS	Nemours Health and Prevention Services
NPOs	Non Profit Organizations
OSPC	Office of State Planning and Coordination
SCORP TAC	SCORP Technical Advisory Committee
UD	University of Delaware
UD-CDS	University of Delaware- Center for Disability Studies
USDA-NRCS	U.S. Department of Agriculture- Natural Resource Conservation Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service