

AN INVESTMENT IN OPEN SPACE IS AN INVESTMENT IN DELAWARE'S FUTURE



In 2016, Delaware State Parks visitors spent an average of **\$245 per person!**



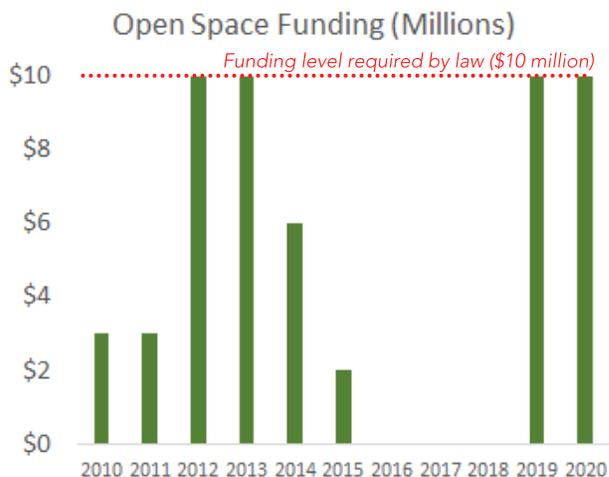
contributing a total of about **\$376 MILLION** to Delaware's economy!

Research Supports the Value of Open Space

On average, **\$1 INVESTED** in land protection in the U.S. returns an estimated **\$5 MILLION** in reduced flood impacts.

One acre of wetlands can store up to **1 MILLION GALLONS** of water during storms.

Historic Funding Levels for Delaware's Open Space Program



Source: Delaware's Open Space Program

Open spaces are key to protecting our water, wellness, and way of life, whether that's enjoying walks in Cape Henlopen State Park, fishing at the Indian River Inlet, or drinking tap water without worrying what else is in it.

Protecting open spaces by creating public parks or wildlife areas has long been a priority in Delaware to increase flood protection, enhance habitats and biodiversity, improve water quality, and offer recreational opportunities.

Since 1990, the state has preserved over 60,000 acres from development in all three counties through the Open Space Program. Places like Cape Henlopen and Trap Pond State Parks would not exist as they are today without Delaware's Open Space Program.

By law, the program is to receive \$10 million in funding annually. But from 2010 to 2020, that required funding level was met only four times.

More open spaces offer more opportunities to exercise in the outdoors, and studies have shown that spending just two hours a week in nature can positively enhance a person's mental well-being. A study from the University of Wisconsin has found time spent outdoors can also decrease the risk of chronic illnesses.

Studies also show that open space investments can equal hundreds of millions of dollars in increased property values and a stronger tourism economy, on top of the environmental and public health benefits.

Protecting open space is also critical to maintaining biodiversity, as habitat losses are already leading to the decline of migratory songbirds and native bees that we rely on to pollinate the food sources we all need to feed our families.



Open Space Protections Must be Fully Funded at \$10 Million Annually

Ensuring funding for Delaware's Open Space Program is also a way to protect Delaware's water. Keeping pollution out of the water must start on the land. As Delaware's population grows toward one million residents, the need to protect remaining open spaces is more important than ever.

To protect the health and well-being of residents and visitors, the state's tourism economy, and the wild places and animals that make the First State so special, that minimum \$10 million in funding for the Open Space Program needs to be supported each and every year.

The Clean Water Campaign is a statewide effort to secure funding to safeguard Delaware's water. Protecting open spaces can protect Delaware's waterways, which already face significant challenges.



1 ACRE
of tidal wetlands are collectively being lost in the Delaware region every day

90 %
of Delaware's waterways are impacted by pollution

\$100 MILLION
is the annual shortage Delaware faces for clean water funding

To learn more and to take action, go to cleanwaterdelaware.org.

*Your support has never been more important.
Contact your local legislator TODAY to voice your support for
Delaware's Open Space Program and the
Clean Water for Delaware Act.*

*To find your state lawmaker and their
contact information, go to
inlandbays.org/clean-water-campaign.*

DELAWARE CENTER FOR THE
INLAND BAYS
Research. Educate. Restore.

