



**DELAWARE
CENTER FOR THE
INLAND BAYS**
preserve • protect • restore

For more information, please contact:

Clare Magargal
Communications Specialist
Center for the Inland Bays
<https://inlandbays.org/>

Please consider the following for inclusion in your publication.

*****For Immediate Release*****

September 18, 2026

New Road Parking Area Closures Beginning September 28 for Thompson Island Living Shoreline Project

Rehoboth, DE - The Delaware Center for the Inland Bays is once again partnering with Delaware State Parks and Sovereign Environmental to implement the Thompson Island Living Shoreline.

Beginning September 28, 2026, Delaware State Parks will close the New Road parking area in Delaware Seashore State Park as materials for the next phase of the project are delivered. Closures are expected to last no more than five weeks.

This phase of the Thompson Island Living Shoreline will focus on the eastern shore of Thompson Island, where partners will build an 810-foot living reef of Oyster Castles. The reef is designed to help prevent erosion of the beaches, protect terrapin and horseshoe crab habitat, and preserve the resources of Thompson Island.

Energize Delaware is providing financial support for the project as part of a \$1.25M grant.

Oyster Castles are a relatively new enhancement method to provide long-term protection to shorelines. They may also help promote the growth of new shellfish reefs. These layered structures were originally designed as an easy-to-install alternative to other more labor-intensive living shoreline projects.

Oyster Castles provide habitat for a host of different plant and animal species while providing a solid base for shellfish spat to spread and grow. Featuring an interlocking pattern of concrete slabs, this design was incorporated to prevent erosion from coastal storms and rising sea levels.

Concrete blocks are easy and relatively cheap to mass-produce, making for a suitable environment for a multitude of different species. These patterned designs provide safe habitat for smaller aquatic species, such as shrimp and small fish species, to find refuge from predators and to procreate.

Based on a modular system, this design can easily be expanded upon in the future if needed.

The Thompson Island Living Shoreline project is part of ongoing efforts to protect and restore the Inland Bays watershed through nature-based solutions. By incorporating shellfish habitat into the shoreline, the project will provide protection from erosion while creating additional habitat for wildlife that depends on the island's shoreline, making it a true nature-based solution.

Delaware State Parks encourages New Road visitors to plan accordingly during the construction period. Visitors may use Tower Road Bayside as an alternative Bay access point. Thanks to the public for its patience as this restoration project moves forward.

About the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays

The Delaware Center for the Inland Bays, established in 1994, is a nonprofit organization and one of 28 National Estuary Programs dedicated to preserving, protecting, and restoring Delaware's Inland Bays and their watershed. For more information, please visit <https://www.inlandbays.org> or contact the Center directly at (302) 226-8105.

About Energize Delaware

Energize Delaware offers energy efficiency and renewable energy programs for Delawareans, helping residents reduce their carbon footprint while supporting a thriving environment and economy. Guided by our vision, we continually introduce innovative and relevant solutions that power tomorrow with clean, efficient, and affordable energy. Energize Delaware is a proud 501(c)(3), RGGI-funded nonprofit, otherwise known as the Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU).