

Natural Resources and Environmental Control



Project Summary Chart

State Capital Funds

	FY 2025	FY 2026 Request	FY 2026 Recommended	FY 2027 Request	FY 2028 Request
1. Clean Water State Revolving Fund	\$ 9,000,000	\$ 7,634,400	\$ 7,634,400	\$ 7,634,400	\$ 7,634,400
2. Shoreline and Waterway Management	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000
3. Park Facility Rehab and Public Recreational Infrastructure	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 12,500,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000
4. Resource, Conservation and Development	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000
5. Minor Capital Improvement (MCI) and Equipment	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
6. Conservation Cost Share	\$ 3,200,000	\$ 3,200,000	\$ 3,200,000	\$ 3,200,000	\$ 3,200,000
7. Tax Ditches	\$ 2,148,700	\$ 2,148,700	\$ 2,148,700	\$ 2,148,700	\$ 2,148,700
8. Debris Pits	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
9. Dikes/Dams	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
10. Statewide Trails and Pathways	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000
11. Killens Pond Waterpark	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 750,000	\$ -	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -
12. Delaware Bayshore Initiative	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
13. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
14. Lums Pond Outdoor Adventure Center	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 7,000,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -
15. Fenwick Island State Park Renovations	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -
16. Coastal Region Bathhouse Renovation and Dune Crossing	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 8,000,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000
17. Cape Pier Repairs and Replacement Planning and Design	\$ 250,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 12,000,000
18. Statewide Groundwater Monitoring Network	\$ -	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
19. EDA Implementation Lums Pond, Killens Pond, Trap Pond, Cape Henlopen, and Delaware Seashore State Parks	\$ -	\$ 7,000,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000
20. Cape Henlopen Park Office and Entrance	\$ -	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -
21. ADA Park Amenities Upgrades	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
22. Thompson Island Restoration - Phase II	\$ -	\$ 1,900,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
23. New Castle County Historic Structures	\$ -	\$ 750,000	\$ -	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000
24. Brandywine Zoo Improvements	\$ -	\$ 750,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
25. Park Office Improvements	\$ -	\$ 2,500,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -
26. Little Creek Office Construction - Phase II	\$ -	\$ 2,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
27. Poplar Thicket Erosion Project	\$ -	\$ 750,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
NA Redevelopment of Strategic Sites (Fort DuPont)	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 13,900,000	\$ 2,250,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 49,373,700	\$ 120,558,100	\$ 49,508,100	\$ 105,383,100	\$ 80,883,100

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1. Clean Water State Revolving Fund

Funding is requested to provide the required 20 percent State Match and funding for the Clean Water Initiative (CWI). The 20 percent State Match is estimated at \$3.03 million for the Federal Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Capitalization Grants (anticipated to be \$16 million). Additionally, the request contains \$4.6 million to provide assistance to low-income and traditionally under-served communities through state grants, continuing the CWI. It is estimated that Delaware's FY 2026-2027 federal grants will continue level funding of \$16 million per year through FY 2027. Funding will support environmental infrastructure capital projects to maintain and improve water quality. Through Delaware's CWSRF Program, these funds provide financial assistance loans to public and private entities for planning, design and construction of wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal facilities; stormwater infrastructure improvements; non-point source projects; and estuary water pollution control projects.

Funding Schedule

	State	Federal*	Other
FY 2025	\$ 9,000,000	\$ 14,959,000	\$ -
FY 2026	\$ 7,634,400	\$ 16,224,000	\$ -
FY 2027	\$ 7,634,400	\$ 16,224,000	\$ -
FY 2028	\$ 7,634,400	\$ 16,224,000	\$ -
Total	ONGOING	ONGOING	\$ -

*Using Bipartisan Infrastructure Law appropriations from (FFY 2022-2026) and Estimated CWSRF Base Cap Grant appropriations using recent EPA publications of reauthorization of the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021 (S.914) and supplemental funding within the 2022 Budget for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (H.R. 4502).

2. Shoreline and Waterway Management

Funding is requested to carry out the State's Beach Preservation program along the Atlantic Ocean coast and Delaware Bay shoreline, Delaware Inland Bays sediment management, Indian River Bypass Project and University of Delaware Citizen Monitoring program efforts.

Under the State's Beach Preservation program, work typically includes beach nourishment, structural erosion control measures, public dune maintenance and emergency storm repair, and cleanup. Work is done only on publicly accessible beaches and may involve cost sharing with federal and local governments.

Under plans prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, federal cost-shared beach nourishment projects are undertaken on a three to six-year cycle for 50 years. Funding is requested to provide a match for federal funds to nourish the Fenwick Island beach, and limited short-term fix truck-hauled beach fill projects along certain Delaware Bay beach

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communities and in Delaware State Parks. Dredging in the Indian River waterways is expected in FY 2026, with continued support for a large scale dredged material management plan to better plan for future dredge projects statewide.

Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other
FY 2025	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 1,700,000	\$ -
FY 2026	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 17,000,000	\$ -
FY 2027	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 7,000,000	\$ -
FY 2028	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -
Total	ONGOING	ONGOING	\$ -

3. Park Facility Rehab and Public Recreational Infrastructure

Funding is requested to rehabilitate the State’s park and wildlife area systems which currently contain more than 700 buildings in 32 public access areas on almost 100,000 acres statewide. Prior years' funding has gone to the addition of pavilions statewide, updating bathroom facilities, maintaining historic structures, statewide roofing projects and repaving of critical parking areas and roadways. Priority for requested funds is the continuation of paving at state parks, historic preservation, park office upgrades utility improvements and deferred maintenance. The Division of Fish & Wildlife is requesting Facility Maintenance - Deferred maintenance projects and upgrades of buildings, as well as the demolition of unsafe and unneeded structures.

Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other
FY 2025	\$ 5,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2026	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2027	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2028	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total	ONGOING	\$ -	\$ -

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4. Resource, Conservation and Development

Funding is requested to continue the design and construction of Resource, Conservation and Development (RC&D) projects statewide. RC&D projects were originally established by the Twenty-First Century Fund Investments Act of 1995 that resulted from a settlement with the State of New York. The RC&D portion of the act was created to provide funding to enhance the health of communities by improving watershed and drainage issues statewide. These projects are implemented by a partnership between the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) and Delaware’s three Conservation Districts. In FY 2024, DNREC, with partners at the Conservation Districts had expenditures of \$7.6 million with 111 projects completed. There are now 1,434 active projects that have been approved by the Joint Committee on Capital Improvement. A total of 230 projects were recommended and approved for FY 2025. The total cost of the active projects list is over \$136 million.

Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other*
FY 2025	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 1,000,000
FY 2026	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,000,000
FY 2027	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,000,000
FY 2028	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 1,000,000
Total	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING

*The source of Other funds are required match from the Community Transportation Funds (10 percent).

5. Minor Capital Improvements (MCI) and Equipment

Funding is requested for the minor capital improvements and acquisition and replacement of critical equipment essential in performing environmental and natural resource operation, conservation, protection and research activities. The minor capital improvements and critical equipment provides public services and infrastructure support to almost 100,000 acres of public land, 700 buildings, 17 state parks, 19 wildlife management areas, 34 natural preserves, two national estuarine research reserve sites, 65 freshwater ponds and marine access areas, all Delaware waterways and environmental laboratory services.

Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other
FY 2025	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2026	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2027	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2028	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total	ONGOING	\$ -	\$ -

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6. Conservation Cost Share

Funding is requested to expand the Conservation Cost Share program. This program is the State’s principal financial support mechanism for the design and installation costs of practices that provide water quality improvements; provide wildlife habitat; and protect human health, natural resources, water supplies and Delaware’s farmland soils. The program provides funds as incentives to landowners or users for the public benefit. Landowners that receive benefits must pay a portion of the cost to locate, design, install and maintain conservation practices and systems. Of the amount needed for this program, \$2,000,000 will be directed to the Conservation Districts, 70 percent will be divided equally among the three counties to expand their programs and the remaining balance of the \$2,000,000 will be directed toward nutrient management efforts statewide. The remaining balance of \$2,000,000 will be directed toward DNREC conservation priorities to match Federal and State funds to achieve Delaware WIP (Watershed Implementation Plan) goals by implementing priority best management practices.

Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other*
FY 2025	\$ 3,200,000	\$ 8,750,000	\$ 5,190,000
FY 2026	\$ 3,200,000	\$ 8,750,000	\$ 5,190,000
FY 2027	\$ 3,200,000	\$ 8,750,000	\$ 5,190,000
FY 2028	\$ 3,200,000	\$ 8,750,000	\$ 5,190,000
Total	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING

*The source of Other funds are a combination of landowner contributions and funding obtained from the Conservation Districts.

7. Tax Ditches

Funding is requested for planning, surveying, engineering, permitting, construction of projects that improve tax ditches, channels, storm drains and related surface water infrastructure. A portion of these funds will be used to respond to drainage concerns from private landowners across the State. This funding allows the drainage program to provide technical and administrative assistance to 234 tax ditch organizations across the State. In FY 2024, the Delaware Tax Ditch Program assisted 115 Tax Ditch organizations, processed 71 Court Order changes for tax ditch channel and right-of-way alterations, responded to 319 drainage concerns and conducted 68 tax ditch organization audits. Of this amount, \$1,000,000 will be used for tax ditch maintenance work to be completed at the direction of the tax ditch organizations and/or their managers who are in compliance with 7 Del. C. c. 26 41 and distributed to the three conservation districts based on the total number of miles in each county. The Division of Watershed Stewardship has the ability to make and execute necessary maintenance activities on behalf of the Tax ditch Organization.

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Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other
FY 2025	\$ 2,148,700	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2026	\$ 2,148,700	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2027	\$ 2,148,700	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2028	\$ 2,148,700	\$ -	\$ -
Total	ONGOING	\$ -	\$ -

8. Debris Pits

Funding is requested for the remediation of debris pits on private property where ground subsidence and sinkholes have caused significant property and/or structural damage to primary residences and residential fixtures. There are presently 95 properties on the waiting list for remediation, with an estimated three year wait time for remediation. In FY 2024, 22 projects were addressed with an approximate cost of \$1.2 million. The Debris Pit Program expects to address 25-30 properties in FY 2025 with an estimated cost of \$1.5 million.

Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other*
FY 2025	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000
FY 2026	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000
FY 2027	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000
FY 2028	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000
Total	ONGOING	\$ -	ONGOING

* The source of Other funds is a 1:1 match with New Castle County; assuming 100 percent of remediation projects in NCC.

9. Dikes/Dams

Funding is requested to perform emergency planning and monitoring, dam engineering, maintenance repairs and general construction for state-owned dams. Project work includes engineering and construction on improvements at Garrisons Lake, Blairs Pond, Griffith Pond and Abbotts Pond; and hazards analysis and updates to Emergency Action Plans and Operations and Maintenance Plans. Funding is also requested to support annual responsibilities for inspection, necessary maintenance, and repairs to Red Lion Dike, for which DNREC is the sponsoring agency, as well as tree clearance and other routine facility maintenance on all dams as needed.

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Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other
FY 2025	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2026	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2027	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2028	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total	ONGOING	\$ -	\$ -

10. Statewide Trails and Pathways

Funding is requested for trail and pathway development to expand recreational and transportation opportunities for Delawareans and visitors. There are multiple large projects in the design phase that will be ready for construction in FY 2026. These include "Buck Jersey Extension" at Lums Pond State Park, "Point Trail" at Cape Henlopen, "Wheel Wright" trail at Brandywine Creek State Park, and a bridge replacement on the "Penn Dale" Trail at White Clay Creek State Park. Additional work will focus on critical infrastructure improvements needed for trail head bathrooms. Project funding will leverage existing and new resources from state, federal and private investments to continue Delaware's national leadership in providing a world-class interconnected network of shared-use pathways and trails that will support non-motorized travel and recreational trail opportunities. In collaboration with the Department of Transportation, Bicycle Council, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, communities and other stakeholders, the department is continuing to implement the First State Trails and Pathways Initiative.

Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other
FY 2025	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 900,000	\$ -
FY 2026	\$ 3,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2027	\$ 3,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2028	\$ 3,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total	ONGOING	ONGOING	\$ -

11. Killens Pond Waterpark

Funding is requested for phase three renovations to the Killens Pond Waterpark. The pool is expected to be replaced starting in September of 2025. Additional funds will be used to design renovation for facilities that improve the visitor experience including restrooms, concession area, and entrance.

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Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other
FY 2024	\$ 3,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2025	\$ 3,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2026	\$ 750,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2027	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 10,250,000	\$ -	\$ -

12. Delaware Bayshore Initiative

Funding is requested for the Delaware Bayshore Initiative, which is recognized by the U.S. Department of the Interior as part of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative. Funding will leverage existing and new resources from Open Space, department fees and incentive programs, Land Conservation Funds, Penalty Funds, Coastal Zone Act Offsets, Federal Land and Water Conservation, federal grant funds, and bond and private investments.

The Delaware Bayshore Initiative aligns with efforts focusing on species and habitat conservation, outdoor recreation, education, and community engagement. The program also supports economic growth by making the Bayshore a world-class ecotourism destination. It improves the quality of life for residents and visitors through healthy outdoor recreation opportunities that enhance and prepare Delaware for the future.

Achieving the vision of the Delaware Bayshore becoming a premier global destination for birding, wildlife watching, hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation requires:

- ecological restoration;
- resource protection;
- connections between local communities and waterways;
- repair and maintenance of existing trails and viewing areas;
- enhanced access to waterways;
- Enhanced public engagement through the development of wildlife watching platforms, towers and blinds, trail enhancements, signage and interpretation structures, digital applications and interpretative material;
- volunteer promotion by supporting opportunities for local communities and families to participate in habitat restoration projects and stewardship activities; and
- assistance to local communities for planning and design of amenities that support public access to Bayshore resources and provide information about the culture and history of the Bayshore area.

Funding is requested to leverage federal funding in support of key habitat restoration, recreational and educational enhancement projects to improve hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities that will drive significant tourism and support local communities. Key projects include a forest restoration project at Cedar Swamp Wildlife Area, an engineering study to improve hydrology and water transport in Thousand Acre Marsh, a new boardwalk connector at Collins Beach, access improvements to an existing viewing tower at Woodland Beach Wildlife Area, rehabilitation of the existing AREC boardwalk and trailhead kiosks and portable toilet screens along the Delaware Bayshore Byway.

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Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other
FY 2025	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2026	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2027	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2028	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total	ONGOING	ONGOING	\$ -

13. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Funding is requested to support the implementation of new CREP conservation practices as well as the renewal of existing CREP contracts that are expiring. On newly implemented CREP contracts, the state share funds of those contracts are used to help with the implementation cost of the installed conservation practice(s). For renewal of expiring contracts, state share funds support the continued implementation of the CREP conservation practice(s) which add water quality benefits and/or wildlife habitat areas throughout the landscape. According to the most recent FSA figures, the CREP Program has 3,177 acres actively enrolled.

Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other
FY 2025	\$ 25,000	\$ 500,000	\$ -
FY 2026	\$ 25,000	\$ 500,000	\$ -
FY 2027	\$ 100,000	\$ 750,000	\$ -
FY 2028	\$ 100,000	\$ 750,000	\$ -
Total	ONGOING	ONGOING	\$ -

14. Lums Pond Outdoor Adventure Center

Funding is requested for the construction of a new Lums Pond Outdoor Adventure Center. The adventure center will replace the existing nature center and will include interpretive exhibits and program space and incorporate outdoor adventure programming and elements into the design. The center will provide opportunities for families to learn outdoor skills including fishing, hunting, rock climbing, paddling and biking. The center will incorporate elements of accessibility into the design to allow people of all abilities to utilize the space and equipment necessary to learn outdoor skills.

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Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other
FY 2024	\$ 750,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2025	\$ 3,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2026	\$ 7,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2027	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 12,750,000	\$ -	\$ -

Facility Data

Present	
Location	Lums Pond State Park
Gross # of square feet	1,800
Age of building	47 years
Proposed	
Location	Lums Pond State Park
Gross # of square feet	9,500
Estimated time to complete project	36 months
Estimated date of occupancy	October 2028

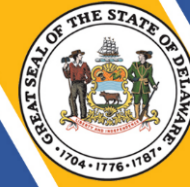
15. Fenwick Island State Park Renovations

Funding is requested for the renovation of Fenwick Island State Park. Fenwick Island State Park is one of the busiest parks in the State. The Park is in need of numerous renovations and improvements including parking lot design and paving, drainage, relocation of the Chamber of Commerce building, staff housing, maintenance storage and the addition of a new entrance for emergencies and ease of traffic. Immediate priorities include the new entrance and parking design/construction.

Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other
FY 2025	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -
FY 2026	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2027	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 21,000,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -

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Facility Data

Present	
Location	Fenwick Island State Park
Gross # of square feet	10,000
Age of building	45 Years +
Proposed	
Location	Fenwick Island State Park
Gross # of square feet	TBD
Estimated time to complete project	30-36 months
Estimated date of occupancy	May 2028

16. Coastal Region Bathhouse Renovation and Dune Crossing

Funding is requested to support the replacement and/or renovation of the coastal region bathhouses and dune crossings. Funding for the design of a new Senator McBride Bathhouse at Cape Henlopen State Park was provided in the FY 2025 budget, funds requested in FY 2026 would be used for the construction of that project. Additional funding in future years would allow the division to renovate the Towers Ocean Bathhouse and South East Day Area Bathhouse in Delaware Seashore State Park. The bathhouses are outdated and need renovation including improvements to accessibility for the showers and added family units. In addition, the funding would provide upgrades to the concession and lifeguard areas to meet staff needs. This request also includes the restructuring of the dune crossings to allow a higher profile and eliminate dune intrusion on the walkways which leads to staff intensive work in clearing the walkways as well as ADA issues with the added sand.

Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other
FY 2025	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2026	\$ 8,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2027	\$ 5,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2028	\$ 5,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 19,000,000	\$ -	\$ -

17. Cape Pier Repairs and Replacement Planning and Design

Funding is requested for the repairs recommended following an inspection of the pier in 2024. These repairs include demolition of the outward 24 feet, replacement and extension of pile jackets, and replacement of failed structural members. Additionally, funding is requested for the design and permitting of a new Cape Henlopen State Park pier to replace the existing structure. The design and permitting process is expected to take two years. A new pier is estimated to

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cost \$22 million dollars in construction costs. The park has contributed approximately \$35,000 to \$50,000 annually for inspection and piling repairs so that pier access could remain open. A piling inspection and analysis will be completed in FY 2025 and any additional repairs to keep the pier in service will be planned.

Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other
FY 2025	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2026	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2027	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2028	\$ 12,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 25,750,000	\$ -	\$ -

18. Statewide Groundwater Monitoring Network

Funding is requested for an integrated Statewide Groundwater Monitoring Network, in cooperation with the Delaware Geological Survey (DGS) and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC). The network currently has 56 sites that host 128 wells representing 17 major and local aquifers. Sussex County is undergoing significant population growth resulting in increased water demands for drinking water supplies, industry, and irrigation. Additionally, all monitoring wells installed as part of this project will be sampled for background water quality parameters in accordance with safe drinking water standards as well as sampled for emerging contaminant impacts (i.e. PFAS and PFOA). Long-term benefits associated with this infrastructure request include establishing fixed monitoring points that will be routinely sampled by the DGS and DNREC, establishing a basin line for monitoring water levels and water supply availability in Sussex County, as well as monitoring for impacts from salt water intrusion into local drinking water aquifers. This FY 2026 funding request is needed to complete the Sussex County portion of the Statewide Groundwater Monitoring Network which was initiated by State capital funds in FY 2024. Without this appropriation the monitoring network will not be completed, leaving gaps in the statewide groundwater monitoring coverage.

Funding Schedule

	State	Federal*	Other
FY 2024	\$ 600,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2025	\$ -	\$ 65,000	\$ -
FY 2026	\$ 250,000	\$ 65,000	\$ -
FY 2027	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -
FY 2028	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 950,000	\$ 180,000	\$ -

* Federal funding from the EPA is currently used for maintenance of the existing infrastructure associated with the Delaware Groundwater Monitoring Network as part of the appropriation received from the Clean Water Act Section 106 Grant.

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19. EDA Implementation Lums Pond, Killens Pond, Trap Pond, Cape Henlopen, and Delaware Seashore State Parks

Funding is requested for improvements to several State parks. In 2022, the division received a \$3.2 million Economic Development Administration (EDA) planning grant for the development of campground improvements at Lums Pond State Park, Killens Pond State Park, Trap Pond State Park, Cape Henlopen State Park, and Delaware Seashore State Park. The planning and design effort will conclude in FY 2025 resulting in construction documents for eleven major capital projects with an estimated total price exceeding \$40 million. These projects will need to be constructed over multiple funding cycles. The first funded project will be Trap Pond State Park and is expected to go to bid in FY 2025. Subsequent projects include the installation of six new docks/piers at both Trap Pond State Park and Killens Pond State Park. Additional funds will be used for the addition of 32 pull-thru campsites at Lums Pond State Park.

Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other
FY 2022	\$ -	\$ 3,212,400	\$ -
FY 2023	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2024	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 3,200,000	\$ -
FY 2026	\$ 7,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2027	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2028	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total	ONGOING	ONGOING	\$ -

20. Cape Henlopen Park Office and Entrance

Funding is requested for the construction of a new park office and entrance improvements for Cape Henlopen State Park. As the park with the largest visitation, both the park office and entrance/exit are inadequate to serve the demand. This funding would provide for needed additional parking, allow for improved traffic flow, and provide additional office space necessary for the staff offices and front lobby to service pass sales. This would also allow for the addition of a gift shop to support revenue. The park office will be constructed first. Design of the office is 60 percent complete. Design of the new entrance is at a concept level and will be further developed as funding becomes available.

Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other
FY 2026	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2027	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 20,000,000	\$ -	\$ -

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Facility Data

Present	
Location	Cape Henlopen State Park
Gross # of square feet	1,280
Age of building	42 years
Proposed	
Location	Cape Henlopen State Park
Gross # of square feet	9,200
Estimated time to complete project	18 Months
Estimated date of occupancy	March 2027

21. ADA Park Amenities Upgrades

Funding is requested for the upgrading of services and amenities statewide for accessibility. Amenities upgrades include bathroom renovations, including special needs changing stations and non-binary bathrooms, cabin and campsite upgrades to include elevated fire rings, picnic tables and elevated platforms for tents, expanded ADA accessible trails, mobility mats for beach crossing and wayside development with braille and tactile elements. Installation of adaptable kayak launches will make it easier for visitors with limited mobility to board kayaks and enjoy the water-based areas of Delaware's park system.

Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other
FY 2026	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2027	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2028	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total	ONGOING	\$ -	\$ -

22. Thompson Island Restoration Phase II

Funding is requested for the second phase of the Thompson Island Shoreline stabilization project. The Division of Parks and Recreation took bids for the first phase of the project and included Phase II as an alternative. This project is being completed in partnership with the Center for Inland Bays. Three of the Thompson Island's shorelines and the site's unique cultural and biological resources are threatened by erosion, sea level rise and extreme weather, which are accelerating the shoreline loss.

Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other
FY 2026	\$ 1,900,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 1,900,000	\$ -	\$ -

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23. New Castle County Historic Structures

Funding is requested for the repair, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic structures managed by the Division of Parks and Recreation in New Castle County. The Division of Parks and Recreation is responsible for more historic structures than any other state agency and many of these structures are in need of repair before they become safety concerns and need to be demolished. These funds will be used on historic buildings including the Sarah Brooks House, Marshall Mansion, Mount Pleasant School House, White Clay Creek Barns, and other historic structures throughout New Castle County.

Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other
FY 2026	\$ 750,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2027	\$ 750,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2028	\$ 750,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total	ONGOING	\$ -	\$ -

24. Brandywine Zoo Improvements

Funding is requested for improvements to the Brandywine Zoo ahead of accreditation review in 2027. A critical component of accreditation is having exhibits that meet modern zoological standards. This funding would be used, in part, to convert the Animal Care Center from propane to natural gas. This would create needed space for the flamingo exhibit. Funds will also be used for improvements including modernization of the pudu exhibit and design of a jaguar exhibit to replace the current bobcat, porcupine and bee exhibits.

Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other
FY 2026	\$ 750,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2027	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2028	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 4,750,000	\$ -	\$ -

Natural Resources and Environmental Control



25. Park Office Improvements

The Delaware State Park System now sees over eight million visitors annually and there is an ever increasing demand for services at our park offices. Many of these offices require improvements to meet visitor and staff needs. Requested funds will be used to improve offices at Lums Pond, Brandywine Creek, and Killens Pond. Improvements will include accessibility enhancements, public restrooms, and additional office space for staff.

Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other
FY 2026	\$ 2,500,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2027	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -	\$ -

26. Little Creek Office Construction – Phase II

Funding is requested for the construction of a new office building to house field staff within the Division of Fish and Wildlife who currently work out of multiple remote field locations. The total project cost is estimated to be in excess of \$8-10M and will be funded in part with federal Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration funds requiring a state matching share. In addition to construction of the new building this project will also include the construction of a new equipment storage barn, expansion of an existing equipment storage barn, removal of multiple standalone septic systems through connection to town sewer, enhancement of the current access roadways, and construction and expansion of parking areas for the new office and hunter education office. This is anticipated as a multi-year project to be completed in 2-3 phases pending funding availability.

Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other
FY 2026	\$ 2,500,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 2,500,000	\$ -	\$ -

Natural Resources and Environmental Control



Facility Data

Present	
Location	Little Creek Wildlife Area
Gross # of square feet	No current facility--new construction
Age of building	No current facility--new construction
Proposed	
Location	Little Creek Wildlife Area
Gross # of square feet	30,000
Estimated time to complete project	18-24 months
Estimated date of occupancy	June 2026

27. Poplar Thicket Erosion Project

Funding is requested in order to updated design engineering and to initiate shoreline stabilization construction of the Poplar Thicket property along the Indian River Bay in FY 2026 and to complete construction in FY 2027. Shoreline stabilization is part of the 2008 agreement with The Nature Conservancy and the landowner for the transfer of the property to the State. Erosion is continuing along the shoreline, increasing the urgency to complete this project.

Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other
FY 2026	\$ 750,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 750,000	\$ -	\$ -

NA Redevelopment of Strategic Sites (Fort DuPont)

Funding is requested for continuation of the redevelopment project at the Fort DuPont complex adjacent to Delaware City. The requested funding provides for critical restoration, environmental remediation and infrastructure improvements.

Natural Resources and Environmental Control



Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other
FY 2017	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2018	\$ 2,250,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2019	\$ 2,250,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2020	\$ 2,250,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2021	\$ 2,250,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2022	\$ 3,050,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2023	\$ 2,250,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2024	\$ 2,250,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2025	\$ 2,250,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2026	\$ 13,900,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 34,700,000	\$ -	\$ -