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Subject: Public Hearing Comments

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From: DoNotReply@delaware.gov

To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources)

Comments on Docket #2025-R-P-0017 - State Parks Regulations

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Organization:

Comments:

There is no compelling reason to ban magnet fishing in Delaware parks. If anything, people who magnet fish help remove metal debris that does not belong in our waterways. If magnet fishing is prohibited because of potential impacts, then the same logic should apply to recreational fishing. In reality, there is very little difference between the two activities in terms of their effect on aquatic habitat. In fact, magnet fishing may leave behind less debris because a rope is generally far less likely to break than fishing line, which often leaves hooks and discarded line that can entangle wildlife. I am also concerned about the proposed restrictions on speech and expression within our parks. While I may not personally enjoy seeing political signs or banners, every citizen has the right to express their views. If political displays are restricted, how is that different from displaying religious messages or symbols? If one is allowed, why should the other be prohibited? The proposed ban on "obscene" displays is equally concerning because the term is inherently subjective. What one person considers offensive, another may not. That creates the potential for inconsistent enforcement based on individual opinions rather than clear, objective standards. For example, some people are offended by the LGBTQIA+ Pride flag. Would displaying that flag be considered obscene and subject to enforcement? If not, where is the line drawn, and who decides? Our state parks should remain places where all people can enjoy the outdoors and recreate in ways that do not harm others or damage public resources. Regulations should address actual safety issues and resource protection, not unnecessarily limit lawful recreation or constitutionally protected expression. I encourage the Department to carefully consider whether these proposed restrictions are truly necessary and whether they can be applied fairly and consistently.