

Public Hearing on 7 DE Admin. Code 9201 Regulations Governing State Parks

August 5, 2026

Public Comment

Hello, I am Lisa R [REDACTED] from Middletown, Delaware. I am a severely disabled parent of a severely disabled child. Thank you for this opportunity to share my input and requests regarding Delaware State Park Regulations. I want to recognize and express my gratitude to the Delaware State Parks system for being proactive in trying to make the parks accessible. They've come to meetings in the past and given presentations. One thing that has been asked of them about last year was about getting wheelchairs that could be used not only on the sand but in the water as well (Waterwheels or MobiChair). Delawareans with disabilities have lived in a beach state their whole life but have been unable to access the beach and water. Families and caregivers would love to take their children and parents into the water as well as onto the sand; just like everyone else. Because it was stated that this request would be looked into and we haven't heard anything yet, I am here to provide support for the request and potential solutions.

Respectfully,

Lisa R [REDACTED]



119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2968

To ensure access to certain public land, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 3, 2025

Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. CURTIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice
and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To ensure access to certain public land, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in
Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. Short title.

**This Act may be cited as the
“Outdoor Americans with Disabilities Act”.**

Case Study Analysis

1. National Institutes of Health (NIH) | (.gov)
**Understanding the Global Challenges to Accessing Appropriate Wheelchairs:
Position Paper - PMC**
Source: National Institutes of Health (NIH) | (.gov) <https://share.google/BBQJQN5aV03XhmKNy>
Introduction: Appropriate wheelchairs are often essential for the health and wellbeing of people
with mobility impairments to enhance fundamental freedoms ...
2. National Institutes of Health (NIH) | (.gov)
**Health-Promoting Nature Access for People with Mobility Impairments: A
Systematic Review**
Source: National Institutes of Health (NIH) | (.gov) <https://share.google/70I9W2lky8zR4azTg>
This study systematically evaluated the scientific evidence for health benefits of natural
environments for people with mobility impairments.

3. **Tides of Change—Barriers and Facilitators to Beach Accessibility for Older People and People with Disability: An Australian Community Survey - PMC**

Source: National Institutes of Health (NIH) | (.gov) <https://share.google/hrOIFX56J1bRHTgm0>

“The purpose of this study was to investigate the barriers and facilitators of beach accessibility. This study provided a blueprint for accessible beach design; .”

4. **The psychosocial and mental health benefits of aquatic physical activity for individuals with disabilities - PMC**

Source: PubMed Central (PMC) (.gov) <https://share.google/uVDctMXKSxXvZXnlG>

“Aquatic physical activity is a safe and highly effective adaptive health intervention. The aquatic medium serves as a “natural de-marginalisation space”

5. **Exploring the experience of beach access in people living with a disability - a mixed methods study**

Source: National Institutes of Health (NIH) | (.gov)

<https://share.google/gW4vgyxix9xjYe8ZH>

Conclusion

“The study highlights the need to make beaches accessible, and improving access can promote positive outcomes and the desire to participate more often. Inclusive events like beach access days have the potential to improve the health and well-being of people living with a disability and promote more inclusive and disability-aware societies. Communities should invest in such initiatives to make blue space environments more accessible and inclusive for individuals of all abilities.”

6. National Institutes of Health (NIH) | (.gov)

Seas the Day—Older Adults and People With Disability Seek Health and Wellbeing Benefits Through Beach Activities: An Australian Community Survey

Source: National Institutes of Health (NIH) | (.gov)

<https://share.google/DPzeTX4gcrLaVWalqr>

“In Australia, the beach is a favoured destination for recreational activities linked to physical, psychological, and social health benefits.”



Delaware Commitment

"The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control is working with the help of various state and federal grants to ensure accessibility is a foremost goal for renovations to existing structures as well as any new recreational amenities or facilities that might be built."

"The state has been so receptive to making parks and other areas more accessible," said Linda Lopez, a Kent County resident who has become an advocate for people with disabilities since her grandson Jared became paraplegic in 2021. "I truly believe we're doing more."

"The DNREC Division of Parks and Recreation aims to enable opportunities for people of all abilities to experience the natural and cultural resources in Delaware State Parks. All capital projects go through the Architectural Accessibility Board and the division is continuously learning from the community how to make further improvements. Projects meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a landmark 1990 civil rights law that seeks to prevent discrimination against individuals with disabilities."

"The division's Strategic Plan contains the addition of 75 new accessible amenities to be put in place through 2026. These updates include mobility mats, beach wheelchairs, adaptive kayak launches, paved paths, accessible hunting stands, campsites specifically designed for individuals in wheelchairs and more."



Florida:

*MacArthur Beach receives WaterWheels floating wheelchair
July 07, 2022*

John D. MacArthur Beach State Park has been given a new WaterWheels floating beach wheelchair. The wheelchair will allow visitors to more easily move along dry sand and even enter the water with its oversized, floating armrests. The WaterWheels was donated to MacBeach by Florida State Parks Foundation and the Surfing's Evolution & Preservation Foundation.

"We are grateful to receive this new accessible floating wheelchair so that we can provide a great day at the beach for all of our guests," Veronica Frehm, Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park's executive director, said in a statement. "The WaterWheels is the latest tool in helping us to provide equal access.

We have also recently added a new ADA Tram, allowing conventional wheelchairs to be transported over our beautiful boardwalk with ease.”

Making Florida’s Beaches More Accessible: 10 Mobility Assistive Floating Devices Provided to State Parks -

As a lead-up to summer, seven coastal Florida State Parks recently received a total of 10 beach accessible **floating wheelchairs**. In order to create a more accessible beach experience, the wheelchairs can be used in areas with soft sand where conventional wheelchairs have difficulty navigating. **With floating armrests and oversized wheels, users of WaterWheels® can also safely float in water.**

“Enjoying the great beaches Florida has to offer is an opportunity that **should be available to all**,” said Tammy Gustafson, Florida State Parks Foundation President. “This partnership will allow our state parks to provide a day at the beach experience for those with mobility assistance needs who can engage with the water and sand features alongside their families, friends and loved ones.”

The following parks received one or more of the **floating chairs**: Deer Lake State Park, William J. ‘Billy Joe’ Rish Recreation Area, Grayton Beach State Park, Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park, Gasparilla Island State Park, Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park and John D. MacArthur Beach State Park.

“Last year, the Florida State Parks Foundation and the Surfing’s Evolution & Preservation Foundation delivered a total of 52 beach accessible chairs to coastal state parks that allow for movement over sand and can be wheeled into shallow water. **The 10 most recently delivered WaterWheels® chairs also allow for water flotation.**

Massachusetts: State parks typically provide water-capable floating wheelchairs (like WaterWheels or Mobi-Chairs) **completely free of charge to visitors. Funding for these units (which cost roughly \$2,700–\$2,800 to purchase) comes from state park operating budgets, federal/state accessibility grants, and non-profit donations**

Come celebrate a big step toward a more accessible summer at Musante Beach!

*We're excited to welcome a **new floating beach wheelchair**, generously donated by SMILE Mass, helping more people enjoy the beach and the water.*

Delivery is Tuesday, July 21, 11:30am at Musante Beach!

Wisconsin:

Wisconsin: The Wisconsin DNR Adaptive Equipment page lists state parks and forests with free-to-borrow beach access mats and **specialized water-entry chairs**

**Read download documentation via the DCR Beach Wheelchair Locations
Water Capable Floating Wheelchairs; 26 beaches/38 chairs**



Floating chairs can recline and can only go into the water in good weather and water conditions. You will need to bring a U.S. Coast Guard-certified lifejacket and wear it while you are floating in the chair. Your companion will need to stay close and control the chair while it is in the water.

National Park Service (.gov)

Updates to the ORLP Program for 2026 - Land and Water Conservation Fund (U.S.

National Park Service)

Source: National Park Service (.gov)

*"The ORLP program is being streamlined and simplified by the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The program includes changes based on: * **Administrative costs cappe..."*

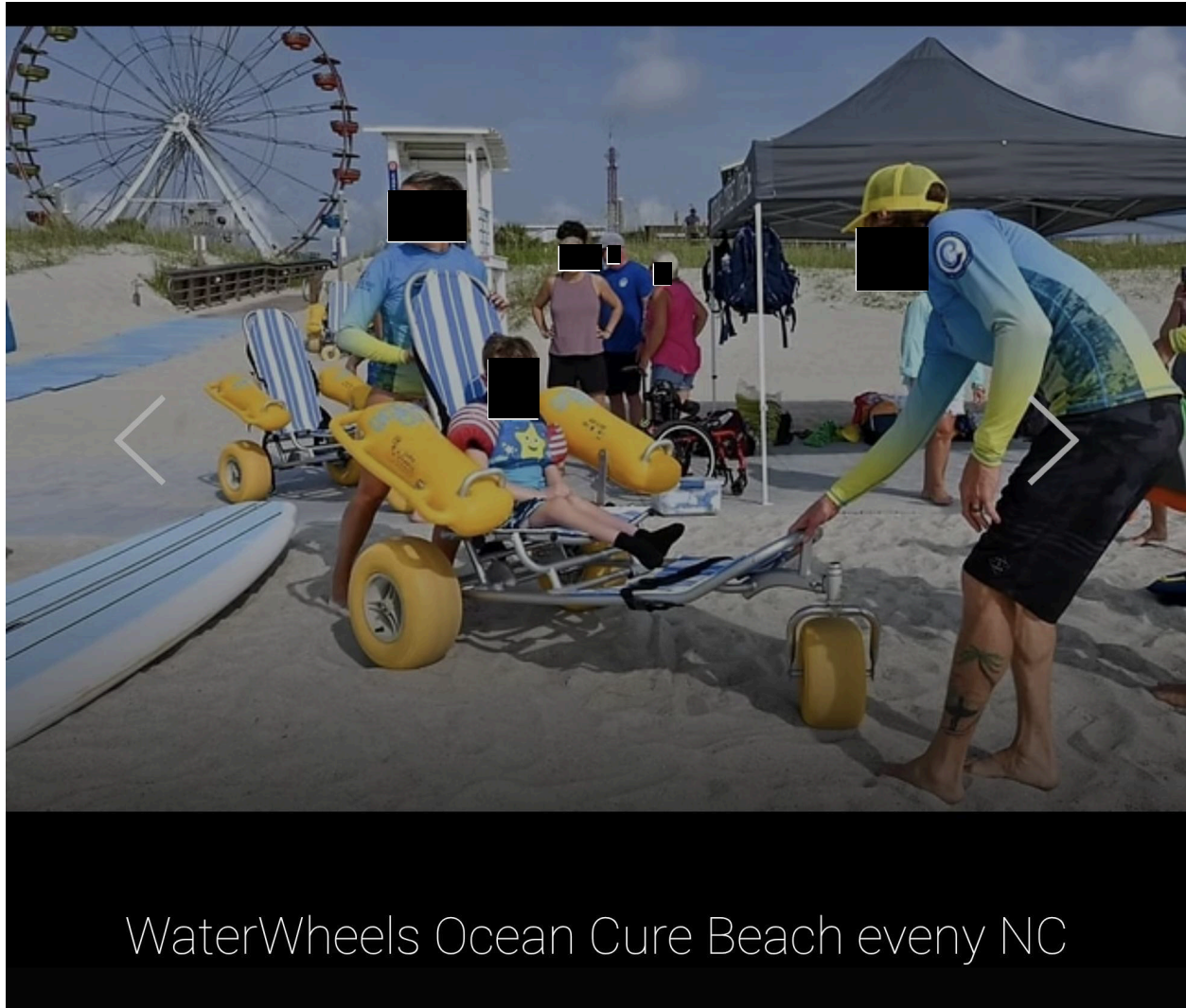
LWCF Coalition Statement Regarding America's Legacy Restoration Fund Legislation Bipartisan Bill Takes One More Key Step in the Process

June 24, 2026: The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Coalition thanks members of the House Natural Resources Committee, led by Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-AR) and Ranking Member Jared Huffman (D-CA), for advancing today a Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF) reauthorization bill that honors the original commitment to LWCF in the Great American Outdoors Act, signed by President Trump in 2020.

Waterwheels®

WaterWheels® - Floating Beach Wheelchair

Water wheels are a floating three-wheeled beach buggy chair made of 6 different parts: the frame, the 2 armrests and 3 big wheels. It is a complete beach wheelchair kit.



WaterWheels Ocean Cure Beach every NC

Enjoy the water with family & friends!

WaterWheels® are floating beach wheelchairs that allows access to beaches and water. WaterWheels® is perfect for all beach floating wheelchair users and those with special needs. WaterWheels® is designed to give users the Ideal Outdoor Experience. With the floatable armrests and tires on the wheelchair, WaterWheels® easily transports you from the beach to the water! Enjoy the ocean or pool while relaxing in your WaterWheels® !

Conveniently store & transport your Waterwheels® !

WaterWheels is composed of 6 different parts: the frame, 2 armrests and 3 big wheels, and is easily assembled and disassembled in a matter of minutes without any tools! The wheelchair folds to allow you to conveniently transport in any vehicle or store until your next use!

WaterWheels® is the most advanced and the best floating beach wheelchair on the market.

MobiChair®

Availability

Deschamps' Mobi-chair® Floating Beach Wheelchairs are available for purchase directly from Deschamps Mat Systems Inc, NJ in the USA and can also be rented through beach rental companies.

The Mobi-chair® is also available in Canada, Europe, Australia, NZ, Brazil, Argentina, Chili, Korea, Japan, HK, and the Middle East for beach communities, hotels and resorts to improve parks, beach and events' accessibility for individuals of all abilities. Please ask Deschamps Mat Systems Inc. for your nearby Mobi-chair® or Mobi-mat® distributor.



Floating Beach Wheelchair - MobiChair®

Mobi-Chair® is a high-quality floating beach wheelchair designed for use on sand, soft surfaces, and in the water. With specially engineered buoyant wheels and armrests, it provides safe, comfortable access to beaches and waterfront areas for wheelchair users, people with special needs, and children.

Portable, lightweight, and easy to maneuver, the Mobi-Chair® is built for independence and leisure. Its rust-resistant frame withstands saltwater environments, and the floating design allows users to enjoy the ocean safely. Trusted by beach accessibility programs, resorts, and municipalities across the US for inclusive beach access.



Photo credit © Deschamps SAS & Deschamps Mats Systems Inc.

Reg W Piland

Beach access for sixteen year Parkinson patient due to MobiChair

Beach access for sixteen year Parkinson's patients accomplished due to purchase of Mobi-Chair . Purchased a beach front house at Topsail Beach N.C. to help wife enjoy the ocean and beach she loved before Parkinson . Access became impossible due to the progression of the disease . MobiChair has got us back on the beach for the fall . Mission accomplished !



>> Mobi-mat® Shop replied:

Dear Reg,

Thank you for taking the time to share your experience with the Mobi-chair Floating Beach Wheelchair. We are thrilled to hear that it has made beach access possible for your wife once again. It is our goal to provide products that enhance and improve the lives of our customers. We hope you continue to enjoy your beachfront house and the ocean with ease. Thank you for choosing the Mobi-chair.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!



07/28/2025

Annette

Fantastic! From spectator to participant!

Fantastic! From spectators to participate!

Finally off the beach walkway into the water. All other chairs we've had or seen float way too up high. They have big tires for the sand but just get the client to the shore. This goes right in the water with no tipping.

>> Mobi-mat® Shop replied:

Hi Annette, ! Thank you so much for leaving such a positive review for the MobiChair® Floating Beach Wheelchair. We are thrilled to hear that it has allowed you to go from being a spectator to a participant in the water. We are proud to offer a product that truly allows for full accessibility to the beach and ocean. Thank you for choosing MobiChair® and we wish you a beautiful summer on the beach and in the water!



07/11/2025

Anonymous

Happy happy

I love it! I had thought my days in the waters of the ocean and lakes were over, til we discovered your chair. It rolls happily over differing terrain and right into the water where I can soak to my heart's content.

>> Mobi-mat® Shop replied:

Thank you for your positive review! We are thrilled to hear that you are happy with the MobiChair® Floating Beach Wheelchair. Our goal is to provide accessibility to all individuals, and we are so glad you are able to enjoy the ocean and lakes once again. Happy summer!