



# WELCOME!

## CAPE HENLOPEN STATE PARK COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

PLEASE REVIEW THE POSTER PANELS AROUND THE ROOM. PARK STAFF AND SEVERAL OF THE DIVISION'S ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS ARE HERE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

PLEASE PROVIDE COMMENTS VIA THE ONLINE SURVEY

LINK: [app.smartsheet.com/b/form/cef41953d24e4a4f945b9688797da52c](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/cef41953d24e4a4f945b9688797da52c)

Or



THIS IS THE BEST WAY FOR US TO TRACK PUBLIC COMMENTS. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ACCESS THE ONLINE SURVEY, PLEASE ASK A STAFF PERSON ABOUT A PAPER FORM.

THE PANEL INFORMATION AND SURVEY LINK CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT [dnrec.delaware.gov/events/cape-henlopen-state-park-community-meeting](https://dnrec.delaware.gov/events/cape-henlopen-state-park-community-meeting)

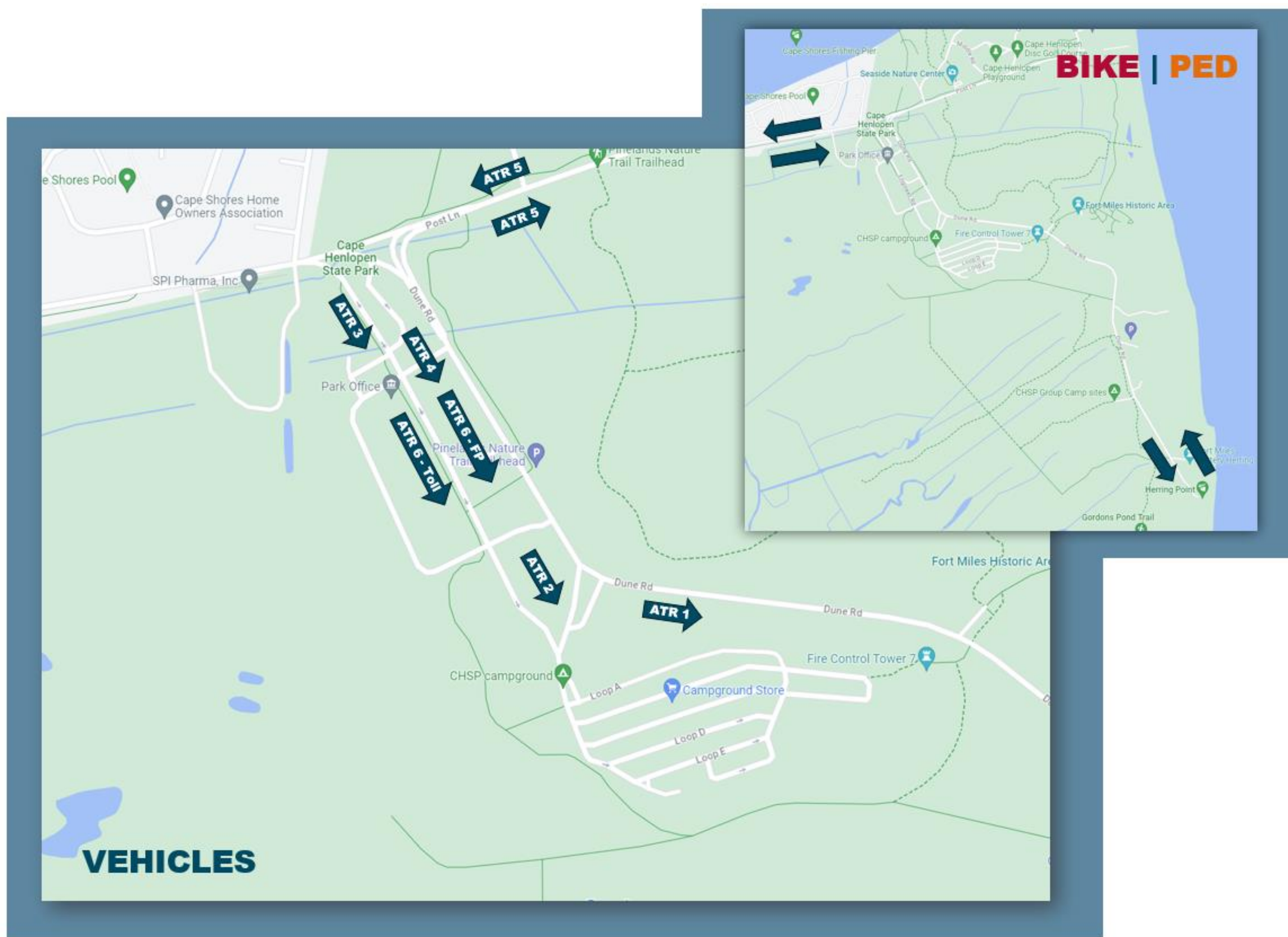
THANK YOU!



# CAPE HENLOPEN STATE PARK



## Traffic Study



Cape Henlopen State Park Traffic Study Area Map

### Project Origin and Background

- DNREC requested Century Engineering, a Kleinfelder Company, complete a traffic study of the existing conditions at Cape Henlopen State Park to support the re-configuration of the park entrance.
- Century collected traffic column data during the peak summer season of 2023. Traffic was monitored from before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July through Labor Day weekend.
- Currently, on high park visitor days, the traffic queue extends beyond the park boundary impacting nearby residents, businesses and ferry operations.
- Six areas were monitored during the study using Automatic Traffic Recorders (ATR) and are shown on the adjacent display.
- In addition to vehicular traffic, bicycle and pedestrian traffic were also monitored at keys points within the park.
- The peak observed traffic days and hours were:
  - 4<sup>th</sup> of July, 9 AM
  - Labor Day, 9 AM
  - August 26<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM



Typical Toll Operation

Vehicle Peak Hour Summary	ATR 1 – Dune Road		ATR 2 - Campground		ATR 3 - Entrance		ATR 4 - Office	
	Eastbound	Volume	Heavy %	Volume	Heavy %	Volume	Heavy %	
Independence Day	234	21	9.5%	545	5.3%	467	9.9%	
Labor Day	99	18	16.7%	413	4.1%	419	3.6%	
Highest Saturday	105	21	19.0%	466	7.5%	463	4.5%	

Vehicle Peak Hour Summary	ATR 5 - Cape Henlopen Drive (Northern Park)						ATR 6 - Booth			
	Eastbound		Westbound		Total		Inside (Fast Pass)	Middle (Toll)	Outside (Toll)	Total
	Volume	Heavy %	Volume	Heavy %	Volume	Heavy %				
Independence Day	381	0.0%	90	2.2%	471	0.4%	-	-	-	-
Labor Day	302	1.3%	78	5.1%	380	2.1%	123	126	169	419
Highest Saturday	337	0.9%	42	0.0%	379	0.8%	126	139	198	463

ATR Vehicle Counts on Peak Days

### Computer Generated Traffic Models

- Using collected data, computer generated traffic models were created for the existing and proposed entrance conditions.
- The images below show the maximum expected queuing length at the park entrance in both existing and proposed configurations.
- Under existing conditions on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the queue length exceeded 3,185 feet. Under the new design concept, the maximum expected queue length measured only 110 feet.



Traffic Stacking in Existing Conditions



Traffic Stacking in Proposed Conditions



# CAPE HENLOPEN STATE PARK



## Park Entrance Reconfiguration

### Project Origin and Background



Cape Henlopen State Park – Existing Entrance

- DNREC contracted Century Engineering, a Kleinfelder Company, to study alternatives for reconfiguring the entrance of Cape Henlopen State Park.
- The current entrance layout can be confusing to park users, cause lengthy wait times and can interfere with nearby residents.
- DNREC tasked Century with considering the following goals:
  - Increase queueing length within the boundary of the park.
  - Increase park security.
  - Provide a separate access route for campground users.
  - Facilitate easier park access for emergency vehicles and park staff.
  - Improve wayfinding within the park.
  - Incorporate the new office location into the proposed entrance design.

### Design Process and Concept Development



Preliminary Entrance Concepts

- Century engineers and design staff worked with DNREC and Cape Henlopen staff to highlight existing issues with the park and develop concepts to help remedy those issues.
- 4 preliminary concepts were developed for review.
- Underutilized roadways within the park will be removed to help reduce impervious cover.
- Impacts to champion tree species and unique fauna will be minimized.
- The preferred alternative provides the following advantages:
  - Allows for improved and safer circulation within the park for vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle traffic.
  - Allows for additional queueing space within the park boundary to limit impacts on surrounding businesses and neighborhoods.
  - Streamlines the park entry and exiting process.
  - Provides a dedicated lane for campground users to minimize check-in times.
- The preferred alternative is intended for visualization purposes only and is at the conceptual level. The number of incoming travel lanes, layout and orientation may be modified.



Cape Henlopen State Park – Preferred Concept



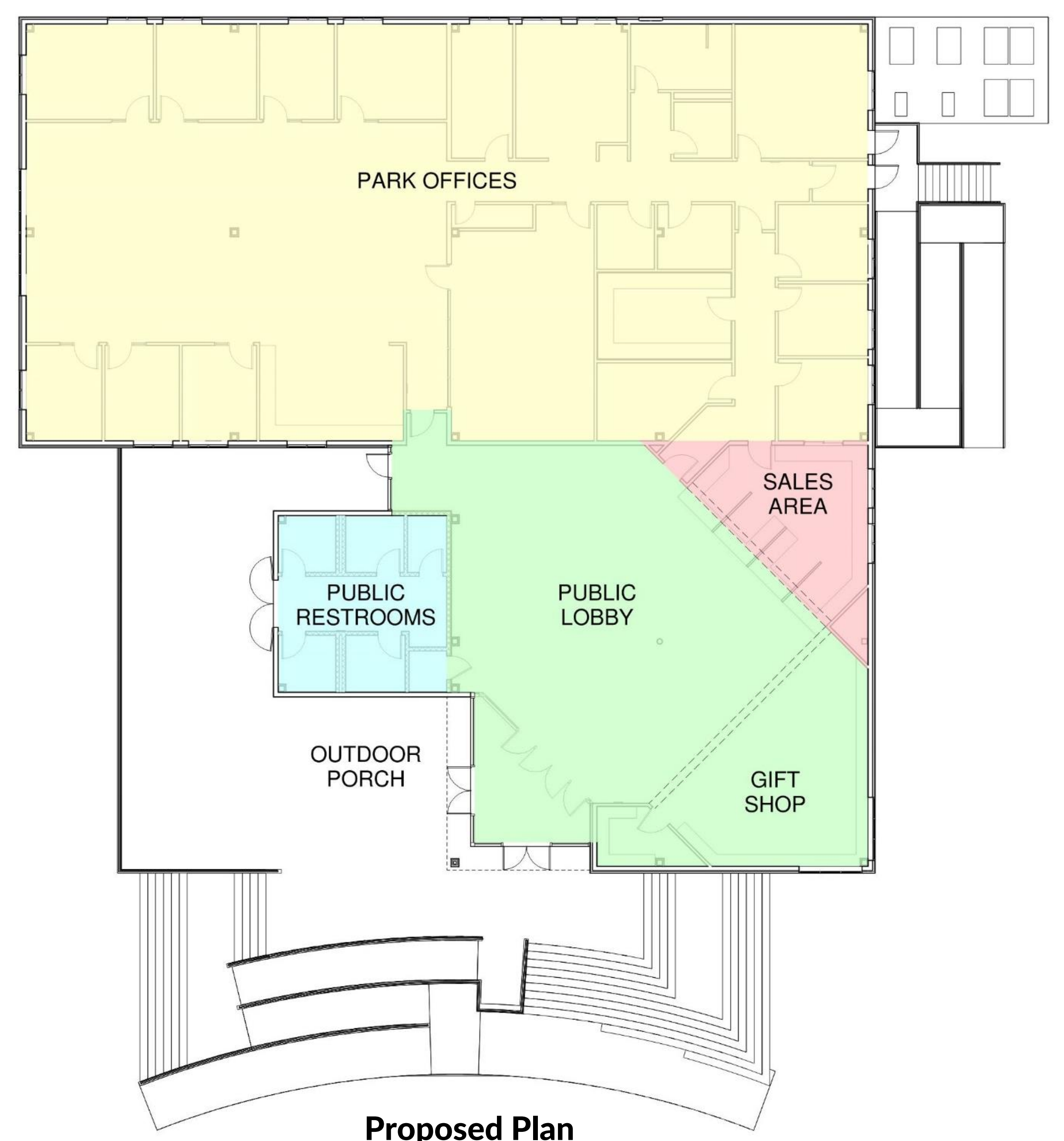
# CAPE HENLOPEN STATE PARK

## NEW PARK OFFICE



### Highlights of Design

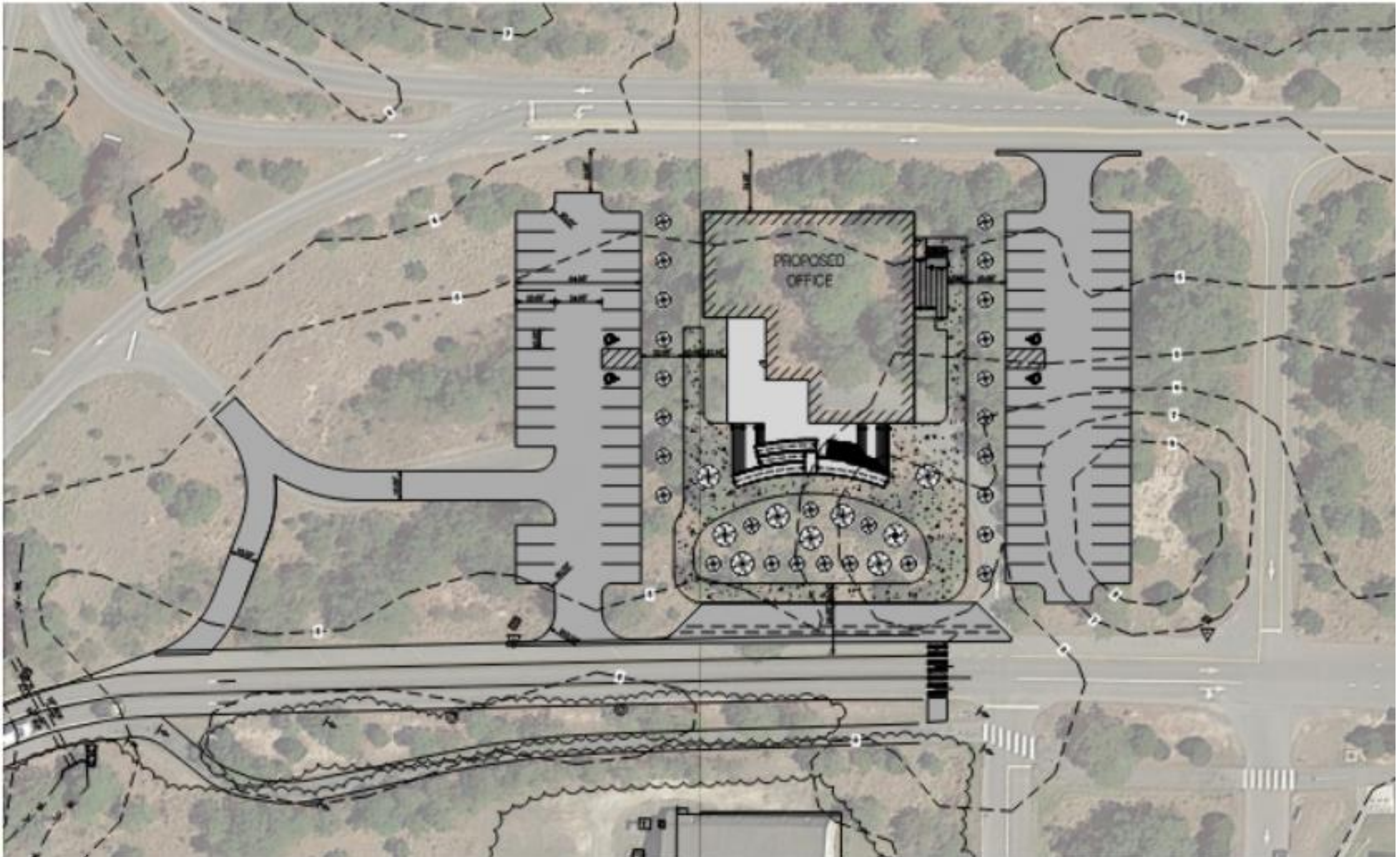
- Design recalls historic beach-front structures such as life saving stations and boat houses. Visual elements such as cupolas, board and batten siding and standing seam metal roof finishes.
- Design provides barrier-free access to the Park Office and Public Restrooms.
- Park Office will be easily accessed from Park entrance and Park circulation roads.
- Headquarters for park administration. Consolidates staff currently in four locations, which will result in improved customer service and staff communication.
- Public Lobby provides indoor queuing for park pass purchases, a Gift Shop and interpretive displays.
- Ample visitor parking, including spaces for buses and recreational vehicles.
- Outdoor spaces for rest and public programming.





# CAPE HENLOPEN STATE PARK

## NEW PARK OFFICE



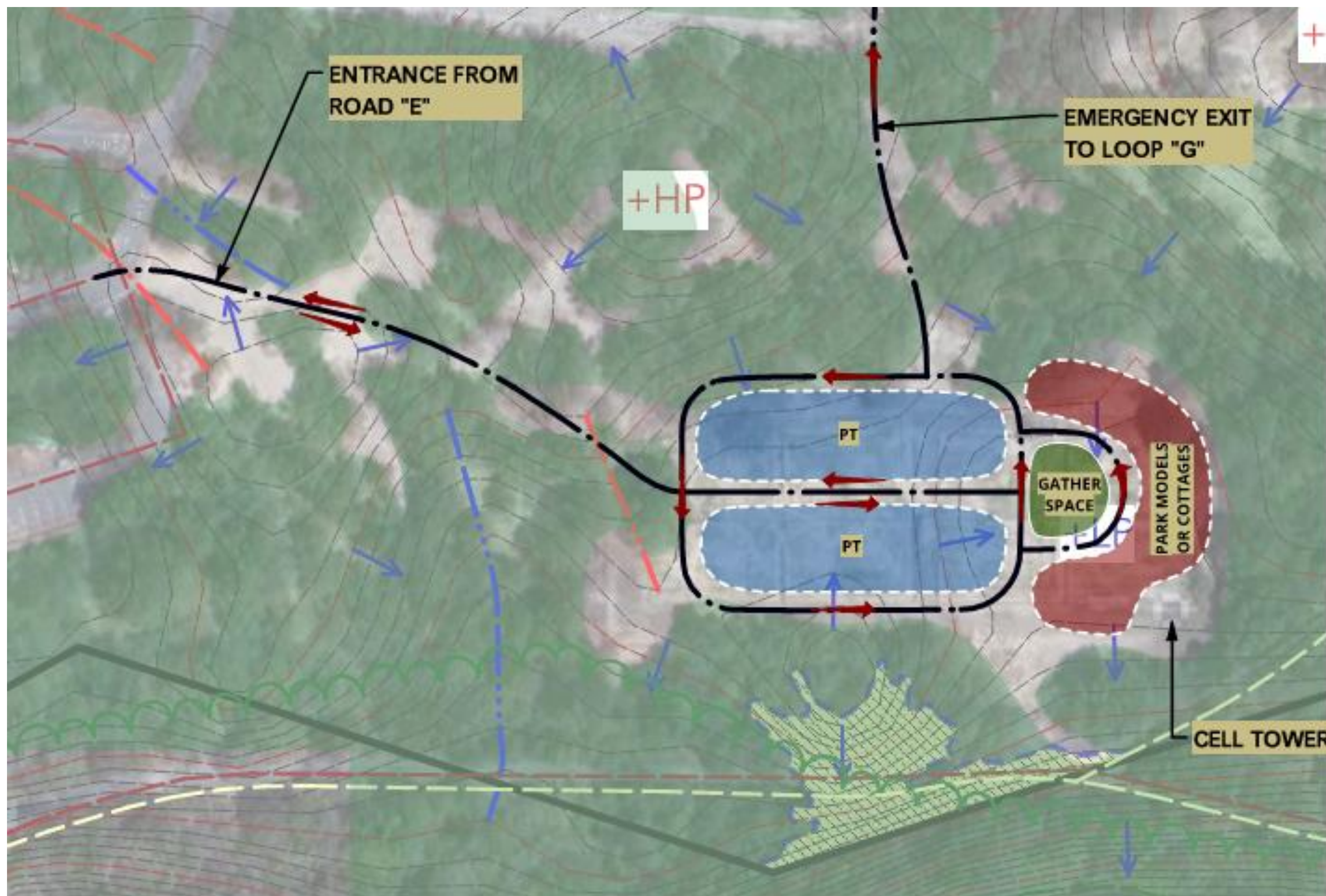
### Proposed Site Plan

- Proposed site plan works with both existing entrance and proposed future entrance design.
- Provides access before fee booths and from internal park roads. Will allow visitors to visit the office from within the park without exiting and reentering the park.
- Crosswalk and bike racks will be provided to connect trail users to the park office and public restrooms at the front of the park.
- The location has been selected to minimize impacts to champion trees to preserve the park environment.
- Infiltration basins are proposed to address stormwater runoff.



# CAPE HENLOPEN STATE PARK

## EDA Grant Campground Improvements



Conceptual Campground Expansion

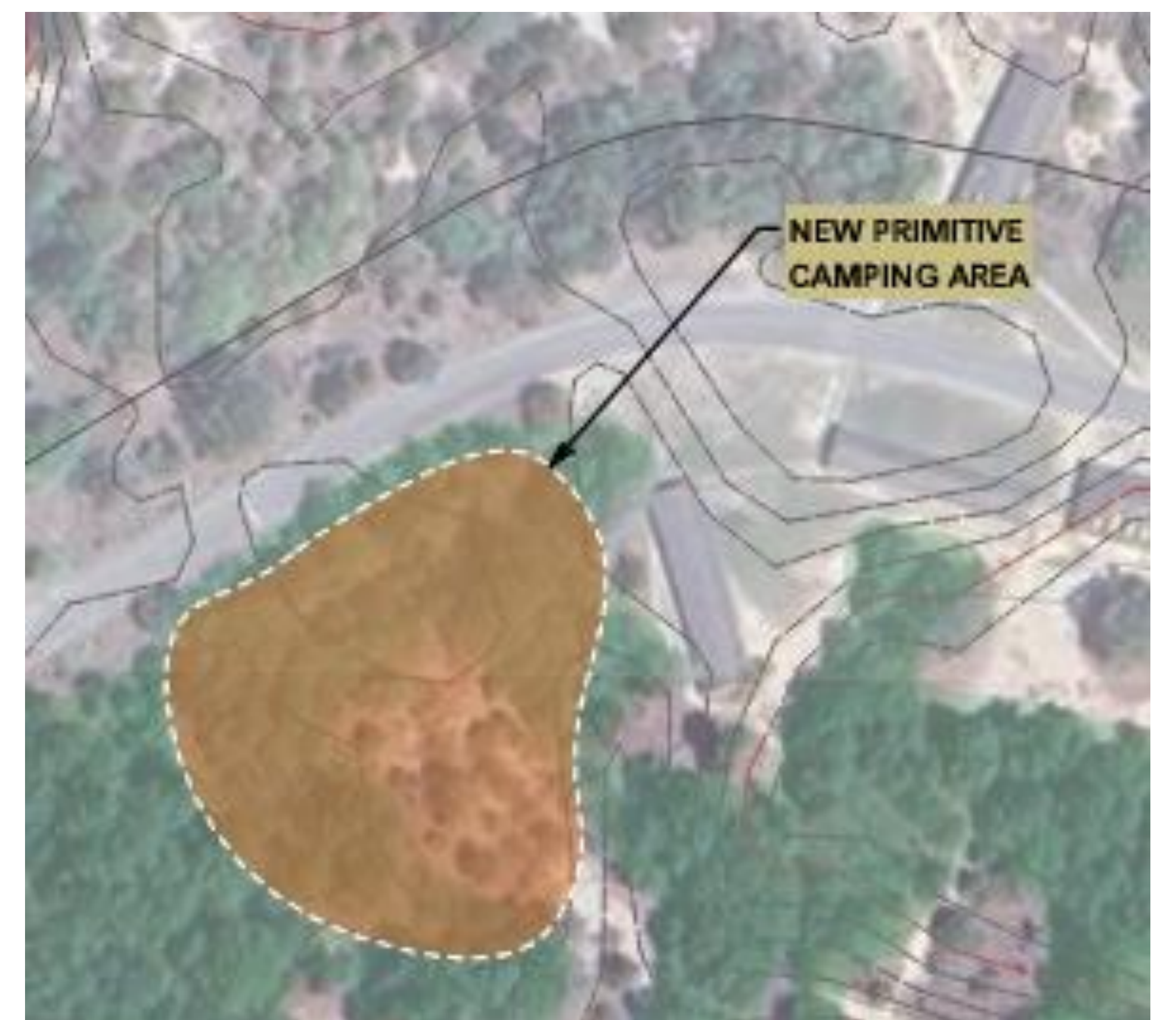
### Project Origin and Background

- DNREC was recently awarded a Federal Grant through the Economic Development Administration.
- The intention of the EDA Grant is to support local economic development, infrastructure and business via planning and infrastructure construction.
- The grant will be used to research and design campground improvements within several of Delaware's state parks.
- DE State Park Campgrounds are some of the most beloved park features and will benefit from upgrades to keep the parks safe, up-to-date and accessible to all.

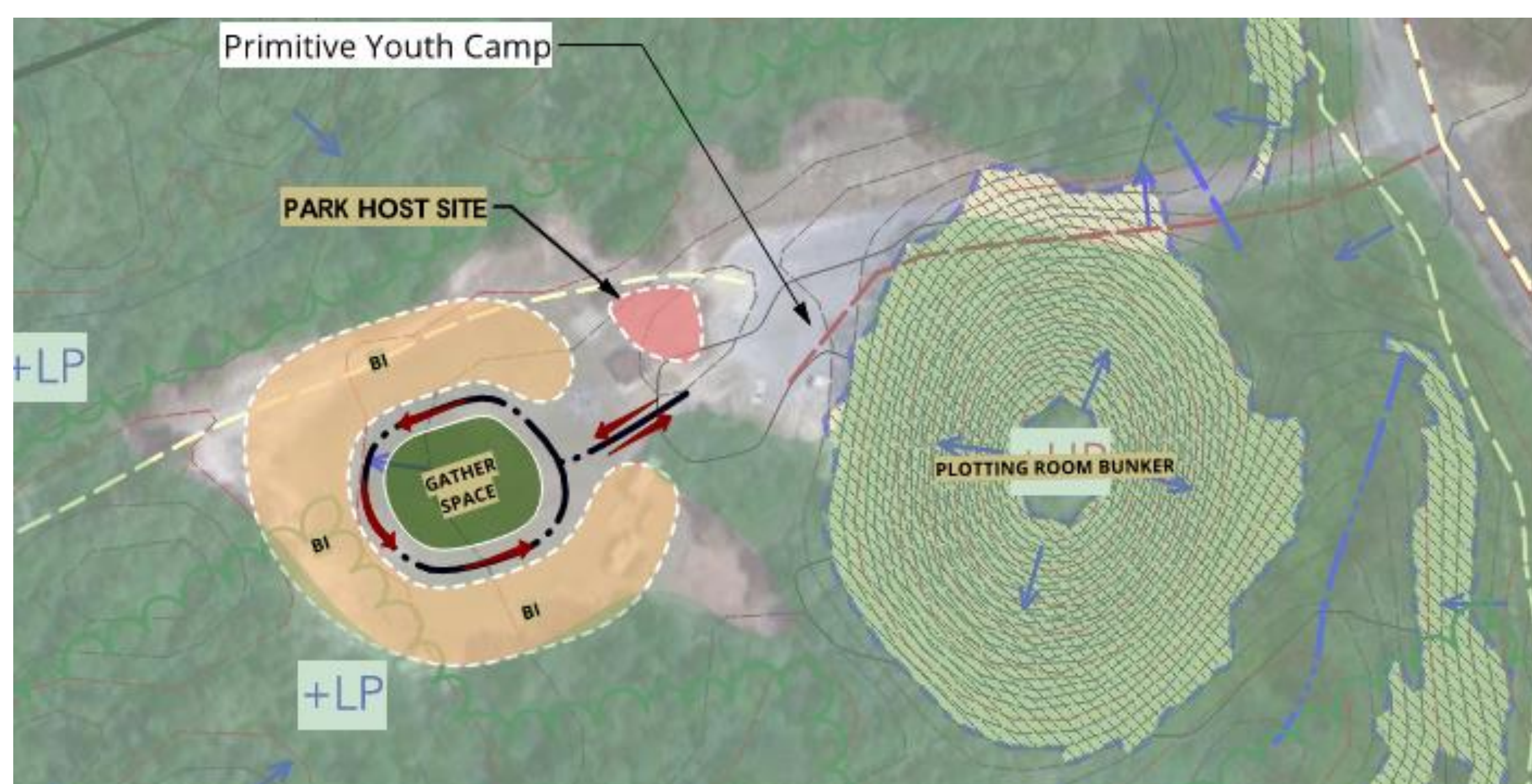
### Project Objectives and Proposed Improvements

Within Cape Henlopen State Park the following projects are proposed under the EDA Grant:

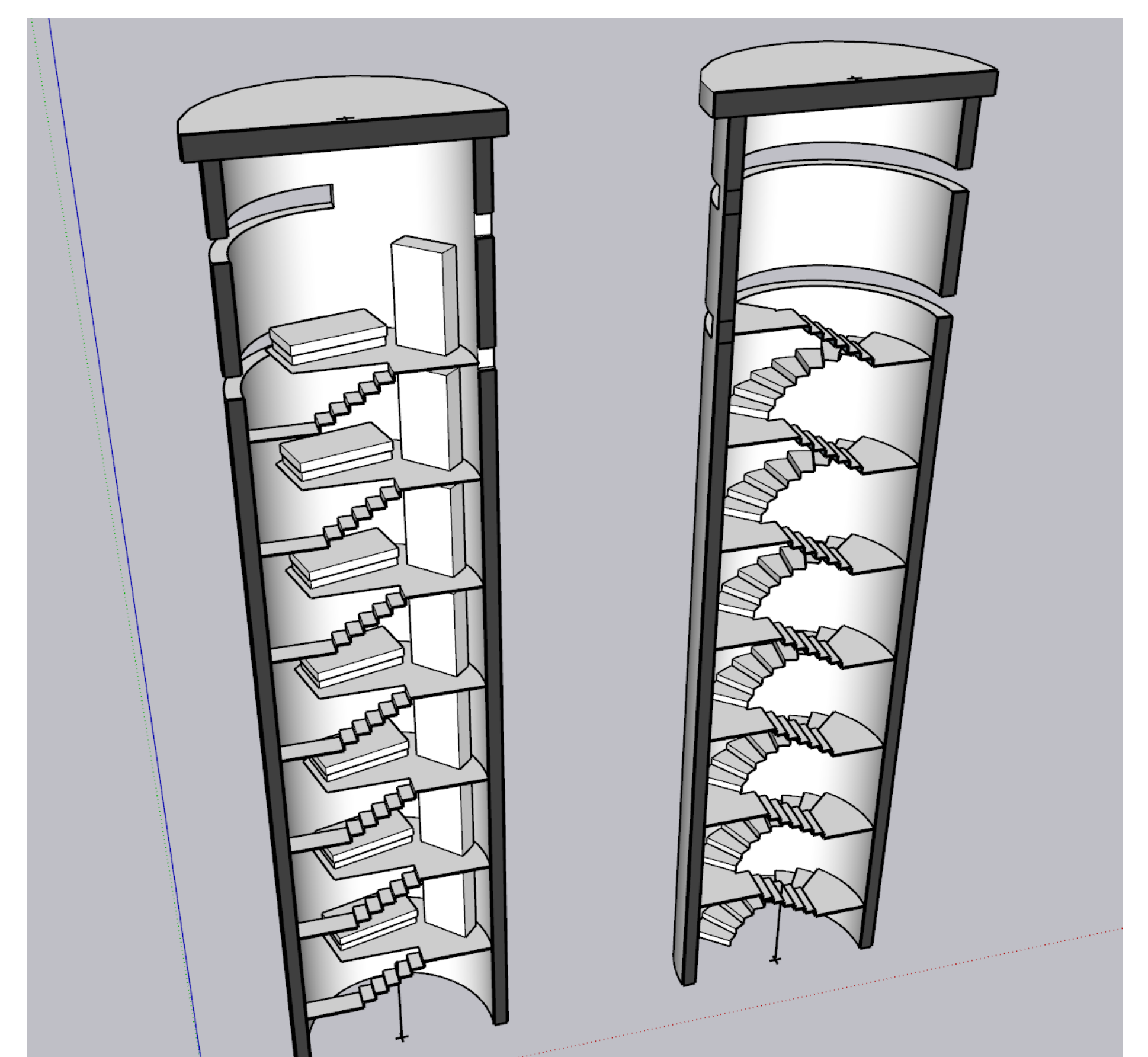
- Evaluation and potential upgrades of water, wastewater and electrical utility networks.
- Development of a Campground Conceptual Redesign Plan to develop a strategy for the future of the campground holistically.
- Design of a Campground Expansion to include three-point hook ups and pull-through camping spaces.
- Design of a full-service Cottage area within the park to provide alternative camping opportunities.
- Relocation of the Youth Primitive Camping Area and potential inclusion of a bathhouse.
- Evaluation of existing structures within the park for adaptive reuse potential to provide a distinct and exciting user opportunity unique to Cape Henlopen.



Proposed Primitive Youth Camping Area



Conceptual Campground Expansion



Adaptive Reuse Concept



# CAPE HENLOPEN STATE PARK



## Point Trail



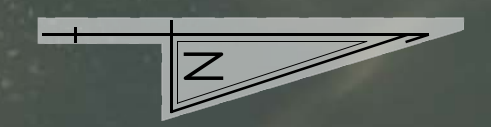
Example of a 10' trail section

- More than 3,300 linear feet of new 10' wide trail, connecting to the existing Bike Loop off Post Lane and Queens Road, along Post Road.
- 480' of 10' wide raised trail over an environmentally sensitive area to minimize impacts.
- New ADA compliant crossings
- Temporary disturbances would remain within limits of the parking area, there will be no disturbance of dunes or the beach. Wetland disturbances will be minimal because of the raised portion of the trail.
- Once funded, construction would be limited to August 1 to March 30, with only some interim closures to northern beach access. There will be a single lane closure for the remaining construction with all beaches accessible.

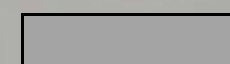
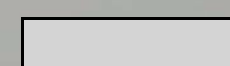



Example of an 8' wide raised trail section at Gordon's Pond trail. Image courtesy of Rails To Trails Conservancy.

- New Rain Garden and bike rack near the North Parking lot.
- Extensive tree mitigation on-site and at the Holland Glade Reforestation Site.
- Anticipated construction start in late 2025, dependent on when funding becomes available.



**LEGEND**

-  = BIKE PATH
-  = PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
-  = DRIVEWAY AND CURB





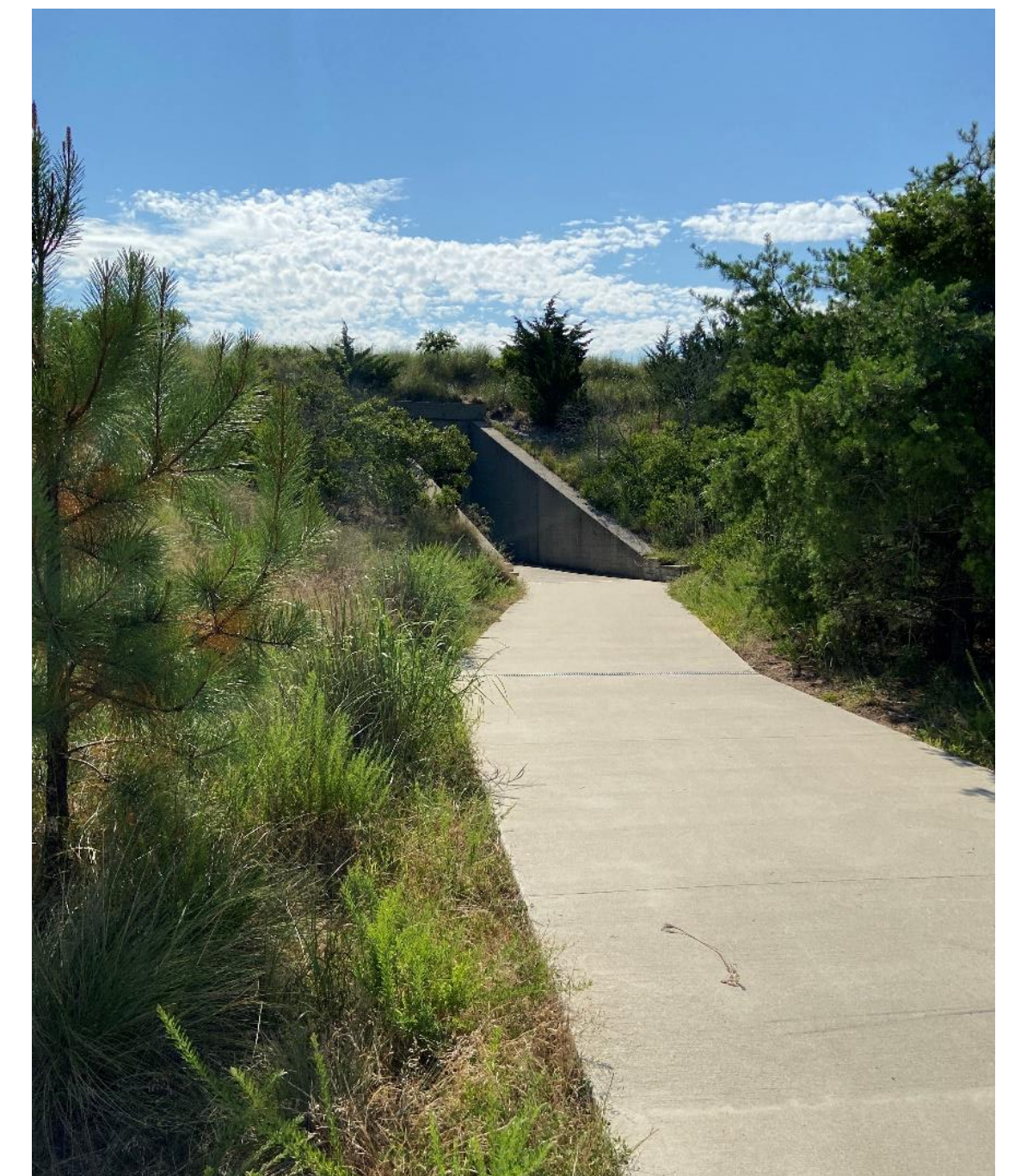


# CAPE HENLOPEN STATE PARK

## Battery 519 Addition



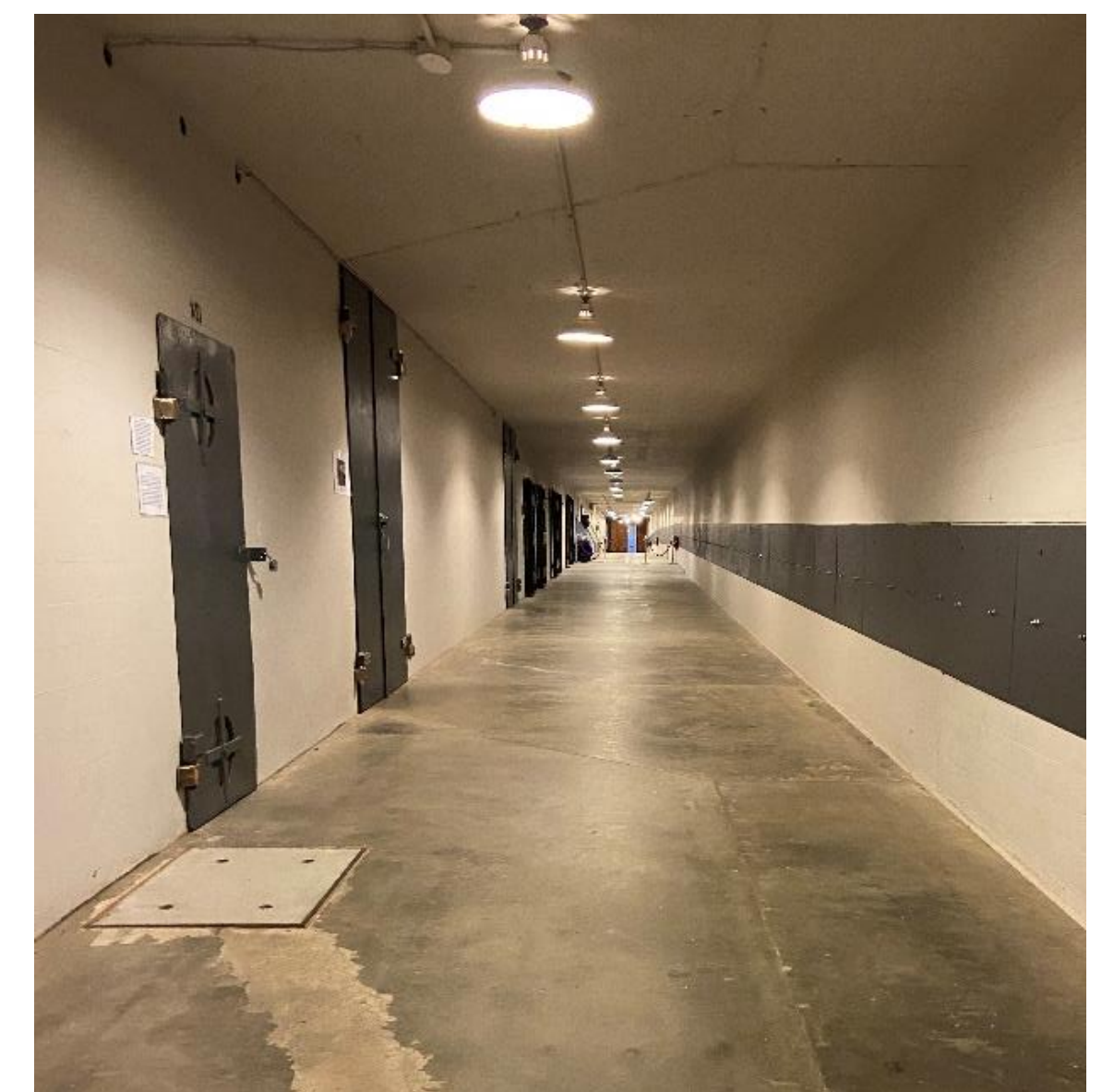
Rendering of addition – for visual representation only



Existing main entrance



Existing event space in Battery 519



Existing corridor in Battery 519



Existing gallery in Battery 519



Location map

### Project Overview

- Located within Cape Henlopen State Park, the Fort Miles Museum and Historical Area features an existing museum including Battery 519, six barracks buildings, a fire control tower, an orientation building and the Fort Miles Artillery Park.
- Representatives from the Fort Miles Historical Association (FMHA), Delaware State Parks and local communities created the nonprofit, Fort Miles Museum and Historical Area, Inc. d/b/a Fort Miles Museum who are all working together on this project.
- The first phase of the project (represented here) is an addition to Battery 519.
- The second phase of the project includes the production and installation of new World War II and Cold War exhibits throughout Battery 519.
- The goal of the project is to establish Fort Miles Museum as a major Delaware and regional visitor destination and to educate and entertain the thousands of families, students, veterans and historians who visit annually.



# CAPE HENLOPEN STATE PARK

## Battery 519 Addition



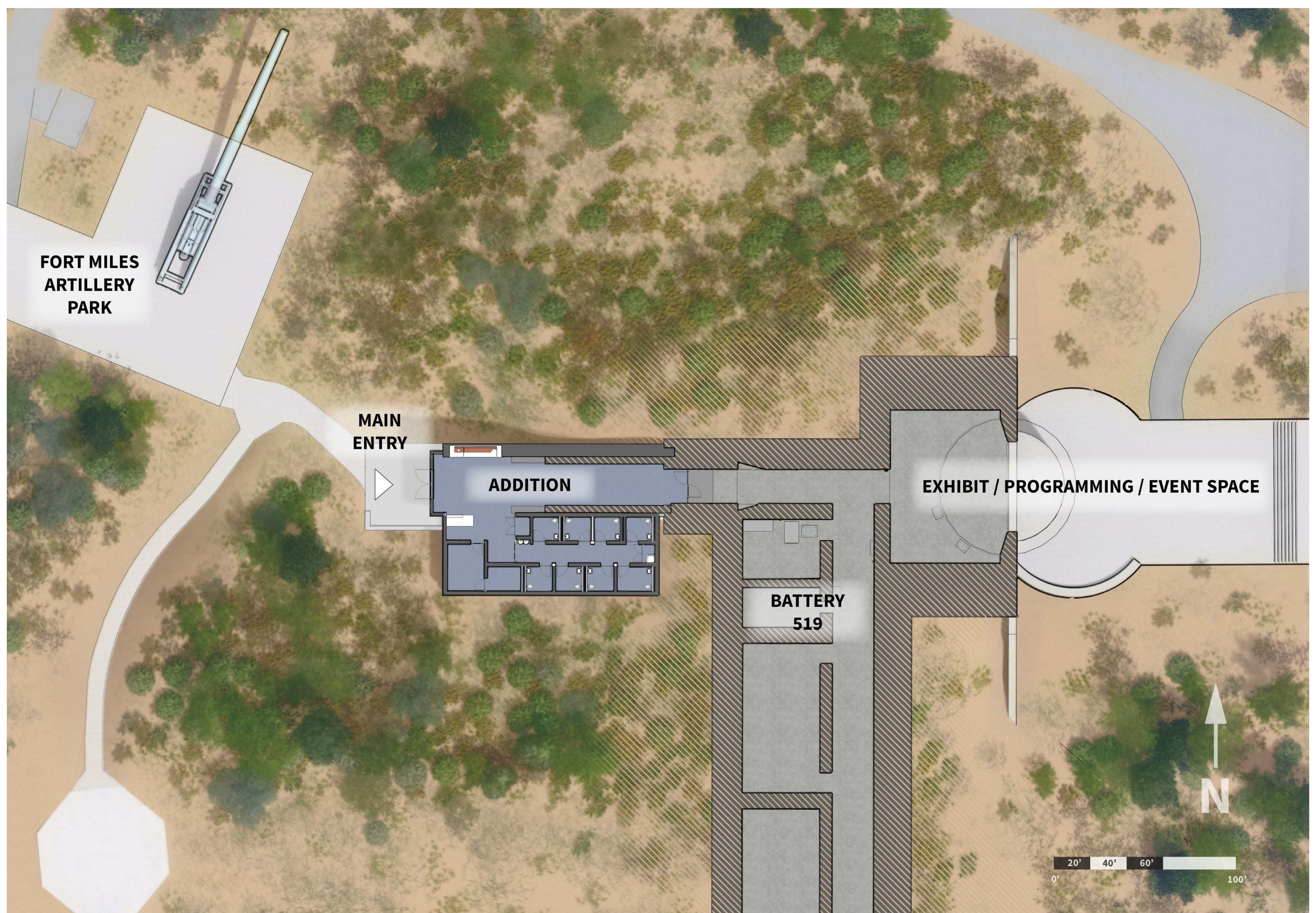
Rendering of addition – for visual representation only



Existing path from south

### Phase 1 Design

- The addition is located at the existing main entrance to Battery 519, accessed via a pathway through the existing artillery park.
- The addition improves the visitor experience by providing a lobby with ticketing, introducing orientation and interpretation content, an office and accessible restrooms.
- The accessible restrooms support the existing event space within Battery 519 that is a revenue generator for the museum.
- The design is sensitive to the historic nature of Battery 519, with minimal required disturbance. The addition will be designed to clearly differentiate between the historic fabric and the new construction.
- The juxtaposition of the light, glassy building addition will enhance visitors' experience as they feel the connection into the heavy, underground Battery 519.
- Glass will be designed to mitigate bird strikes and reduce solar heat gain into the building.



Floor plan of addition – for visual representation only



# CAPE HENLOPEN STATE PARK

## Senator David B. McBride Beach Bathhouse Existing Conditions



### Concerns with existing conditions of bathhouse:

Built in 1976 with no significant updates or modifications.

- Founded on piles that are now 48 years old.
- Concrete deck is also showing signs of age.
- Roof has leaks around skylights that need to be addressed.

Plumbing and electrical systems have been repaired as necessary over the years but need to be completely redone. There is also low water volume and pressure.

Built prior to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

- Restrooms and showers do not meet ADA guidelines.
- Ramp was brought up to current standards with paving project.

Does not have adequate space to support current number and makeup of lifeguards.

Does not have a dedicated space for administering first aid out of public view.

Does not have an adequate number of restrooms for the volume of beach users.

- Currently there are only:
  - 6 toilets for women
  - 2 toilets and 3 urinals for men
  - No family restrooms
- Modern standards based on approximately 640 parking spots indicate that there should be at least 24 toilets split between accessible/family, women, and men.



# CAPE HENLOPEN STATE PARK

## Senator David B. McBride Beach Bathhouse

### Preferred Alternative



The Division of Parks and Recreation's preferred alternative to solve the current challenges with the Senator David B. McBride Beach Bathhouse is to construct a completely new bathhouse central to the parking lot and guarded beach.

This is preferred for several reasons:

- Due to the age of the structure this is a complete teardown and rebuild, there is no expected savings to using portions of the existing bathhouse.
- The division believes a central bathhouse will provide an improved visitor experience because it will be easier to access from the entire parking lot.
- Beach goers tend to congregate close to the bathhouse and a centrally located bathhouse will create a more even distribution across the entire guarded area.
- Construction is expected to last more than one year, and this location will allow the division to maintain the current level of service throughout construction.
- Once the new bathhouse is completed the existing one will be demolished and the area restored.
- A southern dune crossing will be maintained creating three access points to the guarded beach.

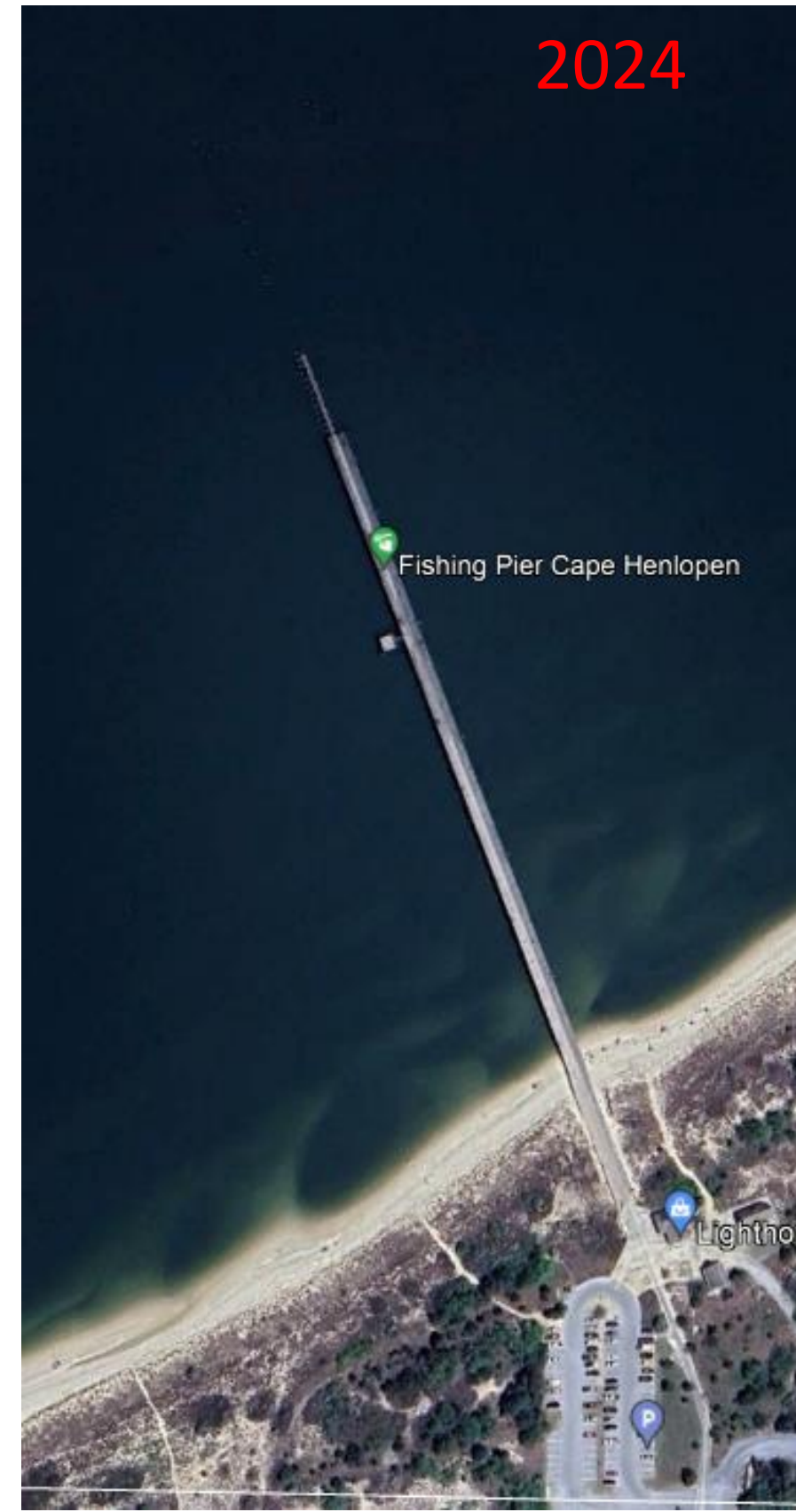
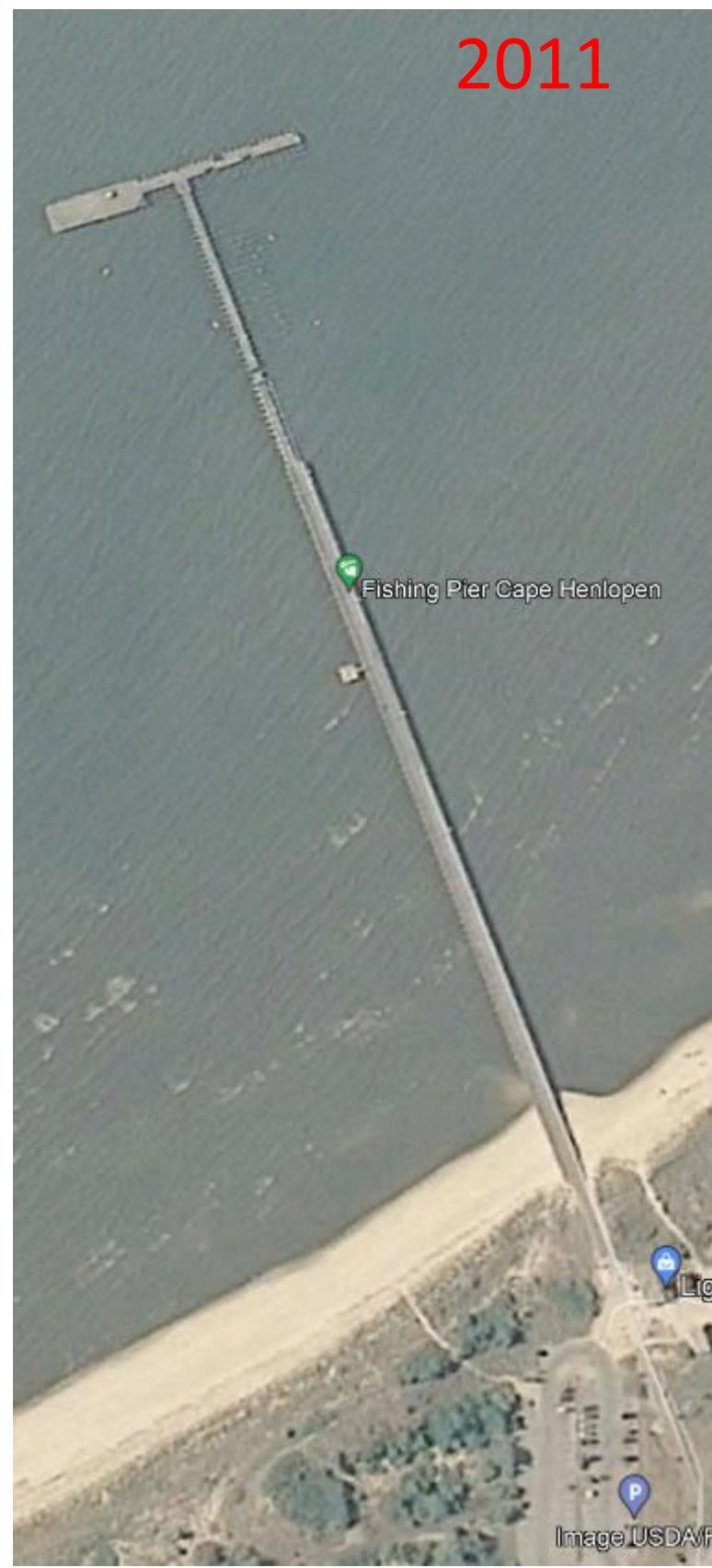
Other Notes:

- Footprint is expected to be larger to accommodate the increased number of toilets and meet accessibility standards. Toilets and showers will need to be accessible.
- Proposed structure will not be any closer to the ocean than the current structure. Actual location will be determined by site conditions.
- New bathhouse will provide similar level of food and beverage service.
- Division will acquire all necessary permits including coastal construction and sediment and stormwater permits. Additionally, the proposed disturbed area will be reviewed for rare and endangered species and if necessary, plans will be adjusted accordingly.
- Estimated Total Cost 8-9 million dollars with \$1,000,000 provided in the FY2025 Bond and Capital Improvements Act. This funding will be used for the development of construction documents.



# CAPE HENLOPEN STATE PARK

## Fishing Pier

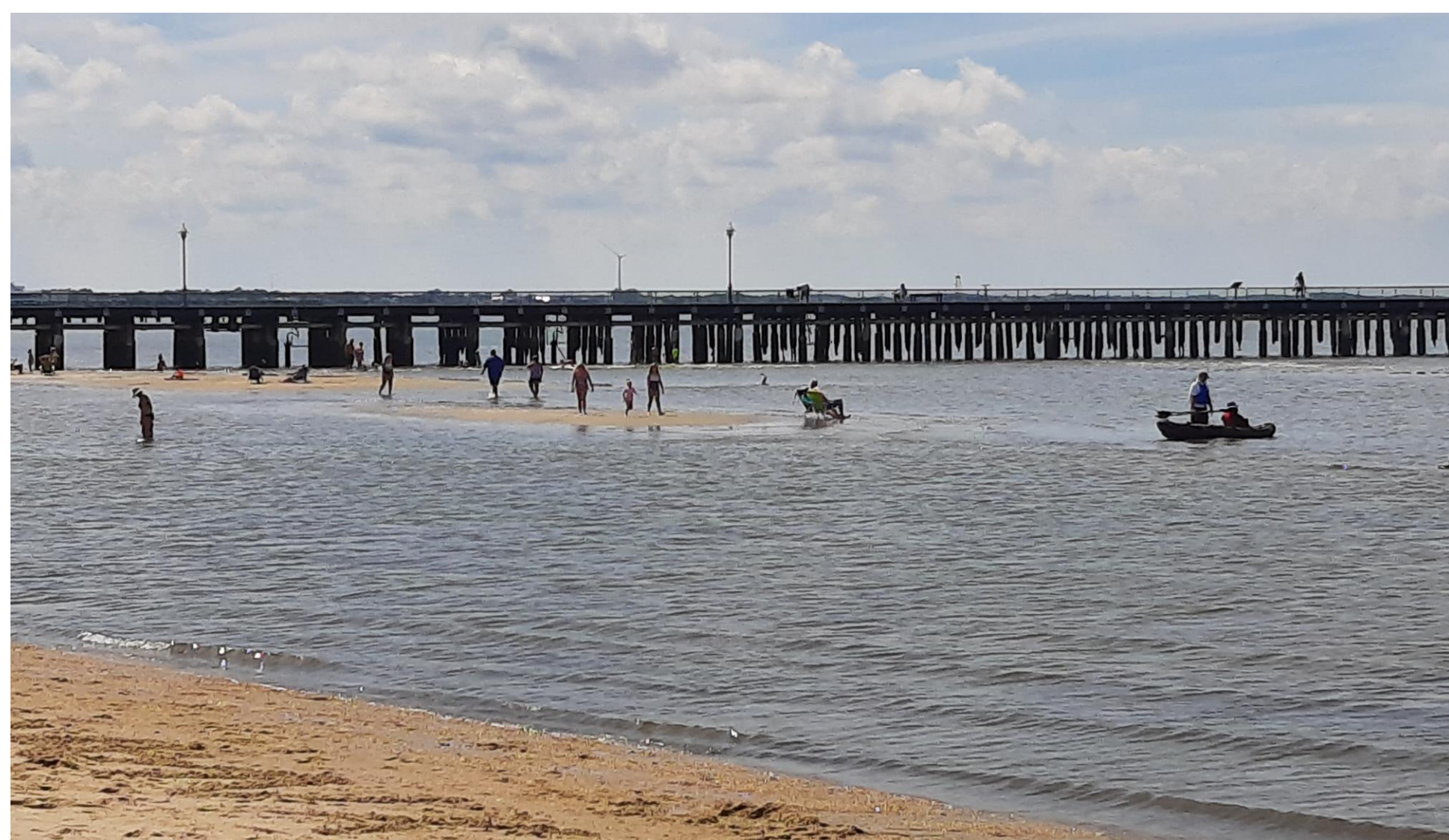


### History of the Pier

The existing wooden pier at Cape Henlopen State Park was originally constructed in 1942 as a part of the Fort Miles military installation. The structure was later turned over to Cape Henlopen State Park where it has become a popular amenity in the park for fishing and crabbing. However, the structure has far exceeded its life expectancy. The wooden pier has also been used over the years by SPI Pharma, where ocean water from the bay is pumped via a pipe below the decking of the structure for magnesium extraction and for the routine maintenance of their pumps below the decking.

### Changes in Length of Fishing Pier Over the Years

The original length of the fishing pier was 1,786 feet when it was constructed by the US Army. The pier is currently 1,250 feet long but will be further reduced to 1,226 feet after the planned removal of the end segment. The landward section of the fishing pier has filled with sand over the years as part of the natural sand migration in Breakwater Harbor. Both the shortening of the pier and the shoaling have had a significant impact on the fishing experienced by anglers using the pier.

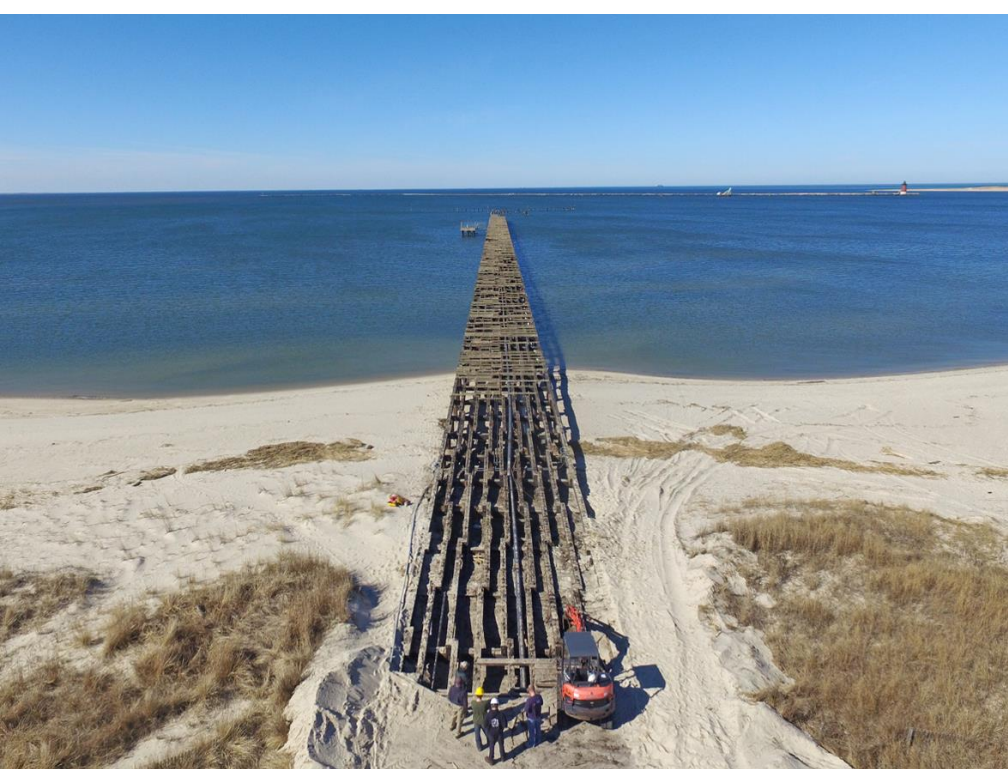


Park visitors enjoying sandy shoals at low tide near Cape Henlopen Fishing Pier

Starting in 2012, a series of pier repairs have been completed. In 2015, several piles were repaired and the decking on the pier was completely removed and replaced due to excessive deterioration. Additional pile repairs were made in 2018 and again in 2021. Necessary repairs are expected to be required as the pier continues to be used beyond its life expectancy. The total construction repairs costs of the pier from 2012 to date are as follows:

Year 2012 -	\$549,975	(Pier Head Demolition)
Year 2015 -	\$1,146,000	(Decking and Fiberglass Jacket Repair)
Year 2018 -	\$69,000	(Decking Repair)
Year 2021 -	\$360,000	(Fiberglass Jacket Repair)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,124,975</b>	

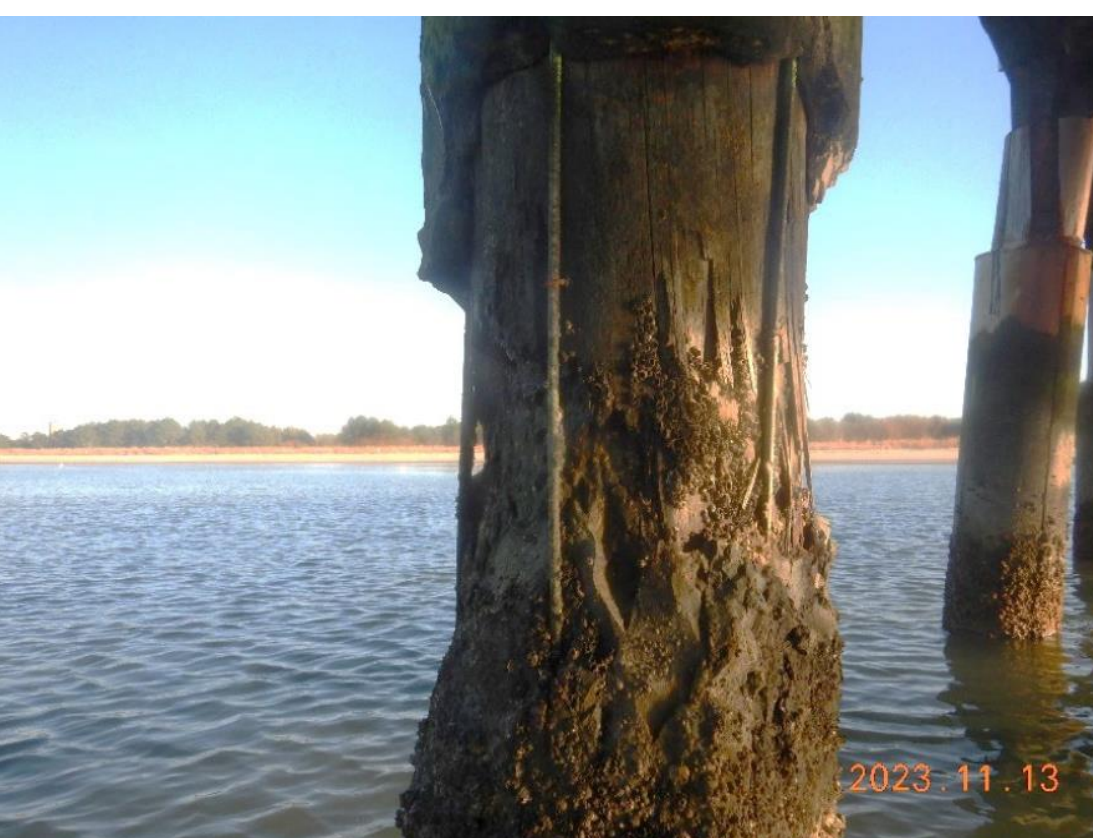
During Deck Replacement



After Deck Replacement



Before Fiberglass Jacket



After Fiberglass Jacket



### Current Status

A majority of the fishing pier is currently open to the public with restrictions except for the complete closure of the last 144 feet. However, due to the conditions of the existing pilings a yearly inspection is necessary. The findings from the annual inspections are used to determine what management actions are required. Management actions can include:

- Closures
- Additional weight restrictions
- Repair recommendations

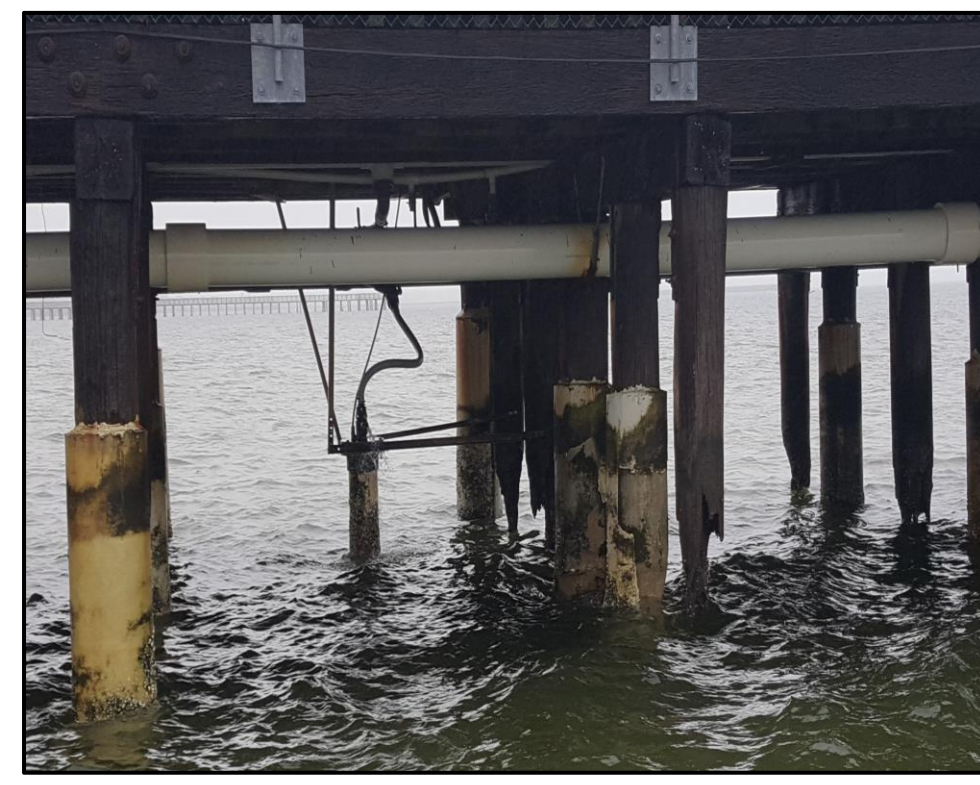
Due to the age of the wooden structure, additional actions may be required as a result of the next inspection in the fall of 2024.



# CAPE HENLOPEN STATE PARK

## Fishing Pier

### Inspection Findings and Repairs



The November 2023 field assessment and subsequent inspection report documented critical safety issues that must be addressed.

- The outward 144' of the pier was closed immediately following the inspection. Additional restrictions were added prior to the fishing season.
- The last two rows of piles at the outboard end of the pier are leaning significantly.
- The framing associated with the last two rows of piles are damaged beyond repair.
- The framing in the remaining 120' of the closed section requires reinforcement.
- 20 piles need repair that consist of:
  - Pile Jacket Repair (7)
  - Pile Jacket Extension (11)
  - Pile Bearing Repair (2)

#### **Projected Repair Cost of Fishing Pier**

The total repair costs of the fishing pier per the latest inspection results are as follows:

Repair Design Cost:	\$113,729
<u>Probable Construction Cost:</u>	<u>\$886,182</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$999,911</b>

### New Fishing Pier

\$250,000 was provided to DNREC in the FY2025 Bond and Capital Improvement Act (Bond Bill) to look at the feasibility of constructing a new fishing pier. DNREC will begin studying options for a new pier in FY2025. The study will investigate potential locations and length options.

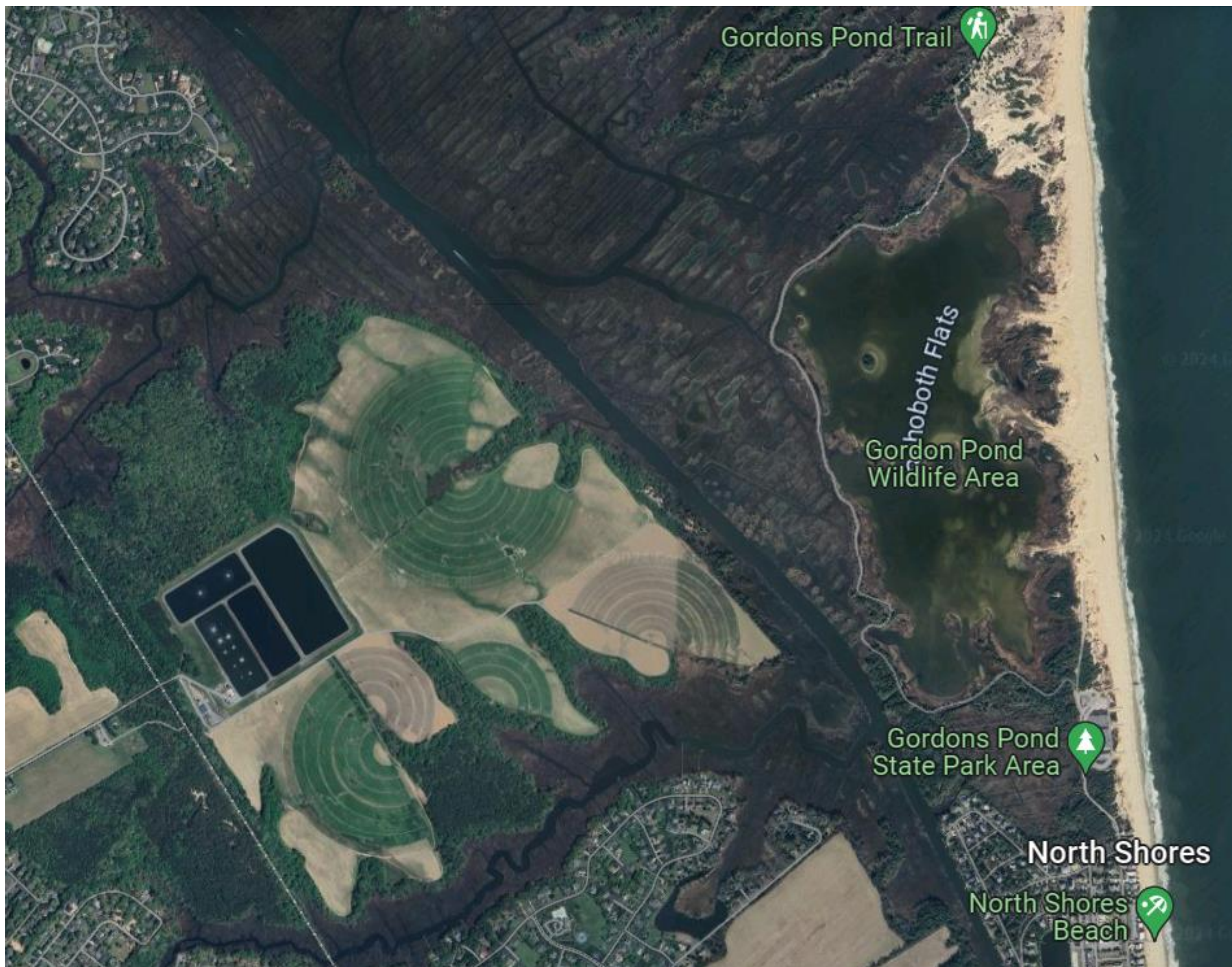
There are challenges that will need to be resolved in the development of this project.

- At a concept level, a new timber pier is estimated to cost \$300/square foot.
- A new pier with the approximate dimensions of the pier prior to 2012 (1,800 feet long x 25' wide with a 400' "T" section) would cost approximately \$22 million including professional fees for design and permitting.
- Access to the pier is eliminated when the park is at capacity. This happened 19 times in 2022 and 16 times in 2023. The reduction in 2023 was a result of bad weather on weekends in June. Although the summer is not over, there has been an uptick in the park reaching capacity in 2024 including on Juneteenth which fell on a Wednesday.
- Continued shoaling in Breakwater Harbor will inform decisions about the length of pier necessary to return the fishing conditions to the levels of the early 2000s. For example, how long does the pier need to be to have the same water depth at low tide as in 2000?
- A drastic change to the configuration of Cape Henlopen caused by a major storm could severely impact the fishery negating value of the investment.
- An ocean pier has been requested in the past but would require infrastructure investment in addition to the pier costs.



# CAPE HENLOPEN STATE PARK

## WOLFE NECK TRAIL



Aerial of Wolfe Neck Site at Cape Henlopen State Park, 2024

### PROJECT DETAILS

**Where:** Wolfe Neck, Cape Henlopen State Park, DNREC, Department of Parks and Recreation.

**What:** A single-track trail that will be roughly 6 miles in length and could include up to 11 boardwalks and a bridge. Generally, the trail will be 42" wide, and constructed of stone aggregate chocked with stone dust. The boardwalk/bridges will have a 5'-0" clear width. A wildlife viewing platform is also proposed at the trail's nearest location to the Lewes-Rehoboth Canal.

**Why:** In 2019 the State of Delaware, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Parks and Recreation and Sussex County signed a new lease agreement for the properties that make up the Wolfe Neck area of Cape Henlopen State Park. This new agreement was the continuation of a lease that predated the State's ownership of the property. The lease included provisions to expand public recreational opportunities at the Wolfe Neck property, the trail is one of the opportunities. DNREC is leveraging funds provided by Sussex County to match Federal Recreational Trails funding administered through the Federal Highway Administration.

**When:** Planning for the Wolfe Neck trail began in 2019 and is currently in progress. The Division of Parks and Recreation is working through the Section 106 review process with federal, state and local partners to determine the project's effects on historic properties.



# CAPE HENLOPEN STATE PARK

## CULTURAL RESOURCES AT WOLFE NECK



Rendering of proposed Wolfe Neck Trail, 2019

### SECTION 106 OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

- DNREC, Division of Parks and Recreation, received funding from the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program.
- When federal funding, permitting, licensing or other approval is involved, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that federal agencies carry out a review process to consider a project's effects to archaeological sites and other historic properties. Federal agencies lead consultation with Indigenous tribes as part of this process.

### Cultural Resources at Wolfe Neck

- The preferred approach to stewardship of archaeological sites on state land is to preserve and protect them in place. The Delaware Antiquities Act, last updated in 2005, aims to protect and preserve archaeological sites and artifacts in Delaware, defines the roles and responsibilities of state agencies in this regard, encourages interagency cooperation to further the purposes of the law and prohibits unauthorized collecting or excavation.
- Wolfe Neck contains Native American and post-contact historic period archaeological sites. "Wolfe's Neck Site" is recognized as significant to Delaware history, having been listed in the National Register of Historic Places since 1978. Although additional archaeological investigation on the property is being considered, the Section 106 review process will determine if such work proceeds.

## Question and Answer

### Who leads the process to consider the project's effects on archaeological sites and other historic properties?

DNREC, Division of Parks and Recreation, is the land-owner of the property. Due to funding through the Recreational Trails Program, the Federal Highway Administration is the lead agency in the Section 106 process and coordinates with consulting parties. Sussex County currently leases the property for wastewater spray irrigation.

### Have human remains been found at Wolfe Neck Proper?

To the State's knowledge, no unmarked human burials or skeletal remains have been discovered at Wolfe Neck since the State acquired the property.

### Is Wolfe Neck currently open to the public?

No, Wolfe Neck is currently inaccessible to the public due to the Sussex County Wastewater Treatment spray irrigation system.

### Will DNREC, Division of Parks and Recreation, release specific archaeological information about Wolfe Neck?

To protect and preserve any sites, both state and federal law allow restriction of specific data concerning the location and nature of archaeological sites. The Delaware Department of State Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs (DOS/HCA) and DNREC will not provide such data on the archaeological resources at Wolfe Neck but will provide information on the status of planned projects as updates are available.

### What are the next steps for the Wolfe Neck Trail?

At this time, the Federal Highway Administration, DE SHPO and DNREC are working through the Section 106 process with consulting parties to determine how the project would affect archaeological sites, and if changes are needed to avoid adverse effects.





# CAPE HENLOPEN STATE PARK

## Biden Environmental Center Renovation



**Where:** Cape Henlopen State Park, DNREC, Department of Parks and Recreation.

**What:** Restoration and renovation of the Biden Environmental Center.

**Why:** In 2014, the Biden Center was closed to the public due to ADA compliance.

**When:** The planning for renovations on the Biden Center began around 2018 and are nearly complete. Reservations should be available for booking in 2025.

## THEN



### History of the Biden Environmental Center

The Biden Center was opened in 1962 as a Naval Training Center. In 1998 the facility was purchased by the state of Delaware from the Naval Reserves.

The spacious facility that once served as a military training center, was converted to become a conference, meeting and events center. It was named for then-U.S. Senator Joseph Biden, who was instrumental in having the lands transferred from the military to the State of Delaware.



## and NOW



### Technology and Accessibility Focal Points of the Biden Environmental Center

The Biden Center has been fully renovated and updated with state-of-the-art technology and is fully ADA compliant. Technology includes smart boards and video conferencing in the classrooms/meeting spaces and Wi-Fi throughout the building. In the lobby is a touch screen interpretive panel that provides in-depth information on Cape Henlopen State Park's environment and history.

There is a fully accessible bedroom on each floor, an elevator and accessible public restrooms for visitors not staying overnight.

### Classroom-Style Learning Spaces Feature the Local Environment

The Biden Center interior was designed with the local environment in mind. The building systems were selected to optimize efficiency while meeting the operational needs of the building. Environmental themes run throughout the building. The classrooms/meeting rooms are named Ocean, Pinelands, Bay and Dunes for the significant habitats found in the Park. These classroom-style rooms are equipped with Smartboards, video conferencing and tables and chairs that can be configured to meet the needs of the user. Graphic panels throughout the building highlight conservation and park history.





# CAPE HENLOPEN STATE PARK

## Biden Environmental Center Renovation

### Potential Uses for the Biden Environmental Center

The Biden Environmental Center will be an important resource for connecting groups with our ecosystem and wildlife habitats and the facility is designed to meet and improve upon the historic uses that have occurred at the Biden Center since 1996.

The Biden Environmental Center classrooms can be utilized for environmental studies to help preserve the lands and wildlife habitats in the Cape Henlopen State Park area. These classrooms and meeting areas will include opportunities for groups and organizations to hold conferences, retreats and meetings within the center of Cape Henlopen State Park. The goal is to draw environmental and educational groups to meet and be steps away from experiencing our local ecology such as marine sciences, ocean mammals, migrating shorebirds, wildlife habitats, climate, water, air and more!

Updated overnight guestrooms allow for student, government, corporate and family groups to gather from across the state and beyond. Cape Henlopen is located about two hours from anywhere in Delaware or the Eastern Shore.



### REECH: Residential Ecosystem Exploration at Cape Henlopen

Cape Henlopen State Park and the Nature Center have been operating public educational programs since the 1970s. The REECH program was started in 1998 for students in grades 7 and 8 that focuses on hands-on investigation of our coastal ecosystem over a 2-day, 1-night session. Students collect samples, take measurements, make observations and record data, with the goal of understanding how well the coastal ecosystem is functioning. Programs like this and others could potentially utilize the Biden Center facility.



### Question and Answer

#### When will the Biden Environment Center open to the public?

The Biden Environmental Center renovations will be completed in mid-late summer of 2024. Initially it will be used by state departmental agencies for daily meeting space rentals. We expect to start booking public groups and organizations for overnight accommodations in early 2025.

#### How many meeting rooms are available to rent?

There are four classroom-style rooms, three with smartboards and video conferencing ability. One room also has a wash sink.

#### What are the capacities of the meeting rooms?

The largest classroom will hold 98 people and has a moving wall that can separate them into two rooms for up to 49 people. The other room holds 90.

#### How many bedrooms are in the Biden Center?

The Biden Center can accommodate up to 42 overnight guests. The bedrooms will only be available to groups utilizing the meeting rooms for educational seminars and conferences. The second floor has 18 bedrooms with 2 twin beds (1 is ADA with 1 queen bed) and each has their own bathroom. The first floor has 3 large suites with 2 queen beds (1 is ADA with 1 queen bed) and each has their own bathroom. An elevator is available to reach the second floor.

#### Is the kitchen available for use in the Biden Center?

Yes, there is a commercial warming kitchen that can be used by caterers to prep meals. It includes large refrigerators, microwave, stove, sink, prep tables, coffee maker and commercial ice maker.