

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Technical Advisory Committee
Kickoff Meeting: February 27, 2023

Mike Tholstrup
Delaware State Parks



Welcome and Introductions

- ***Mike Tholstrup, MPA, AICP, CPSI***
 - Outdoor Recreation Planner
 - Background in environmental sustainability, land use and park resource planning, Outdoor Recreation, Parks & Trails Grant Program Manager
- ***Bob Ehemann***
 - Park Resource Office Manager
 - Planning oversight, Grant Management, Trail Design and Mapping
- ***Megan Ramsey***
 - Administrative Specialist
 - Technical support

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Jurisdiction	Organization	Jurisdiction	Organization	Jurisdiction	Organization
New Castle	NCC Parks and Rec	Kent/Sussex	Milford Parks and Rec	State	SERCAP
New Castle	Delaware Center for Horticulture	Sussex	Sussex County Planning	State	DE Department of Education
New Castle	Newark Parks and Rec	Sussex	Sussex County Land Trust	State	DE Division of Small Business
New Castle	Wilmington Parks and Rec	Sussex	Center for the Inland Bays	State	DeIDOT
New Castle	WILMAPCO	Sussex	Council on Greenways and Trails (former)	State	DHSS/DPH
New Castle	West Side Grows Together	Sussex	Nanticoke Watershed Alliance	State	Forestry
New Castle	Jefferson Street Center	Sussex	Seaford Parks and Rec	State	Historical & Cultural Affairs
Kent	Kent County Parks and Rec	State	Delaware Greenways	State	OSPC
Kent	Kent County Planning	State	Delaware Wildlands	State	Park and Recreation Council
Kent	Dover Parks and Rec	State	Freedom Center for Independent Living	State	DNREC- DCCE
Kent	Dover Kent MPO	State	Healthy Communities DE	State	DNREC- DCCE/DNERR
Kent	Kent Economic Partnership/ Park Council	State	UD- Center for Disabilities Studies	State	DNREC- F&W
Kent	USFWS-Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge	State	UD Partnership for Healthy Communities	State	DNREC- EJ Coordinator
Kent	Neighborhood Partners				

Meeting Logistics – Webex Controls

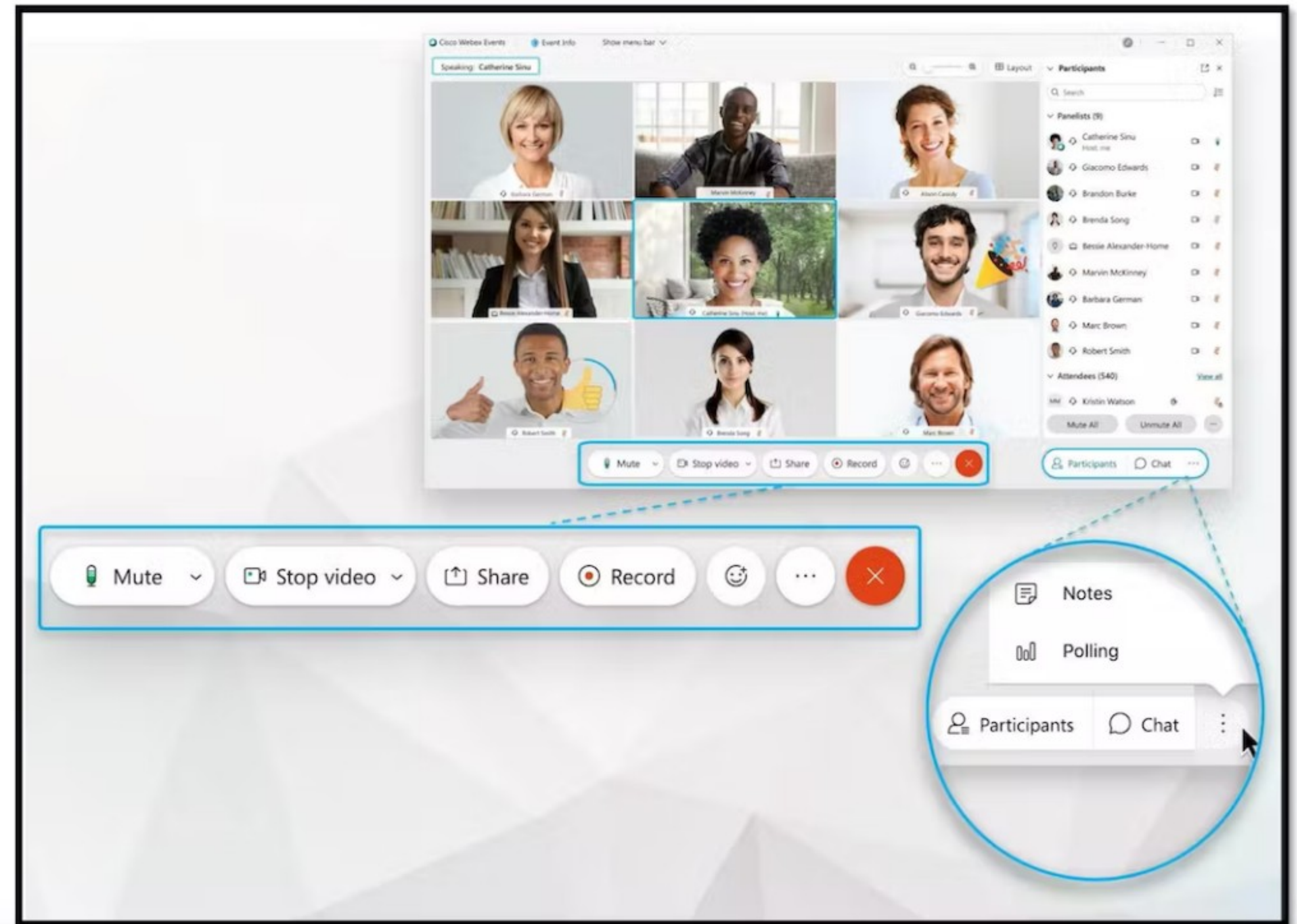
Self-Identify

- Participants
 - Right click – Edit Display Name
 - Name & Organization

Chat available for Q&A

- Directed to TAC/Panelists

***External Polling**



Meeting Logistics – Mentimeter

Polling Q&A will be entered via Mentimeter

To participate:

- Use either the website and numeric code
- OR
- Mobile device: by scanning the QR code with your camera



Which park or open space do you visit most often in DE?

Mentimeter

bombay hook

white clay

lums pond

brandywine creek
brandywine creek sp

brecknock park schutte

killens pond

cape henlopen

trap pond

bowers beach

talley day

henlopen

the beach

silver lake park dover

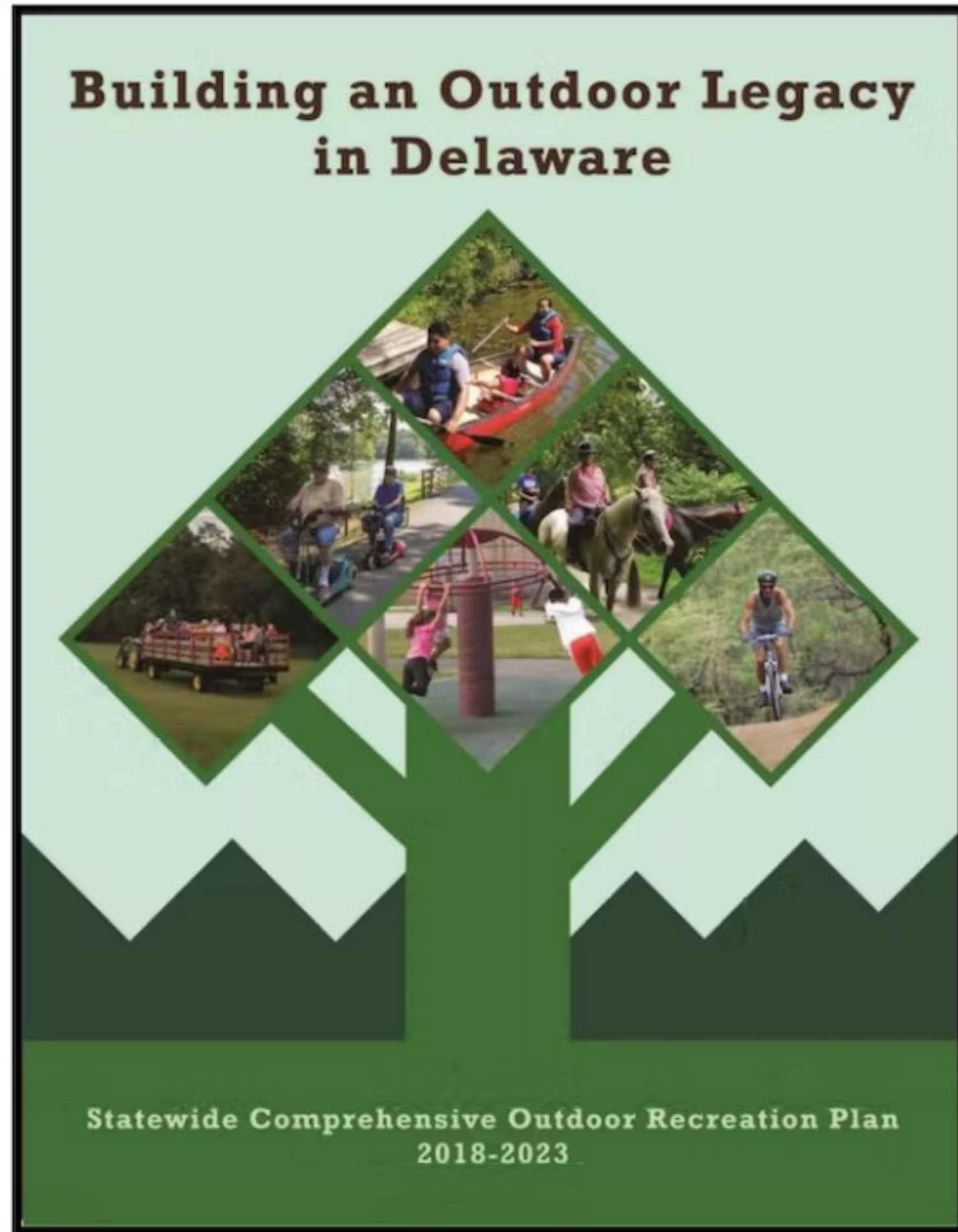
glasgow park

holts landing

brecknock

middle run

Today's Agenda



I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Technical Advisory Committee - Partners
Goals for the Kickoff Meeting

II. LWCF, ORPT, AND THE SCORP

Overview and History
What is the SCORP and What it is Not!

III. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED SCORP PLANNING PROCESS

Timeline
Criteria and Requirements
Planning Regions & Oversampling

IV. ROLE OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Develop Outreach Strategies
Review Survey Results and Community Feedback
Develop Recommendations

V. EVALUATING THE SURVEY - DISCUSSION

Redeveloping the Survey Instrument
Survey Goals: Community Participation, Preferences,
Access/Barriers, and Trends
Continue Historical Trend Data

LWCF, ORPT and the SCORP

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, 1964 (54 U.S.C. § 200305(d))

- National Park Service, Department of the Interior
- Federal financial assistance to all states for acquisition and development projects to create and maintain a **nationwide legacy of high-quality recreation areas and facilities and to stimulate non-federal investments** in the protection and maintenance of recreation resources across the United States.
- Delaware **State Liaison Officer**, current Division of Parks and Recreation Director
- Rolling grant cycles, of which Delaware applies primarily toward capital projects within the State Park System



LWCF, ORPT and the SCORP

- **Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Trails Grant Program**
 - State Program est. 1986, as the DE Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund
 - Mirrors LWCF in function and intent
 - State Management of decision-making and timing
 - \$50M trust - consistent, reliable and flexible funding source
 - Annual grant cycle with around \$1 million

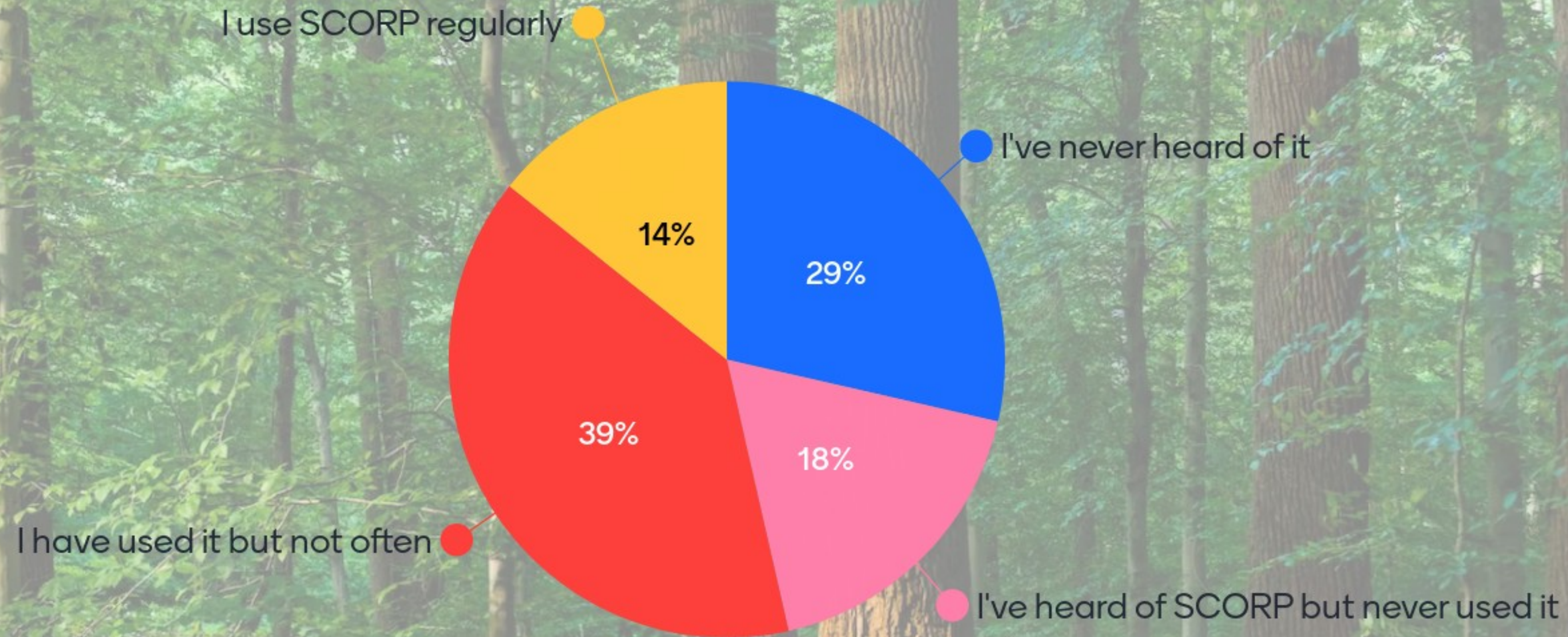


LWCF, ORPT and the SCORP

- **What is the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan?**
 - Established by the LWCF Act
 - Planning considerations essential for effective administration of the LWCF program
 - An evaluation of the **demand** for and **supply** of outdoor recreation resources and facilities in the State
 - A program for the implementation of the goals and recommendations
 - Updated every 5 years
 - Delaware's ORPT Grant Program requires alignment with established goals



How familiar are you with SCORP?



How have you used SCORP? (Check all that apply)



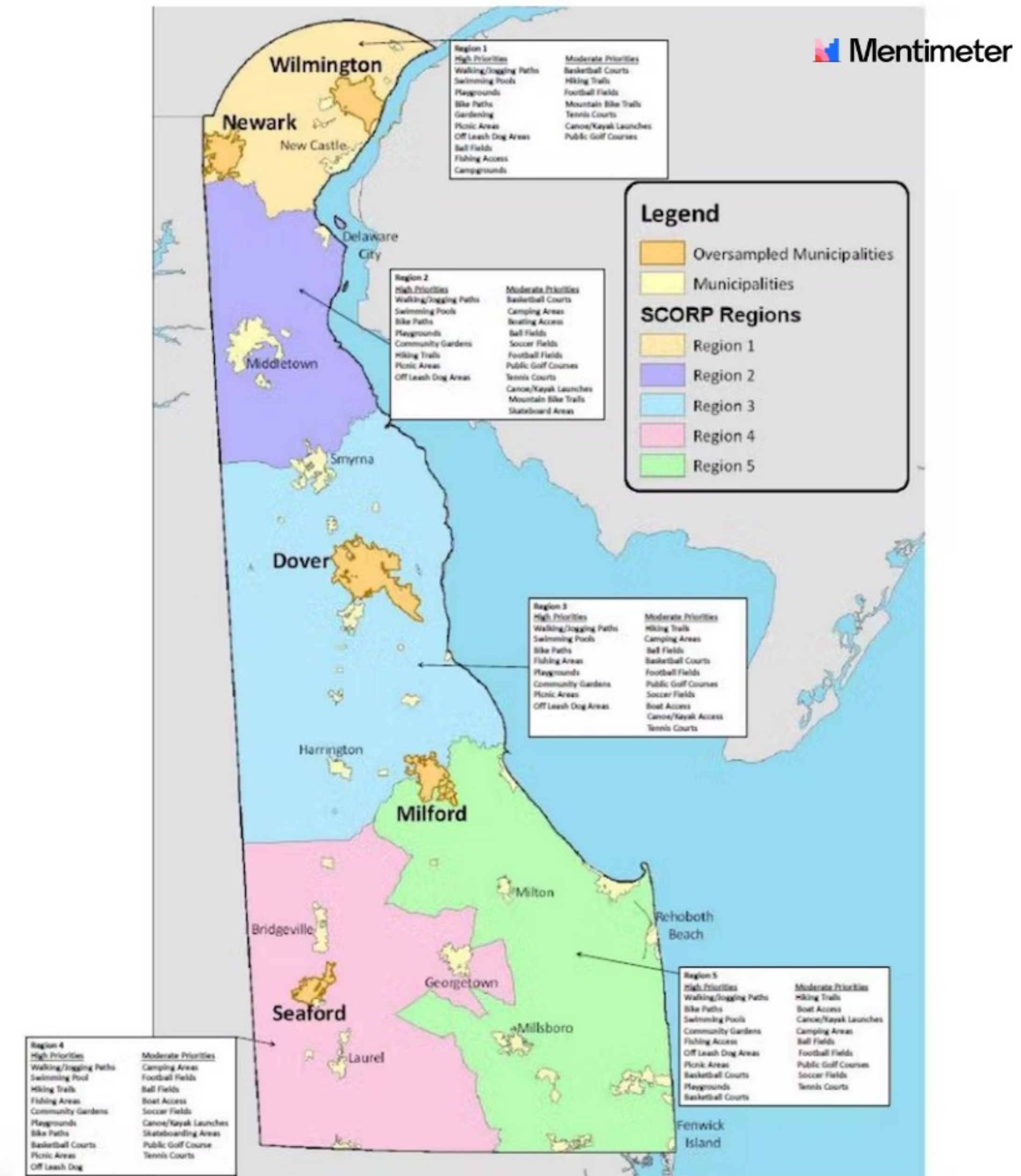
LWCF, ORPT and the SCORP

- **SCORP Development “Puzzle Pieces”**
 - Data gathering
 - Telephone survey conducted by a consultant (2000+ respondents)
 - Local outreach efforts
 - Developed with TAC guidance
 - “Shall take into account relevant federal resources and programs and shall be correlated so far as practicable with other State, regional and local plans.”
 - Requires Department and Governor’s Certification



5 SCORP Planning Regions

- First identified in 2003 SCORP
- Allows smaller scale prioritization
- More focused representation and outreach
- Oversampling:
 - Municipalities with established Parks Departments receive more detailed data



LWCF, ORPT and the SCORP

- What the SCORP is *Not*
 - Not a local, municipal or county plan
 - Not Regulatory
 - Does not grant land use decision-making authority to DE State Parks nor determine local project prioritization
- The SCORP is a **Resource** and a **Tool** for you, to support outdoor recreation investments



LWCF, ORPT and the SCORP

Questions so far?

Thinking about the organization you represent and your personal preferences, what comes to mind when you hear the term, "Outdoor Recreation"?



Overview of Proposed SCORP Planning Process

- Planning Timeline
- Phases and milestones
- Touchpoints for meetings
- Key responsibilities



RecreationPlanning@delaware.gov

<https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/parks/planning/scorp-update/>

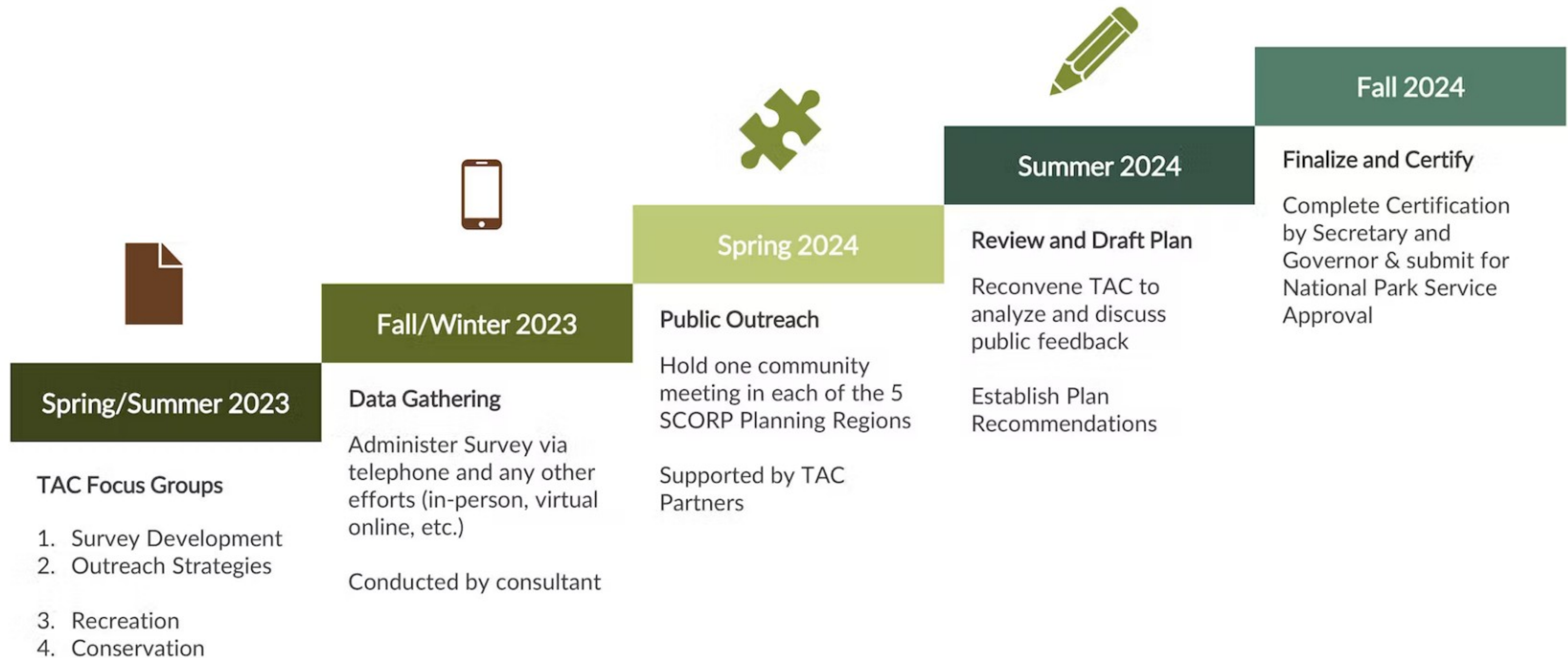


Overview

Proposed SCORP Planning Process

- Planning Timeline
- Phases and milestones
- Touchpoints for meetings
- Key responsibilities

Timeline – Feb. 2023 to Sept. 2024



Role of the Technical Advisory Committee

- Share **Best Practices** through Focus Group discussion
 - Update our survey questions
 - Develop an outreach strategy – reaching underserved communities, consider online and social media tools, etc.
 - Share any community outdoor recreation plans that you use are aware of
- Share outreach messaging with your people, partners and friends
- Review survey results and public feedback
- Develop the Plan recommendations

RecreationPlanning@delaware.gov



Role of the Technical Advisory Committee

Questions about your role?



What is your favorite outdoor recreation activity to do in DE?



What would you like to hear from community members, that would help your work?

What kind of connections/paths would make it easier to get to everyday destinations?

The youth need more indoor recreational space.

What is needed most in their community

what do you need to enable access to our site?

Getting kids of color or kids of poverty out into our parks.

Where they want new outdoor opportunities located

What shortcomings are there to access and availability of public outdoor rec opportunities? How much of a factor is cost (parking, entrance, etc) when deciding if/where to go?

What transportation they use to reach rec

How transportation impacts the ability to access outdoor recreation opportunities?

What would you like to hear from community members, that would help your work?

What recreation amenities would you like added to your community

Challenges to access

I would like to see an inventory of publicly accessible waterways where further parks can be established.

What kind of (free) organized sports/rec would you like to see in outdoor spaces?

Where they would like us to consider new amenities and more community input on design, especially for folks with disabilities and underserved communities.

How can we make more greenways/trails to connect green spaces?

Barriers to accessing parks

What they would like to see in our community parks and what are their outdoor interests.

feed back on the safety of your facilities

What would you like to hear from community members, that would help your work?

What amenities would you like added to your community

Do you want to see more or less hard infrastructure related to outdoor Rec? Do you want to see more or less natural spaces?

Opportunities for the establishment of further state parks on the western side of Sussex County in lower income areas.

How does institutionalized oppression (racism, classism, heteronormativity) impact outdoor recreation

What activities/amenities would encourage you to visit parks & spaces more frequently?

How do you & your family know when an outdoor rec activity is for you?

Town Halls

SurveyMonkey - with incentives for responses

Focus groups - offer incentives

What would you like to hear from community members, that would help your work?

Creation of Steering Committees involving community members who will be impacted. (WILMAPCO is great at this!)

Using QR codes to access survey on the spot

Reach the people who are not already using outdoor and rec spaces. Meet them where they are.



Overview

Evaluating the Survey

- Established trend data questions
- Recreation Activities
- Amenities and usage
- Demographics

Evaluating the Survey - Discussion

- Trend data questions:
 1. In general, how important is outdoor recreation in Delaware to you personally?
 2. Please tell me if you expect any member of your household, including yourself, to participate in each activity in Delaware during the next 12 months.
 3. Are there any other outdoor recreation activities in which any member of your household, including yourself expect to participate in the next 12 months?
 4. What other outdoor recreation activities do you expect to participate in the next 12 months?



Evaluating the Survey - Discussion

- Trend data questions:
 5. In which three of the activities I just read did you personally participate most often in the past 12 months?
 6. Overall, how would you rate the facilities available close to your home for participating in?
 7. Now please tell me the MOST IMPORTANT reasons you participate in outdoor recreation activities in Delaware.
 8. Thinking about the public outdoor recreation area you visit most frequently, what are the main reasons you choose this area?



Evaluating the Survey - Discussion

- Trend data questions:
 9. How do you usually get to the area that you visit most frequently?
 10. Which of the following would encourage you to participate or to participate more actively in outdoor recreation activities in Delaware?
 11. Is there anything else that would encourage you to participate or to participate more actively in outdoor recreation in Delaware?
 12. What facilities would you like to see added to a park in your community?
 13. If funding for parks and recreation areas was available, would you rather it be used to improve and enhance EXISTING areas or invested in NEW parks and recreation areas?



Evaluating the Survey - Discussion

- Trend data questions:
 14. How many children, age 17 or younger, do you have living in your household?
 15. What are the ages of the children living in your household?
 16. What is your zip code?
 17. What county do you live in?
 18. What races or ethnic background do you consider yourself?
 19. May I ask your age?



Share some successful strategies for obtaining public input.

Used survey monkey for CCMP revision. Got 300+ responses

Localized focus groups

Public information and Q&A meetings

Survey monkey, Constant contact for people that are apart of newsletters for the county, city or town.

Utilizing existing citizen groups (citizen advisory committee for example)

Delaware Humanities offers trained facilitators for community conversations.

Events with incentives, for example "Sip & Survey" and give out free coffee.

Make the survey available on line. Public meeting in each county.

Online surveys that take no more than 5-10 minutes

Share some successful strategies for obtaining public input.

Use existing community activities to reach the public (e.g., festivals, seasonal events, etc.) & go where people do life (e.g., places of worship, barbershops, salons, nail salons, etc.)

Attending town council and Community group meetings

Share the QR code with any and all partners for their distribution.

Go to them....churches, community functions, etc.

Outreach at outdoor community events

Community Based and Social Service organizations

HOA meetings

Use of community advocates. Involve the people who will be affected in the process.

Have in multiple languages.

Share some successful strategies for obtaining public input.

Signage with survey info. and QR codes posted at state parks

Local in-person and electronic workshops.

Use of a shared email for public comment..

Partnering with existing organizations to provide incentives for community participation.

Traffic. Parking cost. Entrance fees

Lack of decision maker familiarity.

Encouraging parents/guardians to get kids outdoors and off cell phones, etc

What are existing barriers to outdoor recreation?

Cost to enter a state park

To far to drive

Transportation to get to the nearest park or outdoor space.

Public transportation access limited

Bus routes not connecting to natural areas

Ticks!

Traffic. Parking fees. Entrance fees

Lack of decision maker familiarity. (Political climate.)

Transportation-public

What are existing barriers to outdoor recreation?

lack of access

Pedestrian access to parks missing or not safe

Work, life balance

Many areas are not connected. Greenway in Wilm. area is great but in Kent County there are not connectors other than via road.

Some people have no background knowledge on the recreation available, so they don't go. (There may be free disk golf and volleyball nets, but if you don't know the sport, why try it)

video games

Physical limitations

Low walk scores.

No easy way to get to some of the parks

What are existing barriers to outdoor recreation?

Lack of facilities in Sussex county outside state parks and limited municipal and npo sites

Lack of knowledge regarding what is available.

Unsafe neighborhoods that are located next to the park space

Limited or insufficient lighting to generate a feeling of safety.

Community crime

Deserts- fewer opportunities in certain areas of the state. Variety may also lack...could be lots of playground but no parks and that means there isn't a desert

Cognitive bias.

Many don't know what activities are available. Education campaign needed.

Lack of services to introduce folks to what Delaware offers in outdoor recreation like guided events

What are existing barriers to outdoor recreation?

Amenities do not match what public may want to see/do. No scuba options exist

fees for entry

Feeling like you don't belong in that space.

Hours- many locations do not offer access after dark

Gaps in decision maker versus appropriate /available funding contacts.

Lack of sufficient security to prevent vandalism or other related criminal issues conducted within state parks.

Lack of cell/wi-fi service so people can make tik tok videos

SCORP can be considered during transportation planning processes

How might the SCORP assist you in your work to support outdoor recreation?

identifying communities we are missing

Connecting decision makers with funding sources.

Help build partnership between state and NGOs for acquisition

Identify wants and needs of the community

Prioritization of future projects to maximize public utility

Show councilmen the need for growth and adding amenities to the community

Ensure strong connections to education system such as training, areas to use for projects and research, promoting environmental literacy, braiding funds

Identify current trends and community interest.

Finer geographic detail would help with community master plans

How might the SCORP assist you in your work to support outdoor recreation?

Help to inform comprehensive plan update

Identifying missing community connections and/or transit opportunities

Using results of survey as justification for additional programming.

SCORP can be considered during transportation planning and prioritization processes

Guidebook for future capital projects

When working with businesses that are looking to start or move to Delaware.

Documenting shortfalls in institutional capacities and funding available versus funding needs to stretch/reshape existing programs and perhaps instituting new programs to address these needs. SCORP documentation critical for public Ed.

Next Steps: TAC Focus Group Meetings



Develop and finalize the Survey questions

What would you want to know to better serve the recreating public?



Develop Outreach Methods

How should we collect input?
Can you help overcome barriers?



Develop RFP for Survey

Implement the survey!

Thank you for your
time, input & continued
participation!

Mike Tholstrup

Outdoor Recreation Planner

DE State Parks

RecreationPlanning@delaware.gov

[https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/parks/planning/
scorp-update/](https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/parks/planning/scorp-update/)

