



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 15, 2013

TO: Ms. Kendall Sommers, DNREC
Division of Parks and Recreation

FROM: ^{DM-P/jc} Daniese McMullin-Powell, Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: Draft 2013 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) Division of Parks and Recreation's Draft 2013 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). SCPD certainly appreciates the opportunity to provide commentary and has the following observations.

First, SCPD appreciates the inclusion of the general population data and the explanation of the importance of outdoor recreation (Section 3.3). SCPD would like to know if persons with disabilities were surveyed.

Second, the *Access for Persons with Disabilities* section is a good start to the discussion, but in the context of recreation, people with disabilities don't necessarily need to be a "demographic." Every page of this report should be inclusive of people with disabilities, and every park and recreation site and the related services should be accessible. Under Title II of the ADA, the State of Delaware is required to have its services, programs and activities accessible. This not only includes state parks, but also boating facilities, hiking/walking trails, picnic areas and playground facilities, to name just a few. This has been a requirement since the implementation of the ADA over twenty years ago. SCPD appreciates that DNREC has recently been collaborating with our Council and other disability related organizations (e.g. Center for Disabilities Studies, Architectural Accessibility Board). In addition, Parks and Recreation has made significant accessibility upgrades throughout the state, but there is still considerable work to be done in this context given that the system as a whole is still not accessible and the activities provided need to appeal to a vast range of disabilities.

Third, SCPD did not locate a discussion or need regarding accessible bikes in the plan. In addition, it did not appear to address accessible beaches and Mobi-Mats.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions or comments regarding our observations on the draft plan.

cc: Mr. Charles Salkin
Ms. Susan Moerschel
Mr. David Bartoo
Mr. Brian Hartman, Esq.
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
Developmental Disabilities Council

Recreation/dnrec/scorp 1-15-13