

National Park Service is Ready to Welcome Summer Visitors

By Kathy Sandt

BUSHKILL, PA- Employees at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area have been busy gearing up and getting facilities ready for a busy summer season. The 70,000-acre national park unit in PA and NJ and was the 14th most-visited national park unit in the country in 2022 with 4.4 million visits recorded.

"We've been planning ahead, hiring seasonal staff, preparing sites, and getting the park ready to welcome the influx of visitors we are expecting as the weather warms," said Zach Piotrowski, Outdoor Recreation Planner for the park. "But for the best trips, we recommend that visitors plan ahead too." To learn how to Plan Like a Park Ranger visit the park's website for tips.

Get information online, by phone, or in person:

- Visit the park website at www.nps.gov/dewa.
- Follow us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/DelWaterGapNPS.
- Stop in at Park Headquarters: The visitor center at Park Headquarters is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9 am to 4:30 pm excluding federal holidays.
- Call the information desk at Park Headquarters at (570) 426-2452 during business hours.
- Dingmans Falls Visitor Center is open to the public from 9 am to 4:30 pm, Saturdays and Sundays from May 27 until June 25, including Memorial Day. The visitor center will be open Fridays through Mondays from June 30 to September 4.



Take a Hike: With approximately 150 miles of trails in the park, including 22 miles of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, there is a trail for everyone, whether an avid hiker or just starting out. Visit the park website for directions and information on hiking trails.

Some trails, including waterfall trails and the trails to the tops of Mt. Tammany and Mt. Minisi are very busy and can be crowded on weekends. Parking areas for popular trails often fill very early in the day during the busy summer season, especially on weekends. Piotrowski suggest that visitors arrive early and have "back-up" plans to visit different destinations in the park in case the area they would like to visit is already at capacity.

Cool Off In, or On, the River: All beaches and boat/canoe launches are open for the season. A \$10/car fee is charged 7 days a week; annual passes are available for \$45. Call the visitor information desk at Park Headquarters for information on where passes can be purchased.

- The park operates three beaches: Milford and Smithfield Beaches in PA and Turtle Beach in NJ. Beaches are not lifeguarded. Life jackets are recommended for anyone entering the water. They are.
- The hand-launch access at Cadoo Recreation Site in NJ will be open Monday morning through Friday evening and is closed on weekends; there is no charge to use the access.
- Visit the O.B- bring your own boat.

Park rangers remind visitors to always wear a properly fitted and fastened US Coast Guard-approved lifejacket when on or near the water. Lifejackets must be worn by children 12 and under while aboard any vessel. Lifejackets save lives, but they only work if they are worn and worn properly.



RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Residential and Commercial Façade Improvement Programs are designed to help improve the exterior appearance and condition of residential and commercial properties within the four boroughs. The program's goals are to maintain historical and architectural integrity, improve neighborhood appearance, and help property owners make exterior repairs to their homes or businesses while increasing property values for all borough residents.

ABOUT SLATE BELT RISING

Slate Belt Rising is a neighborhood revitalization initiative designed to integrate and capitalize on the substantial assets of the individual Slate Belt boroughs of Wind Gap, Pen Argyl, Bangor, and Portland. While Slate Belt Rising specifically targets these four boroughs, some initiatives promote development and coordination of services throughout the entire region.

More information is available on our website under the Services tab, including program guidelines and applications Visit slatebeltrising.org.

PROGRAM OF COMMUNITY ACTION

Community Action Lehigh Valley is an anti-poverty non-profit offering programs and services in Advocacy, Business Start-Up and Development, Food Access and Nutrition, Housing, Neighborhood Revitalization, and Youth.



Contact Brian Fenstermaker at bfenstermaker@caclv.org or 484-523-0900 with any questions.



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