

## Deauville Beach Transition FAQ's

### 1. Why is the state assuming management of Deauville Beach from the City of Rehoboth?

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control initially leased 21.56 acres known as Deauville Beach to the City of Rehoboth Beach in 1975. The original lease was extended multiple times, with the most recent 10-year lease including a one-time fee of \$2,500, which expired June 30, 2023. Deauville Beach includes approximately a 600-yard section of state-owned beach between the northern end of Rehoboth Beach and the Henlopen Acres.

The DNREC Division of Parks and Recreation had worked with the city on a new lease with a provision that included a percentage of gross revenues generated from daily entrance be returned to the state. An agreement was not reached, and DNREC and the City of Rehoboth Beach mutually agreed that the DNREC Division of Parks and Recreation would assume management responsibility of the state-owned property in 2024 to include providing lifeguards, parking, beach concession, tennis courts, public restrooms and beach maintenance. Deauville Beach will become part of the Cape Henlopen State Park management unit.

### 2. What will be the cost to park at the Deauville Beach parking lot?

The DNREC Division of Parks and Recreation is evaluating the previous fee structure under City of Rehoboth Beach operations; daily entrance fees and a seasonal pass will be proposed for use of Deauville Beach. The division wants to ensure that the daily entrance fees are reasonable when compared with the city to avoid the property becoming a discounted overflow lot used for parking and walking into Rehoboth Beach. The goal is to have the lot support the recreational activities at Deauville Beach.

The DNREC Division of Parks and Recreation is developing an operating budget for Deauville Beach where proposed fees support the direct operational costs to manage and maintain the property.

Given the timing for the transition, the division did not begin to charge entrance fees on March 1 this year, the start of the annual fee season at Delaware State Parks. It is anticipated that the automated fee machines (Parkeon) and staff responsible for collection of daily entrance fees will be in place prior to Memorial Day weekend.

The Deauville Beach fee proposal will be presented in a virtual meeting on Wednesday March 27 at 6:00 p.m. [dnrec.delaware.gov/events/deauville-beach-community-meeting/](https://dnrec.delaware.gov/events/deauville-beach-community-meeting/)

### 3. What will be the hours for the parking lot?

The lot will be accessible from 8 a.m. to sunset daily. A daily entrance fee is charged in all Delaware State Parks from March 1 to Nov. 30, from 8 a.m. to sunset.

### 4. Will lifeguard service be available at Deauville Beach?

The award-winning Delaware State Beach Patrol will provide lifeguard service in 2024 from Saturday, May 25 through Monday, Sept. 2. Anyone interested in becoming part of the Delaware State Parks Beach Patrol can find details at [www.destateparks.com/beachpatrol](https://www.destateparks.com/beachpatrol)

The Delaware State Beach Patrol will work in collaboration with the Rehoboth Beach Patrol for emergency assistance and response as requested by either patrol. This is routinely done with other ocean guarded locations and their beach patrols.

**5. Who will be responsible for enforcement issues on Deauville Beach?**

DNREC Natural Resource Police will be responsible for enforcement of state park rules and regulations and all state laws and jurisdictions. DNREC Enforcement is coordinating closely with Rehoboth Police. [9201 Regulations Governing State Parks \(delaware.gov\)](http://delaware.gov)

**6. What concession services will be available?**

The DNREC Division of Parks and Recreation will continue to provide beach concession operations and food service, tennis operations, etc. The division has similar operations at all ocean parks including Cape Henlopen, Delaware Seashore and Fenwick Island state parks.

**7. Operation of tennis courts, who will operate?**

The division anticipates operating the tennis operation under a concessionaire as was previously done by the city.

**8. How will trash and beach cleaning be handled?**

DNREC's Division of Parks and Recreation will implement the Delaware State Parks carry in, carry out program that has been in place statewide at all 17 Delaware State Parks since 1994. This program has proven to keep ocean beaches cleaner and safer by reducing the number of bees, wasps and other pests.

**9. Will Deauville Beach sweeping/cleaning continue?**

The division will sweep the beach just as it does at all other Delaware State Parks ocean beach locations.

**10. Will the state be providing beach access mats?**

The Division will be providing beach access mats at select crossing and additional mats as funds are available.

**11. Will dogs be permitted on the beach?**

Under Delaware 9201 Regulations Governing State Parks, regulation 14.4.1, states "Except service animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, dogs and other domesticated animals shall not be permitted upon or within any Division-administered swimming area, or swimming area beach or surfboard/sailboard areas at anytime, day or night, from May 1 through September 30 each year."

**12. Will all existing walkways from Surf Avenue over the dunes remain?** There are no plans to change any of the existing walkways.

**13. Will access to Deauville be limited to the parking lot entrance, now or in the future?**

There are no changes to accessing Deauville Beach from the existing communities and streets including but not limited to Pennsylvania, Oak, Park, Columbia and Henlopen avenues near Deauville Beach. Walk-in visitors will not be charged.

**14. Will the existing bike racks remain?**

Bike racks will be provided.

**15. Will fishing be allowed as it is in state parks?**

Under Delaware 9201 Regulations Governing State Parks, regulation 21.6.1 states that "Fishing is not permitted in designated swimming areas."

**16. Will large tents and canopies be allowed on the beach?**

Sun canopies will be permitted on the beach. [9201 Regulations Governing State Parks \(delaware.gov\)](http://delaware.gov)

**17. Will bonfires be permitted?**

Bonfires will not be permitted on the swimming beach.

**18. Will umbrellas and chairs be available on the beach?** Yes, the division will provide beach concession services.

**19. What is the plan for restroom facilities at Deauville Beach?**

No changes are anticipated. The DNREC Division of Parks and Recreation will continue to provide portable toilets including ADA-accessible units.