

Park Prepares for Summer Visitors

By Kathleen Sandt / Public Affairs Specialist National Park Service

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 10th most-visited national park unit in the country in 2020 with 4.1 million visits recorded.

"This summer, our visitors will see our staff stationed at busy sites throughout the park where we can best serve the public's needs. We're going to put our focus where our visitors are and where we can be of most assistance," said Superintendent Sula Jacobs of the park's summer plans. "We've been planning ahead and getting the park ready to welcome our visitors," she added. "But for the best trips, we recommend that visitors plan ahead too."



Get information online or by phone:

Call the information desk at (570) 426-2452.

Follow us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/DelWaterGapNPS.

Visit the park website at www.nps.gov/dewa.

The health and safety of our visitors and our employees is our top priority. Prior to visiting the park, visit the Current Conditions section of our website for up-to-date information on important public health and safety measures that are in effect related to stopping the spread of Covid-19. Some services remain limited or unavailable.

Accessibility: For information on accessible facilities in the park visit the park's website or call (570) 426-2434. Audio files of wayside exhibits located throughout the park can be downloaded from the website before visiting: Wayside Audio - Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov).

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. The hand-launch access at Cadoo Recreation Site in NJ is open Monday morning through Friday evening and is closed on weekends; there is no charge to use the access.

Lifeguards will be on duty at Milford Beach from 10 am to 6 pm, Thursday through Monday, beginning June 20 and ending August 28.

Inflatable pool toys are not permitted within designated swimming areas and lifejackets are recommended when lifeguards are not on duty.

Visit the park website for a list of businesses in the area that rent canoes, kayaks, tubes, and rafts and provide transportation; or B.Y.O.B- bring your own boat.

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.

Go for a Ride...or a Drive: The McDade Trail in PA is a great place to ride your bike (and it's the only trail in the park where bikes are permitted). Visit our website for information on bicycle rentals in the area.

Take a scenic drive and enjoy the views.

The upper section of Blue Mountain Lakes Road and Skyline Drive will be open to vehicles on weekdays beginning May 10. They will remain closed to vehicles on weekends, from Friday at dusk until noon on Monday. These roads will be closed to all users later in the summer for road work including re-grading, resurfacing, and drainage improvements. Updates will be posted on our website and on our Facebook page as construction schedules are finalized.

Freeman Tract Road off River Road in Middle Smithfield Township will be closed weekends, closing on Friday evenings and re-opening on Monday mornings, beginning May 10.

Planned Construction/Road Work: Additional information is available on the park's website and project updates will be posted to the park's Facebook page. Scheduled road repair and construction projects include:

Mountain Road in NJ will remain closed to vehicles due to construction on a historic culvert. The road is open to pedestrians wishing to visit Buttermilk Falls.

Old Mine Road near Watergate in NJ will be open, but motorists may experience single-lane closures with traffic control due to ongoing construction in the area through July.

The dirt section of National Park Drive in the Slateford Farm area is closed to vehicles due to construction.

Route 209 near Adams Creek will be closed evenings from 9 pm to 5 am from June through July due to construction work on the bridge over the creek. A detour to and from the Milford area will be in place via Route 739 and Milford Road.

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