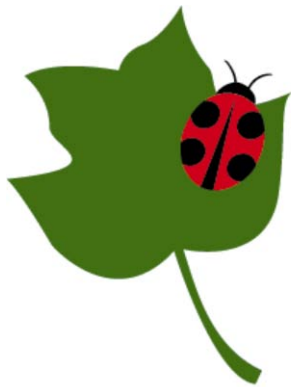


Park Watch/Trail Stewards

Northern Delaware Greenway Trail

Volunteer Guide



Delaware State Parks



THANK YOU ...

...for becoming a Delaware State Parks Park Watch/ NDG Trail Steward!

If you are a user of the trail, you already know what a beautiful and wonderful resource this is and we appreciate your willingness and efforts to help others enjoy the trail and have a meaningful trail experience. This is a wonderful partnership program through Delaware Greenways Inc and Delaware State Parks. In addition, New Castle County and Delaware Department of Transportation are also involved, helping to preserve, promote and ensure a safe, rewarding trail experience on the Northern Delaware Greenway Trail.

This brief Manual has been prepared to give you guidance and tips on becoming an effective Park Watch/Trail Steward. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have or for ways that we might assist you.

THANK YOU once again for becoming a Park Watch/Trail Steward!

WHAT'S NEXT?

You've filled out the forms, had your background checked, been through an interview and attended the training. What now? Simply put....BEGIN PATROLLING. You will be receiving a uniform and photo id, along with a Park Pass shortly. But how do you go about being a Park watch/Trail Steward? The outline below provides the guidance:

A. Start to Patrol

1. Self Scheduled- you decide when, how and where
2. How
 - a. Walking, jogging, biking
 - b. Alone or in company
 - c. Dogs allowed (on leash)
 - d. Uniform preferred, but not required. Photo ID on hand.
3. DUTIES- as situation and comfort level allows
 - a. You are an Ambassador on the trail: **NO enforcement. Always positive and pleasant. Non-confrontational.**
 - b. "Eyes and Ears"- simple reporting on what is **observed** during patrol; approximate number and type of trail users, maintenance concerns, safety issues, littering spots, dogs off leash, etc. What you see of interest.
 - c. EMERGENCIES- called in immediately for help (Kent Com 911)
 1. Behavior or activities that pose safety risk to other trail users
 2. Accidents or injuries
 - d. Education/Awareness- conversing with visitors to educate them about use, care and rules of the trail.
 1. Addressing observed issues in non-confrontational, educational manner- carry in-carry out, dogs off leash, bicycle helmets, etc
 2. Features of the Trail, helpful information, promotion of the NDG
 3. Activities/ programs/ events

e. Join Us- encouraging others to volunteer

1. Become a Park Watch/Trail Stewards Volunteer
2. Share opportunity to volunteer in other ways

B. Reporting

1. After your patrol, complete The Park Watch report and email to:
Glen.Stubbolo@state.de.us
2. Complete the actual Form or simply answer in the body of the email
3. Include:
 - a. Date and Time
 - b. Section of Trail
 - c. Approximate number and type of trail users
 - d. **Brief** report on Observations and actions
4. The information from the report is forwarded to appropriate unit
5. Follow-up also done on any Emergency reports to enforcement
6. You do NOT have to contact anyone else for follow up.

C. Other Activities- these are opportunities that may be available for you to participate in. These will not be mandatory, but hopefully will be of interest to you.

1. Training opportunities
 - a. First Aid/CPR
 - b. Features Programs: Bellevue Hall, Trail Maintenance (Dave Bartoo & Trails Crew), etc.
 - c. Other activities for Participant Development
2. Volunteer
 - a. Trail maintenance
 - b. Special events
 - c. Information/Awareness Activities

The following pages offer tips from Capt. Steve Savidge, the creator of the Park watch Program and a Regional Supervisor for Delaware State Parks Enforcement Section. In addition there is some information on Trail Etiquette, and Handling Situations and Conflict (should it arise). Finally there is a copy of the Park Watch/Trail Stewards Report.

Once again- thank you for your help. Please contact us with any questions.
I can be reached at 302-739-9179.



Glen Stubbolo,
Chief of Community and Volunteer Services,
Delaware State Parks
Phone: 302-739-9179
Glen.Stubbolo@state.de.us

We're saving a place for you!

PARK WATCH TIPS

VIOLATIONS

Capt Steve Savidge

Pet Violations – Pet violations make up about 90% of Park Watch contacts. While pets are welcome they pose a great danger to wildlife and easily disturb other visitors. Pets are always prohibited on: nature trails, picnic areas, park buildings and seasonally on swimming beaches. When pets are in the park they need to be on a leash at all times. Common excuses are: “there wasn’t anyone else around”, “I thought that it was only during the summer months”, “my pet is well behaved”. The bottom line is in order for pets to continue to be welcome in Delaware State Parks the pet owners need to be responsible and have them on a leash and keep them out of prohibited areas. Pets are unpredictable, in the past 21 years I have been involved with multiple bite cases and all of the owners have commented that their pet has never done anything like it before.

Visitors in Restricted Areas – In general we prefer that visitors stay on the designated trails or in the public use areas. At the beach parks trespassing in the dunes complaints are second only to pet off leash complaints. We are more sensitive about some areas: areas where artifacts may be prevalent, bird nesting areas, areas where there are endangered or sensitive animal or plant species.

Bicycle Helmets – Although bicycle helmets are recommended for all riders, they are required for all children under the age of 16 yrs. Parents of children are responsible for their children’s helmets and may be fined up to \$50.00 if their child is found riding without one. Bicycle helmets reduce brain injuries by about 80% in bicycle crashes.

Bikes on Unauthorized Trails – Bicycles are only allowed on roads designated for public use, bike trails or multi-use trails designated and signed for bicycle usage. Bicycles can cause a significant amount of damage if ridden in the wrong area. Some of our trails may be closed to bicycles after periods of rain to minimize damage to the trail.

EMERGENCY: KentCom: 911

CONTACT INFO:

Delaware State Parks: Glen Stubbolo 302-739-9179
Glen.Stubbolo@state.de.us

Delaware Greenways Inc Michele Jennings 302-655-7275
MJennings@delawaregreenways.org

Trail Courtesies

- Obey all trail and traffic signs.
- Cyclists and skaters must yield to pedestrians.
- Give audible warnings before passing.
- Respect private property and other trail users.
- Dog owners police your animals. On lease; don't allow your pet to annoy or bite other trail users.
- Dog owners must clean up waste in garbage containers.

Trail Safety Tips

DO NOT LEAVE VALUABLES IN YOUR CAR!

Nothing ruins a fabulous trail experience then having your car broken into at the trailhead.

Car break-ins at trailheads are relatively rare, but they do happen, and they tend to cycle from area to area.

Here are some safety tips for you:

- Do not leave anything valuable in your car. Wallets, cameras, iPods, and other electronic equipment seem to be a target.
- Remember that the glove compartment and trunk are not safe. It is easy for a thief to break a window and pop open your trunk from inside the car.
- Remember that trailhead thieves are not looking to steal cars, they are looking for credit cards and electronic equipment they can quickly sell for cash.
- If you do experience a break-in, be sure to report it to law enforcement authorities. This helps us determine where the problem areas are and try to provide better surveillance.

Rules and Regulations

- Bike helmets are required.
 - Helmets are advised for skaters and riders.
 - Cyclists must use head and tail lights after dark.
 - Obey 10 MPH speed limit and traffic regulations.
 - Motorized vehicles are prohibited on trail corridor. (Electric wheelchairs excepted)
-
- All pets must be on a leash no longer than 8 feet or confined and under control at all times.
 - Pet owners are required to remove pet waste.
 - Park only in designated areas.
-
- No overnight stay.
 - No jumping from bridges or trestles.
 - **Possession of alcoholic beverages are prohibited.**
 - No firearms, fireworks, or open fires are allowed.

EMERGENCIES: KentCom: 911

Medical – Before you call 911 think about where you are so you can give the proper location. Be ready to supply the: age, sex, nature of the injury and whether the injured visitor is conscious and/or breathing.

Enforcement – Park Rangers and/or local police officers should be called for all serious complaints: fighting (verbal or physical), drugs, intoxicated subjects, damage to property and any act or behavior that could result in serious physical injury or death to a park visitor.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Education – Our motto is information and education first then enforcement. Know the park rules and regulations and advise visitors when they are in violation. Park Watch Volunteers are asking for compliance not demanding it.

Safety – Remember that we have children and elderly people visiting our parks and we need to make sure that other visitors are recreating in a manner that reflects that. Serious safety issues should be reported immediately.

Liaisons – Park Watch Volunteers act as liaisons between the public and the park staff and be a sounding board for their concerns or ideas. You are encouraged to empower the community to actively participate in crime prevention and safety programs. Be active listeners and explain park policies if needed.

Recruitment – Many visitors will ask you about the Park Watch program and will want to get involved themselves. Know how to get them in touch with a volunteer coordinator or send them the Delaware State Parks website.

REPORTING:

- Please complete the following report and submit via email to Glen.Stubbolo@state.de.us.
- You may use the actual form or simply reply in the body of the email message to the areas requested. Include your name in the report, as email address may not identify you.
- Please make certain to submit a report, even if there is nothing to report. “Nothing to report” is information in itself.
- You do not have to contact the park or other entities concerning your reported items. Once you submit your report, appropriate units will be notified of information, especially those requiring immediate attention.

**Northern Delaware Greenway
Park Watch Report
Glen.Stubbolo@state.de.us
302-739-9179**

Date	Volunteer	Patrol Start Time	Patrol End Time	Total Time
------	-----------	-------------------	-----------------	------------

TRAILS PATROLLED:

Approximate number of trail users:

Walkers: _____ Joggers: _____ Bicyclists: _____ Other: _____

OBSERVATIONS/COMMENTS: (Maintenance, Safety, Dogs, Litter, etc)

Conversations with Trail Users: (Number of users you spoke with= _____)

Emergency/ First Aid:
