New Castle County Department of Special Services

Welcome to New Castle County parks!

We offer a wide variety of recreational opportunities to residents of all ages and interests from our flagship Rockwood, Glasgow and Carousel parks, to miles of trails in the Middle Run Valley Natural Area to athletic fields, dog parks and so much more in neighborhoods throughout our county.

Whether you are looking for a walking trail to explore the outdoors, a playground for your kids, or a pocket of scenic open space to reflect and unwind, you are just minutes away from one of the 247 parks in our county park system.

I invite you to visit www.nccde.org/parks to learn more about our county parks, download park and trail maps and reserve a park facility for your next social gathering.

Matthew Meyer
County Executive

RULES AND REGULATIONS: SUMMARY

1. HOURS - All New Castle County parks are open year-round. Hours of operation are dawn to dusk, except with permission of the Department.

2. TEMPORARY CLOSURE - The General Manager has the authority to temporarily close a museum or the grounds when required by Public Health, Safety and Welfare.

3. MOTOR VEHICLES - No motor vehicles shall be driven except in areas specifically designated for their use. All motor vehicle laws of the State of Delaware must be followed.

4. POSTING - No signs or markers can be put in place, except with written permission of the Department. Sales or solicitation are also generally prohibited.

5. ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND GAMBLING - Consumption, possession or sale of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is prohibited. Gambling is also prohibited.

6. DAMAGE AND DUMPING - Vandalism of trees, shrubs, plants, turf, rocks, buildings, fences, bridges, signs, stream water quality or any other natural or man-made asset of the park is prohibited. Nothing may be dumped in the park.

7. FIRE - No fires shall be kindled.

8. SAFETY OF ANIMALS - No one shall trip, snare, shoot, poison, injure, assault or disturb any wild animal or bird or damage any nest.

9. DISORDERLY CONDUCT - Threatening, abusive, insulting or indecent language, obscene or indecent actions and fighting are prohibited.

10. WEAPONS - No one shall carry any knife having a blade three (3) inches or longer on the grounds. The possession or discharge of BB guns, air guns, firearms, bows and arrows or any lethal weapon is prohibited.

11. ACTIVITIES - Entertainment, demonstrations or exhibitions are prohibited, except with the approval of the Department.

12. GROUP FUNCTIONS - Permits for group activities should be obtained in advance from the Department.

13. NOISE - Loud music is not permitted. Please be respectful of your neighbors.

14. DOGS - Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times, unless they are enjoying the Bark Park area. Please, pick up after your dog.

15. SMOKING - Use of tobacco of any form is prohibited on County owned premises.

Carousel Park... A Celebration of the Senses

► See It
No matter what the season, visitors are treated to a cornucopia of sights. Splendid colors abound and breathtaking vistas appear at every turn. And, because places this beautiful are always beyond description, bring along a camera or an artist’s palette to capture any one of the many pastoral scenes.

► Feel It
The Carousel Park is a park that reaches out and touches its patrons. Visitors are enveloped by the sun’s warmth, cooled by the shaded forest, and restored by the fresh air.

► Taste It
Lunch alfresco in this nature preserve is a culinary extravaganza for our patrons. Visitors are enveloped by the sun's warmth, cooled by the shaded forest, and restored by the fresh air.

► Smell It
A fresh outdoor scent perfumes the air in Carousel Park leaving our patrons with an olfactory memory that will long outlast the experience. All types of flora perfume the air, from wildflowers to shrubs.

► Hear It
Park patrons delight in the cacophony of natural sounds as songbirds call to one another, owls screech, brooks laugh, and winds whistle through the trees. And, perhaps most magical of all, Carousel Park visitors rejoice and revel in the peaceful sounds of silence softly punctuated by the neighing of nearby playful horses roaming the meadows.

Spend an hour, an afternoon, or a day in Carousel Park, and you’ll find it’s a celebration of the senses.

Scenic Horse and Hiking Trails

Camelot March
From the Enchanted Lake Circle this uphill and partially wooded .11 mile trail, color-coded blue, connects to the Indian’s Passage and parallels the rolling Excalibur Field.

Carousel Loop
The longest trail in the park, this 2.8 mile trail, color-coded purple, provides visitors with connections to many of the other trails while passing many well-known landmarks such as Dickinson High School. This well-constructed perimeter walking trail has varying terrain which allows visitors the opportunity to explore and exercise at their own pace. One popular excursion will take you through Sherwood Forest to the Enchanted Lake via “The Enchanted Lake Circle.”

Carousel Parkway
The Carousel Parkway is a .34 mile steep trail, color-coded yellow, overlooking Huckleberry Hill and the Blue Lagoon. It also gives you magnificent distant views of Enchanted Lake. From this trail you have access to one of the main parking lots, and the Carousel Loop.

Enchanted Lake Circle
This .91 mile loop, color-coded orange, follows the outside perimeter of the Enchanted Lake and Sherwood Forest. The lake is a great place to fish, picnic, enjoy the sun, and observe aquatic wild life. This trail connects with many of the park’s smaller hiking trails.

Enchanted Lake Promenade
The Enchanted Lake Promenade is a .25 mile steep path, color-coded gray, which provides a breathtaking view of the Enchanted Lake and the surrounding fields. From the crest of the hill on a clear day one can see the city of Wilmington and the Delaware Memorial Bridge “Twin Span.” This path is often a “do over” event for the first time visitor.

Indiana’s Passage
This .34 mile fully enclosed trail, color-coded pink, looks up at Strawberry Field and connects with the Concourse of the Princess and Trail of the Giants. This path gives you the opportunity to skirt the meadow just out of sight but close enough to observe wildlife undetected.

Lady Marion’s Walk
This path can be your departure point from the public parking lot nearest to Limestone Road. This .33 mile path, color-coded green, provides a good overlook of the moonlight pond. (For a closer view connect to the Carousel Loop and follow it around to the smaller foot bridge at the end of the lake.) However, it is scenic enough to follow this path down to Enchanted Lake. When Lady Marion felt the need to be alone, she would walk this secluded, densely vegetated trail “to get away from it all.”

Secret Escape Route
This .34 mile trail, color-coded red, will give a visitor access to the most enchanting jungle-like environment in the park. This trail takes you past the Blue Lagoon and joins Enchanted Lake Circle at Leprechaun Falls. Take the wooded bridge just off the trail and get connected with the Carousel Loop.

All photos: NCC

The Carousel Park Main Office is open during business hours Monday-Friday, phone (302) 995-7670.

Park Trail Guides are available for Carousel Park, Glasgow Park, Iron Hill Park, Middle Run Natural Area, and Rockwood Park & Museum. To obtain a copy, visit your local library, or contact the NCC Public Works at 302-395-5700 or NCC Community Services at 302-395-5606.

Online maps and additional information on New Castle County’s park system is available at www.nccde.org/parks

Respect The Living Earth