



PRESERVE_{OUR}PARK.ORG

Cape Henlopen State Park



• **Elaine Simmerman**

• **Joe Pika**

Nov 19, 2024

Battle vs. Bar/Restaurant on the Dunes 2022-2023

- **DNREC proposal → 250-person march on Cape Henlopen Drive**
- **DNREC Workshop December → 1,000 people, 61/62 speakers against, DNREC announcement to “pause” the proposal**
- **Launched successful effort, championed by Sen Russ Huxtable, to protect park via legislation**
 - **SB 6 passed unanimously, amending the Warner Grant (1682 land grant)**

Today's Battle: New Bathhouse on the Dunes

- **One of 10 new proposed projects at CHSP – July 31, 2024, Workshop**
- **Bathhouse most destructive**
 - **Modernizing needed: NOT ADA compliant; bathrooms; changing area**
 - **Build new bathhouse at different location on undisturbed dune**
 - **Demolish existing bathhouse – no effort to evaluate renovation**
 - **Ignores Park Master Plan Guidelines – “construction should be limited to locations that have already been disturbed”**
 - **Violates FY2025 Bond Bill: \$1 million for “coastal region bathhouse renovation and dune crossing”**



SENATOR DAVID B. MCBRIDE BEACH BATHHOUSE

LIFEGUARD
37186
POST ROAD



Atlantic Ocean

The Point
P

Point Comfort Station
P

Seaside Nature Center
?

Picnic Pavilion
P

Tackle Shop
A

Youth Camps

New Crossing

Senator David B. McBride Beach Bathhouse
P

Parade Field

POP's Better Alternative

- **Renovate on same footprint**
 - **Eliminate snack bar and replace with food trucks nearby**
 - **Provides additional space for lifeguards and medical care**
 - **Avoids destruction of dune, interference with bird counts**
 - **Avoids other "mischief"**
 - **Work on one half at time; temporary bathrooms if necessary**
- **Environmentally more responsible – can't "rebuild" a dune**

Moving Forward

- **Actions to this point:**
 - **Discussed with park administrators**
 - **Discussed with state legislators**
 - **Expressed concerns to Meyer's transition team**
 - **Public awareness**
- **Join us – Contact Us at PreserveOurPark.org – join our facebook page**
- **Board meets monthly**
- **Financial contributions**

POP's Ongoing Efforts

- **Monitoring activities/plans at CHSP and of Division of Parks & Recreation within DNREC**
- **Cooperating with The Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park**
 - **Beach cleanup**
 - **Fund raising**
- **Dark Skies Initiative**
 - **Taken night-time readings, preparing recommendations**
 - **Working with city's environmental subcommittee**
 - **Working with like-minded groups on Delaware coast**