

# JUDGE MORRIS ESTATE

## WHITE CLAY CREEK STATE PARK



### Executive Summary

The Division of Parks and Recreation is seeking proposals from vendors to provide facility management at Judge Morris Estate and its surrounding grounds. The Division's goal is to attract and provide park patrons with unique event/activity opportunities. Vendors are encouraged to submit creative business proposals that may include, but are not limited to:

- Public event coordination services
- Creating and hosting public and private events
- Creation of a small table restaurant, catering service, distillery, brewery or a vineyard/ winery
- Creating a bed and breakfast
- Refurbishing facilities and outbuilding

*The Division will engage in a cost share for approved capital improvements.*



### History

The Judge Morris Estate, within White Clay Creek State Park in Newark, DE boasts a 1790's mansion appointed with period appropriate accessories, gardens and water features that well maintain the historic atmosphere both inside and out. The original two-story fieldstone house was built in 1798 and years later, Judge Hugh M. Morris who added the two-story modern kitchen wing and apartment purchased the property in 193. At the time of his death in 1996, Judge Morris left his estate to the University of Delaware where it was later acquired by the State Division of Parks and Recreation in 1998. The park is located just 3 miles from the University of Delaware and the town of Newark.



## About the Property

### Current operating capacities include:

- Full Operating Capacity
  - Estate (House & Grounds [with outdoor tent]): 125
  - House (first floor only): 49
- Handicapped accessible
- Kitchen facilities
- Easily accessible from I-95 and is within 45 minutes driving distance from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and two hours from New York City and Washington, D.C.

## About Delaware State Parks

- Our mission is to provide Delaware's residents and visitors with safe and enjoyable recreational opportunities and open spaces, responsible stewardship of the lands and the cultural and natural resources that we have been entrusted to protect and manage, and resource-based interpretive and educational services.
- Delaware State Parks welcomed more than 5 million visitors total statewide in 2017
- Received the 2015-16 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management from The National Recreation and Parks Association -- the smallest state ever to win
- Close to 1 million visitors per year view 10 million pages on the Delaware State Parks website at [destateparks.com](http://destateparks.com)
- 25,000 Delaware State Parks e-newsletter subscribers
- 17 current concessionaires and partners operate inside Delaware State Parks and we're always searching for partners specializing in opportunities outside of our expertise that offer an array of recreational opportunities to our 5 million visitors annually!

Questions regarding this RFP?  
Please contact Patricia Tanner  
[Patricia.Tanner@state.de.us](mailto:Patricia.Tanner@state.de.us)

