

# ALAPOCAS RUN STATE PARK BLUE BALL BARN

## Executive Summary

The Division of Parks and Recreation is seeking a Vendor to provide Catering and Event Booking & Management Services at the Blue Ball Barn, in Wilmington, DE 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 and private event coordination services
- Creating and hosting public and private events
- Weddings, meetings, festivals
- Catering services
- Capital investment projects including a food service building or non-permanent kitchen (food trucks)

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



## History

This extraordinary structure is named after the Blue Ball Tavern, an inn and meetinghouse that was once located near the barn property. During the 18th and early 19th centuries, innkeepers along stagecoach routes in Delaware, Pennsylvania and Ohio raised a pole with a blue ball attached when passengers needed to be picked up. In 1914, Alfred I. DuPont built the concrete and steel Blue Ball Barn for his new dairy farm. After DuPont's death, the dairy farm changed hands several times and was abandoned in 1977. The Blue Ball Barn is one of the few structures that remained when the State of Delaware purchased the property in 1999 and began renovations in 2004. The Blue Ball Barn was opened to the public in 2007.

## Alapocas Run at a glance

- 7+ miles of multi-use trails
- Folk Art Collection
- Can-Do Playground
- Athletic Fields
- Recreational Activities
- Biking, Rock Climbing, Disc Golf, Fishing, Horseshoes, Tennis, Volleyball



## About the Property

### Current operating capacities:

- Courtyard – 250 people (80' x 30' tent)
- Full Facility – 250 people
- Calving Room – 60 people
- Straw Room – 30-40 people
- Hay Room – 125 people
- Parking Facility (includes both a paved parking lot and unpaved overflow parking)
- Multipurpose outdoor area
- Tents may be used on grounds
- Updated restroom facilities
- Minutes from Route 202 and I-95
- Close proximity to the Northern Delaware Greenway Trail
- WiFi
- Wireless Sound System
- ADA Accessible
- LEED Certified Building
- Home to the Delaware Folk Art Collection

## 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 welcome more than 5 million visitors total statewide in 2017
- Received the 2015-16 National Gold Metal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management from The National Recreation and Parks Association – the smallest state to ever 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?  
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**Delaware State Parks**  
*We're saving a place for you*