

“Alternative Management Strategies for Beach Access Provision in Delaware”
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This research project aims to help fill in some of the management gaps that exist for beach access provision in Delaware. Beach access is a contentious issue in Delaware, where the public’s right of access intersects with the rights of private property owners. Traditionally beach access in Delaware has been provided for on a piecemeal basis, with the majority of access being provided through conditions on beach nourishment funding. While beach access in Delaware is not currently a problem, the population of Sussex County and the surrounding Mid-Atlantic region is rising, creating a potential for increased beach access needs. The current status of beach nourishment funding and regulations has created situations where Delaware lacks authority to provide for beach access. My research will investigate various options to increase Delaware’s authority in these situations, and evaluate the viability of these options. This will be accomplished through an examination of Delaware code, agency regulations and case law, where I will determine the current status of each method in Delaware law, and the potential success of these management options in the face of private property owners’ rights.