



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public forum on September 29 to discuss the future of Wilmington's city parks

New report on the economic value of parks will be unveiled

WILMINGTON – The Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH) announces a public forum to present new research on Wilmington's parks and to discuss the future of the city's park system. The event will be held on Tuesday, September 29 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Blue Ball Barn in Alapocas Run State Park (1914 West Park Drive, Wilmington, DE 19803).

The report summarizes research conducted by the Trust for Public Land – Center for City Park Excellence, and is expected to become an important planning tool for park improvements in Wilmington. This new study of Wilmington's city parks is based on techniques that have been utilized in other cities around the country to measure environmental, recreational, public health, property value, tourism, and social benefits of parks.

The agenda for the evening will include a presentation by Peter Harnik, lead researcher and Director of the Center for City Park Excellence followed by a public discussion facilitated by Hurley~Franks & Associates, an urban planning firm based in Philadelphia.

The event is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required. A light dinner will be served. For more information or to RSVP, contact Jen Bruhler, (302) 658-6262, ext. 107 or jbruhler@dehort.org.

Several partners collaborated with DCH to fund the new parks study including: the Division of Parks & Recreation, DNREC; Nemours Health & Prevention Services; Rotary Club of Wilmington; Wilmington Beautification Commission; and the Wilmington Department of Parks & Recreation.

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The **Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH)** cultivates greener communities by inspiring appreciation and improvement of the environment through horticulture, education and conservation. Founded in 1977, the Center's site in Trolley Square includes a 1.5 acre educational demonstration garden, a 3,000 volume lending library, an art gallery, a lecture hall and a greenhouse. DCH supports 16 active community gardens throughout the city of Wilmington; organizes park improvement projects, beautifies Delaware's roadsides with native vegetation; maintains the landscaping of many urban gateways, corridors, and streetscapes; leads regional conservation projects to enhance Delaware's urban forests; and provides

educational programs for children, teens, and adults. For more information, visit www.dehort.org