Park Planning in Light of Sea Level Rise and Climate Change

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Challenges

• Seas are rising
• Delaware is sinking
• More intense storm activity
• Increased wave damage
Natural Resource Impacts

• Tidal Wetlands at risk
  – 97% of tidal wetlands impacted at 0.5 meter scenario
  – 99% at 1.5 meters

• 381 miles of shoreline at risk
  – 24 miles on the Atlantic Ocean

• Protected Lands at risk
  – 37% to 44% of protected lands impacted by sea level rise
What about these people?
4.7 Million Visitors to Delaware State Parks Each Year
Tourism

• In 2008, Tourism was 5th largest industry
• Accounted for 8.3 % of total employment
• Brought in $408M in revenue
• Continues to grow
Park Planning

• Working on a 20 year life cycle
• Accounting for SLR in planning
• Moving/raising/retreating critical facilities
• Different materials in construction
Park Planning

- Adaptation over time
- Evacuation/emergency planning
- Reducing valuation of Wetlands in purchases
- Focus on transitional lands
Other areas of the State – Yorklyn
Other areas – Fort Dupont
Questions?