

Following the storm, sewer and water systems were introduced, spurring increased interest in the town and a modest period of development through the 1960s. By the mid 70s the area had attracted the interest of several developers. Around this same time, the state banned drinking in Whiskey Beach. This occurrence, combined with the lack of structure, or a strong police presence in Dewey, which was still an unincorporated town, made it the new favored spot for the displaced Whiskey Beach crowd.

In response to these problems, Dewey Beach became an officially incorporated town in order to make laws against behavioral crimes and hire police to enforce them. Over the next ten years, town officials and local police worked hard to reestablish order and rid Dewey of its “frontier town” image, in favor of the more family-friendly lifestyle it had known in the past. Today, Dewey Beach boasts a vibrant tourist trade and has become a popular summer destination for more than 30,000+ visitors each week. These summer visitors are attracted to the wide array of entertainment opportunities and the spectacular natural beauty Dewey Beach has to offer.

Officially incorporated as a municipality in 1981, the Town of Dewey Beach was one of the last of the fifty-seven cities and towns formally recognized by the State of Delaware. However, the history and culture of Dewey Beach spans more than a century. Today, the Town of Dewey Beach hosts an eclectic mix of full-time and seasonal residents, as well as many tens-of-thousands of daily and weekly visitors. Some of Dewey’s historic cultural resources, such as the old Boat House Restaurant, have been lost to time. However, the town has a number of culturally important structures and hosts a variety of cultural events, including:

- The Dewey Beach Lifesaving Station – Dating back to the late 1800s, the lifesaving station was moved from Dagsworthy Street to Highway 1 in 1947 and painstakingly restored by the Reader family in the late 1990s. A replica of the original life guard station was completed in 1987 on the Dagsworthy Street property and today serves both as the headquarters for the lifeguards and a town meeting facility.
- The Lions Club John Waples Memorial Playground (McKinley Ave.) – The playground contributes significantly to Dewey Beach’s cultural identity as a family-friendly vacation destination, while also providing an amenity for full-time residents.
- The Lighthouse at Lighthouse Cove (Dickinson Ave.) – An iconic landmark and popular meeting place on the Bay surrounded by restaurants for live music and open air dining.
- Sunset Park (Dagsworthy Ave.) and Monigle Park (Read Ave.) – These parks provide residents and visitors access to the Rehoboth Bay and beautiful, unobstructed views of one of the most important assets of this beach community, sunsets over the bay.
- Children and families – Dewey Beach offers weekly movies and bon fires with story telling on the beach, organized sports on the beach in the early evening, a Junior Lifeguard program, and environmental education programming. Dewey also permits activities the following types of activities on the beach when space permits doing so safely: ball throwing, volley ball, tether ball, kite flying, skim- and boogie boarding and surfing and surf fishing. Dewey hosts an annual Art Fair, Treasure Fest and Easter Egg Hunt on the beach (Spring), Clydsdale Horse parade and kids’ party

(Summer kick-off), Halloween Trick or Treat and a haunted beach bon fire (Fall), Christmas tree lighting and a New Year's Eve "Surfer Drop" (Winter).

- Dogs – Dewey Beach permits dogs on the beach (properly registered and under an adult owner's control) mornings before 9:30 am and evenings after 5:30 pm in the Summer, and all day long in the off season. Dewey Beach also annually hosts a number of dog-oriented events, including weekend-long events for Greyhounds (Reach the Beach/twice a year), Golden retrievers (Golden Rush/twice a year), Chihuahuas (Cinco de Mayo Races), "doodles" weekend, and others, each attracting hundreds of canine registrants and their families. There are many, many dog-friendly accommodations to choose from, including h/motels and rental houses.
- Music and writing – Dewey Beach is the home of several renown music venues and events. On any given evening during the Summer season, one can enjoy a variety of live music in more than a dozen locations; music that ranges from acoustic guitar to the Island Boyz, from live jam sessions to popular up-and-coming Delaware bands. Annually, Dewey hosts a writers' conference, its Music Fest, and an Elvis Festival, and participates with Rehoboth in an annual Jazz Festival.
- Kicking back – Dewey also has a culture of kicking back and enjoying the moment. Some typical events spread throughout the year include the Winter Gala, St. Pat's, Starboard's Opening, Running of the Bulls, Bacon Fest, and the property owners' End of the Summer Party. Dewey is home to a large number of group houses that embrace the Dewey vibe and take advantage of the benefits of ride/house sharing.
- Food and Beer – For a tiny town, Dewey has more than its share of places to eat; 27 restaurants and eateries in just 8 short blocks. There is, of course, pizza and more pizza, but also healthy foods, a salad-focused restaurant, a raw bar, Mexican, beach food, Thai food, your normal beach food, many upscale specialties, and the "Best Crab Cakes in Delaware". A number of restaurants focus on providing craft beers, and there are two micro-breweries now operational in Town.

In 2007 the Town adopted its first Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP, comp plan, or plan). The 2007 plan enumerated XX planning Goals, Objectives, and Recommendations. Over the past nine years XX of these have been achieved, while XX have not yet been begun. For many of the latter, it was determined that County, State and/or Federal support would be necessary for making any significant progress. Some of these issues have been re-addressed in this 2017 update, recognizing the need for coordination and collaboration with the cognizant entities and agencies.

Since 2007 Dewey Beach has seen some major developments and events:

- Review and amendment of the Towns Zoning Code (Chapter 185 of the Municipal Code) to align with the certified 2007 comp plan (2009).
- Plan updates. Interim reviews and certified updates of the 2007 comp plan in 2013 (five-year update) and 2015 (change in zoning district boundaries).

- Update of the Town's Flood Damage Reduction Code (Chapter 101 of the Municipal Code) to align with recent changes required by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (2015).
- Hurricanes Irene (2011) and Sandy (2012). These events required the evacuation of the Town and provided successful tests of the effectiveness of the Town's Emergency Response Plan. They also caused significant storm- and flood-related damage, emphasizing the reality of sea-level rise and resulting in a strategic focus on SLR issues and planning.
- Bayard Ave. Drainage Project. This was a million dollar infrastructure improvement project to alleviate chronic flooding in the Bayard/Bellevue Ave area. Supported in part by monies from the Town's Infrastructure Reserve Fund and a State loan, this project was preceded by numerous public meetings to discuss the problem and evaluate engineering options and studies.
- Ruddertowne Redevelopment (now Lighthouse Cove; bay block between Collins and Dickinson Aves.). Now entering Phase III of a planned \$XX million redevelopment that will include a Hyatt Place Hotel, luxury Residences at Lighthouse Cove condominiums, XX,000 square feet of retail space, three Dewey landmark restaurants and the BayCenter conference center, a re-nourished and expanded bay-side public beach area at the end of Collins Ave., and an expanded public bay walk.
- Financial Soundness. In 2008 Dewey Beach suffered a \$750,000 budget deficit; largely the result of the widespread 2007/2008 economic downturn. This was followed by the retirement of the long time Town Manager, appointment of two different Acting Town Managers, and a Town Manager who resigned after only two years in office. With the appointment of its current Town Manager in 201X, Dewey has shown positive budget results each year since 2013 and has built its reserve funds up to a level of \$X>X million (not including a restricted Beach Replenishment Fund of \$#>X million).

The town's goals, objectives, and the plan recommendations are spelled out in the next section.

x-xx. Community Vision and Plan Goals

VISION STATEMENTS TO BE PROVIDED BY TJ

(THE REST OF THIS SECTION TO BE UPDATED/REWRITTEN AT THE END OF THE PROCESS)

As an initial step in the comprehensive planning process, the Dewey Beach Comprehensive Plan Committee and Working Group wished to engage the members of the Dewey Beach community in order to objectively and democratically gauge the opinions of residents and property owners regarding a range of planning-related issues. The Plan Working Group developed a public participation project that involved a mailed written questionnaire, which would serve as the vehicle for public input and vision regarding the plan for the future of the town.

This public participation project was executed between July and September 2016, yielding a substantive collection of data and information to be used to guide the planning process. Based upon the results of the written questionnaire and input received from the Comprehensive Plan Working Group and local residents during a follow-up public meeting, a set of topic-specific plan goals and objectives were developed. A set of general goals was extracted from the town's charter and agreed upon as a good place to start by the Comprehensive Plan Working Group.

Overall, the public participation process in Dewey Beach lasted more than two years. Comprehensive Plan Working Group members attended an IPA planning training session at one of their first meetings related to the comprehensive plan, held in September 2004. Comprehensive plan meetings held from the fall of 2004 until the following summer regularly drew attendance in excess of 25, and at each meeting draft materials were distributed to most attendees. IPA staff also attended a civic meeting, along with Plan Working Group members, in the summer of 2005.

The Comprehensive Plan Working Group continued to hold meetings through the fall of 2005 and into the spring of 2006, discussing a variety of issues related to the plan. In the summer of 2006, the Plan Working Group held workshops to reach consensus on the development of one of the most important sections of the plan, future land use. Guided mainly by the town's solicitor, the Plan Working Group developed detailed language on future land use to establish the foundation for changes to the town's zoning ordinance, work that will follow the adoption and state certification of this plan. At a public meeting held in October 2006, the final draft plan was reviewed and numerous changes were approved by the Comprehensive Plan Working Group. The meeting concluded with the Working Group formally approving the final draft plan, with the revisions discussed, for forwarding to the Town Commissioners for their approval to forward to the State for PLUS review. In January 2007, the Commissioners unanimously approved accepting the draft plan, as amended by comments contained in the January 13, 2007, meeting minutes, and forwarding the draft plan to the State for PLUS review.

Nearly every planning meeting attended by IPA during the comprehensive-plan development process has effectively functioned as a public outreach meeting, due mainly to the enthusiastic participation of the Dewey Beach community. The public-participation process was also aided by periodic updates to the town's website and a significant amount of coverage in the local press.

x-xx. Goals of Town governance

Section 4 of the Charter of the Town of Dewey Beach enumerates five overarching goals for the general governance of the town and its residents:

1. Maintain peace and order.
2. Provide for the town's sanitation.
3. Protect the town's beauty.
4. Provide for the health, safety, convenience, comfort, and well-being of the population.
5. Protect and preserve all property, public and private.

x-xx. Planning Goals

The following are goals that have been reviewed and discussed by the CPDWG (*previously defined before this point*) and reflect the group's consensus objectives for making Dewey Beach a better, safer, and friendlier town that serves all the town's constituents and provides guidance for the next decades.

- The Town of Dewey Beach will be characterized by a respectful and diverse culture that values quiet enjoyment in harmony with vibrant day- and night-time activities.
- The Town of Dewey Beach will enable all stakeholder groups to contribute to Dewey's vibrancy, and to share in the costs and benefits of the Town's culture and commerce in a balanced way.
- The Town of Dewey Beach will achieve financial sustainability based on stable and predictable revenue sources and reasonable and predictable expenditures.
- The Town of Dewey Beach will invest in itself and become recognized as a gem of a Mid-Atlantic small beach town; clean, beautiful and vibrant.
- The Town of Dewey Beach will provide for the security and safety of all stakeholders within Town limits, including on its beaches and ocean and bay areas, in residential and commercial areas, and along Coastal Highway (SR-1).
- Dewey Beach town operations and governance will be recognized as efficient and effective in meeting the needs of this vibrant and evolving community.
- The Town of Dewey Beach will develop comprehensive business cases regarding the annexation of strategic areas of neighboring lands and communities to improve the long-term viability of the area and to protect the surrounding natural resources.
- The Town of Dewey Beach will preserve the existing character of the Town and the diversity of its surrounding natural resources, and protect them in perpetuity by appropriate municipal code and effective Town governance.
- The Town of Dewey Beach will take a leadership position in, and responsibility for, protecting and preserving the natural environment in and around Dewey.
- The Town of Dewey Beach will develop and maintain a strategy for long-term adaptation to sea-level rise that is supported by County and State policy, operations and funding.
- The Town of Dewey Beach's culture and commerce will extend throughout the Spring and Fall shoulder seasons.