

Membership Application

Make checks payable to Friends of Brandywine Springs. (Donations are tax-deductible)

Mail to FOBS

P.O. Box 5323

Wilmington, DE 19808-0323

- Family/Business \$25. Individual \$15.
 Student/Senior \$10. Sponsor \$50.
 Donor \$100.

(Applications for membership received after October 1 will expire December 31 of the following year)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Comments - Interests: _____

Help us uncover the legacy of fun and laughter!

Membership includes quarterly newsletter, regular meetings, archaeological digs, and social activities.

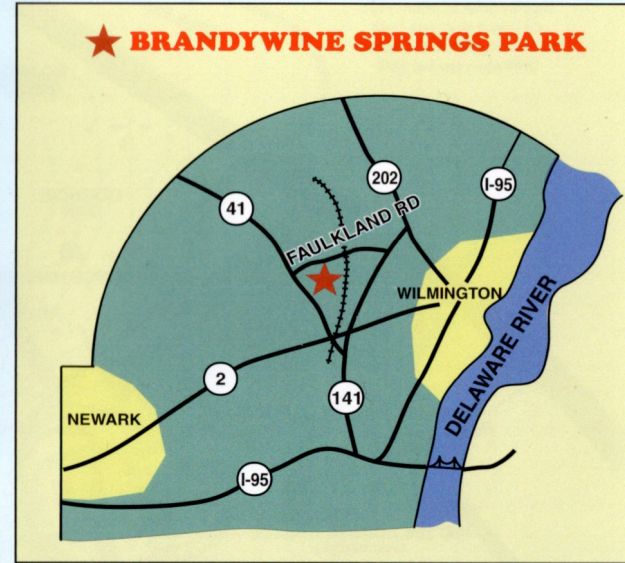
Check our schedule for free, open to the public, real archaeology digs, done on one Saturday a month in nice weather.

The Friends of Brandywine Springs (FOBS) is a nonprofit, all volunteer organization dedicated to the improvement and historical preservation of the Brandywine Springs Amusement Park. New Castle County Special Services Department now manages Brandywine Springs Park, located at Newport Gap Pike and Faulkland Road.

The Friends of Brandywine Springs do not intend to rebuild the amusement park. Our plan is to create a historical nature walk. We want to make a clear, safe trail for visitors to stroll through the park and learn a little Delaware history while enjoying the natural surroundings. The following are some of our primary goals:

- A handicapped accessible trail along the path of the old trolley line and down the old boardwalk. DONE!
- Footbridges across Hyde Run to create a continuous walking path. DONE!
- Signs with photos to explain what once stood at sites where foundations are visible. DONE!
- Preserve and protect the historical foundations, which remain today. DONE!
- Restore the lake. If not feasible, the lakebed could be cleared of brush. Then attractive grasses and water plants could be planted which would give the illusion of water, absorb excess water, and attract wild life.
- At various places in the park, control multiflora rose and honeysuckle. Plants which would attract wild life then could be introduced.
- Plant wildflowers on the hillside to help control erosion.
- Create a natural barrier of plants, trees, and shrubs to maintain the privacy of nearby residents.
- Continue research, including archaeological digs in conjunction with the Archaeological Society of Delaware, to find footings of the buildings and rides in the park and mark them appropriately.

Artifacts from the amusement park can be seen at the Friends of Brandywine Springs museum in the Red Clay Valley Visitors Center located at the Wilmington & Western Railroad's Greenbank Station on Route 41 near Prices Corner.



1913 photo of Lake Washington at Brandywine Springs Amusement Park. (Route 41 is in the background)

**Brandywine Springs
Souvenirs & Collectibles
available at the
Wilmington & Western Railroad
Gift Shop**

BRANDYWINE SPRINGS

HISTORIC AMUSEMENT PARK SITE

1886 - 1923

Wilmington, Delaware

Now a New Castle County Public Park



Friends of Brandywine Springs

P.O. Box 5323

Wilmington, DE 19808-0323

For more information call

(302) 454-8423 Ed

(302) 994-8929 Mark

www.fobsde.org

History of Brandywine Springs

The land at the southeast corner of Route 41 and Faulkland Road has had a storied past. Local Indian legends claimed the mineral springs had healing powers. In 1826 a four-story luxury hotel was built. Wealthy and notable people from up and down the East Coast came to the resort to escape the summer heat and drink the medicinal waters of the chalybeate (pronounced ka-LIB-e-at) spring. The hotel thrived until the 1840's when economic depression hit the country. In 1853 the hotel became a military school for boys; later that year it burned to the ground. In 1855 three nearby homes were joined together to form a new but smaller hotel. The second hotel enjoyed success until the Civil War. In 1869 Franklin Fell purchased the land and hotel. He leased it to several unsuccessful operators. When Fell died in 1875, his son, William Jenks Fell, inherited the property. In 1886 an industrious 36-year-old entrepreneur named Richard Crook leased the hotel. Thus began the most memorable era of Brandywine Springs.

Mr. Crook refurbished the hotel and added summerhouses, tennis courts, croquet, boating, and swimming. In 1888 he added picnic grounds and a small merry-go-round. By 1890 the picnic grounds and related activities were much more successful than the hotel. Soon Mr. Crook added other amusements, including a three-row carousel, two roller coasters, a bandstand, roller skating rink, and a funhouse, as well as a dance hall on the six-acre lake. A few years later, Mr. Crook started a trolley line with Brandywine Springs at the end of the line. The trolley brought many more people to the park. The park flourished until 1923. With the advent of the automobile and competition from other amusement parks, Brandywine Springs did not open in 1924. Local residents scavenged building materials, and the park became overgrown with weeds.

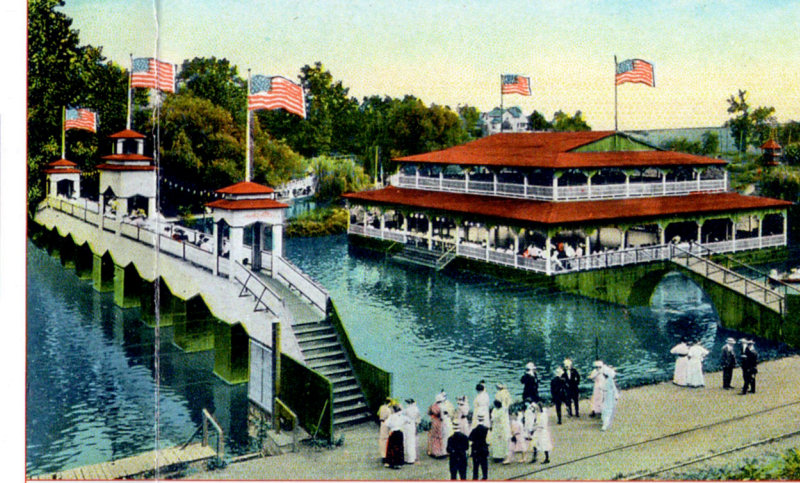
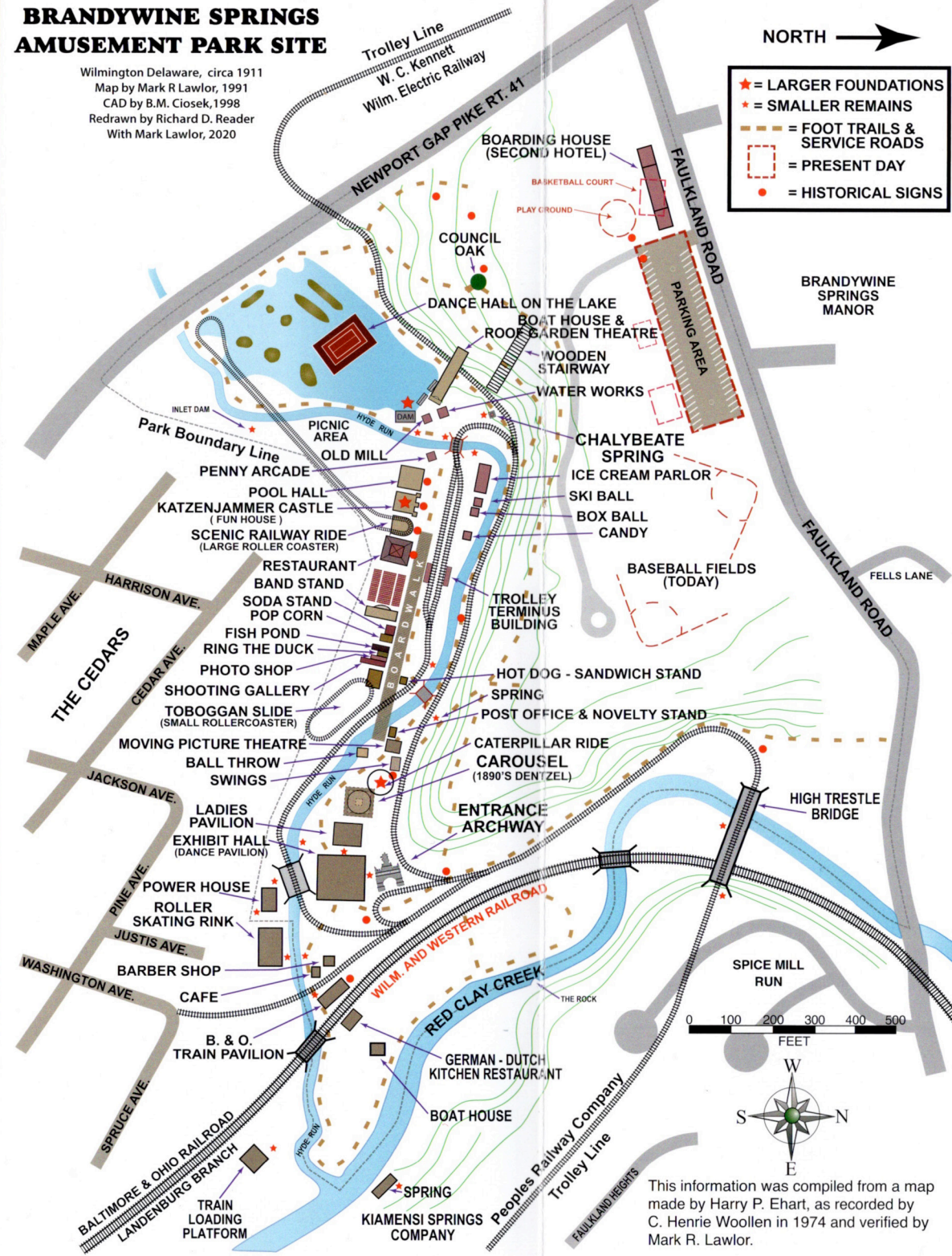
The State of Delaware took over the land as a state park in 1952 and built the ball fields and pavilions. It became a New Castle County Park in 1970.

(More information can be found in the book *Brandywine Springs Amusement Park - Echoes of the Past* by Mark R. Lawlor)

Available at *Wilmington and Western Gift Shop* and at brandywinespringsbook.com.

BRANDYWINE SPRINGS AMUSEMENT PARK SITE

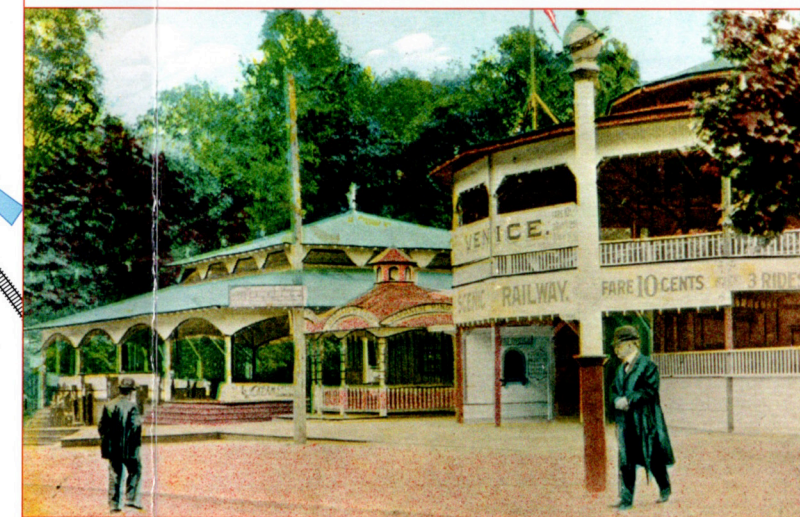
Wilmington Delaware, circa 1911
Map by Mark R. Lawlor, 1991
CAD by B.M. Ciosek, 1998
Redrawn by Richard D. Reader
With Mark Lawlor, 2020



Dance Hall and Promenade Bridge on Lake Washington, circa 1911



Looking up the Boardwalk, circa 1909



The Restaurant and Scenic Railroad along the boardwalk, circa 1911

This information was compiled from a map made by Harry P. Ehart, as recorded by C. Henrie Woollen in 1974 and verified by Mark R. Lawlor.