



Fact Sheet

What We Do

Friends of Brandywine Springs members, volunteers and donors make it possible for us to improve, preserve and take part in the historical restoration of the Brandywine Springs Amusement Park. 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.

Primary Goals:

- Provide a handicapped-accessible mulched trail along the path of the old trolley line and down the old boardwalk.
- Two footbridges have been put in place to allow visitors a continuous walking path.
- Install signs with photographs to explain what once stood at sites where foundations are visible (some are already up)!
- Preserve and protect the remaining historic foundations.
- The lake was restored by the County in 2009. The County is still tuning the system to allow the lake to look as it did in 1900.
- Control multiflora rose and honeysuckle at various places in the park. Plants which would attract wildlife could then 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 with the Archaeological Society of Delaware, to find footings of the buildings and rides in the park and mark them appropriately.

Archeological Digs: We have archaeological digs with the Archaeological Society of Delaware, to find footings of the buildings and rides in the park and mark them appropriately. Read more: fobsde.org/digs

Friends of Brandywine Springs Highlights

History

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. Full history: fobsde.org/assets/fobs_brochure_02.pdf

Support

Friends of Brandywine Springs support is from:

- Memberships, Individual donations, estate and memorial gifts
- Proceeds from Friends of Brandywine Springs items

Volunteers

Volunteers attend monthly archaeological digs, clean the park and provide park tours. Full details: fobsde.org/volunteer

Communicating Our News

Friends of Brandywine Springs communicates through quarterly newsletters, website, email invitations to meetings, social events, Facebook and the news media.

Media Contacts

fobs@fobsde.org

MISSION

The Friends of Brandywine Springs (FOBS) is a non-profit, all volunteer organization dedicated to the improvement and historical restoration of the Brandywine Springs Amusement Park.

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