Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Division of Parks & Recreation

Rhode Island State Parks
Camping Policy

January 2021
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Purpose

The purpose of this camping policy document to provide a consistent and standardized approach to the camping public as well as to assist employees in meeting the needs of the camping public in a friendly and efficient manner.

State campgrounds include five camping areas:
- Burlingame State Campground
- Charlestown Breachway Campground
- East Beach State Campground
- Fishermen’s Memorial Campground
- George Washington State Campground

In addition to the policies and procedures listed below, each campground may contain rules and policies specific to the individual campground and its resources. Specific rules and policies pertaining to the individual campgrounds prior to reserving a campsite may be found at the end of this document.

The Department of Environmental Management, through its Division of Parks and Recreation management staff, reserves the right at any time to suspend, discontinue or to change camping policies and procedures as necessary.

Know Before You Go

FEES, CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAMPING – DAILY RATE</th>
<th>Resident</th>
<th>Non-Resident</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tier 3 - No Hookups / Per Site (Includes Charlestown Breachway)</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
<td>$36.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 2 - Electric, water and/or drive through trailer access / Per Site</td>
<td>$24.00</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 1 - Campsites with waterfront views and/or electric, sewer, and water and/or drive through trailer access / Per Site</td>
<td>$28.00</td>
<td>$55.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primitive Cabins (No Water or Electric / Per Site)</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OTHER FEES</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visitors Pass / Per Vehicle / Per Day</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Car Pass / Per Vehicle / Per Reservation</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Septic Dump Station / Per Vehicle</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Showers</td>
<td>As Metered As Metered</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Does not include a reservation fee of $8.75 for reservations made through the Reserve America website or call center. Reservation fees do not apply for walk-in reservations at our camping facilities.
Rhode Island residency as it relates to rates is determined by:
- the primary occupant or Reserve America customer’s valid government issued photo identification; and
- vehicle registration.

Campers who have reserved as a resident and are unable to provide proof of residency will be charged the non-resident rate at check-in.

- The camping daily rate covers six (6) persons per campsite and one vehicle pass for either a drivable camping unit or a vehicle towing a camping unit.
- A second small camping tent for children or registered guests may be allowed depending on site size. However, total occupancy shall not exceed six (6) persons per site.
- A limit of two (2) visitor vehicle passes may be issued at any one time for each campsite.
- Each reservation includes one septic dump per week. Campers who require additional septic dumps and non-campers are required to pay the per vehicle septic dump fee.

Cancellations & Refunds

For cancellations, refunds will be issued as follows:
- Eight (8) days or more before arrival date – full refund less non-refundable reservation fee and an $8.75 cancellation fee
- Two (2) to seven (7) days before with one-night penalty fee, non-refundable reservation fee and an $8.75 cancellation fee
- Less than two (2) days before arrival—no refund

Campers may cancel their reservation online by logging into their Reserve America account or by contacting the Reserve America Call Center during their operating hours. Refunds will not be issued for weather, site conditions, no-shows, cancellations or early departures on or after the arrival date.

LENGTH OF STAY

Minimum Stay
- Peak Season (defined as the Thursday before Memorial Day Weekend in May through the Sunday of Labor Day weekend in September of each year)
  - Reservations made prior to June 1 - The minimum number of nights that may be reserved before June 1 of each year is two (2) nights. A three (3) night minimum stay is required for Memorial Day, 4th of July (if it falls on a Friday or Monday) and Labor Day weekends.
  - Reservations made after June 1 - Any campsite that has not been reserved by June 1 may be reserved for a one (1) night minimum stay.
- Off-Peak Season (defined as Labor Day through the Wednesday before Memorial Day – A minimum stay of one (1) night is required for the Off-Peak Season

Maximum Stay
- Peak Season - A maximum stay of fourteen (14) nights total is allowed within any twenty-one (21) day period during the Peak Season. Campers who stay for fourteen (14) consecutive nights must leave the campground along with the camping unit and/or equipment for seven
(7) consecutive nights before re-booking. This leave policy is mandatory. Exception: A maximum stay of seven (7) nights total is allowed within any twenty-one (21) day period during the Peak Season at Charlestown Breachway State Campground and East Beach State Campground.

*Please note that this policy will be strictly enforced. If a member of a camping party attempts to violate the mandatory leave policy by making multiple reservations with a different Primary Occupant and utilizing the same camping unit and/or equipment, they will not be allowed to check into the reserved campsite, the reservation will be canceled, and all fees will be forfeited.*

- Off-Peak Season - A maximum stay of twenty-one (21) nights within any twenty-eight (28) day period is allowed during the Off-Peak Season.

**CHECK IN/CHECK OUT & SITE OCCUPANCY**

**Check In**

Reserved campers can check in from 1:00 PM to 10:00 PM on the first day of the reservation. Reserved campers who need to check in after 10:00 PM should call the park directly for after-hour check-in procedures.

**Check-Out**

*Check-out is 11:00 AM SHARP at all campgrounds!* This policy is strictly enforced to allow campground staff enough time to prepare the site for the next customer. Failure to vacate the campsite on time may result in a citation and anything left on the site after 11:00 AM may be disposed of as abandoned property at the owner’s expense.

**Early Check-Out**

If you have to permanently leave the park earlier than expected, be sure to check out at the campground office. If we are informed of your permanent early departure, and collect your camping permit, then you will not be held responsible for any misuse of or damage to the site after you left.

**Occupancy**

- A camping party is defined as the Primary Occupant and any person listed on the reservation and any of the equipment used by the party.
- The Primary Occupant must be present to check-in and register for a campsite and must be eighteen (18) years of age or older. The Primary Occupant is responsible for compliance of the rules and regulations of the RI DEM and must:
  - present valid government issued photo identification and valid vehicle and camper registration information
  - list the first and last names of each member of the camping party. Only the names listed can occupy the campsite
  - If applicable, must present a completed Pet Registration and Certification form
- Occupancy of the campsite is required on the first night of the reservation. A campsite unoccupied during this initial period is declared a “No Show” if the reserved camper has not arrived by 11:00 AM on the second day of the reservation. The reservation will be cancelled, and all payment will be forfeited. The site is then available to be sold on a first-come, first-
served basis. Please call the campground if you are going to be late arriving for your reservation.

- Subletting of campsites or cabins is strictly prohibited.

**PETS**

Up to two (2) total of a Primary Occupant’s dogs or cats are welcomed at Burlingame State Campground, Fishermen’s Memorial State Campground and George Washington State Campground if they are well socialized, friendly, and happy and have a current rabies vaccination. Pets are not permitted at Charlestown Breachway or East Beach Campgrounds, or at any RI state beach. (Does not apply to Service Animals. See Accessibility section below).

- Only two (2) pets per campsite are allowed.
- Pets must be on a leash, no more than 6 feet, at all times.
- All pets must be collared with owner contact information.
- Pets may not create a disturbance or nuisance. Excessive barking is a disturbance.
- Pets may not be left unattended in your RV, your tent, on your site, or in any vehicle.
- Pet owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pet(s). Pet owners who are not in compliance will be asked to leave the campground with no refund.
- A current Rabies Vaccination Certificate is required for all pets and must be available for inspection by campground staff or law enforcement.
- Visitors or guests may not bring pets with them.

Additional Camping and Campground Policies (in alphabetical order)

**AGE LIMITATIONS**

- Must be eighteen (18) years of age or older to rent a campsite.
- No person under the age of eighteen (18) will be permitted to camp unless accompanied and supervised by a person 18 years of age or older.

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

- No person shall possess, drink, sell or offer for sale any alcoholic beverages in campgrounds operated by the State of RI.
- Any person found to be in violation of this rule will be immediately removed from the campground. A refund will not be issued.

**ACCESSIBILITY**

- The Division of Parks and Recreation is committed to creating recreational opportunities that accommodate people with disabilities. Parks has been working toward achieving accessibility for many years. However, most campgrounds within the Park system were constructed decades ago and predate the American Disabilities Act (ADA) that was signed into law on January 1, 1990. Other structures built to meet the 1990 ADA code may no longer comply with today’s ADA rules. DEM is continually working to increase accessibility and further its
compliance as it develops new or renovates facilities. Requests or inquiries regarding access may be made to the campground manager.

- Service Animals – Service animals, as defined by the ADA, are allowed at all Rhode Island camping facilities when accompanied by an individual with a disability.
  - ADA defines a service animal as a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The task(s) performed by the dog must be directly related to the person's disability.
    - Please note: The ADA does not recognize emotional support, therapy, comfort or companion animals as service animals and neither does the Division of Parks and Recreation. Please refer to the Pet section of this policy for more information.
  - In campgrounds where pets are prohibited, campers with service animals may be asked if the service animal is required because of a disability, and/or what task the dog has been trained to perform according to ADA compliance requirements.
  - Service animals must be under the care and control of the handler at all times and should be harnessed, leashed or tethered unless such devices interfere with the service animal’s work, or if the visitor’s disability prevents the use of these devices. In that case, the visitor must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal or other effective controls.
  - The handler is responsible for caring for and supervising the service animal, including toileting, cleaning up after the animal and feeding.
  - For health and safety reasons no service animals will be allowed in public swimming areas.

**BICYCLES, ELECTRICALLY OR GAS OPERATOR PROPELLED VEHICLES, HOVER BOARDS**

- All electrically propelled devices, except those used to assist handicapped or disabled persons are prohibited on state property unless prior permission has been obtained by the Regional Manager.
- Operating or riding a bicycle, scooter, skateboard or other operator propelled vehicle or device in any portion of the campground may be prohibited if the Regional Manager determines that conditions are unsafe for the operation of such vehicles.
- Helmets are required on children aged 15 and younger who are operating or passengers on bicycles or using or operating skateboards, roller skates, scooters or inline skates as required by state law.

**CABINS**

- Cabins are located at Burlingame State Campground. The cabins are rustic and include two (2) bunk beds with springs/board for the base.
- Mattresses and bedding are not provided. Air mattresses are strongly recommended.
- Cabins can only accommodate up to 4 persons.
- Cabins sites are limited to a maximum of (6) persons and the number of vehicles listed on the site description, no exceptions.
- One (1) tent per cabin is allowed. No RV’s, campers, trailers or pop-ups are allowed on the cabin sites.
- Pets are allowed in cabins.
CAMPSITES

- The maximum camper, RV or trailer length that a campsite can accommodate is shown on the Reserve America website. Campers, RV’s or trailers may not exceed the specified length. Campsites with a maximum vehicle length of 0’ in the site description are for tent camping only.
- Number of tents allowed on a tent campsite varies from campground to campground and can be found in the specific site description on the Reserve America website.

EMERGENCY CLOSURE

- In the event RI State Parks must close a park or campground (due to a named storm or other emergency) the affected campers will be given a refund of the unused portion of their reservation.
- If the campground remains open and the camper elects to leave, the action will be treated as an Early Departure and no refund will be given.
- Closure of part or all of East Beach Campground may occur during the camping season due to the nesting of a tiny shorebird called the Piping Plover. The Piping Plover is listed as a threatened species under the Federal Endangered Species Act. If a closure should occur, reservations will be cancelled and refunded in full.

FIRES AND FIREWOOD

- Fires, including charcoal fires, are only allowed in designated areas or with written permission.
- Fires are restricted to the fire ring or grill provide on the site.
- No fires will be started or maintained unless under the constant supervision of a responsible person. All exterior fires must be fully extinguished by the campsite or cabin occupant prior to departure.
- Fires must be kept at a reasonable and safe height and size at all times. Wood that is actively burning must not exceed eighteen inches in height in order to prevent fuel rollout.
- Please do not bring firewood from out of state! If you are planning to camp during an upcoming trip to RI, please help protect our public lands by buying local firewood near your destination campground. Firewood from out of state can spread harmful insect pests and diseases.
- Burning of trash, pallets, or any objects other than firewood is prohibited.

FIREARMS AND OTHER WEAPONS

The possession or use of weapons, including firearms, bow and arrow and other weapons, is prohibited in campgrounds operated by the State of RI.

FIREWORKS

The possession or use of all classes of fireworks is prohibited in campgrounds operated by the State of RI.
**GENERATOR USE**

- Generators can be excessively loud and / or may omit fumes that can be obnoxious to other campers. Therefore:
  - Generator use is permitted between the hours of 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM only.
  - Generator quiet hours are between the hours of 8:00 PM and 8:00 AM (no exceptions).
  - Generator cannot be situated under the window of the camping unit in the neighboring campsite. Generator exhaust cannot be pointed in the direction of neighboring campsite.
  - Commercial grade or diesel generators are not allowed.
  - If the use of a generator is deemed unreasonably loud by the facility staff, an individual’s use of the generator may be limited and/or prohibited.

**GREY WATER**

The discharge of grey or black water in the environment has been found to be a significant risk to public health. Release of grey or black water is prohibited, except at designated dump stations.

**GROUP CAMPING**

- Large clubs, organizations, scout troops etc. may be accommodated at some campgrounds under appropriate special conditions. Please call the campground directly for reservations and information.
- Any group bringing youths under the age of eighteen (18) into any campground or management area must provide adequate adult supervision for these youths and their activities. Adequate adult supervision is defined as no less than one (1) adult for every ten (10) children.

**LOITERING**

Loitering is prohibited in and around restrooms.

**PROTECTION OF STATE PROPERTY**

- Campers / visitors will not deface, remove, destroy or injure any living tree, flower, shrub, fern or other plant, rock, fossil or mineral found or growing on state lands. Wildlife and their nests will not be disturbed or fed.
- Campers / visitors will not deface, damage or destroy any structure or property of the campground including, but not limited to, picnic table, grill, drinking fountain, fence, stone wall, monument or artifact.
- Any person found to be in violation of this rule will be immediately removed from the campground and a penalty may be assessed. A refund will not be issued.
- Campers and their guests will be held financially responsible for any damage to state property and may be subject to legal action.
QUIET HOURS
Quiet hours will be maintained in and around all areas used for camping between the hours of 10:00 PM - 7:00 AM.

RESERVATIONS
- The minimum online reservation window is same day by 12:00 PM.
- Customers that wish to reserve a campsite on the day of arrival after 12:00 PM must reserve the campsite directly at the campground on a first come, first serve basis.
- A maximum of three (3) campsite reservations, with the same dates and the same customer name, may be made at one time. However, there must be a different Primary Occupant listed for each reservation.
- All reservation policies and restrictions apply to Internet customers. Prior to finishing a reservation transaction, the Internet customer is asked to “agree” to all the terms given. Refunds are not available for misunderstanding of terms.

SANITATION
- Campsites and cabins must be kept in neat, clean and sanitary conditions. Campers are not permitted to wash dishes, clothes or their own person at water fountains or spigots.
- Vehicles must discharge waste and wastewater only into the campground’s designated disposal stations.
- Campers must adhere to specific campgrounds recycling policies and procedures. Dumpsters and recycling containers are provided in all campgrounds. There is no campsite pick-up or curbside service.
- Campers who visit nearby Rhode Island state parks and beaches will be required follow the Carry-In/Carry-Out program and take the trash they bring into the park or beach out with them when they leave. Please plan accordingly.

SMOKING PROHIBITED
A person may not smoke tobacco or any other substance in, on or within 200 feet of a beach, playground, snack bar, shelter, business facility, enclosed area, public place or restroom.

VEHICLE PASSES & REGISTRATION
- All motor vehicles must be legally street registered, insured as required by state law and operated by a licensed driver.
- A valid vehicle registration may be required prior to checking into any campsite. Customers who present an invalid or expired vehicle registration will not be allowed to check into their campsite and will not be eligible for a refund.
- Vehicle passes are assigned to a specific vehicle and are not transferable. All sites are limited to two (2) non-transferable car passes. If a vehicle must be changed, then a previously issued car pass must be surrendered and that vehicle removed from the campground.
- The daily rate for a campsite includes one car pass for either the drivable camping unit or the vehicle towing the camping unit. The 2nd car pass will be an additional fee.
VISITORS

- A limit of two (2) visitor vehicle passes may be issued at any one time for each campsite. These passes are non-transferable and must be surrendered in order to allow additional passes to be issued. Campground managers reserve the right to stop or limit campground visitors if campground or visitor parking facilities reach capacity or interfere with the safety and enjoyment of reserved campers.
- Visitors must register and obtain a vehicle pass at the campground office.
- All visitors must vacate the campground by 10:00 PM.
- Visitors must park in visitor parking areas as designated by the campground staff.
- Visitors are not allowed to bring pets into the campground.

The Primary Occupant to whom the camping permit is granted shall be responsible for compliance of rules and regulations for his or her visitors.

VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

- Customers that misrepresent name, address, number of occupants or any other information in order to circumvent reservation policies will not be accommodated upon arrival at the campground.
- Violation of any rule and/or regulation is grounds for revocation of the camping permit and eviction from the campground. If a permit is revoked, no refund will be issued. Any person or persons voided on a camping permit are not allowed to reenter any camping area for the duration of the camping season.
- Any person found to have violated any rule and/or regulation will be subject to a fine not to exceed $100.00 for each violation.
CAMPING AREA DESCRIPTIONS AND SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

BURLINGAME STATE CAMPGROUND
Located next to Watchaug Pond in Charlestown, this spacious campground includes approximately 700 campsites, as well as 20 cabins. Utilities ARE NOT available at this campground. The campground features conveniently located restrooms with shower facilities, a playground, arcade, freshwater beach, boat ramp, canoe rentals and hiking trails. The camp store carries a wide variety of camping necessities, along with a large selection of souvenirs. The campground abuts the Burlingame Management Area and Kimball Wildlife Sanctuary and is located near numerous ocean beaches, including Misquamicut State Beach, Charlestown Breachway and East Matunuck State Beach.

• Septic Dump station is available for a fee of $10.00 for non-registered campers.

Contact Information:
Address: 1 Burlingame State Park Road, Charlestown, RI 02813 Telephone: 401.322.7337

CHARLESTOWN BREACHWAY STATE CAMPGROUND
Located on the east side of the “Breachway” is a camping area with panoramic views of Block Island Sound and within walking distance to Charlestown State Beach. The Breachway also has a boat launch with limited parking. Utilities ARE NOT available at this campground.

• All camping units MUST BE self-contained. A self-contained unit is defined as “A camping unit which contains permanent holding tanks for potable water, grey water and black water. Bathroom equipment must be permanently affixed to the unit.”
• Only one (1) additional towed or non-towed vehicle can park in the camping area per site. A second car vehicle pass is required.
• Camping units with any type of canvas top will not be allowed in the day use area or the camping area.
• Registered campers will be allowed to utilize the Septic Dump Station at Burlingame State Campground and/or Fishermen’s Memorial State Campground, one time at no charge. Additional dumping will be subject to the Septic Dump Station/Per Vehicle/Non-Camper fee.
• Must show proof of active and valid reservation.
• Open fires are not allowed.
• Pets are not allowed.
• Visitors to the camping area are required to pay the daily beach parking fee and park in the day use parking lot.
• The Generator Use Policy will be strictly enforced. No loud or commercial generators are allowed.

Contact Information:
Address: Charlestown Beach Road, Charlestown, RI 02813 Telephone: 401.322.8910
EAST BEACH STATE CAMPGROUND

Specialty camping on three (3) miles of undeveloped beach frontage is available at East Beach State Campground, located in Charlestown, Rhode Island. East Beach is one of the least developed of the Rhode Island state beaches, with limited parking and a half dozen changing rooms. This barrier beach and 20 site campground location offers four Clivus Multrum Composting Toilets for restrooms along with 3 miles of undeveloped beach frontage. Parking is very limited and fills up early on sunny summer days. A small portion of the beach is staffed with lifeguards on a seasonal basis. Utilities ARE NOT available at this campground. Special Camping/Vehicle Equipment requirements are required for camping at this location.

- All camping units MUST BE self-contained AND equipped with 4-wheel drive. A self-contained unit is defined as “A camping unit which contains permanent holding tanks for potable water, grey water and black water. Bathroom equipment must be permanently affixed to the unit.”
- Tow trailers or Fifth Wheels are not allowed.
- All campers MUST obtain a Barrier Beach Permit prior to their stay. The permit is required for driving on any RI State Barrier Beach or access road. Barrier Beach permits are valid from July 1st through June 30th of the following year and must be renewed.
- Passes can be purchased at Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) Monday through Friday 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM. Passes can be purchased at Burlingame State Campground from June 1 to the Sunday before Columbus Day. Please call Burlingame State Campground at 401.322.8910 for office hours and availability.
- A beach parking fee will also be required for any vehicle using the East Beach Sand Trail during the summer beach season unless registered for a campsite.
- Closure of part or all of East Beach Campground may occur during the camping season due to the nesting of a tiny shorebird called the Piping Plover. The Piping Plover is listed as a threatened species under the Federal Endangered Species Act. If a closure should occur, reservations will be cancelled and refunded in full.
- Registered campers will be allowed to utilize the Septic Dump Station at Burlingame State Campground and/or Fishermen’s Memorial State Campground, one time at no charge. Additional dumping will be subject to the Septic Dump Station/Per Vehicle/Non-Camper fee.
- Must show proof of active and valid reservation.
- Tent camping is not allowed.
- Pets are not allowed.

Contact Information:
Address: East Beach Road, Charlestown, RI 02813; Telephone: 401.322.8910

FISHERMEN’S MEMORIAL STATE CAMPGROUND

Fishermen’s Memorial Campground, in Narragansett, is in close proximity to Roger Wheeler State Beach, Salty Brine State Beach and Scarborough State Beach. The campground includes 147 trailer sites, 35 tent sites, basketball, tennis and horseshoe courts and a children’s playground. The campground is also approximately one mile from the Block Island Ferry Dock and 30 minutes from scenic Newport.
• Area 1 and Area 2 - Electric, Sewer and Water is available.
  o Area 1 is RV Only
  o Area 2 is Tent or RV
• Area 3 - No utilities available.
  o Tents and Canvas Pop-Ups only
• Area 4 - Electric and Water is available.
  o Tent or RV
  o The electrical service in Area 4 is not adequate for RV air conditioning units during extreme heat and use may be restricted during Peak use times. This rule also applies to heaters during the cooler months.
• Septic Dump Station is available at no charge for registered campers.
• Non-registered campers will be charged the Septic Dump Station/Per Vehicle/Non-Camper fee.

Contact Information:
Address: 1011 Point Judith Road, Narragansett, RI 02882 Telephone: 401.789.8374

GEORGE WASHINGTON STATE CAMPGROUND
Located within the 4000-acre George Washington Management Area and on the shores of Bowdish Reservoir, the overnight 100-acre George Washington Memorial Camping Area is an overnight, primitive camping facility with sixty-two (62) well-spaced gravel sites suitable for tents, trailers and RV’s, offering a multitude of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. Utilities ARE NOT available at this campground.

• Septic Dump Station is available at no charge for registered campers. Due to capacity issues, non-campers are not allowed to use the Septic Dump Station.
• Bathrooms consist of porta potty or flush toilets located in the shower facilities.
• All fires must be contained in the fire rings provided.
• Sites are limited to two (2) tents and two (2) vehicles per site.
• Angell Loop sites A1 - A7 are hike in only with no vehicle access to the campsites.
  o Hike in is approximately .6 mile each way.
  o Drinking water is not available at these sites. The closest available water is near Site 30 in the main campground.
• Hill Sites T1 – T5 are hike in only with no vehicle access to the campsites.
  o Vehicle parking is located close to the campsites.
  o Drinking water is available nearby.

• Shelters
  o Two (2) Adirondack style shelters are available by reservation for group camping
Limited to twenty (20) persons per shelter.

Contact Information:
Address: 2141 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI 02814 Telephone: 401.568.6700