



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
DEEP WEST DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS
LOCATION: BLACK ROCK STATE PARK
200 THOMPSON ROAD
WATERBURY, CT 06901
ARCHITECT: TLA ARCHITECTURE, LLC
COMPLETION DATE: SEPTEMBER 2021
ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST: \$10,250,000

DEEP is thrilled to share that construction has just begun on its new Western District Headquarters and Black Rock State Park Visitor Contact Station in Black Rock State Park. This building will be the result of several years of planning and will be the first net-zero and LEED Platinum building built by the State of Connecticut.

The new headquarters will bring DEEP staff together from several facilities throughout the Western part of the state, consolidating staff from 9 outdated buildings located in five separate towns. This consolidation will save energy, money and increase efficiencies, and will result in the decommissioning of upwards of 11 buildings.

In addition to helping DEEP consolidate and lower its carbon footprint, this new facility will provide many benefits to park visitors:

- **New contact station for park visitors and outdoor recreation enthusiasts in Western CT:** The main entrance will serve as a contact station that will support outdoor recreation and provide access for area residents to obtain recreational licenses, hunting permits, etc.
- **Enhanced access to public programs:** The building will host a center for public education including displays on local wildlife and fishing, hunting, and hiking opportunities at Black Rock State Park and the surrounding area; it will also feature an indoor conference room that will enhance outdoor recreational education programs including hosting fishing and hunting courses and to support educational programs to visitors of the on-site campground as well as to schools in the region.

- **Convenient Access to Services:** Centrally located along Route 6 and just off Route 8 near the population centers of Torrington and Waterbury, this is a convenient location for the public to obtain recreational licenses, permits, passes and certificates, as opposed to the facilities being decommissioned, which are generally further away from population centers.
- **More parking:** parking lot at the top of the slope will offer an overflow option for the park beach during park special events and busy holidays. Black Rock state Park frequently closes
- **Upgrade to park facilities:** This project will include upgrading the water and sewer service to the park.
- **Increased Accessibility:** The updated facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities with new walkways and an entry ramp, which was lacking in many of the 11 buildings to be decommissioned.

In 2014, DEEP assessed four sites for the western district hub and found that Black Rock State Park was the best location because of its site features, accessibility, proximity to population base, availability of utilities, access to outdoor learning opportunities and lack of significant environmental concerns or constraints.

The location and the design of the building were made to limit the visual impact of the building for Park visitors. The building plan underwent extensive review, to ensure it was situated outside of FEMA 100-year and 500-year flood zones; it underwent an Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey; and was reviewed by both the DEEP Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDDB) staff and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and it was found that if the proposed park facilities are constructed as designed and care is taken during construction, there will be no impact to any of the State or Federally-listed species.

The new main building will be designed to achieve LEED Platinum certification and Net Zero energy standards. The building will use a geothermal system and a photovoltaic solar array among other features, which will result in a 30-40% reduction in energy consumption when compared to a building designed to current building and energy codes. The building will be finished with wood grown from CT State Forests and milled at CT DEEP's sawmill.

The new headquarters aligns with the state's goals to mitigate the climate crisis, and for State Government to lead by example to identify opportunities for savings and ways to make government operations more sustainable.

This location will help enhance outreach to new populations and DEEP plans for it to become a hub for obtaining recreational licenses, permits, passes and certificates, as well as, a great location to launch programming on various outdoor recreational opportunities including fishing, hunting, hiking/trail building, and wildlife observation. The synergies created by bringing staff together from various facilities will only enhance these features.

The construction will have a temporary impact on the public's use of a small area of the park, and the construction activity will take place over a 12-month period, from July 2022 to July 2023.

For more information on the project, contact David Cooley (david.cooley@ct.gov). For questions related to Black Rock State Park, contact Tom Tyler (tom.tyler@ct.gov)