



DCADV Land Acknowledgement Statement

Delaware is the traditional and current homeland of the Lenape and Nanticoke People.

Lenape, whose name means “the People”, have lived in this region for thousands of years. They are “the first people of the first state.” The Lenape are a peaceful, close-knit people. The Lenape hold nature as sacred, and they are committed protectors of the environment. In 2021, the Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware began work to create a Lenape Cultural Center to restore a piece of land to them and to provide a place to share “where they came from, where they are, and where they are going.”

Information about the Cultural Center and ways to support



The name Nanticoke means “people of the tidewaters.” The Nanticoke are a small and close-knit community. The Nanticoke are proud of their ancestors, culture, and their tribal community today. They share their history and culture through the Nanticoke Indian Museum cultural events, presentations, and their annual Powwows. Powwow means “gathering of Native People.” Thousands of people from across the region attend the Nanticoke Indian Powwows, where the beauty and power of the heritage and culture is celebrated and shared through music, dance and arts & crafts. Currently, the Nanticoke Indian Association is renovating the Nanticoke Indian Community Center, with plans to double its size, to help “grow their impact.”

Nanticoke Indian Association - renovation of community center



DCADV engages in this land acknowledgement to note both the historical and current strength of the Lenape and Nanticoke People, to advance equity, and to highlight the importance of working in collaboration with our Tribal partners to end and prevent domestic violence.

DCADV is committed to engaging in action that builds our relationship, offering support, and sustaining our commitment to our Tribal communities.

DCADV has and will continue to advocate for state funding to support the work of the Lenape and Nanticoke People;

DCADV will continue to partner with the Nanticoke Indian Association to provide training on domestic violence and;

DCADV has provided financial support to help in their efforts to expand their website to include community resources.



DCADV is grateful for the opportunity to partner with and support Delaware's tribal communities.

DCADV developed this Land Acknowledgment Statement after receiving training from the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC) and after consultation with the Nanticoke Indian Association Leadership Team. This statement incorporates information from the Lenape and Nanticoke websites; please see links to those websites below.

As per the guidance that we received:

This Land Acknowledgment Statement uses present verb tense because the Lenape and Nanticoke are living tribal communities.

The Statement highlights the strengths of the native communities and not the historical harm they have experienced by colonization.

This Statement notes the importance of backing up words with actions and includes ways in which we can and do support tribal communities.

DCADV is grateful to the NIWRC, the Nanticoke Leadership for their guidance in developing this Land Acknowledgement Statement.

[More information on the Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware](#)

[More information on the Nanticoke Indian Association](#)

November is Native American Heritage month. Everyone is encouraged to learn more about the Lenape and the Nanticoke People and to help promote their public events.