

Shaped by History & Anchored in Nature



As Fort DuPont preserves our past and reshapes our history, we invite you to join our community. This newsletter will share events and updates about programs and projects to bring Delaware City closer together and help Fort DuPont's neighbors appreciate the natural and historical heritage of our location. Please reach out with any questions!

Upcoming Events

March 20
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Arts Programs Brainstorming

Calling all creative minds!

Join us for a brainstorming session to discuss ideas for expanding arts programming and spaces in Delaware City.

The meeting will take place in the Surfboard Room at the Delaware City Community Center (located inside the Library at 250 5th Street).

Please RSVP by contacting Tim at (302) 270-6192 or tslavin@fortdupont.org.

Special thanks to Loree Elton and the Delaware City Library for their support in making this event possible!

RSVP

March 22
Noon

Rotary Chapter Forming

Are you interested in learning more about Rotary International and the possibility of establishing a chapter in Delaware City?

Join us at the Delaware City Fire Hall for an informative session. Lunch (subs and sodas) will be provided.

We've spoken with several individuals interested in this initiative, and the good news is that there's a streamlined process for forming a chapter, with strong support from the Delaware Rotary community.

Feel free to extend the invitation to others who may also be interested.

Please **RSVP** by letting us know if you can attend. This will help us ensure enough food for everyone.

April 13
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Walk for Autism

Save the date!

Get ready for the Walk for Autism, Autism Delaware's biggest event and community gathering!

- Date: April 13th
- Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Location: 260 Old Elm Avenue, Delaware City

Every step counts towards supporting individuals and families affected by autism across the state. Register now to make a difference. Let's walk together for a brighter future!

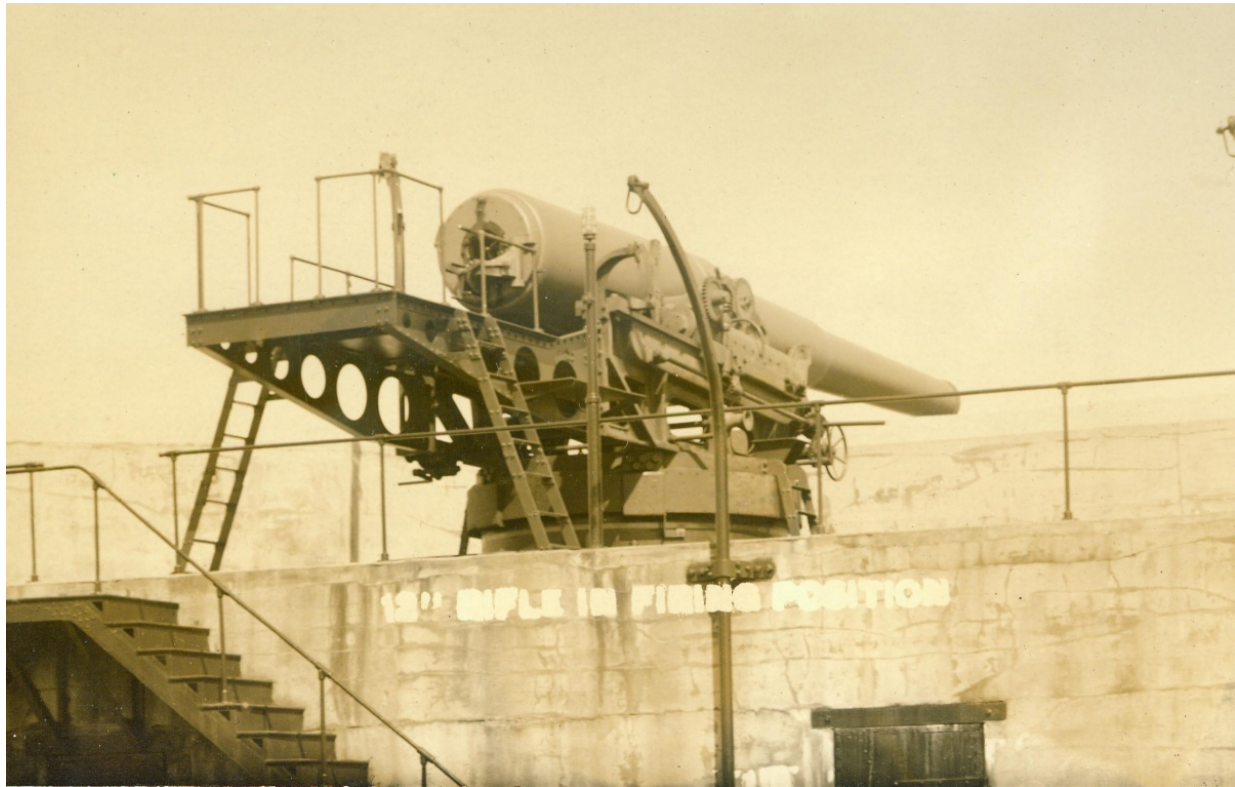
REGISTER

Our Perspectives



Fort DuPont Redevelopment and Preservation Corporation Executive Director Tim Slavin takes us to his favorite view in town, the second floor of the Paynter building.

"This is one of the most charming views that we have from a building here. It gives you a sense of how we fit within Delaware City . . . and then you wind your way around, you get to see river views. You see ships going down the river and you have this elegant open space on the parade ground. Just stunning."



Voices from the Past

by Laura Lee

Originally published June 2021

In the early 19th century, the Army planned to fortify the mainland of Delaware City in addition to Fort Delaware. The first formal military installation was the 250-foot 1864 Ten Gun Battery. It was to have six 10-inch guns and four 15-inch guns (some with the capability to fire a 300-pound projectile over two miles). By 1870, the Army had abandoned this plan in favor of a 20-gun emplacement, but those plans never saw completion.

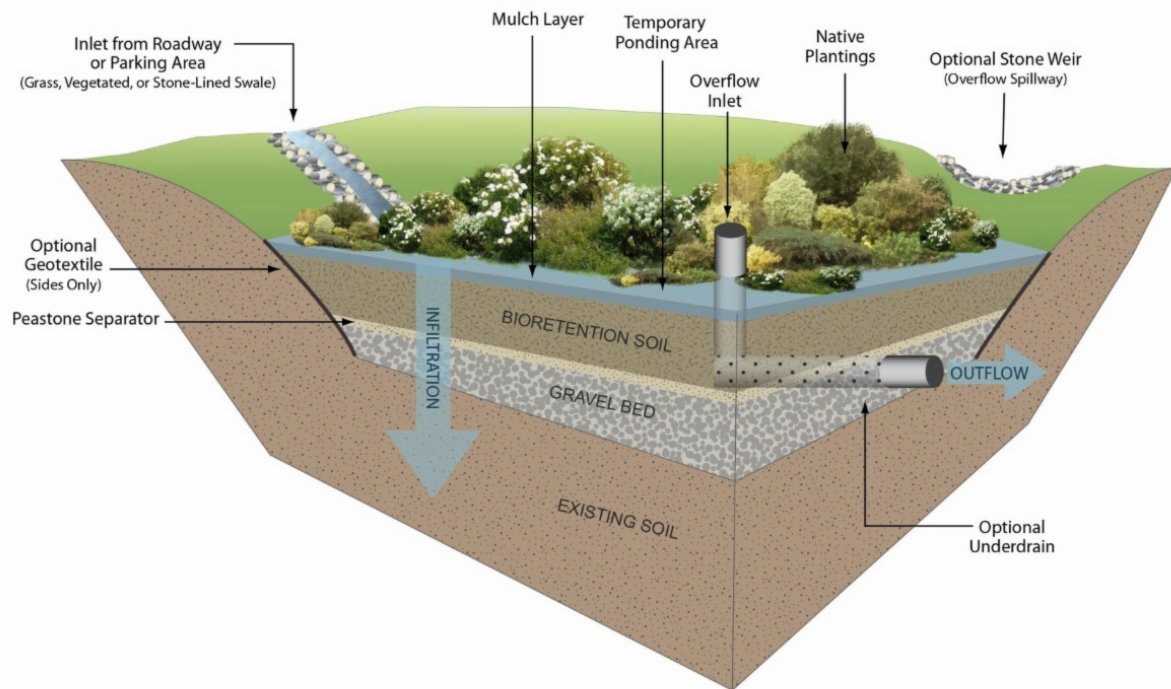
A few of the cast of characters involved took the time to write things down. Sgt. Bishop Crumrine of the Pittsburgh Heavy Artillery wrote home that he did “not want to wear government shoes” and preferred “pants made of dark blue” which “will not get dirty as quick.” He oversaw the weaponry installation. “I have been working hard all day hauling gun carriages and chassis from Delaware City to the Fort. I just swing them under large wheels, and then 25 or 30 men can easily haul them up.” He added that “the guns we mounted on them weighed from 7 to 25 tons so you can nearly imagine how busy I have been.”

In December 1864, Private Alexander Hamilton also commented in his own diary, “Went to Delaware City and did my shopping. John (Lorentz) came over, took 2 or 3 drinks, went out to the battery, and then we came back to town and filled ourselves with whiskey.” Lorentz was assigned to the water battery while Hamilton was stationed at Fort Delaware. Clearly a mainland gig had its benefits.

Crumrine’s comments in May of 1865 included, “The battery is a nice place now, all the 10-inch guns are mounted and the 15-inch are on the Wharf. The grass is long and green, and I keep it trimmed as nice as a posy bed. The government property is now all fenced in, and I am now thinking I can get lime to whitewash the fence. Our garden is flourishing - peas a foot high, onions, and potatoes in abundance. Crumrine’s command ended in November of 1864 however. General Schoepf sent a lieutenant over to take command. Not because I had not done my duty properly, but because he said I had too much to do for the pay I got, and that there was too much responsibility resting on the shoulders of a sergeant. I am very well pleased as he is one of our lieutenants and one of the best we have too, but he might as well have come and helped me do the work at first.”

The words of those who lived and worked at Fort DuPont help to bring the site alive and remind us all that this was a living, breathing community once before, and thankfully, is again.

Bioretention Basins: Efficient Stormwater Management



The addition of bioretention basins at Fort DuPont, slated to begin by the end of April, marks a significant step in stormwater management. These landscaped depressions are designed to treat stormwater runoff efficiently through filtration, detention, and plant uptake. By capturing and filtering stormwater, they remove pollutants such as sediment and hydrocarbons while also providing temporary storage to reduce the volume of water entering drainage systems.

These basins offer several advantages:

- **Flexibility:** They can be built in various shapes and sizes, fitting into different landscapes and development projects.
- **Multifunctional:** They can be integrated with traffic calming measures or parking spaces, saving space.
- **Wide applicability:** They work well in both new developments and existing urban areas.
- **Aesthetic appeal:** The use of vegetation allows them to blend seamlessly into the surrounding environment.

By incorporating bioretention basins into stormwater management plans, communities can improve water quality, reduce flooding risks, and create more sustainable and aesthetically pleasing environments.

