

Out of all six choices, I would elect the blue dasher to be named Delaware's state dragonfly because of several reasons that include its visual appeal, adaptability, and resilience. When looking at the choices from a designer's perspective, the blue dasher was the most cohesive toward other parts of Delaware – from the blue hen to state agriculture. When delving into the design process for merchandise, like T-shirts or pins, less colors are often preferred as production is cheaper than if one used several colors for just one part of the piece. Alternatively, when thinking of market appeal, one must be ready for the client to request several different angles of the same thing or even differ it from the original concept to keep tourists and locals interested in the merchandise being sold at the time. Using the above points, one can confidently say the blue dasher would be the easiest to design with. Secondly, adaptability for the blue dasher dragonfly comes into play. Unlike several other dragonflies, like the tiger spiketail or the calico pennant, blue dashers are not as sensitive to water pollution or poor water quality. In fact, this quote provides an excellent example as it says, "Their larvae are exceptionally tolerant of poor water quality and pollution and can live where other dragonflies cannot."

(<https://delawarenaturally.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/blue-dasher.pdf>)

The above quote gives a satisfactory evidential proof as to if the above fact can be proven valid, however one can also say the contradictory fact that blue dashers would deteriorate until extinct using the following quote: "Larvae under the conditions predicted for 100 years in the future emerge significantly earlier,

and their survival rate is much lower, indicating possible effects of global warming on this dragonfly.

(<https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/59774-Pachydiplax-longipennis>) However, one can successfully say this will not likely happen as Delaware continues to move toward green initiatives in the effort to save our local and global environment. Thirdly, the dragonfly's resilience is set into rotation for discussion. Despite issues with cannibalism among its own species, blue dashers continue to survive with impressive hunting tactics and by successfully maintaining its territory. For example, this can be shown in the following quote: "The blue dasher hunts by keeping still and waiting for suitable prey to come within range. When it does, they dart from their position to catch it."

(<https://delawarenaturally.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/blue-dasher.pdf>)

Throughout its hunts, it exercises patience and grace while maintaining a cautious stance. In conclusion, as one consolidates all three aforementioned points into one sentence, the excellence of the choice of the blue dasher for Delaware's state dragonfly remains consistent throughout.