

Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River Management Plan

A River Management Plan (RMP) is required for any river designated as a National Wild & Scenic River. The Lower Delaware RMP presents a vision for wise management and use of the land and waters within the River corridor and the watersheds of the Paunacussing, Tinicum and Tohickon creeks. The RMP reflects a consensus on actions to be taken by all partners—governmental agencies, private entities, non-profits and residents—to protect the Lower Delaware's outstanding resources while providing for future economic growth and recreational use.

Primary responsibility for the corridor remains with property owners through environmental stewardship, with local governments through land use regulations, and with all who enjoy the scenic and recreational opportunities the Lower Delaware has to offer.

The RMP's 6 Goals address protecting the special values of the Lower Delaware River. In 2007, an Action Plan was formulated specifying policies and priority actions to implement the RMP Goals through 2011. The Action Plan included the element of Education and Outreach which effectively operates as a 7th Goal. The priorities of the Action Plan provide a basis for funding projects and for assessing progress towards achieving the Goals of the River Management Plan.

Wild rivers are earth's renegades, defying gravity, dancing to their own tunes . . .

Activities of Community Partners

The National Park Service encourages municipal partnerships and local activities that protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values of the Lower Delaware. In addition to the projects coordinated or completed by non-profit organizations, NPS also supported a wide variety of community projects:

- Bridgeton Twp PA** – Mapping of significant natural and cultural features • 2002
- Delaware Twp NJ** – With Kingwood Twp and D&R Canal State Park, "Getting to Know Your H2O" student water quality monitoring program • 2007
- Harmony Twp NJ** – Natural Resources Inventory • 2003
- Hopewell Twp NJ** – Enhanced groundwater and stream flow monitoring to support water resource management decision-making • 2006
- Kingwood Twp NJ** – Environmental Resource Inventory • 2002; groundwater quality evaluation • 2004; and with Delaware Twp and D&R Canal State Park, "Getting to Know Your H2O" student water quality monitoring program • 2007
- Knowlton Twp NJ** – Stabilization of the historic Ramsaysburg Homestead • 2003; streambank stabilization & canoe/kayak launch • 2010
- Lopatcong Twp NJ** – Trail improvements and guide at Marble Hill Natural Resource Area with MJWA, Warren County and others • 2011
- Nockamixon Twp PA** – Historic resources survey with HC • 2013
- Plumstead Twp PA** – Township-wide environmental resource inventory with NLT • 2004
- Portland Borough PA** – Roof restoration of the historic Pokey • 2002
- Riegelsville Borough** – Acquisition of open space for a park and trail construction • 2003
- Solebury Twp PA** – Ordinance revisions for sustainable development • 2003
- Stockton Borough** – Restoration of Salt Pork House as Prallsville Mill Visitor Center • 2003; Natural Resource Inventory and Master Plan revisions • 2004; Master Plan and ordinance update • 2005
- Tinicum Twp PA** – A 2-phase restoration & education project for a tributary of Tinicum Creek • 2002-3 and 2005; Giving Pond natural resource inventory with TC • 2004; groundwater monitoring with Bridgeton and Nockamixon Twps • 2003
- West Amwell Twp NJ** – Examination of Connaught Hill zoning and impact on water quality • 2002

Next Steps

River corridor communities share both a view of the River and an economic interest in promoting the scenic vistas and outstanding recreational value of its waterways. While the goals of the Management Plan remain relevant ambitions, the Action Plan for reaching those goals needs a new vision and momentum that should be informed by the residents and businesses of the Lower Delaware corridor. The National Park Service hopes that 2015 will be the kickoff to a renaissance of interest in the Lower Delaware River as a shared amenity and the central focus for corridor businesses, residents and visitors. Significant opportunities exist for river-compatible economic development, community revitalization, flood protection, educational and interpretive programs, and enhanced river access and recreation. These pursuits will help achieve the goals of the Management Plan, but they need YOU to succeed.

What Can YOU Do?

- The National Park Service and its Partners invite you to experience the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River and become an active participant.
- Explore! Learn more about the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River at:
- <http://lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org>
  - <http://www.nps.gov/lode/index.htm>
- Get involved! Contact:
- The Lower Delaware River W&S Management Committee State Co-Chairs Carol Hoffmann (NJ) and Nancy Janyeszski (PA) at: [lowerdelaware@lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org](mailto:lowerdelaware@lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org).
  - Lower Delaware River Manager Julie Bell, National Park Service, 215.597.6473.
  - Any of the partner organizations described in this brochure.

PHOTO CREDITS

**FRONT COVER:** Delaware River Sojourn J. Bell • New Hope & Ivyland RR B. Krist for Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corp. • D&R Canal, Lambertville NJ J. Bell • Rock shelf J. Brunner • Swamp milkweed, Wicchechoke Creek Preserve NJ M. Van Clef • Prallsville Mill, Stockton NJ J. Amon

**MAP PAGES:** Before Creek Restoration M. Kyde • After Creek Restoration M. Kyde • Restoring a site at Tinicum Creek PA M. Kyde • Gathering field samples for analysis DRBC • Freshwater mussel DRBC • River cleanup crew J. Brunner • Ramsaysburg Landing, NJ J. Bell

• Mountain laurel at Marble Hill Natural Area J. Bell • Discharge sampling field work DRBC • Collecting specimens onshore D. Keller • Wicchechoke Creek NJ M. Van Clef • Bull's Island volunteers D&R Canal State Park • Swallowtail on Joe-pye weed Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, PA • Redbud in bloom S. Owens • Wild & Scenic Tinicum Creek PA J. Bell • Lockatong Preserve NJ D. Hiscano

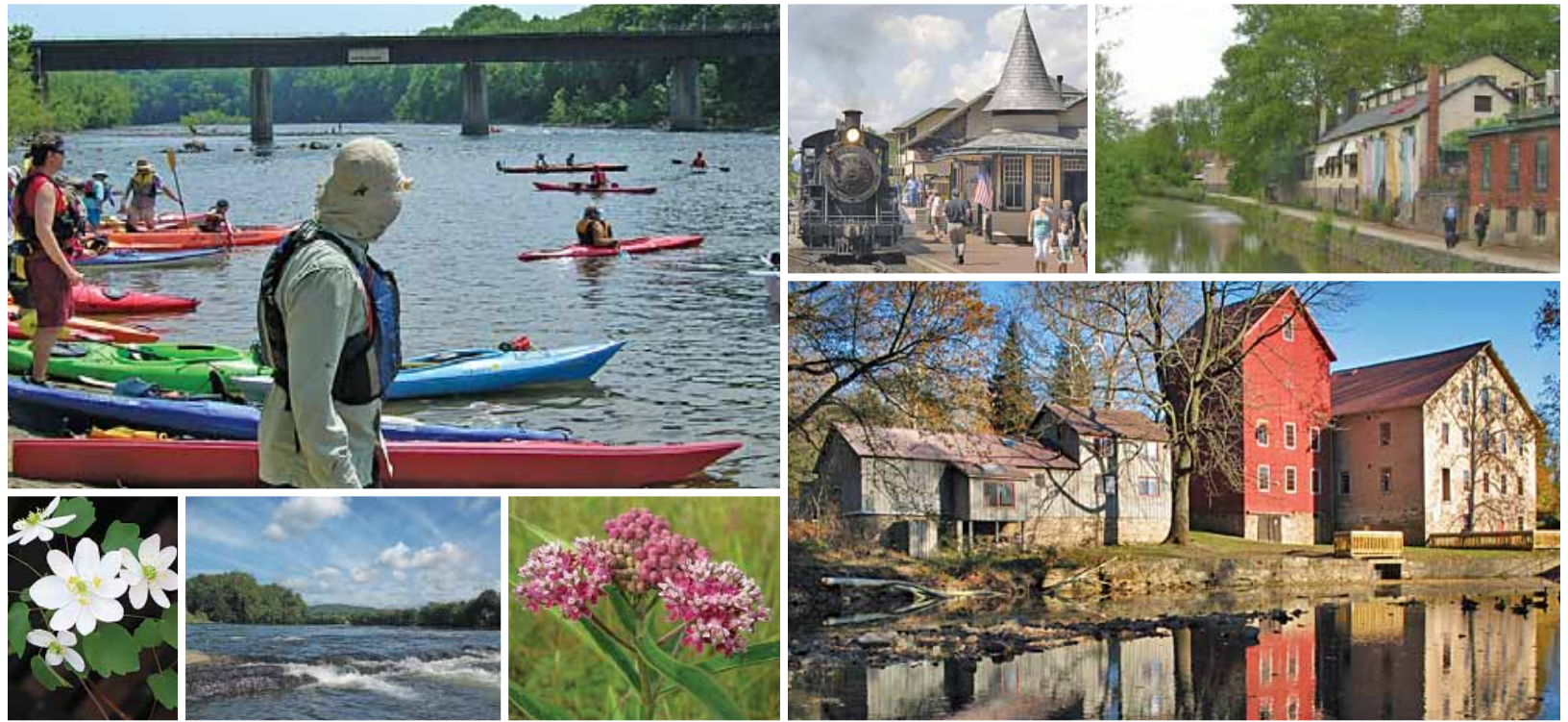
**BACK COVER:** Youth Summit 2008 J. Bell • Learning by doing J. Bell • Spiderwort S. Owens • Kayaks on the River J. Brunner • Wood Poppy S. Owens • Sojourn sunset D. Keller

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Make water conservation a lifelong habit!

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**Your LOWER DELAWARE WILD AND SCENIC Partnership RIVER**



**ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE FIRST FIFTEEN YEARS 2000 - 2014**

Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (W&S), created to protect the special attributes of the nation's free-flowing rivers for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations, has been around for 45 years. Thirty-seven miles of the Delaware River—between the Delaware Water Gap and Trenton—was designated as the Lower Delaware National Wild and Scenic River in 2000.

The Lower Delaware flows through the heart of our nation's birthplace. Every bend in the river speaks to us of history, beauty, and opportunity. Diverse flora and fauna—habitats that do not occur elsewhere in the region—thrive on its banks and islands. Today, the Delaware River supports one of the country's largest populations and valuable industries. The challenge is to manage use of the Lower Delaware corridor to protect its outstanding character.

This section of the river flows past private property and state parklands—there are no lands owned or managed by the National Park Service (NPS) in the corridor. It is known as a Partnership River because it is managed through cooperation among many levels of government and local organizations. That is why it is so important for people like you who live, work and play along the river to lend a hand in protecting the corridor and its valuable resources.

The National Park Service works with state and local partners to maintain and improve conditions in designated W&S corridors. The agency's primary mission is to support and engage communities in partnership, and to achieve the goals of the River Management Plan.

The Lower Delaware receives funding and oversight from the NPS Northeast Regional Office in Philadelphia. The Park Service is also responsible for the review of proposals for projects that could impact the Wild and Scenic River.

*It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.*

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, P.L. 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq. October 2, 1968

**Communities of the Lower Delaware**

PENNSYLVANIA		NEW JERSEY		MERCER COUNTY
<b>NORTHAMPTON COUNTY</b>	<b>BUCKS COUNTY</b>	<b>WARREN COUNTY</b>	<b>HUNTERDON COUNTY</b>	<b>MERCER COUNTY</b>
Lower Mount Bethel Township	Riegelsville Borough	Harmony Township	Holland Township	Hopewell Township
Forks Township	Nockamixon Township	Knowlton Township <sup>1</sup>	Milford Borough	
Portland Borough <sup>1</sup>	Bridgeton Township	Lopatcong Township	Alexandria Township	
Upper Mount Bethel Township <sup>1</sup>	Tinicum Township	Town of Belvidere <sup>2</sup>	Frenchtown Borough	
City of Easton <sup>1</sup>	Plumstead Township	Town of Phillipsburg <sup>2</sup>	Kingwood Township	
Williams Township <sup>2</sup>	Solebury Township	White Township <sup>2</sup>	Delaware Township	
	New Hope Borough	Pohatcong Township <sup>2</sup>	Stockton Borough	
	Upper Makefield Township		City of Lambertville	
	Bedminster Township		West Amwell Township	
	Durham Township <sup>2</sup>			
	Springfield Township <sup>2</sup>			

**23 MUNICIPALITIES ARE DESIGNATED**

<sup>1</sup> FOUR COMMUNITIES SUPPORTED DESIGNATION BUT ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE DESIGNATED REACHES

<sup>2</sup> SEVEN COMMUNITIES DID NOT SUPPORT DESIGNATION IN 2000

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Partner Organizations

**Delaware River Experience (DRE)**  
DRE fosters knowledge and appreciation for the natural resources of the Delaware River through educational programming aboard its state-of-the-art Coast Guard certified pontoon boat "River Otter" based at Keller's Landing, Upper Black Eddy PA. <http://www.delawariverexperience.org>

**Delaware River Greenway Partnership (DRGP)**  
DRGP helped guide the study process that led to the Wild & Scenic River designation and the development of the River Management Plan. DRGP projects for NPS have included invasive species control, land and water trail development, and sponsorship of educational programs and municipal outreach. <http://www.delrivgreenway.org>

**Delaware River Mill Society (DRMS)**  
DRMS helped restore and manages Prallsville Mill, part of the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park and an important historic, artistic, cultural and environmental events venue. Through DRMS, NPS funded the printing of the map and brochure of the Delaware River Scenic Byway as well as restoration of the Salt Pork House as the Mill's Visitor Center. <http://drms-stockton.org>

**Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN)**  
DRN, an advocate for the Delaware River watershed, successfully campaigned to have the Lower Delaware included in DRBC's Special Protection Waters Program designed to maintain high water quality. NPS supported the DRN's site assessment for Tinicum Creek restoration. <http://www.delawariverkeeper.org>

**Heritage Conservancy (HC)**  
HC specializes in open space preservation and stewardship, and provides services for communities in natural resource protection, historic preservation, adaptive reuse, and sustainable development. With NPS support, HC compiled spatial data of protected lands, compiled a historic resources survey for Nockamixon PA, and created interpretive connections for the Delaware & Lehigh Drive between Wilkes-Barre & Bristol PA. <http://www.heritageconservancy.org>

**Hunterdon Land Trust (HLT)**  
HLT protects the rural character of Hunterdon County NJ by preserving ecologically and agriculturally significant land. With NPS funding, HLT's 5-year Delaware River Watershed Protection Initiative focused on land preservation, stewardship, education and outreach and improvements to public access at multiple preserves and parklands. <http://hunterdonlandtrust.org>

**Martins-Jacoby Watershed Association (MJWA)**  
MJWA promotes watershed stewardship in Northampton County PA and Warren County NJ. Projects funded by NPS include Marble Hill trail improvements in Lopatcong NJ; interpretive trails for the Bangor PA school district; Ramsaysburg NJ shoreline restoration and boat launch; water resources study for Upper Mt. Bethel PA; and inventory of historic sites for the Phillipsburg NJ area. MJWA coordinates one of two Regional River Councils for the Lower Delaware W&S River. <http://www.watershedcoalitionlv.org>

**Natural Lands Trust (NLT)**  
NLT protects natural areas in eastern PA and southern NJ through acquisition, resource management, and the creation of opportunities for people to connect and learn. With NPS support, NLT developed a GIS model to identify priority areas for land

conservation; created a *Stewardship Handbook for Natural Lands* and a *Junior River Ranger Activity Booklet*; and sponsored the Delaware River Experience education program. NLT coordinates one of two Regional River Councils for the Lower Delaware W&S River. <http://www.natlans.org>

**New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJCF)**  
NJCF protects NJ's threatened natural areas and farmland through land acquisition and stewardship. With support from NPS, NJCF prepared the Management Plan for the Wickecheoke Creek, a tributary to the Lower Delaware. <http://www.njconservation.org>

**Tinicum Conservancy (TC)**  
TC protects the rural character and natural resources of Tinicum Township, Bucks County PA through easement acquisition and stewardship. With NPS support, TC and Tinicum Township completed a natural resource inventory for the 150-acre Giving Pond Recreation Area in D&R Canal State Park plus a bank restoration and flood control project on Heaney's Run. <http://tinicumconservancy.org>

**Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)**  
DRBC oversees the supply and quality of water resources in the Delaware River Basin. With NPS support, DRBC has conducted sampling and analyses for the Lower Delaware and a freshwater mussel survey. [www.drbc.net](http://www.drbc.net)



Repairing damaged streams restores water quality, rebuilds habitat and provides learning opportunities for the next generation of environmental stewards.



Projects, Partnerships and Progress: 2000-2014

2014 marked the 15th anniversary of the federal designation of the Lower Delaware as a Partnership Wild & Scenic River. It is time to celebrate the hard work and dedication of those organizations, agencies, communities, and individuals who have supported the Wild & Scenic designation and worked to promote and protect the River and its outstanding resources.

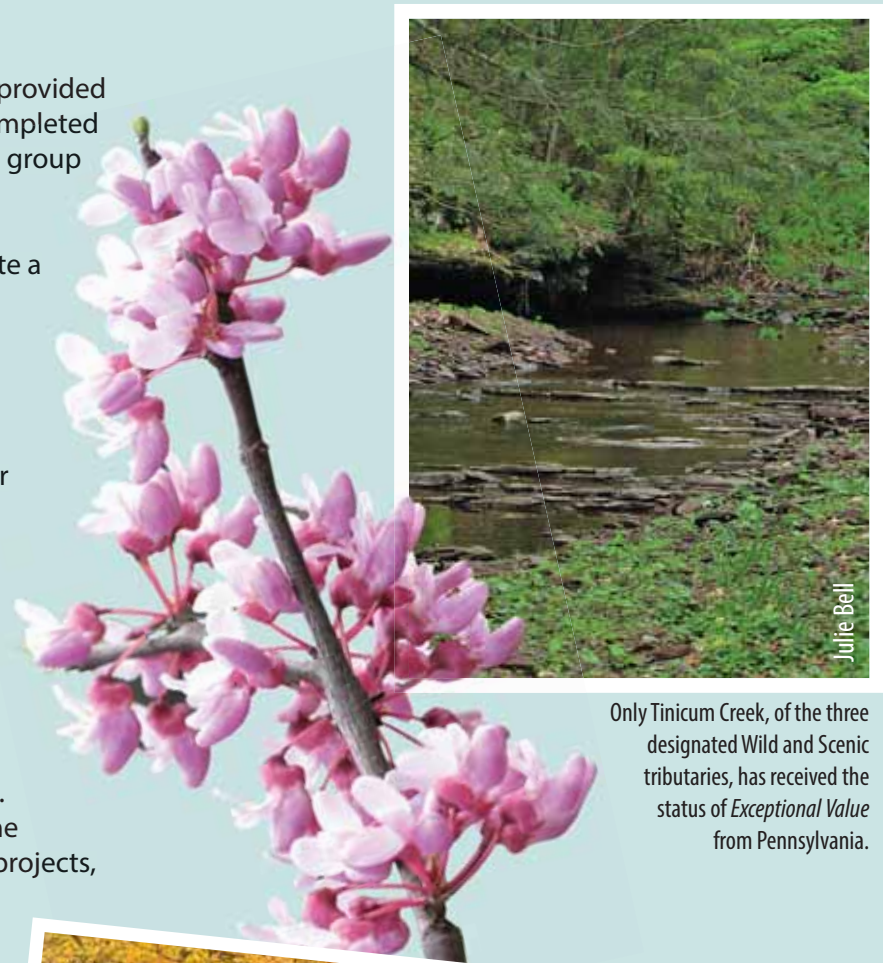
Between 2000 and 2014, the National Park Service provided \$1,125,277 in funding for more than 60 projects completed through partnerships with over 50 organizations. A group of key non-profits and communities worked with individual businesses, state, county and local governments, and federal agencies to complete a wide array of projects throughout the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic corridor.

The history of the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic program, including an accounting of the projects and their impact on meeting River Management Plan goals, has been chronicled in *The First Fifteen Years: Accomplishments of the Lower Delaware National Wild & Scenic River Program* available at <http://lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org/reports/>.

As impressive as the \$1.1 million in federal investment is the leveraging by partnerships that more than doubled the funds available for projects. Individually and collectively, the projects protect the resources of the corridor. Outreach and education projects, such as the ongoing *Delaware River Experience*, recognize the need for nurturing interest in and appreciation for the Lower Delaware so that the legacy of stewardship will continue with the coming generations.

While a number of strategies and actions identified in the Management and Action Plans

have been fully implemented (11%), and a noteworthy number (about 52%) have been partially implemented, a substantial amount of work remains. The old tasks need to be re-evaluated for need and relevancy, and new strategies developed for the next decade of progress.



Only Tinicum Creek, of the three designated Wild and Scenic tributaries, has received the status of Exceptional Value from Pennsylvania.



Hunterdon Land Trust's efforts along the Delaware mainstem have resulted in the preservation of over 1,750 acres along the bluffs and scenic vistas of NJ Route 29, and more than 3,000 acres in the Lower Delaware River corridor within a five year period. Photo: HLT's Lockington Preserve in NJ.

