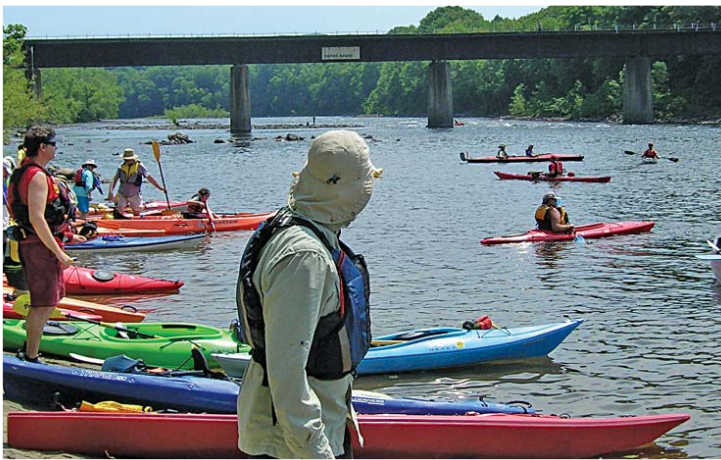


Your
LOWER DELAWARE
WILD AND SCENIC
Partnership
RIVER



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

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

Lower Mount Bethel Township
Forks Township
Portland Borough¹
Upper Mount Bethel Township¹
City of Easton¹
Williams Township²

BUCKS COUNTY

Riegelsville Borough
Nockamixon Township
Bridgeton Township
Tinicum Township
Plumstead Township
Solebury Township
New Hope Borough
Upper Makefield Township
Bedminster Township
Durham Township²
Springfield Township²

WARREN COUNTY

Harmony Township
Knowlton Township¹
Lopatcong Township
Town of Belvidere²
Town of Phillipsburg²
White Township²
Pohatcong Township²

NEW JERSEY

HUNTERDON COUNTY

Holland Township
Milford Borough
Alexandria Township
Frenchtown Borough
Kingwood Township
Delaware Township
Stockton Borough
City of Lambertville
West Amwell Township

MERCER COUNTY

Hopewell Township

23 MUNICIPALITIES ARE DESIGNATED

¹ FOUR COMMUNITIES SUPPORTED DESIGNATION BUT ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE DESIGNATED REACHES

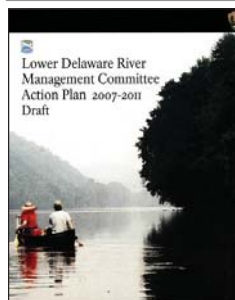
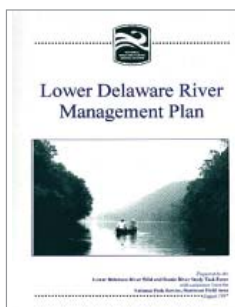
² SEVEN COMMUNITIES DID NOT SUPPORT DESIGNATION IN 2000

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.



GOAL	ICON	GOAL STATEMENT
Goal #1: Water Quality		Maintain existing water quality in the Delaware River and its tributaries from measurably degrading and improve it where practical.
Goal #2: Natural Resources		Preserve and protect the river's outstanding natural resources, including rare and endangered plant and animal species, river islands, steep slopes and buffer areas in the river corridor and along tributaries.
Goal #3: Historic & Cultural Resources		Preserve and protect the character of historic structures, districts and sites, including landscapes, in the river corridor.
Goal #4: Recreational Resources		Encourage recreational use of the river corridor that has a low environmental and social impact and is compatible with public safety, the protection of private property and with the preservation of natural and cultural qualities of the river corridor.
Goal #5: Economic Development		Identify principles for minimizing the adverse impact of development within the river corridor.
Goal #6: Open Space Preservation		Preserve open space as a means of maximizing the health of the ecosystem, preserving scenic values, and minimizing the impact of new development in the river.
Goal #7: Education & Outreach		The long-term success of the Management Plan and its Goals is dependent on well-informed citizens and landowners, and the next generation who will provide leadership and stewardship.

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

— Richard Bangs & Christian Kallen, *River Gods*
Found in JR River Ranger Activity Book

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

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.natlands.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>

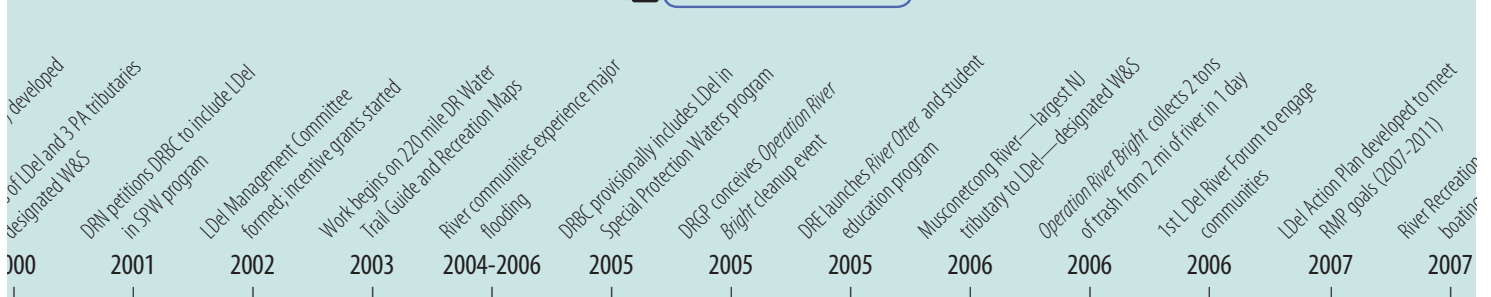
Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)

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

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



1968 National W&S Rivers System created
1978 Upper Delaware and Water Gap segments declared W&S
1992 DRBC Special Protection Waters anti-degradation program, covers Upper Del and Water Gap W&S
1997 LDel under W&S study: River Management Plan (RMP)
20 65 miles





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.



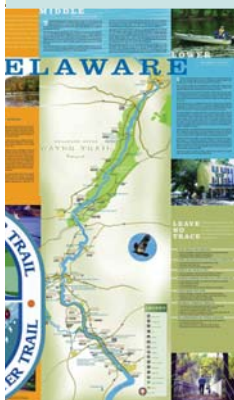
The history of the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic program, including an accounting of the projects and their impact on meeting River Management Plan goals, has been chronicled

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



Installed at

NPS workshop and Report on W&S
Outstanding Resource Values

NPS municipal workshops on Wild &
Scenic Rivers Act

NLT publishes Stewardship
Handbook

LDel partners launch Lower Delaware
Jr. River Ranger program

2012

2013

2014

2014

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.



Julie Bell

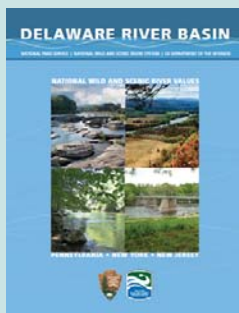
Only Tinicum Creek, of the three designated Wild and Scenic tributaries, has received the status of *Exceptional Value* from Pennsylvania.



Dwight Hiscano

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 Lockatong Preserve in NJ.

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 Janyszeski (PA) at: 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



This brochure was developed and printed by DRBC under a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service. We are indebted to numerous individuals and organizations which provided generously of their expertise, historic knowledge and images. Thank you!

Make water
conservation
a lifelong habit!



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