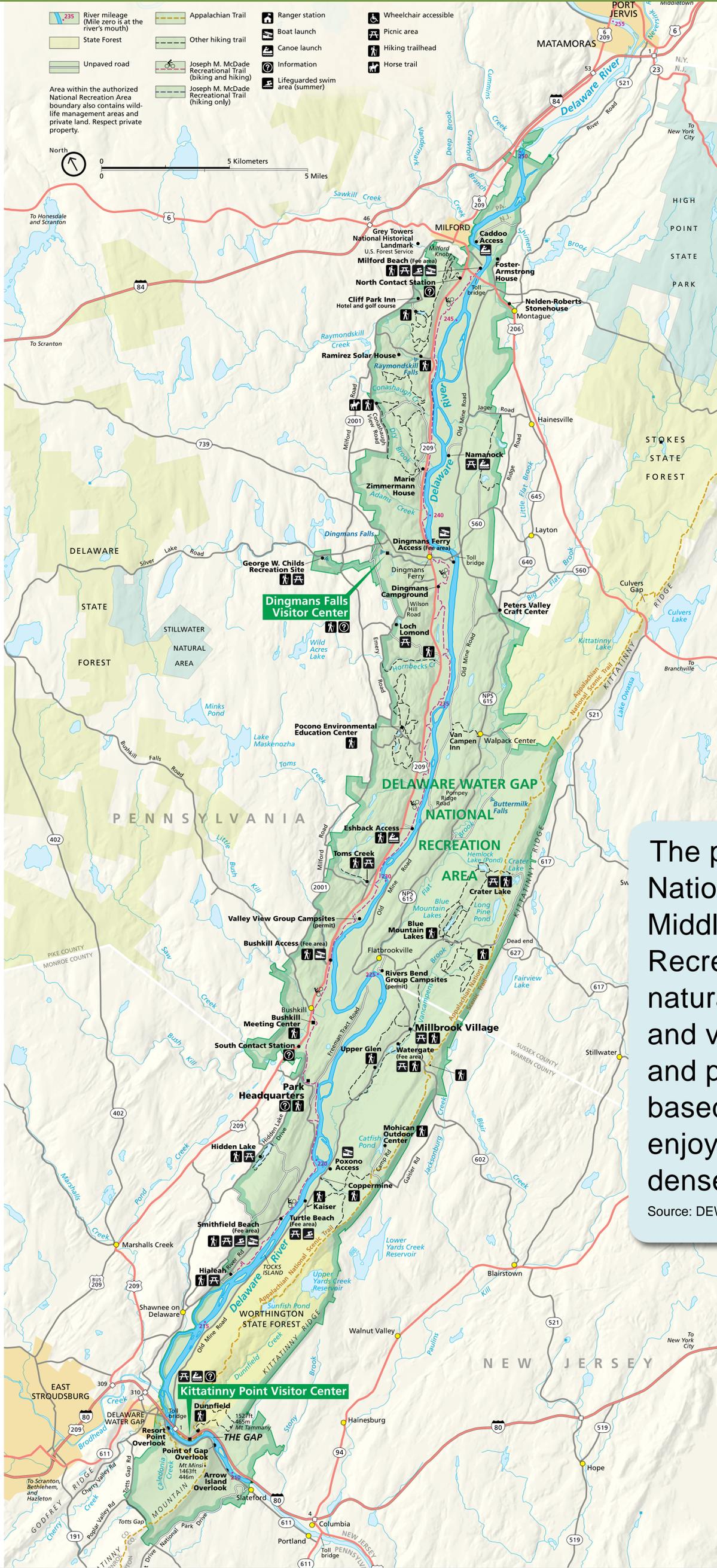


# Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River New Jersey and Pennsylvania

National Park Service  
US Department of the Interior



The purpose of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and the Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River is to preserve the natural, cultural, and scenic resources and values of the Delaware River valley and provide opportunities for resource-based recreation, education, and enjoyment in close proximity to the most densely populated region of the nation.

Source: DEWA Foundation Document





## Possible Management Strategies: Camping

### CAMPING AND OVERNIGHT OPPORTUNITIES

Given the interest in more overnight opportunities, additional camping access and locations will be considered to meet a wide range of visitor needs.

### POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

- Develop new walk-in or bike-in camping opportunities along trails
- Develop new or improve existing concession-operated campground for vehicle and RV camping
- Provide camping in new or existing concession operated campgrounds and camping areas only
- Provide cabin rentals in historic houses
- Create single user group areas and campsites to prevent user conflicts (e.g., bike-in only, hike-in only)



Which strategies do you like the best?

### RIVER CAMPING

River camping continues to be very popular at the park and there have been requests to expand camping opportunities. The park has lost some campsites due to flooding, and the reduced number of campsites and increasing use have resulted in illegal campsites and resource damage.

### POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

- Increase number of primitive river camping sites and/or cluster campsites along the river and manage through a permit and/or fee system
- Retain the existing number of river campsites and implement a reservation or permit system
- Eliminate river camping and restore areas to natural conditions
- Require pack-in and pack-out of human waste and trash at campsites
- Install removable seasonal toilets or additional environmentally-friendly outhouses at campsites



Which strategies do you think the NPS should not consider?

Do you have any new ideas or changes to existing ideas that you think the planning team should consider?



## Possible Management Strategies: Trails and Trail Use

The plan provides the opportunity to consider sustainable trail design to minimize extensive trail and resource damage in high use and sensitive resource areas, and to minimize associated rescues and visitor conflicts.

### POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

- Reroute some trails to increase challenge and protect the creeks and/or other resources
- Create hardened trails in some areas, including boardwalks, and viewing platform at the end of trails or viewpoints
- Close some trail(s) due to safety and resource protection concerns
- Implement design solutions (e.g., curbing, striping, paving, barriers) to better define parking areas and reduce overflow parking
- Implement a permit system for some trails to reduce crowding and conflicts
- Develop a parkwide loop trail (develop more loop trails)
- Create single user group trails (e.g., fishing-only trails, hiking-only trails); this would mean no picnicking or swimming in these areas
- Increase staffing to support management of trails (e.g., close trails, maintain trails, patrol trails, educate visitors, manage permit system)



Which strategies do you like the best?

Which strategies do you think the NPS should not consider?

Do you have any new ideas or changes to existing ideas that you think the planning team should consider?



# Possible Management Strategies: River Access Points and Day-Use

## RIVER ACCESS POINTS

The Delaware River is an important recreational resource for many user groups. The popularity of the area creates challenges such as crowding, conflicts and safety concerns at some river access points, and damage to riparian areas from visitors creating or expanding river access points.

## POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

- Provide or designate separate access points for day-users, overnight-users, and commercial-users
- Provide an additional boat ramp on the eastern (New Jersey) shoreline
- Expand available parking at some launch sites to accommodate additional use and overnight use
- Enhance picnicking opportunities near river access points



## DAY-USE PICNIC AND RECREATION SITES

In recent years the current day-use picnic and recreation sites at the park have become very popular. The planning team will evaluate ways to continue to provide opportunities for picnicking and other social recreation, especially for large groups, while protecting the adjacent resources and reducing crowding and user conflicts at these sites.

## POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

- Expand day-use sites to accommodate large groups
- Close sites (temporarily or permanently) with sensitive resources for habitat restoration and protection
- Expand current facilities to accommodate more visitors
- Formalize (harden/develop) unofficial sites currently used by visitors
- Re-design sites to better accommodate current types and levels of use
- Provide designated (permit) overnight parking for Appalachian Trail and river users

**Which strategies do you like the best?**

**Which strategies do you think the NPS should not consider?**

**Do you have any new ideas or changes to existing ideas that you think the planning team should consider?**

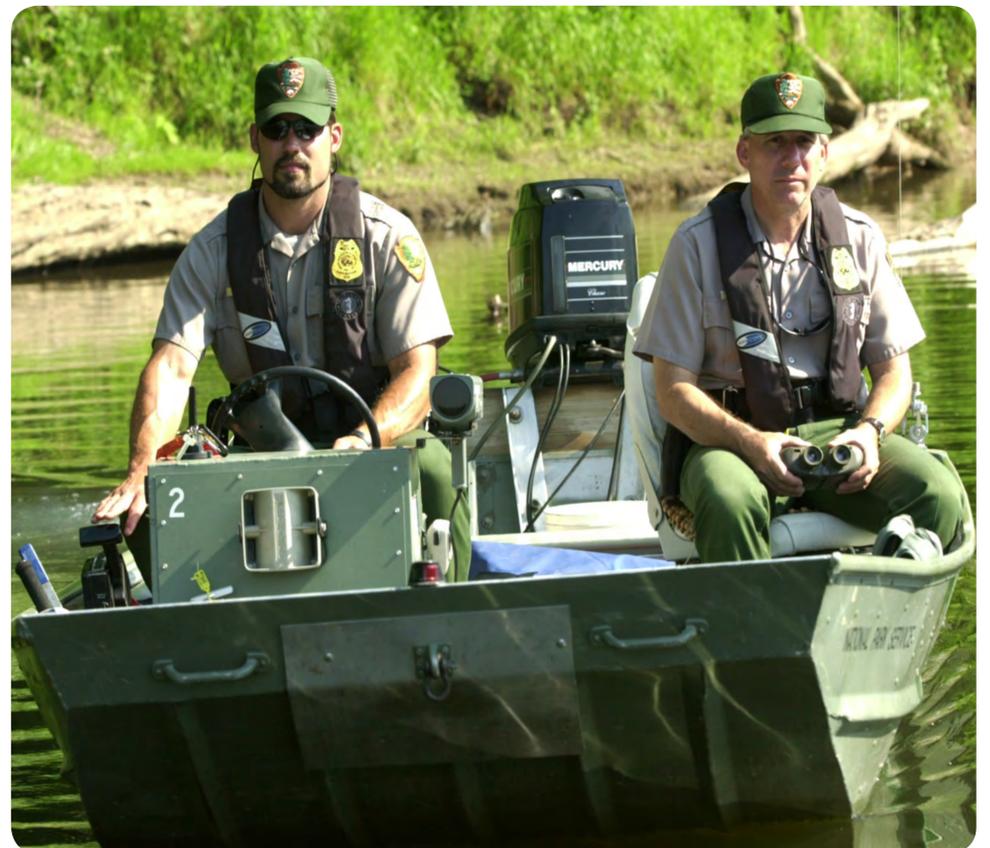


## Possible Management Strategies: Operational Strategies

The implementation of strategies for improvements to visitor services and facilities have additional costs that will likely require the park to increase user fees or change other aspects of park operations to support visitor uses and services.

### POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

- Implement an entrance fee for all recreation area users to support and improve visitor services
- Increase fees at current fee sites
- Increase the number of fee sites throughout the recreation area and improve services at those locations
- Establish a dedicated park staff to support, monitor, and maintain river activities
- Increase NPS presence throughout the park at popular sites (to promote resource education and preservation of sites)
- Increase concession opportunities for visitor services (e.g., food) at beaches and other destinations
- Adaptively re-purpose historic structures for visitor use and services



**Which strategies do you like the best?**

**Which strategies do you think the NPS should not consider?**

**Do you have any new ideas or changes to existing ideas that you think the planning team should consider?**



# Possible Management Strategies: Interpretation, Education, and Recreation Opportunities

## INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

Education and interpretation are critical to improve visitor understanding of natural and cultural resources, to encourage safe use of the park, to inspire personal connections to the resources, and to increase stewardship by visitors. Education and outreach are important tools to improve the park's identity as a unit of the NPS System.

## POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

- Build a visitor center (or multi-use center) to accommodate large groups and provide a space for visitor education and information
- Adaptively re-purpose historic structures for visitor use and services
- Increase/improve signage for visitor education and wayfinding throughout the recreation area
- Establish a fee for special or complex interpretation programs
- Increase staff presence and roving throughout the park
- Increase formal education programs

## EXPANDED AND CHANGED RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

There is interest in expanded recreational opportunities and there is also a need to adjust how some activities/sites are currently being managed.

## POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

- Add lifeguarded swim areas at less developed river sites or non-river locations
- Disallow swimming at all waterfalls/creeks for public safety
- Designate appropriate creek swimming locations, and disallow swimming at some creeks for resource and habitat protection
- Expand mountain biking and equestrian use in existing or new areas
- Maintain designated locations for use of model airplanes, or restrict the use of model airplanes in the park



Dingmans Falls



Millbrook Visitor Center Barn



Which strategies do you like the best?

Which strategies do you think the NPS should not consider?

Do you have any new ideas or changes to existing ideas that you think the planning team should consider?



# Visitor Use Management Plan Process

## SETTING THE FRAMEWORK

WHY ARE WE HERE AND WHAT DOES THIS PLAN NEED TO ACCOMPLISH?

Completed  
Fall 2014

Completed  
Spring 2015

- Foundation Document
  - Park Purpose and Significance
  - Law & Policy
  - Fundamental Resources and Values
- Purpose and Need of the Plan
- Civic Engagement

## UNDERSTANDING CURRENT CONDITIONS AND INITIAL MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH VISITOR EXPERIENCES AND RESOURCES (CONDITIONS, THREATS, AND OPPORTUNITIES)?

Summer 2015

- Resource Condition Assessments and Visitor Surveys
- Issues the Plan Will Address
- Visitor Use Management Goals and Best Practices
- Public Scoping and Review of Possible Management Strategies
- Preliminary Alternatives

We Are  
Here

## EXPLORING MANAGEMENT POSSIBILITIES FOR VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT AT DEWA

HOW DO WE MEET THE PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED AND WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF PROPOSED ACTIONS?

2016-2017

- Alternatives: Objectives and Management Strategies
- Indicators for Monitoring Experiences and Resources
- Zoning Changes
- Environmental Consequences
- Recommending a Preferred Alternative
- Public Comment on Draft Plan

## Final Document and Decision

NOTE: The NPS is using this scoping process to fulfill its responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of its actions on historic properties, and all comments and concerns related to historic properties should be submitted during project scoping.