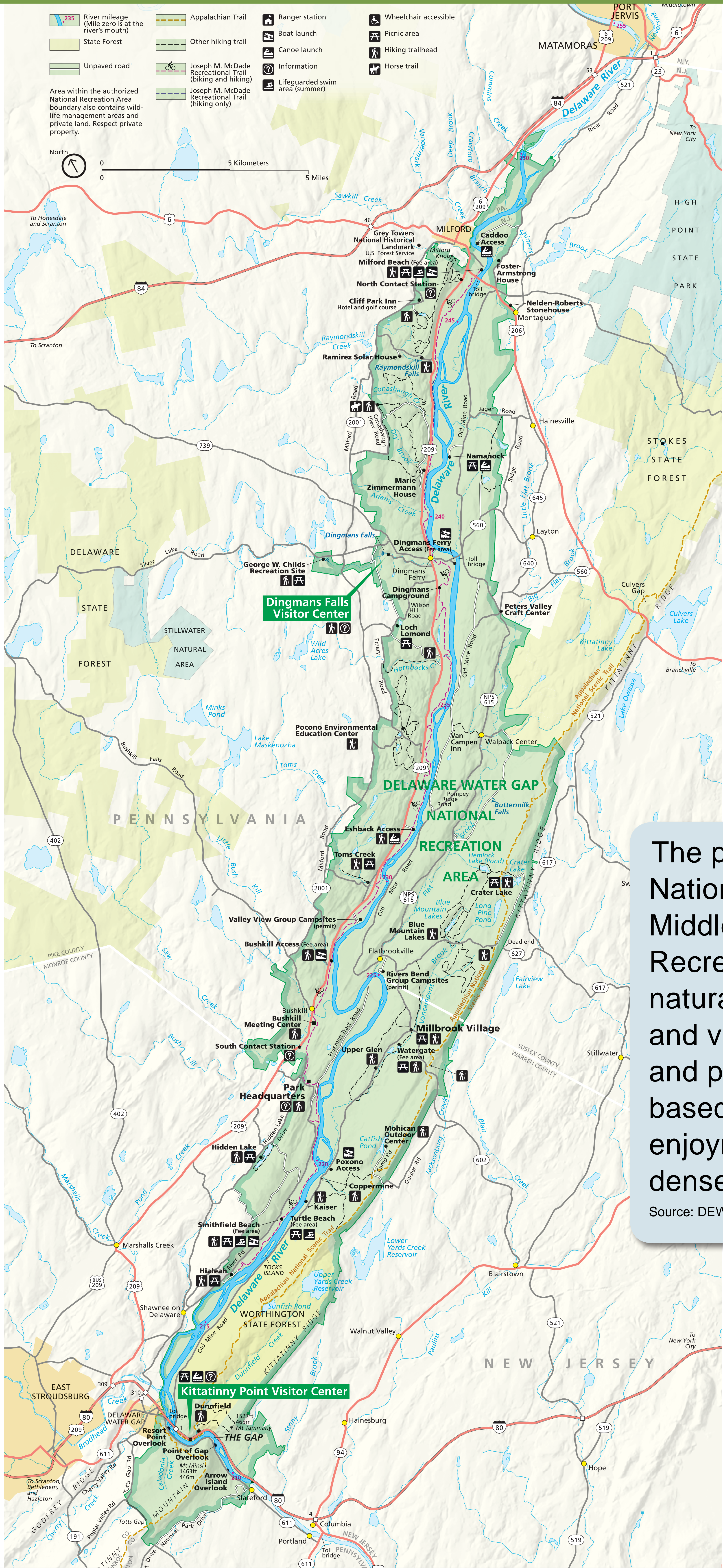


Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area  
Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River  
New Jersey and Pennsylvania

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

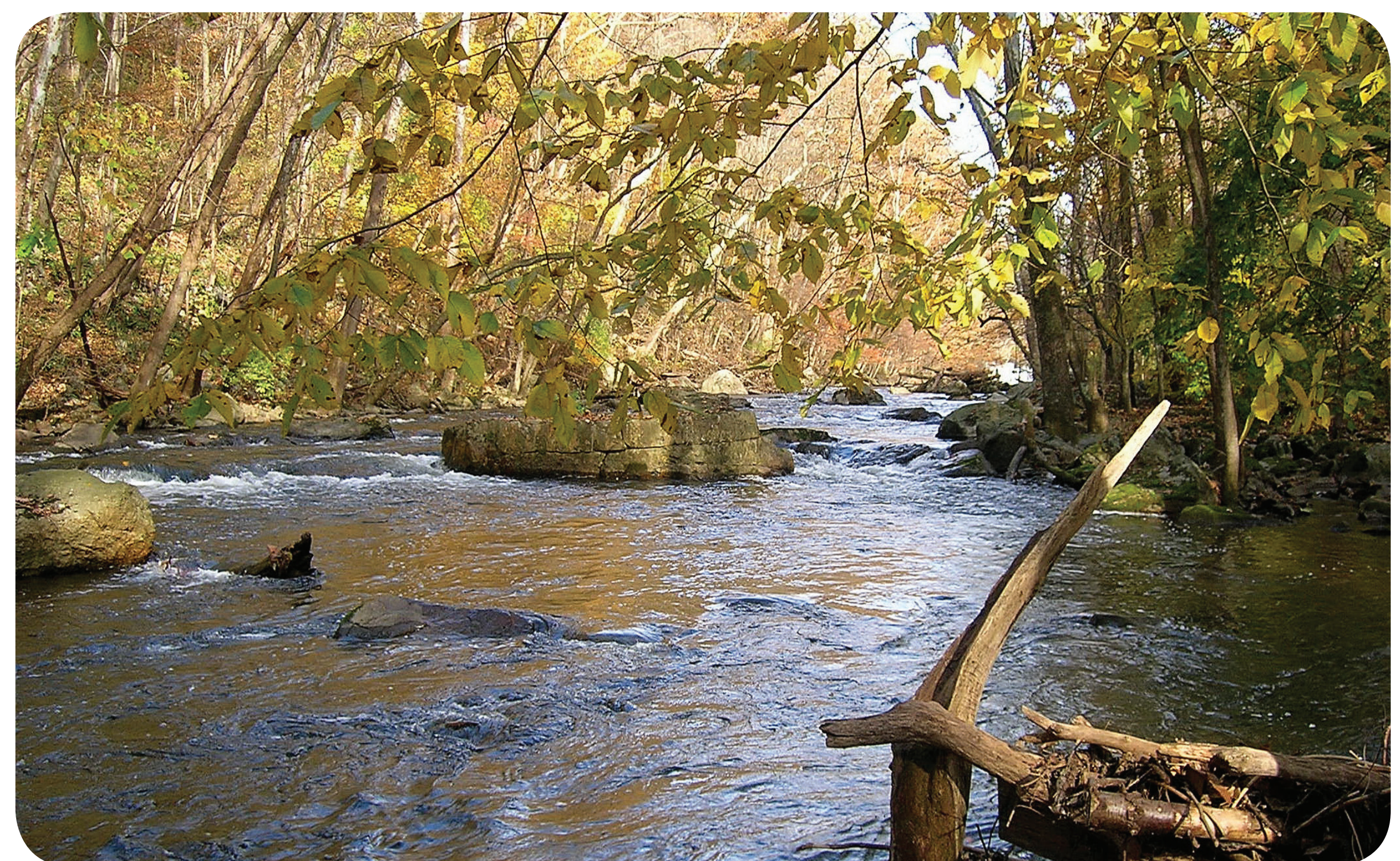






## YOUR ROLE IN THE VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT PLAN PROCESS

- Overall goal of VUM process – to develop a plan that encourages access while protecting resources
- Work completed to-date
  - Documenting park purpose and significance
  - Reviewing current law and policy
  - Explaining Fundamental Resources and Values
  - Publishing October 2014 Foundation Document
- Objective of today's meeting
  - To encourage the public to provide preliminary input prior to the development of potential management strategies for the Visitor Use Management Plan
- Next steps
  - Summer 2015 – you will have a chance to provide input and complete visitor surveys on current conditions and initial management strategies
  - 2016-2017 – you will have a chance to provide input on alternatives for Visitor Use Management





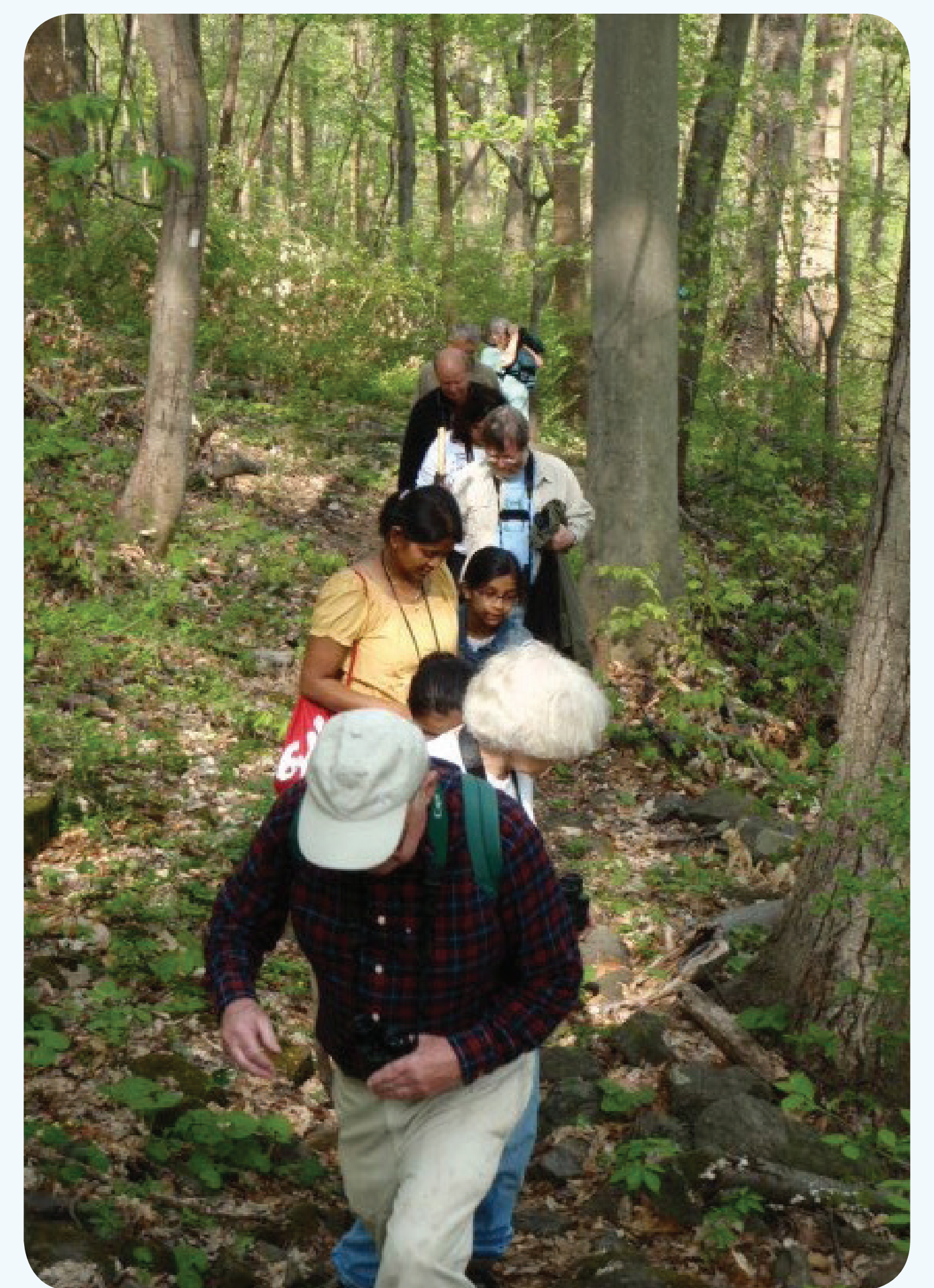
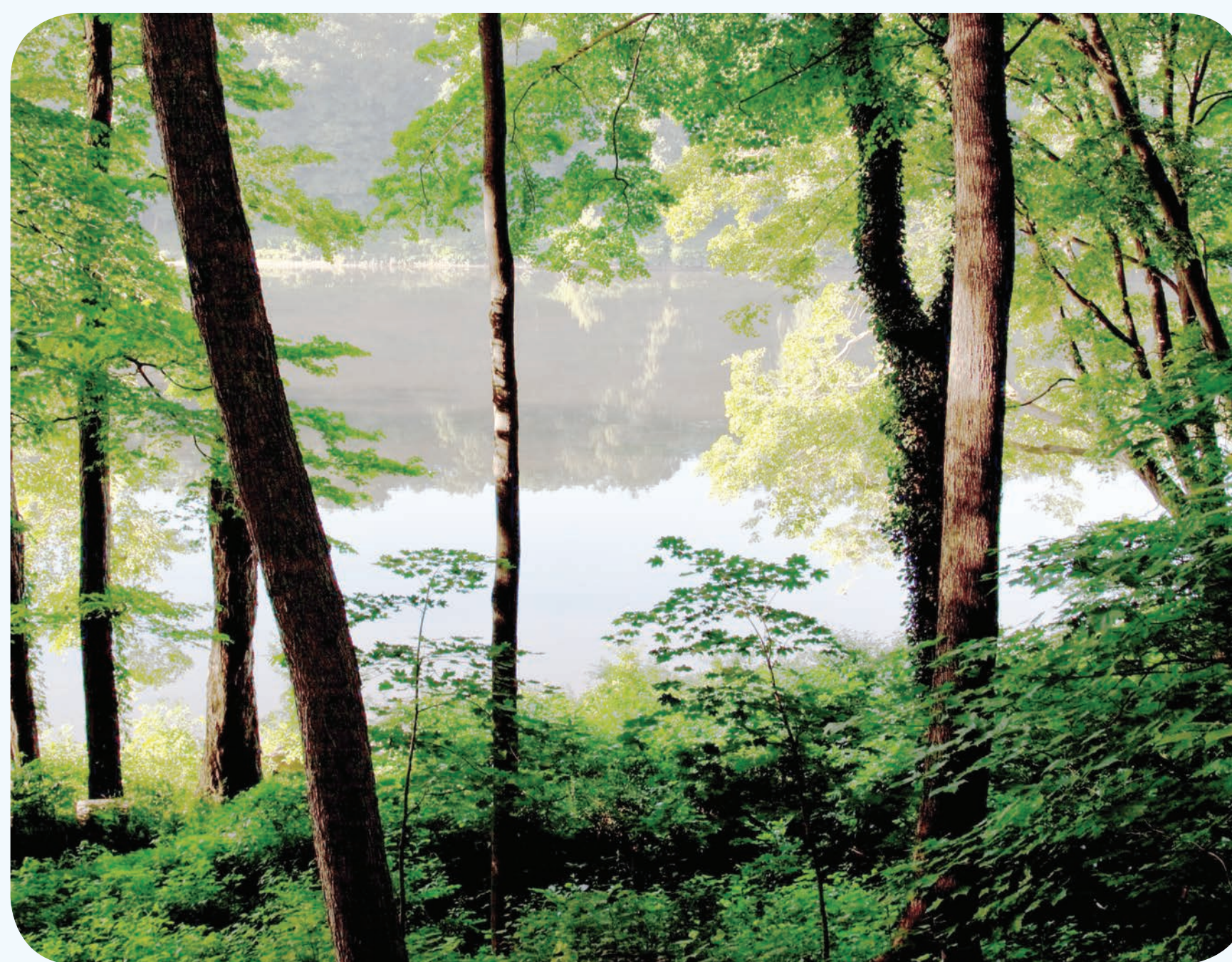


## FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCES AND VALUES

### Mosaic of Terrestrial and Wetland Habitats

The varied natural features at the park support diverse plant and animal populations:

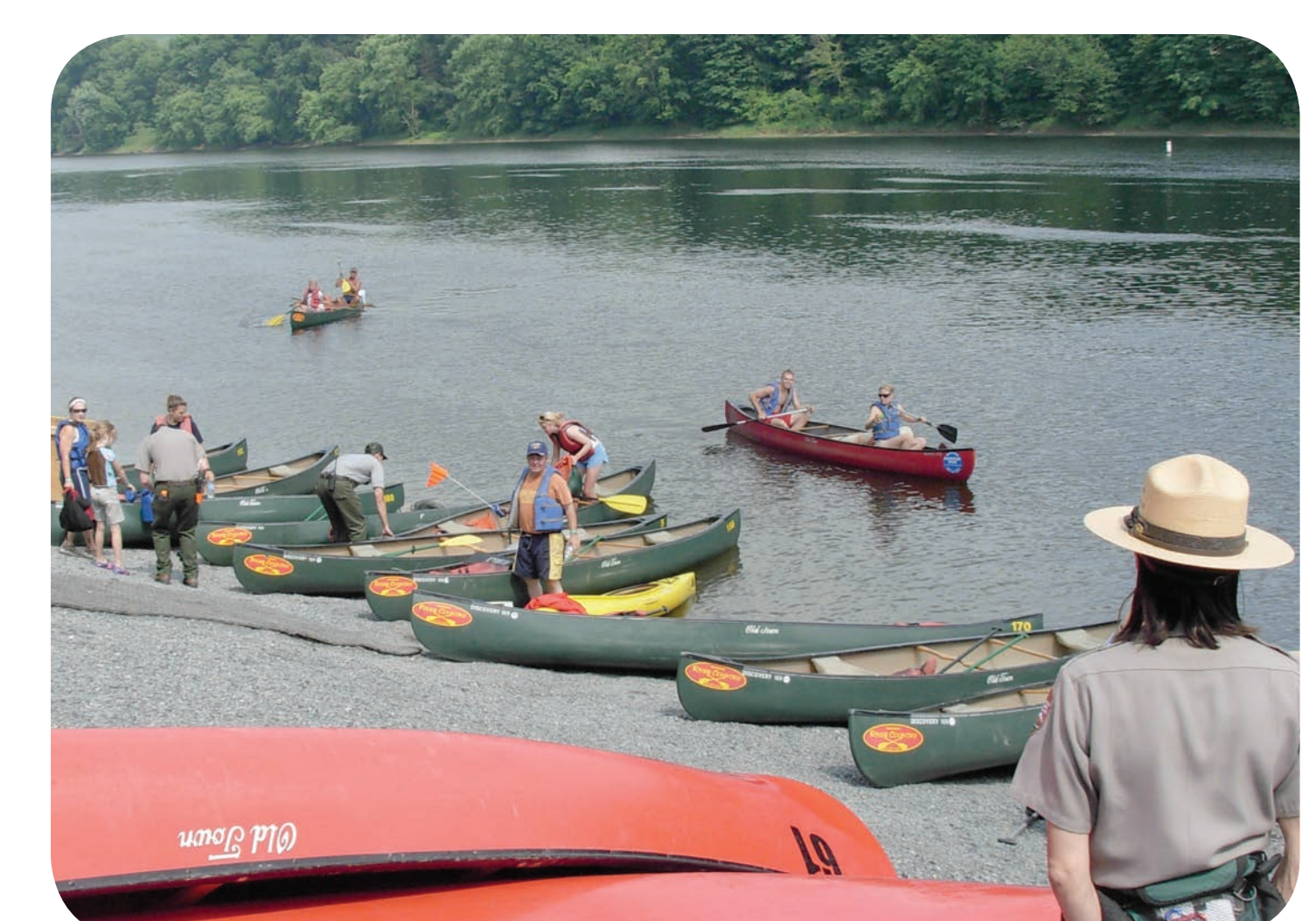
- Variety of land and water resources
- Large unbroken forests
- Connected habitats and diverse wildlife
- Water quality and flood protection



### Sustainable Access to High-quality Recreation Opportunities

The river and surrounding landscapes provide a wide variety of opportunities including:

- Variety of river and landscape options
- Four seasons enjoyment
- Remoteness and solitude
- Social recreation





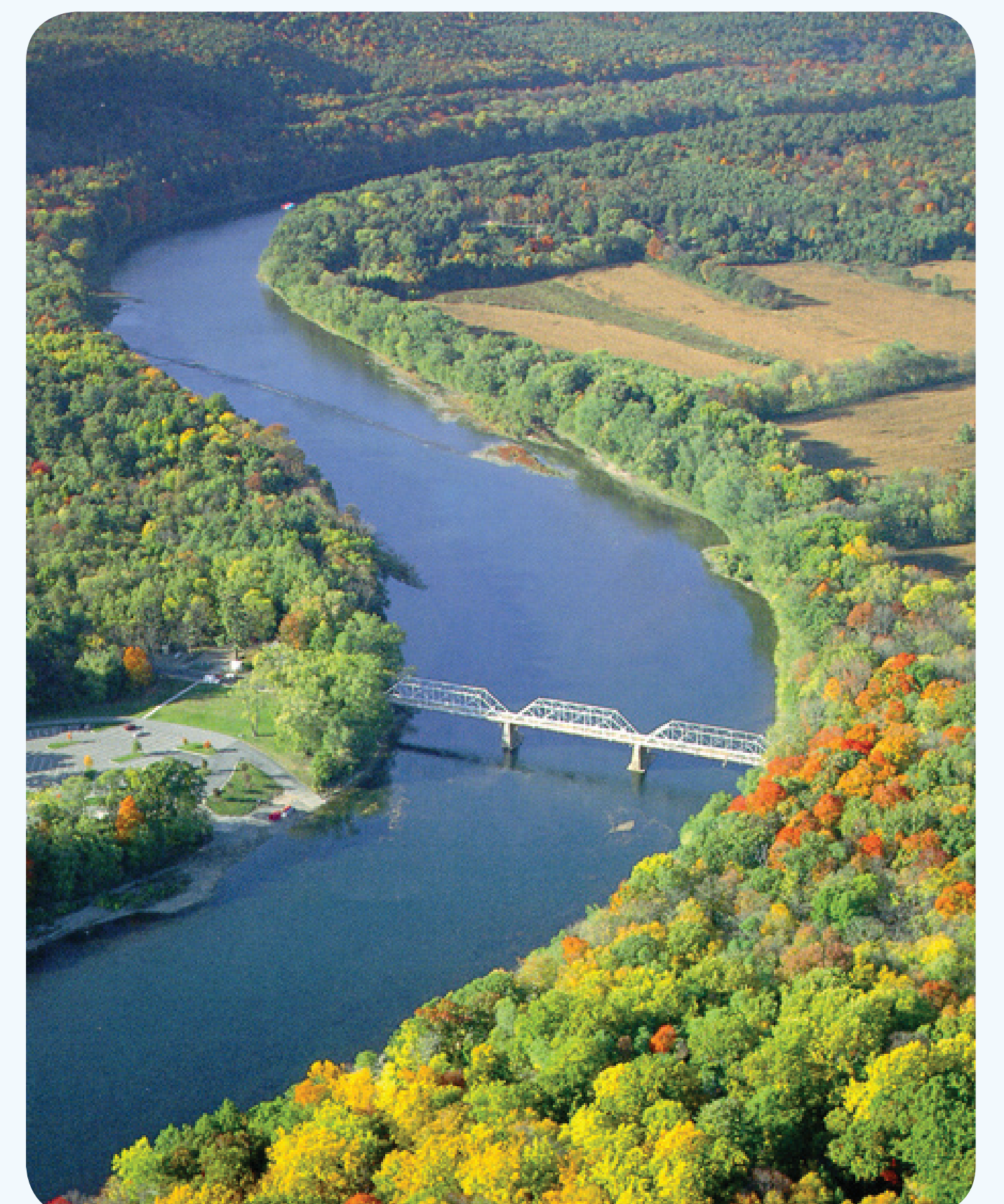


## FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCES AND VALUES

### Stunning Scenic Resources and Distinct Aesthetic Values

The river, ridges, cliffs and valleys provide a striking backdrop for visitor enjoyment:

- Middle Delaware River framed by Kittatinny Ridge and Pocono Plateau
- Islands, forests, streams, fields, ravines, waterfalls
- Dark skies
- Changing seasons



### Changing Land Use

Landscapes, structures, and archeological resources illustrate shifting land use and economic diversity:

- Changes in settlement patterns over the centuries
- Agricultural landscapes and buildings
- Mills, camps, villages
- Old Mine Road Historic District







# Visitor Use Management Plan Process

## SETTING THE FRAMEWORK

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

Completed  
Fall 2014

Spring 2015

- Foundation Document
  - Park Purpose and Significance
  - Law & Policy
  - Fundamental Resources and Values
- Purpose and Need of the Plan
- Civic Engagement (today’s meeting)

WE ARE HERE

## 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
- Preliminary Alternatives
- Visitor Use Management Goals and Best Practices
- Public Scoping

## 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





SHARE YOUR IDEAS

What are your favorite things to do at the park?

What are the most important experiences and opportunities at the park? and why?





**SHARE YOUR IDEAS**

What issues and opportunities (including visitor experiences and resource conditions) are the highest priority to address?

What are your suggestions to address these issues and opportunities?