Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA) is a nearly 70,000-acre unit of the National Park Service (NPS) located in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Lands are almost equally divided between the two states along the approximately forty-mile-long Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River (MIDE), a separate unit administered by the same superintendent. The river is the boundary between the two states.

DEWA is among the top 10 most visited units of the national park system with an average of approximately five million visitors annually and is one of the largest parks in terms of infrastructure responsibilities. It is less than a two-hour drive from two of the six largest metropolitan areas in the United States, New York City and Philadelphia.

DEWA and MIDE have reached a moment in their history that allows great opportunities for expansion and enhancement of the public interest. These two parks have become a central focus for millions of people as a special place for use and enjoyment as well as for recreation and inspiration.

After decades of planning, inventory, and assessment of assets and needs the park has a business plan, a park asset management plan, a strategic goals document and has successfully undergone numerous audits of every variety. The culmination of these multi-disciplinary efforts is a clear understanding of the challenges and resource limitations facing the NPS at DEWA. There are apparent, potential solutions for many of the operational and structural issues that have plagued these parks for decades.

This document identifies the highest priority assets and activities and the goals for future management as well as the action items and measurable objectives for moving forward.

We have an opportunity to guide the future of operations and development of the parks in such a manner as to further the purposes of the Organic Act that created the NPS. In addition, we are poised at this time in history to provide the people of the United States with a new nationally significant place, as well as a new direction for the mission of the parks and the agency. This opportunity will be guided by the park VISION for a Sustainable Future. The tenets of this VISION will inform all of the parks’ actions over the coming decades and will act as a set of guidelines for our continued growth.

Vision 2030 serves as a principled guide to inform the park into the middle years of the 21st century. Through the use of this plan and the established priorities and concerted actions identified in it, DEWA will become a sustainably operating park that will be a model for other national park operations by 2030. However, it is not enough to merely designate a philosophical framework. In order to grow and adapt, DEWA has set concrete goals and objectives designed to guide activities and choices and to measure progress by producing tangible and visible results.

With almost fifty years of managing the resource, it is now time for us to base our mission on experience, rather than on a purpose and a dam project that never happened. It is time to focus on what did happen rather on what did not happen. Tocks Island Dam was never built; but the American people do have two outstanding national parks to enjoy and we, as the current generation of care-takers, have both the privilege and responsibility of guiding that future through this VISION.

In 1965, Congress saw DEWA as a park for the people, a place for urban souls to seek replenishment and inspiration from nature as people have done for over a century and a half. It is time that we complete that VISION. Using the past as a foundation, we will build a greater and more sustainable park for future generations.

Superintendent John J. Donahue
August 25, 2014
The history of the Delaware Water Gap began millions of years ago, as continents collided and a landscape began to evolve. Through millennia, mountains and rivers engaged in a gradual choreography, forming and shifting, each in response to the other. The Water Gap itself was born of this geologic transaction, as waters found a soft spot in the Kittatinny Ridge, the mountains were breached, and the Delaware River we know today took its route to the sea.

As geologic time yielded to historic time, we were left with an astounding landscape that, more than a century before it became an NPS unit, was touted as a “Wonder of the World.”

Native Americans inhabited the area for more than 10,000 years, leaving behind a rich archaeological legacy that includes the Minisink Historic District, designated a National Historic Landmark in 1993.

Like their Native American predecessors, early European settlers were drawn to the area currently comprising the recreation area by the wealth of resources, natural and mineral, found there. Miners, farmers, and, eventually, resort owners all plied their trades, up and down the river valley.

In the middle of the 20th century, the United States government began acquiring land in the river valley with the intent of building a large dam near Tocks Island, several miles upstream of the Water Gap. In time, that project was abandoned for a multitude of reasons, and eventually DEWA was formed to administer these lands.

The resources found in the park, including its abundant wildlife populations, provide the largely urban and suburban visitors with a unique experience. Forty miles of Scenic and Recreational River and the Appalachian Trail form a basis for one of the most varied recreational sites in this nation. Whether you choose to experience nature along a river beach with thousands of other visitors or hike in solitude along a ridge crest trail, you can do it all only 85 miles from Manhattan and 100 miles from Philadelphia.

DEWA itself is in reality two separate parks: Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River (MIDE) that includes over forty miles of natural and cultural landscape features and a recently dedicated National Water Trail, and Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA), a land-based park that stretches from the Kittatinny Ridge in New Jersey, across the Delaware River to the Pocono Plateau in Pennsylvania.

By most measures that the NPS uses to judge the size and resulting budget allocations of parks, DEWA, including MIDE, is one of the largest parks. In visitation, in the amount of infrastructure maintained and supported, in the political and economic impact it has on surrounding areas and by almost any conceivable metric other than simple acreage, DEWA is a leading park in the national system. We are the second largest park by acreage in the Northeast Region, which stretches from Virginia to Maine.

With hundreds of miles of both roads and trails, hundreds of bridges, deteriorating infrastructure, over 700 remaining structures, many of which are seriously deteriorated and hazardous and over 100 that are considered historic, and more dams than any other national park unit, DEWA management and staff have a maintenance burden far beyond that of most other parks, counties or towns. We work in conjunction with elected officials and agencies from the federal government, two states, five counties, and 22 townships.

When one considers all of this, it becomes clear why the park has a $113 million (in 2009 dollars) maintenance backlog of projects in urgent need of accomplishment. That need is effectively documented in one of the first Park Asset Management Plans (PAMP) developed for the Service. The PAMP, the Business Management Plan (BMP), the Federal Highways Road System Surveys, the General Management Plan (GMP) and a host of other studies provide the appropriate context for comparing DEWA needs, available resources and assets to other park areas.
It is time for DEWA to adopt a new, focused approach to high priority activities in a sustainable fashion. The park must cease the long-standing attempt to provide all things for all people. Sustainability requires focusing energy and resources on a limited set of goals. These goals are clarified in the following pages. This VISION document is a description of what we—the NPS staff—and the people who share our boundaries want to create as a future. It is not meant to be a manual of prescriptions and budgets, but a road map for the future.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>VISION</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>VALUES</strong> - Our core values – the preservation of our natural, cultural, and scenic resources for the enjoyment of this and future generations—will be integrated into the local and regional economy and character with pride. The park is a member of the overall community and the community will not only view, but also value the park as an integral member.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IDENTITY</strong> - We will create identity by branding every park action and partnership with the NPS and DEWA imprimatur, profile and character. The park will have a brand that the public can recognize, relate to, and support as constituents and not as consumers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUSTAINABILITY</strong> - Every action, including workforce management, construction, operations, resource management, and administration, will demonstrate the best practices for efficiency, safety, effectiveness, and environmental and fiscal sustainability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION</strong> - Learners of all ages will use the park as a classroom for life-long learning experiences. In recognition that every interaction is a teachable moment, we will use technology to help establish relevance and reach broader audiences for the park and the NPS. Every program, every wayside, every partnership designation, and every personal interaction will personify and convey the NPS mission and values.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS</strong> - We will organize the park in a way that best utilizes our assets while recognizing carrying capacity for resources and sustainable operating strategies for staffing and maintenance. Workplace enrichment and employee wellness will be a mainstay for our most valuable resources—our employees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NEIGHBORS</strong> - We will work with neighboring municipal and regional groups to enable natural resource and watershed protection, cultural and historical preservation, and landscape-scale connectivity through collaboration and cooperation. In so doing, we will establish a seamless (albeit not homogenous) system of open space, protected lands and waters. We will partner with our neighbors in the co-creation of symbiotic goals for quality of life and economic development in and around the park.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VALUES

Our core values – the preservation of our natural, cultural, and scenic resources – will be integrated into the local and regional economy and character with pride. The park a part of the overall community and the community will not only view, but also value the park as an integral member.

GOAL 1:

We will protect park resources through community involvement, partnerships, and civic engagement.

To protect the resources that are important to the park and the community, outreach efforts will include local, state and regional governments and elected officials, land trusts, conservancies, partner organizations, and local grass roots groups such as watershed protection organizations and historical societies. The public will be guardians of the resources.

To achieve this goal by 2030, the park will:

- **Develop mutual planning** with surrounding states, counties and townships on zoning and development.
- **Promote landscape scale connectivity** via open space plans, and promote protection of outstanding waters and scenic vistas.
- **Highlight protection efforts** at park areas of special significance to local populations, such as Childs Park, Cliff Park and the Dingmans Falls areas in PA and Walpack, Millbrook and Peters Valley in NJ.
- **Demonstrate connections** between the community and the NPS and DEWA and how they are are critical to protection efforts throughout the region.
- **Publicize monitoring and research** conducted in the park and the NPS and how this work relates to the daily lives of people and communities. For example, publications on hemlock woolly adelgid infestation, climate change, river flood protection, and water release regimes will demonstrate how these issues affect not only the park but also the local residents and will clarify the interconnectedness of the environment and quality of life.
IDENTITY

The park is named for a geologic feature that is almost a nascent or genetic kind of memory; people feel they recognize the name Delaware Water Gap even if they struggle in trying to place it. In 1900 it was one of the most famous resort areas anywhere, and it is still a lingering memory in our nation’s culture. DEWA will bring that name to the forefront in association with the NPS and create a brand that capitalizes on that existing memory and allows for new meanings and memories to be made.

GOAL 2:

The NPS and DEWA brand will be one that the public recognizes, relates to, and supports as constituents, not as consumers.

Every park action, program, facility, and partnership will be branded with the National Park Service and DEWA imprimatur, profile and character.

To achieve this goal by 2030, the park will:

- **Welcome visitors** to a state-of-the-art, Platinum LEED-certified visitor center and headquarters in a prominent location. The use of adapted, undersized and inefficient structures in out of the way locations does not establish a presence for the agency or the park. Planning for the facility will begin by 2016.

- **Inspire interest** in natural and cultural history by building a regional museum and archive where visitors can learn about the region’s history and park collections and records can be consolidated, organized and preserved. We will also work to recover archaeological collections that originated in land that is now a part of DEWA, and to bring them back to the area.

- **Create and reinforce NPS and DEWA identity** through a comprehensive signage program that includes trails, roads, and branding types of signs at each of the park’s entrances and exits. Signage will address identity, information, regulatory issues, and safety.

- **Establish and maintain** a world-class trail system that includes 25 miles of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, the 32-mile long Joseph M. McDade Recreational Trail (MRT), the Delaware River Water Trail, and approximately 200 miles of other park trails. Our trail system will provide the highest quality hiking, bicycling, and water trails system available; DEWA trails will be known internationally for recreation, education, and scenic wonder.

- **Initiate planning** for a multi-use trail system in NJ that is similar to the MRT and uses roads and trails that already exist in some form. The trail will include traditional interpretive waysides, informational kiosks, and interactive stations to educate and inform trail users.

- **Support an active public relations program** that includes a park newsletter in both hardcopy and digital format, pamphlets on resource issues and opportunities, and consistent outreach through municipalities, television, radio, newspapers, magazines and social media.
SUSTAINABILITY

Every action of the park, including workforce management, construction, operation, resource management, maintenance, and administration, will demonstrate the best practices for environmental, fiscal and operational sustainability. If it is not sustainable, the park will not do it, build it or buy it. Workplace and workforce enrichment will be a mainstay for the park’s most valuable resource—its staff and their time. Visitor and employee safety and operational leadership are and will continue to be a top priority in all that we do.

GOAL 3:

Demonstrate best practices for sustainability in every park action.

In this case sustainability refers not only to the wise use of available resources and environmentally sound activities as the basis for all park actions, but also to a set of business practices that will ensure that the financial situation and workforce conditions support park goals.

To achieve this goal by 2030, the park will:

- **Develop an efficient system of fleet management** and maintenance that is more sensitive to environmental issues including the purchase of alternatively fueled vehicles.

- **Restore unused assets** and consider use of highly impacted areas when planning projects

- **Complete DEWA “Heart of the Park Tour Road”** incorporating Old Mine Road and Route 615 in NJ and River Road and Route 209 in PA. The tour road loop will enhance the visitor experience and facilitate opportunities for appreciation of the spectacular natural and cultural resources and recreational opportunities available within the park while improving safety, access, and long-term maintenance of our roadways

- **Reduce infrastructure** and maintenance by rehabilitating old farming roads and removing hazardous structures.

- **Reflect direct connections to larger scale global issues** such as climate change, habitat protection, and endangered species protection in all programs. Programs will underscore the relevance of these issues to people’s lives and overall integration as a single planet. For example, local students engaged in water quality monitoring in the Delaware River and its watershed will connect park resources and environmentally sustainable practices to their own basic needs and quality of life experiences.

- **Use the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** to form a core funding mechanism for both federal and state acquisitions in targeted areas.

- **Adapt historic structures** for use by established, professional partners and for use as seasonal employee housing with outstanding access to natural resources.

- **Manage a successful alternative transportation system** that connects to surrounding communities and enhances the important economic issues that affect them while reducing traffic congestion, parking needs and the park’s carbon footprint. Windshield touring in private vehicles and in alternative transportation carriers will be established in cooperation with local municipalities.
Goal 3 (Sustainability- Continued)

- **Model environmental and managerial sustainability** in every action as a demonstration by DEWA for the public. We will develop standard operating procedures and plans that demonstrate how to perform every task in a sustainable manner, highlighting recycling and reuse, alternative energy, climate change monitoring, and actions and designs that are compatible with the existing environment.

- **Support employee development and enrichment** through health and fitness programs, career development plans, and focused training. Training to refine existing skills and to learn new skills that will be essential to successfully respond to the changing demands placed upon employees will be provided. The employees are the park’s most expensive and most important asset; constant staff enrichment is crucial to achieving the park’s goals.

- **Improve communications and information flow** among employees through newsletters, committees, staff meetings, briefings, and other methods.

- **Cross-train employees** to increase staff efficiency, improve visitor services, and achieve the desired visitor experience. Cross-training will also foster understanding and appreciation of roles and increase cooperation and collaboration among the various divisions and disciplines.

- **Increase workforce capacity and capabilities** to meet the actual needs of the park in the 21st century. Position management, recruitment, and hiring will be focused on meeting modern needs and priorities rather than on antiquated practices.

**INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION**

*Every program, exhibit, wayside, publication, partnership designation, and personal interaction will personify the NPS values, mission, and 21st century relevancy. Every interaction will provide opportunities for visitors to develop their own personal connections to the resources and the meanings they hold in an effort to increase stewardship practices and develop a supportive constituency among park users.*

The park will provide the highest quality interpretation, education, and recreation opportunities focused on select park resources including: diverse natural and cultural resources; hiking on the nearly two hundred miles of existing and planned trails; water-based experiences along the Middle Delaware River and the streams that feed it; wildlife viewing and harvesting throughout the areas determined to be most appropriate for those activities; and bicycling along the McDade Trail and a similar trail to be established on the New Jersey side of the park.

Other recreational and inspirational activities may be included and regulated, but will not be a focus for funding and resource allocation. The present status represents the economic reality of spending within the existing means.
Goal 4 (INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION- CON’T.):

Provide a variety of premier, high quality interpretation and education programs and products.

Over five million visitors a year will have access to an active and vigorous informational, educational and interpretive program that highlights the nationally significance of the park and is an example of the highest professional standards.

To achieve this goal by 2030, the park will:

- **Build a state of the art visitor center and headquarters** in a prominent location to provide year-round, seven day a week interpretation and visitor services and to stand as a beacon of the park’s identity.

- **Develop and implement interpretive** plans to guide and inform division activities, including a Long Range Interpretive Plan and Comprehensive Interpretive Plan.
  - Establish a diverse interpretive program that offers a menu of walks, talks, lectures, campfire programs, publications, exhibits, website content, and resource education programs of the highest caliber.
  - Partner with local chambers of commerce and tourism agencies in NJ and PA to increase visitor information access in neighboring municipalities and gateway communities.

- **Create an Education Outreach Branch** specifically mandated to work directly with the nine school districts located in the five counties surrounding the park.

- **Encourage outreach to educational institutions** and park-wide tours for tourism-related visitors.

- **Establish residency programs** for architect-, archeologist-, geologist, artist-or naturalist-in-residence programs within the park.

- **Invest in appropriate technology, including entertainment technology**, to maintain relevancy in the 21st century through the creation of virtual visits and tours, interactive games, and user-generated content that is available through a variety of platforms and devices. Families will be enticed to visit the park following virtual experiences. Technology that is relevant to the future generations will be an inextricable element of park programming if we are to cultivate a new generation of stewards.

- **Create an Interpretive Design and Technology Branch** that deals exclusively with the development of publications, exhibits, dynamic and interactive web pages, and social media and mobile applications that appeal to multiple generations.

- **Serve as a classroom** for pre-school through post-graduate level students engaged in formal curriculum-based education and adults engaged in life-long learning. We will also incorporate local school districts in curriculum-based education and outreach programs both at the institutions and in the park.

- **Re-establish a ranger station or visitor information center in NJ**: we will also investigate the use of mobile visitor contact kiosks at various locations in the park.
ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Managing resources is really a euphemism for managing the interaction between people (visitors) and those resources. The NPS is charged with understanding and implementing the necessary rules in order to sustain those resources for future generations. Determining where visitors should be focused and what activities can be most relevant to the public while preventing impairment of those resources should be the basis for every planning activity undertaken.

GOAL 5

Organize the park in a way that best utilizes our assets, all while recognizing carrying capacity for resources, sustainable operating strategies, and staffing capabilities.

To achieve this goal by 2030, the park will:

- **Establish and maintain partnership agreements** with groups that can accomplish specific park goals. Partnerships that exist to further the goals of the NPS will be sought and fostered. A hundred different partners with a hundred different missions are less effective than a hundred that are cooperating with each other in support of common goals.
  - **Establish biological and social carrying capacity** in the park and surrounding area through biological and social science research activities.
  - **Consider concessions contracts** that will accommodate visitors and create economic opportunities in gateway communities. Revisiting the feasibility of concessions at the park is a ripe opportunity.

- **Eliminate commercial traffic** from all park roads, including US Route 209. A five-year compromise that allows exceptions for smaller, local businesses may be considered.

- **Provide training and oversight for partners** that assist the park in protecting resources and providing enjoyment for the public. As a minimum standard for participating in agreements, the partners will have signage that indicates they are working in cooperation with the NPS. Every press release, product, and program should clarify that their effort is such a partnership.

- **Establish carrying capacities** that demonstrate an understanding of the capability to accept infrastructure as well as individuals while minimizing resource impacts and visitor use conflicts and increasing the quality and availability of diverse visitor experiences and recreational opportunities. The number of acres dedicated to roads, parking lots, recreation sites such as beaches, picnic areas, and campgrounds needs to be determined systematically and enforced.

- **Establish the Delaware Valley National Park and Preserve.** DEWA and MIDE will be included in a larger park and preserve complex. This unit would replace DEWA while MIDE would continue under current management.

- **Complete a study and initiate the process** to include US Route 209 as a national parkway and national scenic byway, the Delaware River Valley Parkway.

- **Create an infrastructure plan** for utilization of parking lots, roads, and placement of additional and new rights of way (ROW) such as transmission lines, pipelines, bridges, and road expansions.

- **Determine trail usage** for hiking, biking and equestrian use needs and associated infrastructure necessary to maintain those uses in a sustainable and eco-friendly manner.
NEIGHBORS

Nowhere in the United States is there a better opportunity to demonstrate the importance and the rewards of establishing a contiguous habitat that creates long term sustainability for watersheds and wildlife while benefitting local communities and economies. The connections between PA and NJ state lands and federal lands already exist but in many cases are not protected. Lands adjacent to the park can easily create connections to a large complex of federal, state, and local public spaces and protected areas.

This complex can recognize and codify the half a century of existing cooperation between land managers without causing conflict or requiring identical management practices. The opportunity to achieve this is incomparable and easily accomplished, but its window is short. Funding from the Susquehanna to Roseland Transmission Line Upgrade Project mitigation fund will be used to begin this process by acquiring new lands that are adjacent to the park’s existing boundary and provide connections with other public lands.

Efforts such as the Common Waters grassroots program and the landscape connectivity effort, as evidenced by the DEWA Conservation Strategy, are examples of how engaging communities is the key to success in protecting resources. Builders and elected officials will be equal partners in any successful equation to protect the watersheds.

Communities and local residents are keys to successful conservation. Economic opportunity and conservation cannot be exclusive of one another. When neighbors see the park as key to their economic sustainability and quality of life, they will be its greatest protectors. Close working associations with townships that want to be an important element of the region in dynamic cooperation with the park will establish the future path of these partnerships.

GOAL 6

Enable watershed protection and landscape-scale connectivity through regional collaborations and cooperation.

To achieve this goal by 2030, the park will:

- **Establish landscape level connectivity** necessary to create a larger state, federal and municipal complex of lands from the mountains in Pennsylvania and across the river to the public lands in New Jersey which will support wildlife viability and watershed protection in perpetuity. We will establish a seamless, but not necessarily homogenous, system of protected landscapes through partnerships with states, counties and municipalities and other federal agencies that will provide economic benefits and enhance overall ecological service retention.

- **Collaborate with our neighbors** including municipal and regional groups to establish and maintain watershed protection and landscape-scale connectivity and to create symbiotic goals for quality of life and economic development in and around the park.

- **Collaborate** with Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and the Northeast Regional Office (NER) on river trails and the suite of resource protection issues that allow opportunities to create cooperation with other entities
Goal 6 (Neighbors- Continued)

- **Create a community planner position** to regularly interact with community associations, conservation organizations, local governments and planning boards, regional organizations such as the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), heritage areas, surrounding parks, forests and game lands.

- **Lead efforts to collaborate on wildlife and watershed management** that creates and fosters cooperation among agencies in all three states: New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

- **Build a constituency** for the Landscape Scale Connectivity (LSC) project at DEWA through grassroots associations and by partnerships with state and local governmental and land trust organizations.

- **Expand use of publications and conferences** as an outlet for building support and constituencies, both philosophically and specifically at DEWA.
  
  - Define priorities for restoration of historic buildings and what end use will be implemented in the restored building along with the business plan for the operating costs in a Historic Properties Management Plan. The plan will be funded through the SRLine Mitigation Fund.

  - Serve as a model and mentor to groups that want to create conservation practices and economic sustainability together with the National Park Service.

- **Integrate projects and plans** with county master plans, state open space goals, and regional efforts.

- **Enhance accessibility** at every visitor use site.

- **Prioritize watersheds** in need of the greatest preservation efforts beyond identification and inventorying.

- **Develop Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) requests** in conjunction with our two states and various counties to enhance the overall open space and contiguous habitat available for the local region and for the Northeastern United States.

- **Encourage grassroots organizations** such as Common Waters to continue developing a consciousness of regional identity for the areas surrounding the Delaware River.

  - **Target sites for high priority funding** for acquisition, easements, agreements and the use of other open space protection tools that enhance overall connectivity on a local, regional and large-scale basis.
Conclusion
The Delaware Valley National Park and Preserve can serve as the first national park for the states of New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania thereby enhancing not only our national heritage, but also adding to the economic and social value that the existing units contribute to the local area. The potential for Route 209 to become the Delaware River Valley National Parkway will also add to the economic value of the park to the region and to the overall appreciation of the available natural, cultural and recreational resources to be enjoyed by the public.

It is our mission, our privilege, and our duty to see DEWA as it is and as it can be in the future. We are going to determine that future whether we want that responsibility or not. Let’s leave this place better than we found it. Let’s create that future in a purposeful, thoughtful, and comprehensive manner.

As the NPS prepares to celebrate the Centennial of the agency in 2016, DEWA’s goals for operation, research, identity, partnerships, education, sustainability and others defined in the VISION will serve as a guide for making decisions regarding future goals as the park moves through the next half century toward its own Centennial.

A new identity and a specific set of primary goals will allow the park to thrive and to ensure that all resources are directed properly and in coordination with a larger national-scale set of goals understood and appreciated at a local level. The plan is intended to provide a vision globally, but to be implemented locally.

Over the next ten to twenty years, through the use of this plan and the established priorities and concerted actions, DEWA will operate in a fiscally and environmentally sustainable manner and will be a model for other national park operations.
Appendix
Fast Facts

Mission

The mission of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is to provide outdoor recreation opportunities while conserving the natural, cultural and scenic resources of the recreation area. In so doing, the park works cooperatively with surrounding communities and the public to achieve the conservation goals of the Delaware River region.

Significant Natural Area

The park is the largest natural area in the entire National Park System between Virginia and Maine and one of the largest protected natural areas in the metropolitan corridor extending from Washington, D.C., to Boston, Massachusetts.

Recreational Opportunities

Hiking  Canoeing/kayaking/tubing  Wildlife watching
Walking  Boating  Auto touring
Bicycling  Water skiing  General sightseeing
Fishing  Cross-country Skiing  Special events
Hunting  Technical climbing  Photography
Swimming  Birdwatching
Camping  Horseback riding

Employees: About 100 permanent, full-time employees; about 70 seasonal employees

Park Size

Current Acreage: 67,210 acres
Authorized Acreage: 71,000 acres
Acreage by State
- New Jersey 30,640.81
- Sussex County 21,489.78
- Warren County 9,151.03
- Pennsylvania 24,967.58
- Monroe County 5,975.00
- Pike County 17,380.32
- Northampton 1,612.26
Acreage in Agricultural Lease Program:
- In Crops 3,000
- Mowed for Open Space 1,600

Annual Visitation: About 5 million
Annual Budget: About $9 million

Infrastructure/Facilities

Roads: about 275 miles
Bridges: 26
Visitor Centers: 3
Buildings: Over 700
Dams: 60
Water Systems: 85
Septic Systems: approximately 180

Cultural Resources

Archeological Sites: 500+ sites
Historic Districts: 5
(Millbrook Village, Millville Historic District, Old Mine Road Historic District, Peters Valley Historic District, Walpack Historic District)
Archeological Collection: more than 500,000 artifacts
Park Archives: more than 800,000 items
Museum Collection: more than 1.5 million objects
Appendix - Fast Facts (con’t)

Natural Resources and Features

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natural Feature</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Middle Delaware Scenic and Recreational River:</td>
<td>About 40 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Protection Regulations:</td>
<td>Adopted in 1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watershed draining into recreation area:</td>
<td>2.2 million acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakes and Ponds:</td>
<td>About 150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streams:</td>
<td>About 118 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterfalls:</td>
<td>3 major (Dingmans, Raymondskill, Buttermilk Falls)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetlands in recreation area:</td>
<td>About 600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draining into recreation area:</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Species of Concern (Rare, threatened or endangered):

- 49 Species of plants
- 9 Species of fish
- 13 species of mammals
- 7 species of reptiles
- 10 species of amphibians

Species Diversity (identified to date):

- 1,110+ Species of Plants
- 55+ Species of Fish
- 50+ Species Reptiles & Amphibians
- 40+ Species of Mammals
- 250+ Species of Birds
- 241+ Exotic/ non-native species of plants

Contributors:

VISION 2030 would not have been possible without the valuable input and comments provided by park employees at all levels and in all divisions. This document reflects their dedication to the missions of the park and the NPS and to seeing that this special place is preserved for future generations to learn from and enjoy.

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