

Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River

Annual Workplan for Resource & Recreational Use Management

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MISSION

The National Park Service (NPS) at the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River (SRR) protects, conserves, and enhances the free-flowing character, exceptionally high water quality, and the scenic, recreational, ecological, cultural, and geological values of the Upper Delaware River valley through collaborative partnerships and cooperation with state and local government entities. It exists within a complex framework of federal legislation, policies, and cooperative agreements designed to balance conservation, recreation, and local interests. NPS operates under the authority of the National Park Service Organic Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and other applicable laws that ensure the protection of its free-flowing character, high water quality, and diverse natural and cultural resources. The Upper Delaware SRR River Management Plan (RMP) additionally serves as a guiding document for cooperative stewardship and local land use for the NPS and local governments.

NPS Mission: The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world. The primary legal framework from which the National Park Service must operate is Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 (36 CFR), which regulates federal agencies of the United States regarding parks, forests, and public property.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act: In 1968 Congress passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and “*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.*” In 1978, Congress used the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the Upper Delaware River as a unit of the national park system and a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System through P.L. 95-625 Section 704.

River Management Plan: Published in 1986, the River Management Plan (RMP) guides the management of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. Although it does not supersede law, the RMP established an agreement between all levels of government for management of the Upper Delaware River and its resources. The RMP provides guidance on the management of land use, water resources, fisheries and wildlife, threatened and endangered species, unique land resources, cultural resources, facilities, and water use.

Other Environmental and Legislative Acts: Management of the Upper Delaware SRR is also subject to additional environmental and legislative acts, including but not limited to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966.



HOW WE ARE ORGANIZED

A dedicated team of 24 to 40 employees, depending on the season, operates the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. Staff work within six divisions, each playing a crucial role in preserving resources, ensuring visitor safety, and maintaining park operations.

Interpretation & Education: Fosters shared stewardship, engagement with schools and local communities, and excellence in visitor service. By connecting people with the Upper Delaware SRR's natural and cultural significance, staff help deepen public understanding and appreciation of its resources.

Natural & Cultural Resources: Protects the ecosystem, historic sites, and archaeological resources while promoting preservation efforts. This division also implements management strategies for NPS resources and ensure federal and state agencies comply with environmental and historic preservation laws within the Upper Delaware SRR corridor.

Facilities: Maintains NPS buildings, structures, grounds, and utility systems, ensuring they remain in good condition for long-term use. Facilities staff provide leadership and expertise in preserving and managing the park's physical infrastructure to support its mission.

Visitor Protection: Protects and preserves the natural and cultural resources of the Upper Delaware for current and future generations. Rangers are committed to ensuring a safe and respectful environment for visitors, staff, and wildlife, while upholding the rule of law and promoting stewardship, education, and conservation. They strive to foster a sense of responsibility and mutual respect with the public to maintain the integrity and beauty of the Upper Delaware river corridor.

Administration: Ensures smooth NPS operations through financial management, business operations, human resources, and IT services. Administration staff serve both NPS employees and the public to support budget planning, personnel actions, property and fleet management, and commercial service and special use permits.

Superintendent's Office: Guides the park unit's strategic direction, oversees daily operations, and plans and directs financial and human resources necessary to accomplish the mission. The superintendent's office staff interpret and direct the implementation of the Upper Delaware SRR enabling legislation and other federal and state laws, and the Upper Delaware River Management Plan (RMP). Staff also serve as the primary liaison with the local stakeholders and community.



2024 Upper Delaware SRR staff pose in lifejackets at staff Safety, Health, and Wellness Day.



PARTNERSHIPS

The Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Management Plan (RMP) envisions a collaborative approach to effectively manage and preserve the river. By partnering with community organizations, local governments, and other groups, we combine expertise and resources to ensure the river remains safe, clean, and accessible for future generations.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are vital to the Upper Delaware SRR, supporting essential NPS initiatives and inspiring community involvement and stewardship. Programs such as Wear It Watchers promote water safety, while the Delaware Highlands Conservancy's Eagle Watch volunteers guide and educate the public on bald eagles and their habitat. The National Canoe Safety Patrol volunteers enhance visitor safety, ensuring that canoeists and kayakers can navigate their adventures safely and with confidence. This NPS unit also recently benefited from the institutional knowledge of former employees who lent their expertise to provide invaluable assistance with administrative functions in 2023-2024. See the appendices for more information on 2024 volunteer contributions at Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

NATIONAL CANOE SAFETY PATROL (NCSP)

The National Canoe Safety Patrol (NCSP) promotes water safety and responsible paddling. Their mission is to ensure the safety of everyone who enjoys the Upper Delaware SRR while promoting responsible and sustainable recreational use. Their volunteers are dedicated to making a difference to visitors recreating on the river, and have contributed over 87,000 hours to the Upper Delaware SRR since 1994. More information about the NCSP and how to support their mission can be found at nationalcanoesafetypatrol.org.

DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy preserves agricultural and forest lands vital to healthy local foods, clean drinking water, biological diversity, outdoor recreation, and to the overall beauty and quality of life we enjoy in the Upper Delaware region. The Conservancy also partners with NPS to hold the Winter Eagle Watch program during January and February each year. Volunteers staff the Zane Grey Museum, the Ten Mile River and Lackawaxen Accesses to provide park visitors with information about wintering and resident bald eagles in the Upper Delaware River Valley.

UPPER DELAWARE COUNCIL (UDC)

The Upper Delaware Council was established in 1988 to unite local, state, and federal agencies to manage the Upper Delaware SRR, and advocate and educate on the protection of the river and private property rights. NPS provides annual financial support, totaling just over \$11 million to date. However, inflation and the unfulfilled state contributions from New York and Pennsylvania challenge the UDC's financial sustainability. More information on the Upper Delaware Council and how to support their mission can be found at upperdelawarecouncil.org.

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION (DRBC)

The Delaware River Basin Commission was created by an interstate compact to bring the Delaware River under collective and balanced control and to ensure fair usage by the states. The DRBC conducts programs related to water quality protection, water supply allocation, water conservation, regulatory review and permitting, watershed planning, drought management, flood mitigation and loss reduction, and river recreational activities.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor consists of 73.4 miles of river and 55,574 acres of land from ridgeline to ridgeline along the river in five counties and 15 municipalities. Pennsylvania County partners include Wayne and Pike Counties, and New York County partners include Orange, Sullivan, and Delaware Counties. Municipal partners in Pennsylvania include Buckingham, Manchester, Damascus, Berlin, Lackawaxen, Shohola, and Westfall Townships. New York municipal partners include the Towns of Hancock, Fremont, Delaware, Cohecton, Tusten, Highland, Lumberland, and Deerpark.



TECHNICAL & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River enabling legislation (P.L. 95-625 Section 704) allows the Secretary of the Interior to provide technical assistance to the States and their political subdivisions as they deem appropriate to implement programs compatible with the River Management Plan. The National Park Service at Upper Delaware SRR conduct several technical and financial assistance programs for local communities and organizations.



NPS Employee restoring historic Cowen Farm window.

Cultural Resources: NPS staff provide the community technical assistance and information on preservation techniques and relevant legislation. For example, NPS National Register specialists helped update and expand the nomination of the D&H Canal on the National Register of Historic Places, ensuring its historical significance receives proper recognition.

Preservation and Skills Training: At Upper Delaware SRR, staff are available to provide training in historic window restoration and minor carpentry repair, supporting historic preservation organizations and local entities with historic structures. This program is available to encourage passing these skills to future preservation organizations and workers.

Planning & Geographic Information Systems GIS: NPS provides planning and GIS support to counties, municipalities, and community partners, to help them implement the RMP. GIS assistance includes physical and online mapping, while planning support is available to aid in the evaluation of potential and proposed land use and development projects, and to assist in developing plans and ordinances that achieve, maintain, or increase substantial conformance with the RMP.

Technical Assistance Funding: Through the Technical Assistance Grants Program, funded by NPS and administered by the UDC, UDC member municipalities receive grants to help implement the RMP. More information is available at upperdelawarecouncil.org.

Deerpark Law Enforcement Financial Assistance: The Upper Delaware SRR enabling legislation also contains provisions for NPS to contract with river towns and townships to enforce State and local laws. Changes in federal regulations impacting wage requirements resulted in most municipalities withdrawing from the program in 2018, however the Town of Deerpark continues to participate.

Educational Trunks: Upper Delaware SRR's traveling trunks supplement classroom learning with interactive, hands-on materials. Covering topics such as birds of prey, wildlife, bats, and animal tracks, these trunks provide students with an engaging way to explore the region's ecology and history. Other themes include the National Park Service and Lenape Indian history, with materials like reference books, videos, stories, skulls, hides, eggs, and puppets, offering a deeper understanding of the Upper Delaware River Valley.

Other Community & Financial Assistance from NPS: The National Park Service assists community groups and the public with historic preservation, recreation, and improved access to public lands, national resource conservation, and education and stewardship. More information can be found on the NPS Community Assistance Programs website: <https://www.nps.gov/getinvolved/community-assistance.htm>



In 2024, NPS at Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River focused on enhancing resource management, expanding educational programs, and strengthening community outreach. Visitor safety remained a priority, with new water safety initiatives improving public awareness and preparedness. These efforts support a balance between conservation and recreation, ensuring the river remains a cherished and well-managed resource.

Looking ahead to 2025, NPS will continue these efforts in collaboration with partners and volunteers, and in alignment with national direction to operate with efficiency and strategic prioritization. We remain committed to water resource management, wildlife conservation, cultural preservation, and visitor safety. By working closely with our community, leveraging volunteer efforts, and making the most of existing resources, we aim to sustain and enhance these essential programs for future generations.

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The Water Resources Management section of the River Management Plan focuses on *water flows, water quality, and water resources development*. In addition to natural processes, *water flows* in the Upper Delaware are significantly influenced by the Cannonsville and Pepacton Reservoirs in New York State, north of the confluence of East and West branches of the Upper Delaware, and the Lake Wallenpaupack hydroelectric facility on the Lackawaxen River. *Water resources development* refers to construction structures such as bridges, conduit, or dams that could interfere with the free-flowing nature of the river or its tributaries. NPS routinely reviews water resources development projects for compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. *Water quality* in the Upper Delaware SRR is uniformly good to excellent, the protection of which is a primary purpose of the river's Wild and Scenic Rivers designation. NPS staff are active in water quality monitoring and studies to help ensure water quality is maintained at or above the levels present when the river was designated.

DRBC Special Protection Waters (SPW) Program: This water quality monitoring program is conducted through an informal partnership between the NPS and the DRBC to identify if "measurable change" is occurring. NPS collects water samples and tests in our local lab for dissolved oxygen, water temperature, air temperature, pH, and turbidity. We send samples for laboratory testing on alkalinity, total chloride, hardness, sulfate, total suspended solids, total dissolved solids, nitrate, nitrite, nitrogen, ammonia nitrogen, phosphorus, calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, and bromide. Data from this testing is available to the public through <https://nj.gov/drbc/programs/quality/spw.html>.

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Barryville Gage: NPS provided over \$9,000 stopgap funding to reactivate the Barryville below Lackawaxen stream gage for FY 2025 until the USGS Federal Priority Stream gage program or other long-term funding is secured.

Water Resource Development Compliance: NPS staff conducted compliance reviews for proposed water resource development with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, including the bridge replacement over Calkins Creek (Milanville, PA).

2025 WORK PLAN

Special Protection Waters Program: Upper Delaware SRR staff will continue to collect water samples bi-weekly at four locations from May to September.

Water Resource Development Compliance: NPS staff completed expedited compliance reviews for PennDOT during the planning phase of the Skinners Falls – Milanville bridge demolition project in January/February 2025, and will be actively engaged in monitoring and compliance during the construction phase throughout spring of 2025.



FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

The Upper Delaware River supports diverse aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, including cold-water and warm-water fisheries, migratory birds, and rare species. NPS works with partner organizations to conduct research on conditions which may affect the distribution, numbers, species of fisheries and wildlife found within the Upper Delaware River corridor to guide sound management decisions for fish and wildlife species that rely on the healthy habitat found in the river corridor, including endangered species such as the dwarf wedgemussel.

2024 RESEARCH PERMITS

Bat Monitoring Program: East Stroudsburg University continued a bat monitoring program in the Upper Delaware corridor in response to the massive mortality of hibernating bats from White Nose Syndrome.

2024-2025 FISH & WILDLIFE PROJECTS

Longitudinal Inventory of Freshwater Turtles in the Delaware River:

Through a partnership with Delaware Water Gap Natural Resource Area (NRA) and with funding through the NPS Inventory & Monitoring Division, Upper Delaware SRR staff are participating in a two-year inventory of the freshwater turtles of the Upper Delaware SRR and Delaware Water Gap NRA. This survey began in 2024 and will conclude in 2026, with the final report anticipated to be available to the public in early 2027.

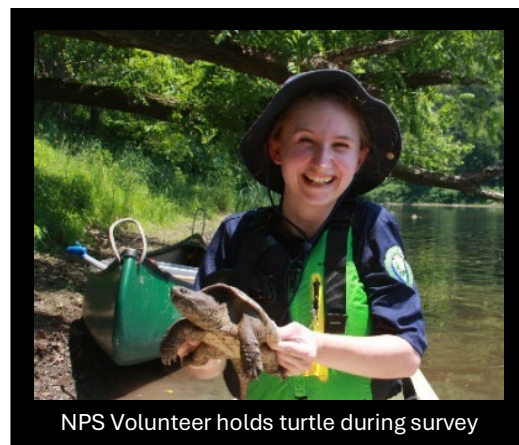
Native Meadow Restoration Project at Milanville: Phase 1 of a native meadow restoration project at Milanville was completed in 2024, which involved eliminating the previous growth with used billboard covers donated by Adams Outdoor Advertising, then planting the area with native grasses and wildflower mix. The project will take 2-3 years to grow to maturity and will increase biodiversity and reduce the need for mowing.

NestWatch: This monitoring program tracks status and trends in the reproductive biology of birds, including when nesting occurs, number of eggs laid, how many eggs hatch, and how many hatchlings survive. Other groups interested in participating can find information through the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and data from the program can be found at nestwatch.org.

Mystery Snail Research Project: Upper Delaware SRR will partner with the Academy of Natural Sciences (ANS) on a project funded by the National Park Foundation to study the Japanese Mystery Snail, a large invasive gastropod that has been identified in multiple areas of the Upper Delaware. This species is understudied in this region of the United States, and this is an opportunity to understand their ecology, test physical removal methods, and develop management plans and increase public awareness.

Dwarf Wedgemussel Research Project: This project is a resurvey of the endangered dwarf wedgemussel to identify current populations, in collaboration with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the PA Fish and Boat Commission, and the Delaware River Basin Commission. The study funded by NPS Natural Resources Regional Block Allocation and by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Fieldwork will take place in the summer of 2025, with the final report expected in 2026.

Visual Resource Inventory: Pending staffing levels and availability, the NPS Visual Resource Program will provide technical assistance to Upper Delaware SRR staff and volunteers in utilizing a systematic approach to identify scenic values to develop credible protection strategies, best management practices, and collaborative approaches with partners to protect shared values and treasured views for future generations.



NPS Volunteer holds turtle during survey



CULTURAL RESOURCES & ARCHIVES

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires that cultural resource features be protected and enhanced. In the Upper Delaware corridor, cultural resources include human history archeological sites, industrial remnants, and architectural features. It also includes the people who live in the corridor, their settlements, their commerce, and their agriculture. The National Park Service has an active role in the preservation and interpretation of the valley's cultural resources through its stewardship of NPS-owned properties and resources, such as the Zane Grey Museum and historic Cowen Farm.

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Tribal Consultations: NPS staff developed more formal relationships with Tribes known to be culturally affiliated within the river corridor, including improvements to the consultation process for NHPA Section 106 evaluations.

Alice Grey Coal Shed: The NPS Regional Maintenance Assistance Team provided technical assistance to stabilize and rehabilitate the Alice Grey Coal Shed through funding from the Legacy Restoration Fund.

Dolly's Garden Path: Staff installed thirteen new trail markers installed along the path to improve the visitor experience and understanding of the history on the Zane Grey grounds.

Museum Collections: Park collections were consolidated in Delaware Water Gap NRA facilities that meet the Secretary's standards for museum collections storage and housing, pursuant to the NPS Regional Museum Storage Plan.

Book Conservation Project: Approximately 100 books from the 19th century to the mid-20th century were evaluated, surveyed by a conservator, and packed and conserved in 2024 thanks to funding provided by the NPS Northeast Region.

Zane Grey, Roebling Bridge, and Toll House Area Cultural Landscapes Report: With assistance from the regional office, staff completed Cultural Landscapes Report to provide historical context, cultural significance, and recommendations for preservation and rehabilitation, as well as plans for ongoing maintenance.

Evaluation of Archaeology Site 36P199: Through funding from the NPS Northeast Region and the Olmsted Center, the Northeastern Archaeological Resource Program (NARP) performed an evaluation of the Zane Grey property and the turn-basin area of the Roebling Bridge/Delaware aqueduct site. The final report is expected in early 2026.

Records Transfer: Staff submitted 47 boxes of permanent records to the National Archives, as part of an NPS-wide effort to ensure compliance with national records policy and finalize the transition to fully electronic recordkeeping. This effort was greatly assisted by retired NPS employees who generously volunteered their time.

2025 WORKPLAN

Baseline Archaeological Inventory and Evaluation: Conduct National Historic Preservation Act Section 110 baseline inventory and evaluation of the archeological features associated human occupation along the river. Underwater archaeological survey using remote sensing was completed in 2024, as well as inland survey work at Cowen Farm and Minisink Ford. The project will continue through 2026.

Cowen Farm Cultural Landscape Inventory: Funded and conducted by the Olmstead Center, this project will delineate and account for the exact number of historic and cultural resources on the Cowen Farm property, including historic structures by late 2025. Final report is anticipated to be published in early 2026.

Oral History Transcription Project: The Upper Delaware SRR oral history collection spans more than 40 years of local and river history narrated by local residents and former NPS employees. Through internship and volunteer programs, we continue to transcribe recordings to make them publicly accessible by 2026 on our website.

Zane Grey Tennis Court: Upper Delaware SRR will add interpretive markings to delineate the former tennis court at the Zane Grey Museum to improve the visitor experience and understanding of the Zane Grey grounds.



LAND-BASED FACILITIES

A variety of facilities in the Upper Delaware SRR corridor are managed by NPS staff including visitor contact sites, interpretative sites for cultural and natural features, river access sites, river rest stops, and administrative facilities. Public river accesses in the Upper Delaware are primarily owned by New York and Pennsylvania. NPS cooperatively manages and maintains the accesses to ensure the public can use and enjoy the river.

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Headquarters (HQ) Improvements for Visitors: NPS staff repaired an existing deck to provide a publicly accessible river overlook at the HQ complex. Staff also partnered with PennDOT to revise signage along River Rd and PA Rt. 652 to indicate that NPS HQ are administrative offices, not visitor facilities, to improve the visitor experience.

Milanville Office Improvements: NPS contracted to replace the roof, siding, and windows at the Milanville Ranger Station.

Broadband Expansion: NPS staff installed satellite internet systems at the Milanville Ranger Station and Zane Grey Museum.

High Water Event Responses: Staff rehabilitated river accesses and trails after two high-water events in 2024, including the D&H canal trail and the Lackawaxen and Ten Mile River accesses.

Roebing Bridge Inspection: The Federal Highway Administration performed a routine inspection in 2024, with the final report expected in early 2025.

Tollhouse Repair: Staff repaired minor damage to the Roebing Bridge Toll House damage from a July vehicle accident.

Tusten Mountain Trail Re-Route: Volunteers through American Hiking Society's Volunteer Vacations performed a trail re-route. More information about the Volunteer Vacations program can be found at americanhiking.org.

Access Signage: Small signs were installed on existing bulletin boards and port-o-johns at river accesses for maintenance concerns to be reported to upde_info@nps.gov. No maintenance concerns were reported through that method in 2024.

2025 WORKPLAN

River Access Co-Management: NPS staff coordinates the management and maintenance of river accesses primarily with New York Department of Conservation (NYDEC), Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PAFBC). The states perform major improvements and repairs at the accesses they own, as well as general maintenance and heavy debris removal. Where able, NPS assists in high water event cleanup and debris removal, as well as seasonal mowing, weed eating, and trash pickup. NPS also provides seasonal kiosks and staffing, seasonal life jacket pickup and return stations, safety and informational signage, and the installation and maintenance of traffic counters to track access usage at select river accesses. Details on the 2025 cooperative access management workplan can be found in the Appendices.

NPS Facility Improvement projects planned to begin in 2025: Improvements to NPS facilities anticipated to begin in 2025 include the following:

- **Maintenance Shop:** Replace roof and ceiling and convert to more energy-efficient lighting; 2025-2028
- **Cowen Barn:** Replace roof, paint barn and gutters; 2025-2028
- **Roebing Toll House:** Repair and paint building; 2025-2028
- **Overweight Vehicle Signage:** Work with PennDOT to increase overweight truck signage for the Roebing Bridge on Route 590 and Route 6 to provide trucks ample notice to re-route.
- **Zane Grey Museum:** Design work to produce construction documents to make the Zane Grey Museum and landscape ADA accessible will begin in 2025.



WATER USE PROGRAM

The Water Use Program described in the River Management Plan aims to provide facilities which meet basic public recreational needs and which are, for the most part, informal, relatively small, and in keeping with the natural, scenic, and rural character of the area, and to continue to provide for the lawful recreational use of the river.

COMMERCIAL USE AUTHORIZATION PROGRAM

Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) Online Application and Payment System Updates: Beginning the 2025-2026 season, applicants must submit all CUA applications through the online NPS portal. Annual reports may still be submitted via paper or email through 2025. Beginning in 2026 NPS requires all reports be submitted through the portal.

CUA Management Fee Structure Change: In conjunction with a shift to the NPS-wide online CUA system in 2025, Upper Delaware SRR transitioned to an annual management fee structure based on NPS park-dependent gross receipts, a change from the previous tiered structure with a flat fee based on visitors served. This change will bring Upper Delaware SRR into compliance with the law to charge a fee that at a minimum covers all costs related to authorizing commercial activity within NPS boundaries. Based on a 2024 analysis, the Upper Delaware SRR was collecting less than 30% of costs to manage the CUA program. The CUA fee for the 2025-2026 season will start at 1.5% park-dependent gross receipts, increasing to 2.0% for the 2027-2028 cycle.

GAME, FISH, AND BOATING LAW ENFORCEMENT

Visitor Safety & Rescue Operations: Ensure the safety and well-being of all visitors, particularly boaters, through timely rescue operations and effective emergency response.

Recovery Operations: Safely and respectfully recover drowning victims when needed, while minimizing the impact on the environment and ensuring the dignity of the deceased and their families.

Fishing Checks & Compliance: Ensure the protection of aquatic resources and enforce fishing regulations to maintain healthy ecosystems.

Resource Protection & Preservation: Protect the natural and cultural resources of the river from misuse, damage, or illegal activities.

Public Management & Order: Maintain a safe, respectful, and well-managed public environment by addressing behavioral issues and enforcing park rules.

Collaboration & Community Engagement: Foster strong relationships with local communities, emergency responders, and park partners to enhance public safety and resource protection.

Officer Training and Development: Ensure all law enforcement officers are highly trained, equipped, and prepared for the diverse challenges they face in managing park safety and resources.



NPS Law Enforcement Ranger on river patrol.



2024 VISITOR PROTECTION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Law Enforcement (LE) Rangers responded to and generated approximately 873 reportable incidents throughout the year. Common law enforcement contacts included fishing without a license, glass prohibited, no personal flotation device (PFD) in possession or readily available, noise complaints from land and water, and illicit discharge (i.e., pollution). LE Rangers work towards compliance through the use of educational contacts, verbal or written warnings, and citations.

Upper Delaware SRR has increased presence throughout the river corridor, including outreach via pre and post season meetings with liveries and fishing guides, as well as talking to local residents while out in the field. Based on the continued dialog, NPS is adjusting operations to better respond to operational needs. Staffing changes ensure an LE Ranger is dedicated to illegal fishing and guiding activity incidents and concerns, compliance checks, and any construction activity within the ordinary high-water mark of the river. To bolster capacity, NPS is working closely with Law Enforcement agencies in New York and Pennsylvania to increase joint patrols. LE Rangers have also increased time focused on liveries and camp operations to ensure compliance for those who have a CUA and to identify organizations that do not. If necessary, LE Rangers educate contacts on the permitting required to be within compliance.

2025 VISITOR PROTECTION WORKPLAN

Spill Response Plan: Continue efforts with the US Environmental Protection Agency to develop a coordinated spill response framework for the Upper Delaware River.

Roebling Bridge Vehicle Load, Weight and Size Limits Enforcement: Improve enforcement of the 10-ton gross vehicle weight and 15 mph speed limit at Roebling Bridge to prevent damage through advanced deterioration.

Increase Partner River Patrols: In addition to standard river and corridor patrols, increase joint river patrols with NYDEC and PAFBC Officers to enforce fishing, boating, and hunting laws in 2025.

WATER SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Water Safety Committee meets monthly to plan and implement programs to promote and improve safety on the Upper and Middle Delaware River, and to manage Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's water safety program. The committee brings together Upper Delaware SRR staff, and representatives from organizations involved improving safety and river recreation on the Delaware River. Currently this includes Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, National Canoe Safety Patrol (NCSP), NPS Branch of Prevention and Response, NY Department of Environmental Conservation (NY DEC), PA Fish and Boat Commission (PA FBC), Pocono Television Network (PTN), and the Upper Delaware Council (UDC).

2024 WATER SAFETY COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Loaner Life Jacket Stations: Upper Delaware SRR made improvements to loaner life jacket stations in 2024 to increase capacity and keep them off the ground. Life Jacket return stations were also installed at Matamoras and West End Beach.

National Canoe Safety Patrol: NCSP assisted with and performed over 86 river rescues in 2024.

Wear it Watcher Program: During the 2024 season, of the boaters observed by Wear It Watcher volunteers, 61.3% were wearing life jackets when the river was less than six feet, and 90.9% were wearing life jackets when the river was over six feet.

No Glass Signs: Installed "No Glass" signage and stickers inside participating businesses that sell products in glass bottles to inform river users that glass is prohibited on the river for safety reasons to inform river users of glass regulations prior to purchasing products that they may be planning to take on a river trip.

Water Safety Messaging: The committee amplified water safety messaging through appearances in publications such as Destination Hancock magazine, on radio programming including Gold Media Radio, WJFF Radio, and on billboards in three highly-visible locations through Adams Outdoor Advertising in partnership with the UDC.



Director's Visitor Safety Achievement Award: The Upper Delaware Water Safety Committee received the national Director's Visitor Safety Achievement Team Award for the creation of a water safety video in both English and Spanish. The 4-minute video was created in collaboration with the Pocono Television Network to provide river safety information, including how, when, and what type and condition of life jacket to wear; swimming risks; what to do when you capsize; potential river hazards; and other river rules.



2024 NCSP Volunteer on patrol in kayak.

Website: With input from the Water Safety Committee, the Plan your River Trip page on the Upper Delaware SRR website was updated, and new web pages for River Safety, Public River Accesses, and Landowner Resources were added to improve public access to important river-related information.

Water Safety Challenge Coin Award webpage: The Water Safety Challenge Coin Award program celebrates and recognizes community members who improve river safety or help save a life. The Upper Delaware SRR webpage was updated with instructions on how members of the public can submit nominations for the water safety challenge coin award to increase participation.

National Internship Program: A Public Water Risk Management intern joined us through the Office of Public Risk Management and the organization Mobilize Green supported our life jacket Wear Rate program in 2024. They supported the program by assisting Wear It Watcher volunteers with counting and tracking life jacket use on the Upper Delaware River, and by assisting to manage data collected.

Upper Delaware SRR Volunteer Appreciation Potluck: Upper Delaware SRR honored volunteers with the first annual recognition ceremony and a potluck in September.

2025 WATER SAFETY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

Water Safety Brochure: Publish a new safety brochure for riverfront property owners and lodging businesses to improve and encourage safe river recreation by rental property users.

Website Improvements: Continue to review, refine, and build on current water safety content to improve accessibility and effectiveness of current online water safety messaging.

Water Safety Partners: Continue Spring/Fall Water Safety Partners Meeting with the liveries, camps, and emergency responders in the river valley.



EDUCATION & VISITOR EXPERIENCE

The goals of the educational and visitor experience programs at the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River are to promote environmental and cultural stewardship, and to cultivate a knowledgeable and responsible community that recognize the importance of river and water safety for the well-being of all residents and guests. We aim to enrich the visitor experience, inspire lifelong appreciation for the river, and encourage individuals to safeguard their natural resources for future generations.

2024 EDUCATION & VISITOR EXPERIENCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Water Snapshot: Upper Delaware SRR staff visit 5th grade classrooms, then those students visit the river to learn about what a watershed is, what their watershed address is where they live and go to school, why environmental stewardship matters, and how to test for five simple water chemistry parameters and what they tell about water quality.

Summer Programs: In 2024 summer staff presented 103 programs ranging from butterflies, bald eagles, geology, snakes, turtles, wildflowers, waterfowl, mushrooms, salamanders, and black bears to 1746 individuals.

RMP Road Show: The Superintendent and Community Planner, along with the UDC Resources & Land Use Specialist attended Board or Planning Commission meeting at every UDC member-municipality in 2024 to reconnect with elected and appointed officials, provide updates on NPS and UDC activities, and receive feedback from towns and townships.

Upper Delaware Decision Support Tool: Staff finalized and publicly published an online interactive map through www.nps.gov/upde. The map allows property owners, municipal officials, and members of the public to view information helpful in planning and evaluating land use and development projects. Information includes Upper Delaware SRR corridor boundaries, scenic and recreational designated areas, property boundaries, applicable local zoning, FEMA flood hazard boundaries, steep slopes, and other relevant information.

Cultural Resource and Preservation Education: Upper Delaware SRR Cultural Resources Program manager provided educational programs on the Indigenous presence and history of the Upper Delaware region from precontact to present at the Equinunk Historical Society, and on best practices in government-to-government tribal consultation at the annual Archaeology and Anthropology Colloquium for Mexico's National Institute of History and Anthropology .

Natural Resources Education: Upper Delaware SRR Biologist presented at the 2024 Friends of the Upper Delaware River River Rendezvous including a facilitated discussion on the invasive species concerns in the Upper Delaware corridor, field work projects scheduled for 2025 by Upper Delaware SRR, and presented an additional session with the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University at "On the Trail of Snails, Plus an Unexpected Mystery!" which detailed the freshwater snail inventory project of 2022-2023.

2024 HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

Fairs & Festivals: In 2024 NPS Rangers attended 12 fairs and festivals, making 2815 points of contact.

Summer Programs: Summer staff develop and provide a variety of educational programs for all ages and travel to summer school programs, summer and day camps, libraries, homeschool groups, senior citizen centers, and art centers within the river corridor and beyond, including Honesdale, Port Jervis, Jeffersonville, Glen Spey, Milford, and Monticello.

D&H Canal Days: NPS welcomed 325 fourth grade students from five school districts on-site to learn about canal life in the 1840's, canal lock operation, the significance of the Delaware Aqueduct, and the importance of song and stories.

Healing Waters Event: In partnership with the National Park Trust and Project Healing Waters, NPS hosted approximately 20 active-duty military service personnel and veterans in April for a fly-fishing event. As part of the event, eligible service members received an Interagency Military Annual Pass, which provides access to more than 2,000 federal recreational sites.



Roebling Bridge 175th Anniversary: Approximately 80 people attended the D&H Transportation Heritage Council's 175th Anniversary Celebration and walking tour of Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct.

Delaware River Sojourn: Over 100 people participated in the Upper Delaware SRR sections of the annual Delaware River Sojourn and river clean-up.

18th Annual Zane Grey Festival: Over 800 people attended the 2024 festival, which included a birds of prey show, carriage rides, crafts, demonstrations, and booths from organizations around the river valley.

Paddle for Pride: NPS partnered with TriVersity Pride Center and Kittatinny Canoes for an event combining safe river recreation with enhancing awareness of LGB history within the National Park System.

Vintage Baseball Game: Organized with Zane Grey's West Society, the Mountain Athletic Club and Elizabeth Resolutes went head-to-head in a vintage baseball game at Veteran's Memorial Park in August, where over 250 people attended.

Litter Clean Up: NPS staff participated in several litter cleanup events on and around the river in 2024, including the UDC Litter Sweep, National Trails Day River Clean Up with Girl Scout Troop 20386, Kittatinny river cleanup, a river cleanup with the Youth Group from Beach Lake Free Methodist Church, and the Interpretive division end of season river cleanup.



From left to right: Kayaks line the river access path at Cowen Farm during the 2024 Delaware River Sojourn; Park rangers remove tires from river during end-of-season 2024 river clean up; Park ranger poses with local artist at the 2024 RiverFest in Narrowsburg, NY.

2025 PLANNED ACTIVITIES

In addition to many of the above-listed annual events, NPS staff and volunteers are planning to expand educational and water safety programming in 2025, attending more fairs and festivals in gateway towns and communities, and spreading visibility to areas like Carbondale, Scranton, Monticello, and New Jersey.

Water Safety: Upper Delaware SRR is re-establishing a robust Water Safety Outreach Program with early onboard seasonal staff to visit most every 5th grade classroom throughout the river valley.

Legacy and Connections for Haudenosaunee Youth Support: NPS is collaborating with SUNY ESF to host community members from the Onondaga tribe to return to their ancestral lands to learn and engage in their cultural practice of eel harvesting. NPS cultural and natural resource staff will be present to support the eel camp, and NYDEC biologists will provide information about eel behavior, habitats, and their annual migration to the Sargasso Sea.

RMP Road Show Continued: NPS and UDC plan to connect with remaining townships and counties in the corridor 2025.

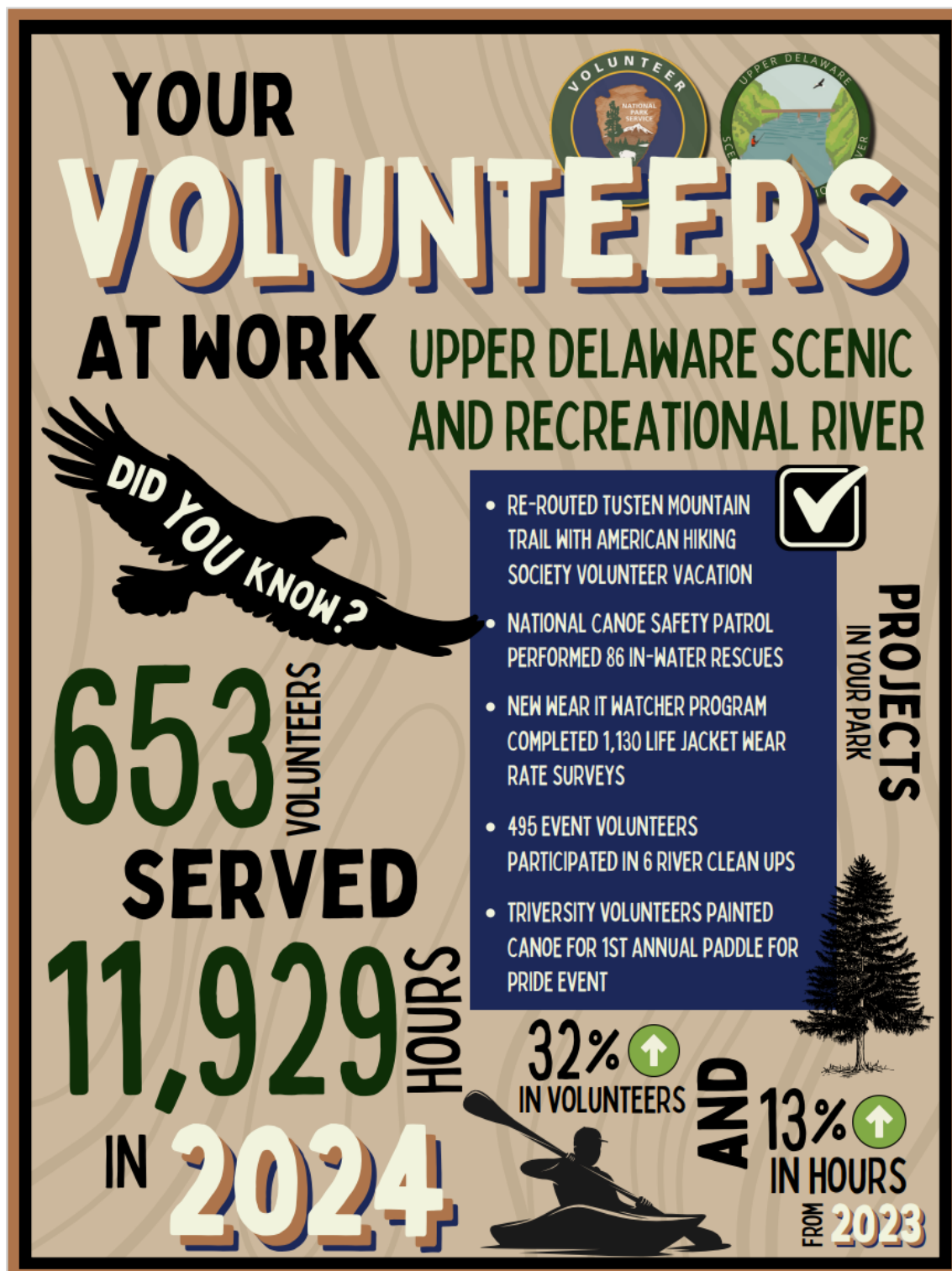
D&H Canal 200: NPS will continue to work with **D&H Transportation Heritage Council** to plan activities and programs for the 200th anniversary of the opening of the D&H Canal occurring in 2026.

America 250: NPS will be working with numerous partners to plan activities and educational programs for the 250th Commemoration of the Declaration of Independence occurring in 2026.



APPENDICES

2024 Volunteers at Work





VOLUNTEER HOUR BREAKDOWN 2024

DIVISION KEY:

- (FM) FACILITIES MAINTENANCE
- (AS) ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT
- (IE) INTERPRETATION & EDUCATION
- (NR) NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
- (CR) CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

NATIONAL CANOE SAFETY PATROL



62 VOLUNTEERS/2,824 HOURS

(IE)



WEAR IT WATCHERS

14 VOLUNTEERS/332 HOURS

(IE)

ORAL HISTORY TRANSCRIPTION

4 VOLUNTEERS/257 HOURS



(CR)

RIVERSIDE KIOSK

2 VOLUNTEERS/423 HOURS



(IE)

DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY EAGLE WATCH



46 VOLUNTEERS/745 HOURS

(IE)

PARK RANGER INTERNS



4 VOLUNTEERS/2,240 HOURS

(NR) (IE)

ZANE GREY MUSEUM DOCENTS

3 VOLUNTEERS/418 HOURS



(IE)

EVENT/GENERAL ON SITE

518 VOLUNTEERS/4,690 HOURS



(AS) (FM)



2025 ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN

The National Park Service cooperatively manages 19 river access with the states of Pennsylvania and New York, who own the accesses. The table below provides an overview of ownership and management of the public river accesses within UPDE co-managed by NPS, and the amenities provided at each.

River Miles	North to South2	"Public" River Accesses	Owner	Co-User w/NPS	Corridor Segment	Paved	Boat Launch Ramp	NPS Porta john	NPS Mowing/Trimming	NPS Weekend Trash pickup	NPS Ranger Kiosk	NPS 2024 Traffic Counts	NPS Life Jacket Station	NPS Signs	NPS Maintenance Notes	State Maintenance Notes
329.75	3	Hancock Angler Parking	Village of Hancock	NYS DECR4	RECREATIONAL	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	N/A	No	No		Prone to ice damage. DEC Maintains Parking area/Signage. Village plans to tie access to foot path project. FUDR applied for funding, planned for 2026: expand and re-grade parking. DEC will install new signage kiosk.
324.5	5	Buckingham Access	PA FBC	PA FBC	RECREATIONAL	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Monthly	No	44,130	No	Yes	NPS sign panels replaced 2024	PAFBC may add more planks to the ramp.
321	6	Lordville	NYS DOT	NYS DECR4	RECREATIONAL	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	N/A	No	No	NPS installation planned for 2026. Will notify DEC of any wash-outs or conditions	Not conducive to drift boats, maintained as hand launch via large rocks to prevent trailering. DEC improved drainage & grading in 2025. Considering paving in the future.
314.75	7	Long Eddy	DEC	NYS DECR3	SCENIC	No	No	Yes	Trim as able no mow	Yes	No	N/A	No	No		
313.5	8	Basket Creek	NYS DOT	NYS DECR3	SCENIC	No	No	No	No	No	No	N/A	No	No		DEC trimmed path through knotweed, general maintenance in 2024
312	9	Kellam's Bridge	NYS DEC	NYS DECR3	SCENIC	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	N/A	No	Yes	NPS installed new sign panels 2024	Surface in good condition. People use rope to help them get to river from parking area. DEC placed request for all new signage at this site.
302.75	10	Callicoon PA Access	PA FBC	PA FBC	RECREATIONAL	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	15,841	No	Yes	NPS sign panels replaced 2024. Very busy access with high demand for trash removal.	.
303	12	Callicoon NY	NYS DEC	NYS DECR3	RECREATIONAL	No	No	No	No	No	No	N/A	No	No		DEC anticipates developing access similar to Long Eddy. In planning phase.
298.25	13	Cochecton	NYS DOT	NYS DECR3	RECREATIONAL	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	N/A	No	No		Sign peeling/in poor condition. DEC ordered signage for this site 2024, anticipates replacement in 2025.
	15	Damascus Access	PA FBC	PA FBC	RECREATIONAL	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	31,077	No	Yes	NPS sign panels replaced 2024. Very busy access with high demand for trash removal.	Replaced ramp in 2024, but plan to make repairs to stone/ramp in 2025
295.5	16	Skinnners	NYS DEC	NYS DECR3	RECREATIONAL	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	64,765	Yes	Yes	NPS sign panels replaced 2024	Will be closed and used for staging for bridge removal for at least part of the season. Improvements planned - TBD.
290.25	17	Narrowsburg NY	NYS DEC	NYS DECR3	RECREATIONAL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	64.264	No	Yes	NPS sign panels replaced 2024	
289.75	18	Narrowsburg PA (Darbytown) Access	PA FBC	PA FBC	RECREATIONAL	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	102,572	No	Yes	NPS sign panels replaced 2024	Ramp was replaced in 2024.
284.25	19	Ten Mile River	Cons. Fund	DEC Landers	SCENIC	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16,360	No	Yes	NPS removes high water debris, installs gravel annual on driving surfaces. NPS sign panels replaced 2024	Property transfer in progress.
277.5	20	Lackawaxen Access	PA FBC	PA FBC	RECREATIONAL	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	49,289	Yes	Yes	NPS removes high water debris, adds gravel along access, PAFBC supplies materials. NPS sign panels replaced 2024.	
277.5	21	Lackawaxen, ZG Parking Lot	PA FBC	PA FBC	RECREATIONAL	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	N/A	No	No		Could use crack-sealing and re-striping
275	22	Highland	NYS DOT	NYS DECR3	RECREATIONAL	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	N/A	No	No	NPS does not have equipment needed to clean debris here - no truck access. NPS sign panels replaced 2024	DEC will continue to maintain as needed.
273.5	23	Barryville	NYS DOT	NYS DECR3	RECREATIONAL	No	No	No	No	No	No	N/A	No	No		
271.75	24	Cowan Farm	NPS	N/A	RECREATIONAL	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	N/A	No	Yes	NPS sign panels replaced 2024	
261.25	25	Mongaup	NYS DEC	NYS DECR3	RECREATIONAL	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	**	Yes	Yes	NPS sign panels replaced 2024	DEC Wildlife Management Site. Work request for potholes submitted in 2024, repair anticipated in 2025.