

THE  
**FUTURE**  
OF  
**AMERICA'S**  
**NATIONAL**  
**PARKS**

First Annual  
Centennial Strategy for

# Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: UPDE

Year: 2007

**Vision Statement**

The Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River (UPDE) will be using the increased operating funds contained in the FY2008 budget to enhance park operations. UPDE will focus its efforts on resource stewardship by increasing the seasonal maintenance staff and by supporting cultural and natural resource initiatives. UPDE will foster learning and expanded educational opportunities through its interpretive programs by expanding seasonal workforce coverage. Expanded seasonal staffing will also enable UPDE to place more emphasis on river safety.

UPDE will be taking on other projects and initiatives including its signature one million dollar Centennial Challenge project of protecting venerable lands from development encroachment by working with public and private partners, including land trusts that will raise funds and purchase properties and scenic easements to be matched by FY 2009 funds. This project will be announced as a major part of UPDE's 30th anniversary (November 10, 2008) as a part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

At UPDE the responsibility of caring for America's Treasures under the goal of Stewardship involves both natural and cultural resources. Specifically it includes preservation of the resource values that led to the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's designation in 1978 is the most compelling challenge facing the park and the entire Upper Delaware Region. The "tranquil scenic beauty" of the Delaware River and valley is one of the outstandingly remarkable resources for which the river was designated. It also includes improving the condition of park resources and assets: the Zane Grey property, the NHL Roebling Bridge, Delaware and Hudson Canal remnants as well as its vegetation, fish and wildlife as measured by the vital signs developed under the Natural Resource Challenge.

Looking ahead to the NPS centennial, UPDE will be working in many different arenas to promote stewardship with others; share in environmental leadership with partners including area visioning groups and growth modeling; provide for ample inspiring, safe, and accessible places for people to enjoy outdoor recreational experiences including facilities provided by partners. UPDE and will continue to develop exceptional learning opportunities for local schools, area communities and for visitors to the Upper Delaware River. UPDE will continue to develop its workforce so that individuals can envision and fulfill satisfying career goals and personal development

**Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager**

Dacid C. Forney/Sandra S. Schultz

Site: UPDE

STEWARDSHIP

Provide inspiring, safe, and accessible places for people to enjoy - the standard to which all other park systems aspire.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

UPDE works with its own staff as well as with the National Canoe Safety Patrol to promote river safety for visitors.  
UPDE works with many partners to assure adequate flows in the Upper Delaware River to sustain aquatic systems.  
UPDE works with many partners to assure unimpaired water quality in the Upper Delaware River to sustain safe water contact recreation.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: UPDE

**STEWARDSHIP**

**Improve the condition of park resources and assets.**

**Rehabilitate high-priority historic buildings to good condition, and help communities to preserve their history through programs like Preserve America.**

UPDE will seek funding through PMIS and by fundraising with partners to study (HSR), stabilize and rehabilitate the accessory buildings at the Zane Grey Site. UPDE has requested construction funding for flood protection sustainability at all of its historic and nonhistoric assets near the river.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

**Restore native habitats by controlling invasive species and reintroducing key plant and animal species.**

UPDE works with New York State and the US Geologic Survey to conduct ongoing studies on bald eagles, dwarf wedge mussel and the bridal shiner to determine habitat needs and to provide evidence in favor of enhancing river flows to support natural aquatic systems. In addition, UPDE is working with partners to control invasive Japanese knot weed and purple loosestrife. Other invasive plant and insect species are being monitored.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

**Improve high-priority assets to acceptable condition, as measured by the Facility Condition Index.**

Work will be undertaken to make long range improvements to the flood damaged Roebling Bridge and associated portion of the Delaware and Hudson Canal towpath.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

**Improve the natural resources in parks, as measured by the vital signs developed under the Natural Resource Challenge.**

Vital signs are being developed for UPDE and monitoring programs are either being conducted or will be established.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: UPDE

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

Complete all cultural resource inventories for designated priority resources.

This work is current and is underway.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: UPDE

STEWARDSHIP

Assure that no compelling chapter in the American heritage experience remains untold and that strategically important landscapes are acquired, as authorized by Congress.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

At UPDE the responsibility of caring for America's Treasures under the goal of Stewardship involves both natural and cultural resources. Specifically it includes preservation of the resource values that led to the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's designation in 1978 is the most compelling challenge facing the park and the entire Upper Delaware Region. The "tranquil scenic beauty" of the Delaware River and valley is one of the outstandingly remarkable resources for which the river was designated.

UPDE will be taking on other projects and initiatives including its signature one million dollar Centennial Challenge project of protecting venerable lands from development encroachment by working with public and private partners, including land trusts that will raise funds and purchase properties and scenic easements to be matched by FY 2009 funds. This project will be announced as a major part of UPDE's 30th anniversary (November 10, 2008) as a part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: UPDE

**STEWARDSHIP**

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

UPDE has programs for children of various ages: River Readings for small children; Back yard Biology for older kids, Junior Ranger programs; programs for Scouts; Traveling Trunks for Schools; Teacher Education workshops; on-site programs at summer youth camps; in-classroom programs to prepare students to visit the Roebling Bridge and Delaware and Hudson Canal for a annual School Day program for 4th graders from area schools. The annual Delaware River Sojourn provides a multi-day opportunity for parents, students and teachers to literally immerse them selves in a river learning experience We get feed back that for many youngsters, these are life changing experiences that do foster environmental appreciation as well as influence career choices.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: UPDE

**ENVIRONMENT**

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

Reduce the environmental impacts of park operations on air and water quality.

UPDE has an active recycling program that extends to river accesses and public use areas. In addition, UPDE has an active Green Procurement program.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: UPDE

**ENVIRONMENT**

Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

Serve as a model for energy efficiency, under Executive Order 13423, by ensuring Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.

Any new park facility built at UPDE will achieve at least the Silver rating equivalent to LEEDS standards.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: UPDE

**ENVIRONMENT**

Engage partners, communities, and visitors in shared environmental stewardship.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

UPDE works extensively with the Upper Delaware Visioning Committee to present programs on land use regulation and control training for local planning and zoning boards as they face unprecedented regional growth. UPDE has had and will continue to have an active program of Civic Engagement. UPDE's River Management Plan is due for updating along with the need for a new General Management Plan for UPDE. We plan on having these tasks completed by the NPS Centennial in 2016.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: UPDE

**RECREATION**

Encourage collaboration among and assist park and recreation systems at every level—federal, regional, state, local—to help build an outdoor recreation network accessible to all Americans.

Rehabilitate over 2,000 miles of trails within or connected to national parks, including trails accessible to those with disabilities.

UPDE will rehabilitate its flood damaged Delaware and Hudson Towpath Trail at the Roebling Bridge. The Zane Grey Cultural Landscape is scheduled for implementation treatment in 2008. The site's self guided interpretive trail: Dolly's Garden Path will be evaluated for accessibility. The Upper Delaware is also part of the 200+ mile Delaware River Water Trail. As part of the water trail effort other partners are seeking to expand a water trail more than another one hundred miles into the Delaware Bay. UPDE also works with area land owners such as the Boy Scouts to develop public access hiking trails on their lands. Finally, UPDE works with regional interests to develop trails inventories and networks.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: UPDE

RECREATION

Expand partnerships with schools and boys and girls associations to show how national park experiences can improve children's lives.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

There is an urgent need to connect people with the outdoors and with their natural and cultural heritage. UPDE is committed to its programs for children of various ages: River Readings for small children; Back yard Biology for older kids, Junior Ranger programs; programs for Scouts; Traveling Trunks for Schools; Teacher Education workshops; on-site programs at summer youth camps; in-classroom programs to prepare students to visit the Roebling Bridge and Delaware and Hudson Canal for a annual School Day program for 4th graders from area schools. The annual Delaware River Sojourn provides a multi-day opportunity for parents' students and teachers to literally immerse them selves in a river learning experience. We get feed back that for many youngsters, these are life changing experiences that do foster environmental appreciation as well as influence career choices.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: UPDE

RECREATION

Focus national, regional, and local tourism efforts to reach diverse audiences and young people and to attract visitors to lesser-known parks.

Increase visitation by 25 percent at lesser-known parks through a national tourism effort aimed at helping people to discover the breadth of parks and experiences.

UPDE participates in all of the area/regional tourism organizations. Some of these partners are considering developing facilities that UPDE can use as visitor contact facilities to assist local tourism efforts.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS



Site: UPDE

**EDUCATION**

Promote life-long learning to connect generations through park experiences.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Programs such as the Delaware River Sojourn attract adults and older people who participate in a week-long canoe trip down the Delaware River. Teachers and students also attend, but there is a large number of older participants. Other programs on Zane Grey, the author or programs on the John Roebling and the history of the Delaware and Hudson Canal attract the interest of life-long-learners. UPDE plans on continuing these programs and expanding them when possible.

A new opportunity will be coming up related to the Civil War sesquicentennial - UPDE has a Civil War site. There will be an opportunity to give this July 15, 1864 event more attention on its 150th anniversary.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: UPDE

**EDUCATION**

Impart to every American a sense of their citizen ownership of their national parks.

Increase visitors' satisfaction, understanding, and appreciation of the parks they visit.

Every person in the National Park Service should strive to render the best possible customer service to each and every visitor. Visitors need to feel that we are glad that they have chosen to come to a National Park.

We need to instill in both staff and visitors a sense of enthusiasm and appreciation for the treasures we care for. We do this because what we care for is real, the resources are our heritage as well as our future, and because these treasures belong to all of us. UPDE Management is committed to this goal.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: UPDE

**PROFESSIONALISM**

Use strategic planning to promote management excellence.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

UPDE builds position descriptions, performance standards and work plans around its Strategic Plan. This document is based on our legislative mandate, and NPS policies and directives and serves as the basis of what we do. Management will continue to support this performance goal.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: UPDE

**PROFESSIONALISM**

Promote a safety and health culture for all employees and visitors.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

UPDE will continue to strive to meet its employee and visitor safety goals. Expanding visitor safety efforts in a river based recreational park requires staff to contact visitors and to work on an ongoing basis with recreation providers (boat liveries) UPDE's volunteer National Canoe Safety Patrol program also has to be nurtured so that the organization can continue to attract and retain members. This program needs to have continuing support so that volunteers can be properly trained and equipped to do river patrols. UPDE also has an employee directed in-house program of safety inspections and education.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: UPDE

**PROFESSIONALISM**

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Because the National Park Service owns only 30 acres out of a 55,000 acre corridor and because UPDE as created by its legislation is a non-federal lands park, UPDE works extensively with numerous partners. This work will continue, as it is the only way we can protect cultural, natural and scenic resources that the NPS does not own. Management at UPDE has long recognized that "we can't do it alone" and must rely on the good will and support of numerous partners to carry out the work of protecting the Upper Delaware River. This work will continue with the full involvement of management and will be expanded when ever possible.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS