



## Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River: Purpose and Management Goals

A foundation document was completed for Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River (UPDE) in February 2014. This document serves as the basis for planning and management. It concentrates on why UPDE was established and describes the park's purpose and significance. Those resources and values that are "fundamental" to achieving the park's purpose and significance are identified, along with the legal and policy requirements that mandate the basic management responsibilities for UPDE. The UPDE Foundation Document can be found at: [http://www.nps.gov/upde/parkmgmt/upload/UPDE\\_FD\\_SP-1.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/upde/parkmgmt/upload/UPDE_FD_SP-1.pdf).

The UPDE Foundation Document complements the results of the 2013 Delaware River Basin Wild and Scenic River Values Workshop where the free-flow condition, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) associated with designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act were evaluated and described for UPDE. (Available at: [http://www.nps.gov/upde/parkmgmt/upload/Delaware-River-Basin\\_WSR-Values\\_Publication\\_Screen-Version\\_09-27-2012-rotated-full-screen-mode.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/upde/parkmgmt/upload/Delaware-River-Basin_WSR-Values_Publication_Screen-Version_09-27-2012-rotated-full-screen-mode.pdf))

Management goals tier off park purpose and significance statements. The broad, qualitative goals below directly reflect UPDE's basic management responsibilities and will serve to promote sound decision-making, promote clear and consistent communication with others regarding what we are working to achieve and how our activities contribute to achieving park goals, and will provide focus for future management and planning on what is most important about UPDE's resources and values.

### Management Goals

- Protection of the Delaware River watershed and its associated Outstandingly Remarkable Values, including free-flowing condition (main stem), exceptional water quality, and landscape-scale ecological connectivity, is achieved through federal, state, and local agencies, regional collaboration and cooperation.
- Working partnerships are fundamental to the management structure and success of UPDE. Strong, collaborative, efficient, and mutually beneficial partnerships are forged by each park division to promote the protection, conservation, and restoration of fundamental natural and cultural resources and enhance public recreation and education opportunities.

### Purpose

*The Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River 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.*

- Park resources and Outstandingly Remarkable Values (water quality, flow, ecological, geological, scenic, recreational, and cultural) are protected and maintained in good condition through strong partnerships and by promoting consistency with the Upper Delaware River Management Plan and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The best available science is used to understand resources, monitor change, inform decision-making, and enrich public appreciation of park values.

- The rich cultural heritage associated with the long history of riverine occupation in the Upper Delaware is preserved and shared with present and future generations through collaboration and cooperation with local historical societies, town/township, county, and state governments, academic institutions, and other partners.

- A diverse array of high quality recreational experiences contribute to a transformative visitor experience at UPDE. The recreational experience at UPDE is developed in partnership with others, is respectful of private property, and promotes safety as fundamental to a quality visitor experience.



NPS Photo

- Park visitors are both educated and inspired through interpretive programming that provides a transformative visitor experience based on interaction with both natural and cultural resources. Programs, exhibits, waysides, publications, social media, etc. focus on key interpretive themes and are accessible to all communities within the river corridor. Programming incorporates park-based information and appropriate technology in order to maintain relevancy in the 21st century, reach audiences that may not be able to physically visit UPDE, and cultivate the next generation of park stewards.

- The public serves as “co-stewards” of park resources. Public engagement, especially youth engagement, in management activities is critical to long-term resource protection and maintaining the relevancy of the NPS for multiple future generations. Opportunities for public involvement in management activities are available within each division (administration, resource management, interpretation, law enforcement, maintenance) through programs such as Volunteers-In-Parks, Teacher-Ranger-Teacher, Parks-As-Classrooms, and student internships.

- All park actions, including workforce management, construction, operations, resource management, maintenance, and administration demonstrate the best practices for environmental, fiscal, and operational sustainability and support UPDE goals. Workplace and workforce enrichment are emphasized in support of the park’s most valuable resource – our staff, their knowledge, and their time.

# Frequently Asked Questions

**Is it UPDE's "job" to protect the entire Delaware River watershed?** The underlying principle of watershed management is that people, land, and water are connected – from ridgeline to ridgeline and from headwater to tailwater. As described in 2006 Management Policies, units of the National Park Service (NPS) are directed to “manage watersheds as complete hydrologic systems,” however parks rarely encompass entire systems within their boundaries. Despite the fact that approximately 75% of the non-tidal Delaware River has been designated as part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System with the NPS as the responsible federal agency, the vast majority of the land base in the watershed is managed by others. Therefore, “cooperative conservation beyond park boundaries is necessary as the NPS strives to fulfill its mandate to preserve the natural and cultural resources of parks unimpaired for future generations. Ecological processes cross park boundaries, and park boundaries may not incorporate all of the natural resources, cultural sites, and scenic vistas that relate to park resources or the quality of the visitor experience. Recognizing that parks are integral parts of larger regional environments, and to support its primary concern of protecting park resources and values, the Service will work cooperatively with others to:

- anticipate, avoid, and resolve potential conflicts;
- protect park resources and values;
- provide for visitor enjoyment; and
- address mutual interests in the quality of life of community residents, including matters such as compatible economic development and resource and environmental protection.” (NPS Management Policies 2006)

Management at the scale of the Delaware River watershed is an example of a strategy that encompasses a geographic scope beyond park boundaries to a larger landscape, involving longer time horizons, and dependent on collaborative resource management. Although it is not the “job” or sole responsibility of UPDE to protect the entire Delaware River watershed – we represent an important partner and collaborator along with other local, state, and federal agencies, non-profit organization, landowners, etc. in achieving the long-term protection and conservation of the resources and ecological integrity of the Delaware River.

**What are Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)?** Values for which the Delaware River was designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act at Section 1(b) are the river’s free-flowing condition, water quality and outstandingly remarkable values or ORVs. ORVs are defined by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act as the characteristics that make a river worthy of special protection. ORVs for UPDE were first defined when studying the river to determine whether it qualified for designation (1973) and what its qualifications were (1978) under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. In addition to its free-flowing condition and exceptional water quality, ORVs at UPDE specifically include cultural, ecological, geological, recreational, and scenic resources and values. A full description of UPDE ORVs can be found at: [http://www.nps.gov/upde/parkmgmt/upload/Delaware-River-Basin\\_WSR-Values\\_Publication\\_Screen-Version\\_09-27-2012-rotated-full-screen-mode.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/upde/parkmgmt/upload/Delaware-River-Basin_WSR-Values_Publication_Screen-Version_09-27-2012-rotated-full-screen-mode.pdf)

**What does free-flowing mean?** This characteristic applies to those sections of the river designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The term is defined in the Act at Section 16(b) as “existing or flowing in natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway.” The main stem of the Delaware River is the only major river in the eastern United States that remains undammed.

**What are “fundamental” resources and values?** Fundamental resources and values (FRVs) are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the NPS unit and maintaining its significance. One of the most important responsibilities of NPS managers is to ensure the conservation and public enjoyment of those qualities that are essential (fundamental) to the park unit. FRVs are defined for a park through development of a park Foundation Document – completed for UPDE in February 2014. UPDE FRVs directly reflect the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) for which the park was designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. FRVs at UPDE specifically include water quality, free-flowing condition, cultural, ecological, geological, recreational, and scenic resources and values.

**What is a “transformative” visitor experience?** Use of this term follows a recent NPS publication called, “Achieving Relevance in our Second Century: A 5-year interdisciplinary strategy”. (Available at: [http://www.nps.gov/interp/IEV%20Strategic%20Plan\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/interp/IEV%20Strategic%20Plan_FINAL.pdf)) This document provides the basis for new ideas and methods in interpretation and visitor experience and was released in 2014 by the NPS Office of Interpretation, Education, and Volunteers. A transformative experience is one that both educates and inspires the park visitor. At the heart of transformative learning is the idea of a fundamental change in perspective or frame of reference. When our interpretive programming or other experience at UPDE causes or inspires a shift in viewpoint, the visitor, in essence, has “transformed” their view of him/herself or of the world or of how he/she interacts with others and the environment. For example, when a visitor from New York City comes to UPDE and experiences a beautiful, scenic canoe trip and then an educational lesson on water quality and watersheds that changes their viewpoint on the water coming out of their tap in the city, where it comes from and why protecting the water in an area two hours away is so important to their own life, they have had a transformative experience.

**Why is the term “park” used in this document to describe Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River?** The term park refers to UPDE as a unit of the National Park System. When UPDE was designated a scenic and recreational river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, it became a unit of the National Park System. There are over 400 units of the National Park System recognized for their significant natural, historic, and recreational values. These areas have been given different titles to reflect different resources and management purposes. These include national scenic and recreational rivers, national historic sites, national memorials, national preserves, national recreation areas, national seashores, national parks and others. Management decisions for each unit in the National Park System are guided by the area’s enabling legislation and the specific plans developed for the unit – such as the Upper Delaware River Management Plan.