

Delaware Water Gap

NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
NEW JERSEY AND PENNSYLVANIA

A RIVER MEETS THE MOUNTAINS

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area lies between the Kittatinny Ridge in New Jersey and the Pocono Mountain Plateau in Pennsylvania and includes some 56 kilometers (35 miles) of the long, narrow Delaware River Valley. At the gap, the Delaware River glides through a bold rent in the mountains, a memorable sight that explains why the area earned popularity in the 19th century as one of the Nation's foremost natural landmarks.

VISITING DELAWARE WATER GAP

In generations past the region lured well-to-do vacationers who often spent entire summers here, enjoying the invigorating mountain air, the dramatic views, and the services of an elaborately equipped resort haven. With the vacationers came many well known landscape painters. Their works have given the gap a prominent place in American art history.

Today you can enjoy the rural quiet of yesterday. With the exception of I-80 and U.S. 209, major roads have bypassed the area and the impact of events, except for the resort boom, has been slight. Succeeding generations have peacefully tilled the soil, leaving miniature landscapes quite unaltered by modern intrusions. Farmlands and villages fill the flatlands along the river. Trails lead into the backwoods to remote streams and hidden lakes. Fish are plentiful in the Delaware's tributaries.

TOURING THE PARK

A good place to start your visit is at the Kittatinny Point Information Station in New Jersey, off I-80. Some facilities are closed during winter, but ice fishing, ice skating, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling are allowed in designated areas.

Continuing on from the Kittatinny Point Information Station, you can find your way to the River Road and points along the New Jersey side of the river via I-80 east and N.J. 94 north. Or you can take the toll bridge across to Pennsylvania and visit the points of interest highlighted on the maps.

Organized groups with interests in history, natural science, and environmental studies can arrange for special tours by writing to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Bushkill, PA 18324, or calling 717-588-6637.

PROGRAMS IN THE PARK

Environmental programs for students of all ages are held year round at several residential education centers converted from former resorts and camps. These programs are operated cooperatively by the National Park Service and nearby colleges and school districts. For information on programs, and fees, contact: Pocono Environmental Education Center, R.D. 1 Box 268, Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328, telephone 717-828-2319; or Wallpack Valley Environmental Education Center, Box 134, Wallpack Center, NJ 07881, telephone 201-948-5749. Information on arts and crafts programs may be obtained by writing the Peters Valley Craftsmen, Layton, NJ 07851, or Artists for Environment, Box 44, Wallpack, NJ 17881.

VISITOR SERVICES

Family camping facilities are not available in the park; several private and State campgrounds, however, are located in the immediate vicinity.

Food, lodging, gasoline, souvenirs, and other goods and services are available in towns and communities from Port Jervis, New York, at the upper end of the park to Portland, Pennsylvania, just south of the gap.

Medical services are in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, Newton, New Jersey, and Port Jervis, New York.

1-3a GAP OVERLOOKS

Resort Point (1), just south of the village of Delaware Water Gap, is located on the site of Kittatinny House whose guests enjoyed the beautiful vistas that made the area popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The stone foundations of the huge hotel, destroyed by fire in 1931, are visible at the left of the parking area. The small stream once flowed through the hotel kitchen, providing water for cooking and cleaning.



A short distance south, exhibits at Point of Gap (2), illustrate how the mountain range developed from a great upfold in the earth's crust and how water over many thousands of years cut a path through erodible rock, leaving a sharp gap and visible evidence of angled rock layers on the exposed mountain sides. The water here deepens to 27 meters (90 feet) as the banks of the river narrow through the gap.

Farthest south is Arrow Island Overlook (3a), both a scenic site and point of access to the Arrow Island self-guiding trail.

3b DUCK POND

This is a take-off point for cross-country skiing and hiking.

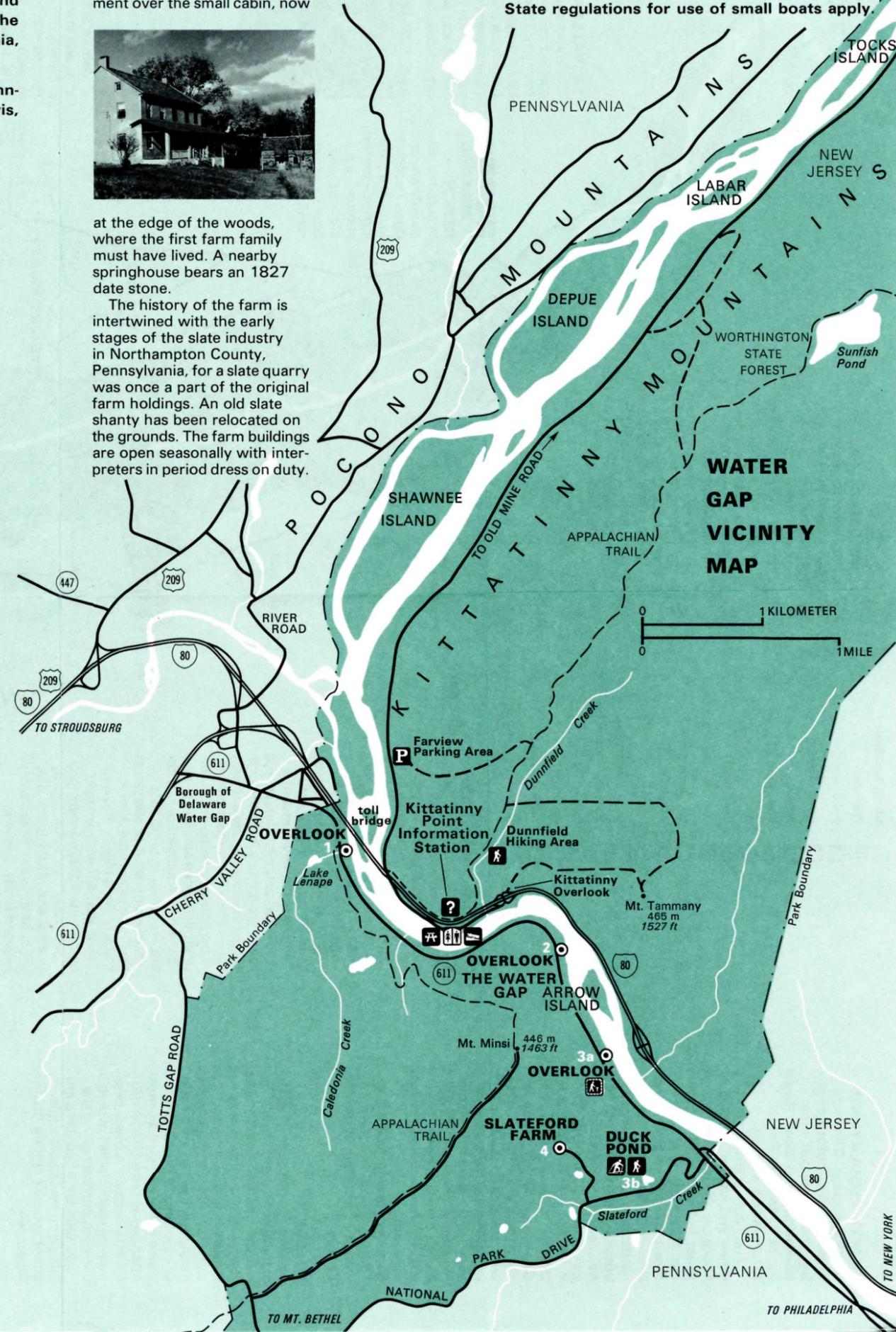
4 SLATEFORD FARM

Pause here to tour this partially restored farm site at the foot of Mount Minsi off U.S. 611. The farmhouse is furnished with 19th-century pieces. The house was an obvious improvement over the small cabin, now



at the edge of the woods, where the first farm family must have lived. A nearby springhouse bears an 1827 date stone.

The history of the farm is intertwined with the early stages of the slate industry in Northampton County, Pennsylvania, for a slate quarry was once a part of the original farm holdings. An old slate shanty has been relocated on the grounds. The farm buildings are open seasonally with interpreters in period dress on duty.



HELP PRESERVE THE PARK

Federal regulations prohibit the disturbance, destruction, or removal of public property or natural, historical, or archeological features or materials.

ADMINISTRATION

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area was authorized by Congress in 1965 to preserve for public use a large and relatively unspoiled area along the river boundary of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. An area of more than 28,000 hectares (70,000 acres) has been authorized for the park. Land acquisition has been in progress since 1966, but some of the property is still in private ownership and is not open to the public.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

SAFETY REGULATIONS
Rock climbing: Climbers must register before climbing and check out after completing the climb. Register at Kittatinny Point Information Station.

The rock in the area is loose and rotten. Falling rocks are an extreme hazard. Wear helmets while climbing. Never climb alone.
Swimming: The Delaware River has hazards that include fast current, slippery bottom, deep water, drop-offs, and underwater obstacles. **SWIM ONLY WHERE LIFEGUARDS ARE ON DUTY.** Never swim alone.
Canoeing: Always wear a life preserver. Do not overload your canoe: do not canoe while the water is very cold—generally from November through mid-April. Never canoe alone.
Hiking: Always wear bright clothing.
Hunting: It is permitted in some parts of the park. Check at a visitor center for details.

WILDLIFE

Be alert for glimpses of wildlife. Raccoons, cottontail rabbits, squirrels, woodchucks, and foxes are often seen along roadsides and foot trails. Most animals prefer the deep woods during the day, so start early or stay late. Of the large animals, the one visitors most often see is the whitetail deer. On rare occasions black bear may be seen. Hawks gliding in the wind currents along the ridge tops are a regular sight, but if you see a bald eagle, count yourself among the fortunate few.

Poisonous copperheads and timber rattlesnakes are infrequently sighted on hillsides and rocky ledges.

- Information Station
- Restrooms
- Picnic Area
- Ranger Station
- Parking
- Interpretive Trail
- Hiking
- Swimming
- Amphitheater
- Launching Ramp
- Canoeing
- Fishing
- Environmental Study Area
- Winter Recreation Area
- Ice Skating
- Ice Fishing
- Snowmobiling
- Cross-country Skiing

7 POCONO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIONAL CENTER

The pine and hardwood forest, clear streams, lakes, waterfalls, and fields in various stages of natural succession provide rich opportunities for studying nature. Once a vacation resort, this 14-hectare (35-acre) tract in the Pocono foothills is now used by students making environmental field observations. Classes and seminars are taught in the converted main lodge, and students live in the surrounding cabins.

Organized groups of adults or students can arrange to stay at the fully equipped center for any length of time up to a whole summer. A professional staff from Keystone Junior College in La Plume, Pennsylvania, that administers the environmental programs, provides basic instruction, study guides, and planning for field trips, or groups can pursue independently their own ecology course.



Casual visitors are encouraged to stop at the center and to test their awareness of nature without the use of sight by walking a nearby trail designed for handicapped persons.

8 DINGMANS FALLS
 In Pennsylvania, several small tributaries of the Delaware River have cut picturesque gorges into the eastern flank of the Pocono Plateau. The streams cascade through stands of hemlock and rhododendron in a series of waterfalls. Dingmans Falls and Silver Thread Falls near Dingmans Ferry, Pennsylvania, highlight a scenic natural area. The Dingmans Falls Visitor Center features an audiovisual program and exhibit on the natural environment.

9 MILFORD BEACH

In summer, lifeguards are on duty. Facilities include a parking lot, comfort stations, a picnic area, and boat launching ramp.

13 WALLPACK CENTER

The water gap area has attracted landscape artists since the early 1800s. Today, established artists and art students work here under an Artists for Environment program sponsored by the National Park Service and several eastern art schools. In their own



styles, they are responding creatively to this fascinating landscape in much the same way as Karl Bodmer, George Inness, and others did when they discovered the drama and charm of the water gap area in the 19th century.

Visitors are encouraged to stop and learn more about the program and, during the summer, to visit the art gallery located near Wallpack Center, New Jersey.

14 PETERS VALLEY

Peters Valley is a community of skilled artisans who create contemporary handcrafted works in wood, clay, textiles, heavy and fine metals, and photography. Because courses in these fields are often being taught by the resident artists, visitors may tour the studios by appointment only. They are, however, encouraged to stop at the information center, visit the craft store, and attend the annual craft fair the last weekend in July.



12 WALLPACK VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Two former residences near Wallpack Center have been adapted for use as living quarters and classrooms for small groups of students using the National Recreation Area for educational purposes. The



center is operated by the Eatontown, New Jersey, school district, but may be utilized by students from any area. Teachers who are interested in bringing groups to the center are welcome to visit and observe the educational program in action.

11 MILLBROOK
 A swift brook, then farms and a gristmill, and soon a small community is born. Millbrook's origins are as commonplace as its name. It never did grow much. Bigger cities and better means of transportation elsewhere left it behind. Millbrook and countless other rural communities receded into the backwater of American life.

The original inhabitants may have gone, but today's interpreters are recreating Millbrook's heyday in the late 1800s. From July until Labor Day, visitors can tour the



blacksmith shop, store, church, school, weaving shop, shoemaker's shop, and several residences. Park neighbors have donated their time and many authentic furnishings to bring this quiet country setting back to life.

5 SMITHFIELD BEACH

In summer, lifeguards are on duty. The beach is a good access for canoeists.

6 HIDDEN LAKE

North of the gap in the Marshalls Creek area, between U.S. 209 and the river, is Hidden Lake, a prime spot for fishing and picnicking. There is a self-guiding nature trail that circles the lake.



THE STROUDSBURGS

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR DETAILS

TO THE POCONOS TO SCRANTON

0 5 KILOMETERS 3 MILES

TO NEW YORK

Portland Columbia toll bridge

