

# Delaware Water Gap

NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
NEW JERSEY AND PENNSYLVANIA

## A RIVER MEETS THE MOUNTAINS

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area lies in the long, narrow valley of the Delaware River. On the east, the land rises up to the Kittatinny Range in New Jersey and on the west it folds into the foothills of Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains. 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 once was an attraction for 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.

... and today

Here you can enjoy the outdoors and feel the rural stillness of more than a century ago. Major roadways 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 backwoods to remote streams and hidden lakes. Fish are plentiful in the Delaware's tributaries.

## PARK TOURS

... general tours

A good place to start your visit is at the Kittatinny Point Information Station in New Jersey, off Interstate 80. The station is open daily April through October; weekends only, November through March. Some facilities are closed during winter, but the park remains open for ice skating, ice fishing, and snowmobiling in designated areas.

Continuing on from the Kittatinny Point Information Station, you can easily find your way to the River Road and points along the New Jersey side of the river. Or you can take the toll bridge across the river to Pennsylvania and visit the points of interest highlighted on the maps.

... special interest tours

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. Tel. (717) 588-6637.

## PROGRAMS IN THE PARK

Environmental programs for students of all ages are held at several residential education centers converted from former resorts and camps. Two of these facilities, one in Pennsylvania and one in New Jersey, serve as Youth Conservation Corps camps during the summer months. These and other 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, tel. (717) 828-2319; Thunder Mountain Environmental-Vocational Education Center, Star Route 1, Layton, NJ 07851, tel. (201) 948-6767; Watergate Environmental Education Center, Box

554, Blairstown, NJ 07825, tel. (201) 581-2235; or Long Pine Lake Career Education Center, c/o Passaic Board of Education Administration Building, 220 Passaic St., Passaic, NJ 07055, tel. (201) 383-1718.

Arts and Crafts programs information may be obtained by writing the Peters Valley Craftsmen, Layton NJ 07851 or the Artists for Environment, Star Route Box 14, Columbia, NJ 07832.

## VISITOR SERVICES

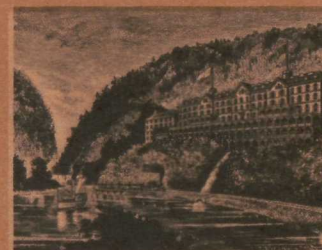
Camping facilities are not provided and all camping is prohibited within the Recreation Area, but state and private campgrounds are close by. Inquire about them at any ranger station.

Food, lodging, gasoline, souvenirs, and other goods and services are available in towns and communities from Port Jervis, N.Y. at the upper end of the Recreation Area to Portland, Pa., near the water gap.

Medical services are in East Stroudsburg, Pa., Newton, N.J., and Port Jervis, N.Y.

## 1 GAP OVERLOOKS

Resort Point, just south of the village of Delaware Water Gap, is located on the site of Kittatinny House whose guests enjoyed the beautiful vistas which 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.



- 2 A short distance south, exhibits at Point of Gap 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.
- 3 Farthest south is Arrow Island Overlook, both a scenic site and point of access to the Arrow Island self-guiding trail that winds along natural terraces, through woodlands, and past the ruins of an early resort.

## 4 SLATEFORD LIVING 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

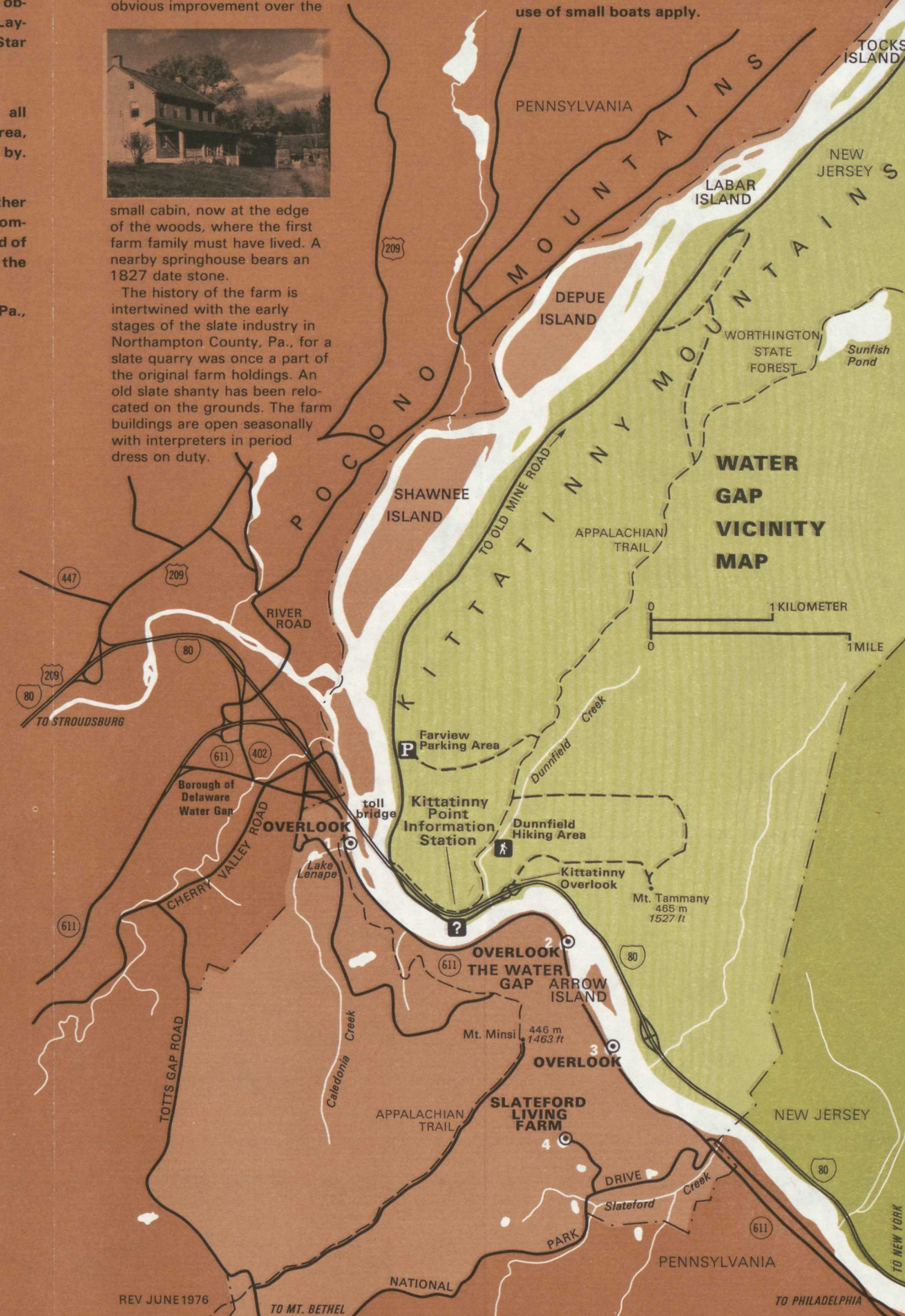


small cabin, now at the edge of the woods, where the first farm family must have lived. A nearby springhouse bears an 1827 date stone.

The history of the farm is intertwined with the early stages of the slate industry in Northampton County, Pa., 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.

## SPORTING REGULATIONS

Hunting and fishing are allowed in season, except in posted areas. State regulations apply, and State licenses are required. Canoeing is popular on the Delaware River. Canoes can be rented outside the park. U.S. Coast Guard and State regulations for use of small boats apply.



## 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, including a 4,900-hectare (12,000-acre) site for a reservoir to be impounded by a proposed dam at Tocks Island. Land acquisition has been in progress since 1966, but much of the property is still privately owned and is not open to the public.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities to protect and conserve our land and water, energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, park and recreation areas, and for the wise use of all those resources. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

National Park Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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**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.

**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.

**5 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 swimming, fishing, sailing, and picnicking. A self-guiding nature trail circles the lake.



**6 SMITHFIELD BEACH**

In summer, lifeguards are on duty. There are parking lots, comfort stations, and picnic and boat launching facilities. Smithfield Beach is also a good access for canoeists. It is the "take out" point for those who are floating the river; the "put in" point is 40 kilometers (25 miles) north at Milford Beach. In winter a 14-kilometer (nine-mile) snowmobile trail is available.



- 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

**7 POCONO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION 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, Pa., 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.

**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, Pa., highlight a scenic natural area. The Dingmans Falls Visitor Center features an audiovisual program and exhibit on the natural environment. This area is open from late April through October.

**12 PETERS VALLEY CRAFT VILLAGE**

The village of Peters Valley grew up in the early 19th century at the crossroads of a small farming community named after the original Dutch landowner, Peter Van Ness. Orchards, fields, and white farm buildings arranged against the surrounding forest present



one of the most captivating landscapes in the park. Since 1970, the village has been transformed into a community of skilled artisans. The Peters Valley Craftsmen. Woodcarving, woodworking, weaving, blacksmithing, ceramics and jewelry-making—all are practiced and offered in basic instruction as a means of preserving important hand skills before they vanish from the American culture.

Visitors are encouraged to tour the village and watch the craftsmen at work. The studios are open daily except Mondays 1 to 4 p.m. April through December, and crafts are exhibited and sold in the country store. A 2-day craft fair is held every summer.

**13 THUNDER MOUNTAIN VOCATIONAL-ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER**

Barnyard sights, animal sounds, the smell of fresh cut hay—everything about a farm is new to youngsters being raised in the city. When thousands of schoolchildren come here each year, they begin to learn what life and work on a real farm is like.



A former dude ranch, the farm was purchased in 1971 for inclusion in the Recreation Area, and since then Thunder Mountain has been jointly operated by the Newton, N.J., school district, New Jersey Department of Education, and the National Park Service.

Visitors are welcome to visit Thunder Mountain between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except during December.

**11 ARTISTS FOR ENVIRONMENT**

The water gap 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 Carl Bodmer, George Inness, and others did when they discovered the drama and charm of the water gap area in the 19th century.

The artists live in the white frame house that sits on a hillside overlooking the distinct S-curve in the Delaware River at Wallpack Bend. White Russian emigrants lived here after the fall of the Russian czar in the early part of the 20th century. It was known as Salamovka then.

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

A swift brook, then farms and a gristmill, 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 of the late 1800s. From July until Labor Day, visitors can tour the hotel,



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

