

# Upper Delaware River: Making the Connections





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# Upper Delaware River: Making the Connections

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To facilitate action and implementation, research and documentation have been placed in the appendices to the extent possible.

## **1. Introduction**

The stacked stone walls that line the country roads and meander off into the forests are reminders of the hard work and traditions of the Upper Delaware River region. Residents here have a pride of ownership in the natural beauty of the area, and connection to the land and its rich history. The communities that line the banks of the river can trace their history back to the hard workers who used the area's natural resources to make their livings, and many of the area's current residents proudly call these industrious people their ancestors. From farming and logging, to canalling, to bluestone cutting and hospitality, the residents, past and present, have long sought a way to balance the value of the landscape with the value of the land and natural resources. While the area has had several "heydays" it has never seen lasting prosperity.

"The Upper Delaware: Making the Connections" sets forth ways that these communities can tie the past to the future and build a solid basis for sustained prosperity through policy and action. The purpose of this plan is to provide a range of concepts and resources to be used by anyone from concerned citizens to businesses and to illustrate ways to improve the experience of visitors, lives of the residents, strength of the businesses, and health of the ecosystem. This plan is for those who are here today, and those who will be here in the future; children, grandchildren, and all who will choose to make this area their home or destination.

### **1.1 The Plan**

There has been a lot of work in the Upper Delaware aimed at increasing visitation and enjoyment of the natural resources. A principal objective of this Plan is to build on the energy vision as expressed through existing plans and documents, and as expressed by residents during public outreach meetings and charrette, and to tie them together. The Plan serves as a vehicle to coalesce the ongoing efforts and visions into a regional connected effort. The Plan highlights concepts and ideas, and set forth a means of achieving the vision. Residents, businesses, everyone should use this plan as a resource for ideas, partners and ongoing efforts.

The Plan has three main focus areas: Economic Development and Tourism; River Access; and Arts, History and Culture, although they are all interconnected. Stressing these three categories is part of understanding and meeting the overarching goal of branding and strategically enhancing the Upper Delaware. The region currently sees over 300,000 visitors, and expanding this audience will have a tremendous impact on the area's economy and resources. The Plan also includes the sections "Protecting the Resources" and "Projects" which provide details, illustrations and information useful for implementation.

### **1.2 The Stakeholders**

A steering committee was formed to ensure broad representation of interests and views, and public outreach was done in multiple ways to help reach a broad spectrum of residents,

businesses and community leaders.

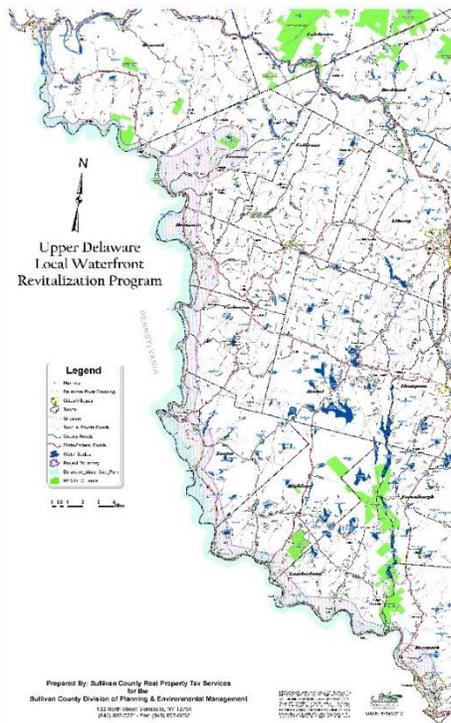
From the public outreach, the question of who uses the Upper Delaware River Corridor resulted in a large range of answers: local residents and visitors, beginner paddlers, beginner hikers, fishermen, motorcyclists, campers, second homeowners, arts and culture enthusiasts, eco-tourists, and other active recreation users such as runners and bicyclists. While not exhaustive, the list shows the range of people who come to enjoy the high quality recreational opportunities of the River Corridor, whether as a visitor or resident.

### 1.3 Geography

#### 1.3.1 *The River, Three States, a Bunch of Counties and a Lot of Towns*

The Upper Delaware River joins three states along its banks, and passes by many towns and counties, connecting communities while at the same time separating them. This Plan focuses on the New York side of the river from where the headwaters join together in the town of Hancock in Delaware County through all of Sullivan County to the Orange County city of Port Jervis, but keeps in view the other side of the river; the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The project boundaries were drawn by the steering committee for this plan; a committee that included representatives from each community and agencies and organizations in the project area.

#### 1.3.2 *Along the Roads and in the Hamlets*



The project boundary was drawn to reflect complimentary initiatives to connect the region, including Congress' designation of the Delaware River between Hancock and Sparrowbush as the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, a National Park Service managed component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; and designation of portions of New York State Route 97, which parallels the river for the entire length of this project, as the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway of New York State.

Over the years and through many planning documents, the river has been organized and defined in parts and segments. The river from Hancock to Callicoon is known for being colder, quieter and good for fishing, while the downriver part of the river is more enjoyed by canoers, rafters and swimmers. Kayaking, though, is steadily gaining in popularity and has the potential to become more prevalent in the upper stretch of the river.

One of the guiding documents for the region is the River Management Plan for the Upper



Delaware Scenic and Recreational River<sup>1</sup>. The River Management Plan identifies “scenic” and “recreational” segments and sets the stage for understanding the balance between the need for recreation based business to access the river, and for there to be areas that preserve the scenic qualities that qualified the river for the NPS designation. Regional management to uphold the River Management Plan is accomplished through the home rule authorities of the municipalities that border the river through their comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances. These municipal guiding documents are created using the River Management Plan’s Land and Water Use Guidelines. The River Management Plan and Land and Water Use Guidelines are administered on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior by the Upper Delaware Council.

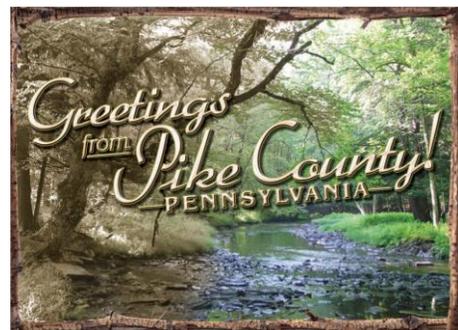
Town comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances most often identify the river corridor and provide distinct development guidelines for the area. A chart of goals and guidelines set forth in these documents are provided in the Appendices.

The Upper Delaware: Making the Connections Plan envisions the region with concentrated areas of development connected by the river, and connected by the byway. These “nodes” or areas of development are the hamlets; the historic areas of economic vitality and business. Condensed growth creates a vitality that facilitates economic development, while allowing preservation of the landscapes that draw in and keep people.

Throughout the process, several projects were selected for more in depth and detailed planning. These projects were selected for their applicability and transferability throughout the study area. They include: river access points at Lordville and Long Eddy; the National Park Service owned Corwin Farm; and a collaborative hiking trail and camping project with the Boy Scouts at their property near Ten Mile River and the New York Susquehanna Railroad and Western Railway Central New York Railroad. Additionally, concept plans for Byway rest areas were created to help communities think about how improvements could be made at these facilities. This plan also highlights projects that are complementary and concurrent with this plan such as a multi-agency shared Visitor’s Center for the Scenic Byway, a whitewater kayaking park in Port Jervis, and an esplanade in Big Eddy, also known as the Narrowsburg Riverwalk.

#### **1.4 Natural Gas**

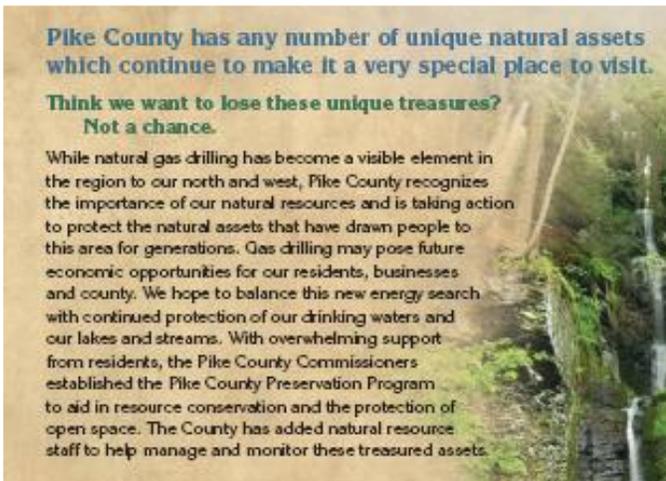
Drilling for natural gas is a potential activity in the Upper Delaware, underlain by Marcellus and Utica Shales. The issue has been divisive and its implications for the economy and environment are disputed. Because the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) has effectively placed drilling on hold in the Upper Delaware River region, and New York State banned the practice, drilling is not imminent. Therefore, this plan will focus on those industries that are currently, and historically,



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<sup>1</sup> “Final Management Plan: Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River” New York and Pennsylvania, November 1986 Prepared by the Conference of Upper Delaware Townships in cooperation with the National Park Service

the foundation of the region's economy.



However, negative news coverage of the gas industry in Pennsylvania by the national media has caused some to associate the industry and all of Pennsylvania with poor water quality and other environmental problems. After repeated inquires to the Pike County Planning Office and local businesses about the quality of life in the area, Pike County, Pennsylvania developed a postcard brochure to address the concerned residents, visitors, and businesses. Although drilling has yet to take place in the Delaware Basin, the perceived threat of gas

development has impacted Pike County's tourism industry, which relies upon the area's water and open space resources. The postcard assures the travelling public that while no drilling has taken place in Pike County, the County of Pike would make sure to protect its natural resources that have historically attracted people to the area, even if drilling eventually takes place.

## **2. Economic Development and Tourism**



### **2.1 Introduction/Existing Conditions**

While the economy of this region is highly dependent on tourism and associated businesses, some light manufacturing, agriculture and fisheries is also present. A segment of the population also works in government, health care and other related services. Additionally, the second home industry and residents who work from home are growing segments of the population. These people who work from home are often called “lone eagles”<sup>2</sup> or “high flyers”<sup>3</sup> depending on whether they employ other people or are a one person operation. These people are drawn to areas with amenities such as the Upper Delaware provides. However, some of the amenities they desire are not as strong as needed, mainly internet and cell phone services.

There is a direct connection between visitors, second-home owners, and Lone Eagles and High Flyers. They are drawn by the region’s beauty and natural features; they support local businesses such as restaurants and shops; they are vital to the region’s economy. Additionally, a visitor in the area will often consider purchasing a second home, and a second home owner sometimes transitions to full time resident often as a lone eagle or high flyer.

## **2.2 Issues and Challenges**

The economy in general in the region is struggling. As of April 2014, Sullivan’s unemployment rate was 9.2%, which was a drop from 10.4% at the same time last year but still the highest in the New York Hudson Valley region. The housing market saw declines that were regionally higher than the national average. Additionally, in Sullivan County, taxes are higher than in nearby Pennsylvania, and during the recession, the foreclosure rate was high.

However, the tourism industry is doing well, despite setbacks from several floods. It could be doing better, and it does face some challenges. Charrette participants identified two major challenges: lack of lodging and accommodations and a short tourism season. There are, additionally, a number of secondary challenges.

### **2.2.1 Lack of lodging/accommodations**

The study area has very few choices for overnight accommodations<sup>4</sup>. Additionally, searching the internet for lodging results in incomplete lists and gaps in information, and there is not a venue to see all the lodging geographically oriented on a map. This makes it difficult to arrange a trip without first being familiar with the area.

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<sup>2</sup>“ entrepreneurs, freelancers, professionals, and knowledge workers who can theoretically ply their trade and live anywhere” – (Young, 1997)

<sup>3</sup> Lone eagles whose businesses are large enough to employ others.

<sup>4</sup> See Asset Matrix in Appendices for a complete list of accommodations.



There are a number of styles of lodging, but missing throughout the region are standard style hotels that are familiar models with national or international affiliations.

Without this internet support or the name recognition, there is a segment of the travelling public that would find it difficult or unappealing to plan an overnight trip to parts of the catchment area.

Also missing is an opportunity for camping with a “wilderness” experience; most campgrounds have what has been described as a “party-like” atmosphere. Since the allure of the area is highly based on the area’s natural features, it is a missed opportunity to not offer a wilderness camps

### **2.2.2      *Short tourism season***

The tourism season is summer dominant, as evidenced by a swelling of traffic and population. There are some bridge season activities, such as hunting, fishing and bird watching, but the area’s tourism industry really struggles through the winter months, and businesses will often close for these months. According to charrette participants, this is the time of year many businesses go out of business.

### **2.2.3      *Other challenges identified include:***

- **Lack of Visual access to the Delaware River** – New York State Route 97, the Scenic Byway which predominantly runs parallel to the river, has had its viewsheds reduced as vegetation has matured and filled in. Efforts to reclaim some of these scenic overlooks are difficult due to budgetary constraints and the coordinating multiple private owners.
- **Lack of local community “buy in” for the National Park designation** – the National Park Service offers a cachet that is extremely valuable in the tourism market, it really is a “name brand” that helps to attract visitors on a global scale. However, at the time the area was being designated as a unit of the NPS, many area residents were resistant. Eminent domain had been used in the region to create the New York City watershed to the north and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to the south, and residents were concerned first about losing their homes, and subsequently about losing property rights. However, the NPS has the ability to provide maintenance and safety services to the area, services that are now starting to be appreciated. Communities and residents need to let their Federal representatives know that they support the National Park Service. This type of support helps the Upper Delaware River NPS request funding to help increase and improve its

services. However, some historic distrust still lingers.

- **Lack of a visual identity in design, style and uniqueness** – while the study area managed to avoid a preponderance of strip malls, fast food restaurants and chain store development that is blamed for an unattractive “soulless” feel common throughout the United States, there is no attention to regional cohesion and style that gives a visitor a sense of having arrived.
- **Lack of unified branding/selling/coordination** – the region is often a secondary marketing effort of other more expansive chambers of commerce and visitors associations, or conversely, represented by smaller territorial chambers of commerce and tourism promoters.
- **Lack of effort to link the various assets of the corridor to extend the stay of visitors** – connecting the multitude of things to do in the corridor would extend the stay of visitors, but there is no real central location of this information, or means of packaging activities and services.
- **Intermittent and unreliable Internet and cell phone service** – the terrain of the region is full of valleys, steep slopes, ravines and rocks, making delivery of services difficult. Also, because it is a rural area, there isn’t a market driven reason to improve the services. Additionally, providing service while preserving the viewsheds requires more planning and technology and carries a larger price tag.
- **Lack of infrastructure for the “no car” travelers from NYC** – public transportation is limited to bus service to Monticello or train service to Port Jervis. In the summer, there is service as far as the Villa Roma Resort in the Town of Delaware, outside of the catchment area.
- **Difficulty sustaining the areas’ agriculture** – the area’s aesthetic appeal results from not only the beautiful and clean river, but also the pristine forest systems and the bucolic farms. The farms in the plan’s boundaries are mostly located in the towns of Cohecton and Delaware, and are predominantly small, family owned dairy farms. These farms are faced with significant economic hardships ranging from the increase in fuel prices to milk subsidies to the age of the average farmer. There are several popular farmers markets in the study area, but a number of the farmers are from out of the study area.
- **Volunteer Burnout** – there is a lot of work being done through volunteers, but there is a sense that all the same people show up, and they will soon get tired from bearing the burden. To accomplish more, there needs to be a larger pool of volunteers and leaders to get things done. The local philanthropic group Sullivan Renaissance has achieved great strides with this, and continues to work towards solidifying a larger volunteer base, but there is still much work to be done.

### 2.3 Opportunities and Assets

Opportunities were identified through public outreach mechanisms and the following marketing themes emerged.

### **2.3.1      *Get Your Feet Wet in the Upper Delaware***

One of the selling points of the area is that it is a great area to become exposed to outdoor activities, to dip one's toes in the water, so to speak. The class I and II rapids in the river and the easy to moderate technical levels of the hiking trails lend themselves to family outings and people looking to learn and develop skills, or just start off a season. In fact, this area has historically been the home of summer camps for children. The area is well positioned to specialize in helping children and adults learn how to enjoy the outdoors.

A coalition of for profit, not-for-profit and government agencies joined forces to create a website, [www.trailkeeper.org](http://www.trailkeeper.org) to promote the hiking trails in Sullivan County. The group has additionally promoted group hikes and is currently starting a collaboration with the Center for Discovery to work on wheelchair accessible trails. One such trail will likely be part of the Tusten Mountain Trail, which offers scenic views of the Delaware. This website and the collaborations emphasize hiking and the outdoors for all abilities.

### **2.3.2      *Getting Healthy***

The area is a great place to become exposed to outdoor activities, so it is a great place to start a healthy lifestyle and promote wellness. Sullivan County was once a place of healing for people with tuberculosis. Today, there is a trend in development of spa style services and retreats. Additionally, the local agriculture provides fresh and healthy foods at area farmers markets, and is served in many of the areas restaurants. These assets have not yet been connected, and have not yet reached the majority of the areas year round population, but the potential is readily apparent.

### **2.3.3      *Finding Spirituality***

Many people find spirituality in communing with nature, which is in abundance in the region. There are also opportunities to have more formalized religious experiences. Kadampa, a world renowned Buddhist Retreat, is just at the edge of the project area in the Town of Lumberland, and is a tourist draw. The Gurdjieff's have a campground in the Town of Tusten, and hold annual retreats there. The Eddy Farm in Deerpark is a well known Christian Retreat. The Hasidic summer religious camps, while mostly out of the catchment area, also enjoy the river as part of their summer activities. Other religious groups have also held retreats, and the area is home to a vast array of beautiful places of worship including traditional churches and temples.

### **2.3.4      *Build Relationships***

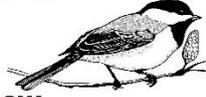
The proximity of the area to New York City (2 hours), Albany (2.25 hours), Philadelphia (3 hours), and even Boston (4.5 hours), make it accessible to a tremendous number of businesses and corporations. Team building exercises and corporate retreats would be a natural fit for the area and the infrastructure it has in place. The Pennsylvania based company North East Wilderness Experience has had some success with this type of business.

### 2.3.5 Watch the Birds

The Eagle Institute is a well-organized presence in the Upper Delaware Region, and has teamed up with the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, a local land trust to protect habitat and promote responsible eagle-watching etiquette. The area is well known as an excellent place to view eagles, and there is the opportunity to further promote this asset. Additionally, the Audubon Society has a very active involvement in the region on the Pennsylvania side of the river, and is eager to work more with the Sullivan County New York side. Birders are well known as travelers and plan trips around bird viewing and migration, and this area has the potential to become a haven for birders.

## BIRDS

of  
Sullivan  
County, New  
York\*



### A Checklist and Summary of Records

\*including the Bashakill Wildlife Management Area, Ellenville area, and other areas bordering on Sullivan County.



The area is well known as an excellent place for viewing Bald Eagles.

On a related note, the Sullivan County Audubon also tracks butterflies and herps, and offers lists for people to use for identifying species. More information is available at [www.sullivanaudoban.org](http://www.sullivanaudoban.org).

### 2.3.6 Go Fish



The Upper Delaware is recognized by anglers and fishery biologists as one of the finest fishing rivers in the northeastern United States. The Catskills were vitally important to the development of fly fishing in America, and the American fly tying had its genesis in the Catskills. Exceptional fly fishing exists in the colder parts of the river. The pristine waters of the Upper Delaware River provide ideal habitat for a great

variety of fish species and is well known for abundant fishing opportunities, as approximately 40 fishing guides can attest; most notable are trout, American Shad, black bass, walleye, striped bass, muskellunge and American eel. There is a rich history of the sport on the Delaware, supported by abundant writings on the topic. Spring is the opportunity to attract trout and shad fishers in particular. There had been a shad festival when fish were more plentiful.

### **2.3.7 Experience History**

This area has a tremendous history, sparking regional, national, and international interest, from Fort Decker in Port Jervis to the Fort Delaware Museum in Narrowsburg to an Indian burial ground in Hancock. The area boasts Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct, part of the Delaware and Hudson Canal system, which was built by John Roebling before he went on to build the Brooklyn Bridge. A Revolutionary War battle was fought at Minisink Ford, and there was a famous Civil War train crash just across the river from Barryville. Zane Grey, the famous western writer, lived on the river and his former home is now a museum owned and managed by the National Park Service. There are numerous community historical societies and museums. Also notable, but just outside the catchment area is the site of the 1969 Woodstock Music Festival in the adjacent Town of Bethel, which is now a renowned performing arts venue called Bethel Woods.



### **2.3.8 Fall, Winter and Spring are also Nice Here**

The increasing interest in kayaking has the potential to make the “shoulder seasons,” spring and fall, will become more popular for river activity. Stunning fall foliage can also increase opportunities for tourism in the fall, and there is also the draw of kayaking the river to “leaf peep”.

The number of hunt clubs and hunters that come in November is still very high in the region (over 29,000 licenses sold in Sullivan County for hunting and fishing for the 2012-13 season). There is potential to grow these numbers and increase the economic impact. One possibility is to change the day the season starts. When the NYSDEC began the season on Monday, hunters would spend the weekend before shopping and enjoying other amenities. According to charrette participants, when the DEC changed the season start to Saturday, hunters came to the area already having purchased supplies and gear elsewhere. It hurt a lot of the local businesses that traditionally catered to this market.

Easy downhill and cross country skiing opportunities exist just outside the project area. Big Bear in Masthope, Pennsylvania and Holiday Mountain in Thompson, New York are two family sized, priced, and populated downhill recreation areas.



### **2.3.9      *Enjoy Any One of a Number of Unique and Fun Events***

There is always a fun activity or festival or outing to attend in the River Corridor. From the homespun goodness of firehouse sponsored barbecues and pancake breakfasts to Pumpkin Festivals and Tractor Parades and Eagle Festivals, every weekend throughout the entire year, there is something fun to attend or do.

#### **2.3.10      *Meet Some Really Nice People***

Several times during the outreach process for this plan, participants talked about how kind and generous the people of the area are - that one of the region's greatest assets is its people. One recently formed initiative **Proud to be Sullivan** involves an effort to showcase all of the great people and foster "Sullivan County Champions".

The campaign comes at a critical time for Sullivan County. So much has been done at the grassroots level to raise community pride. Now, there is momentum to come together as a community and focus on the positives of who we are and where we live. **Proud to Be Sullivan** wants to create positive experiences in Sullivan County and an appreciation for where we live. People choose Sullivan County as home and love it for different reasons. The natural beauty, the sense of community, the small towns and main streets, it's long and wonderful history; these are just some of the reasons. Each year thousands of people come here for vacation – **to get away from someplace else**. You may have met these people in passing.

**Proud to Be Sullivan** is a network of businesses, organizations and community volunteers that have come together to promote the best that Sullivan County has to offer. **The goal:** to build and empower a network of champions, who believe that Sullivan County is a great place to live, work and visit and who will brag about it! The campaign includes the "Think Positive Sullivan County" Facebook page; a free seminar and training; and a wonderful Proud to Be Sullivan video.

#### **2.3.11      *Become one of the Really Nice People***

The growing population of second home owners and people who move here to work from their homes in the quiet beauty of the river corridor adds to the economy directly and indirectly. The public school system is strong in this area, with Sullivan West making the national list of best schools in "US News and World Report.", Additionally, there is a highly regarded Montessori School for preschoolers to 6<sup>th</sup> grade, the Homestead School in Glen Spey in the Town of Lumberland, and two other highly regarded private schools just outside the catchment area, St. Peters in Liberty and Hebrew Day School in Fallsburg.

## **2.4      *Vision and Strategies: Potential Projects, and Partnerships***

The vision for the Upper Delaware River is for it to be a thriving destination for visitors and desirable location for people who want to live where the water is clean and the natural beauty is abundant. There will be a diversity of businesses that thrive on these resources or are

created by people who are drawn to these resources.

The following strategies were identified through public outreach and research as a means to achieve this vision.

#### **2.4.1 Branding and Marketing**

Branding and marketing the area is one of the first obstacles raised at community meetings and during outreach, it is listed in as an action item in several plans within the region. While the Delaware River on the New York side is mostly identified as part of the Catskills, the Delaware River on the Pennsylvania side is identified as part of the Poconos. Near Hancock in Delaware County New York, the East and West branches of the Delaware River converge from opposing directions at the base of Point Mountain, a geographically and archeologically unique free standing mountain. However, the common denominator, the Upper Delaware River, has a common theme and a nationally recognized brand: the National Park Service. While there are a multitude of opportunities to promote the region's assets as the Upper Delaware River, there is a tremendous untapped resource in the promotion of the National Park Service and the NPS designation. Additionally, there are a number of entities working independently in the region who could benefit from working together.

##### **2.4.1.2 Strategies for Branding and Marketing**

**Hold a branding summit to create a unique identity for the upper Delaware that separates and distinguishes it from other parts of the counties. The River should be the brand and the National Park Service designation should be the emphasis.**

The starting point for the discussion, as expressed through community input, should be:

- Where a healthy lifestyle begins
- A cultural, historical, and recreational oasis
- Wild and scenic river of national significance

Expand upon the healthy lifestyle: outdoors, health, wellness.

Exercise

Wellness

Tranquility

Recreation activity

Alternative health care

Medical facilities

Spiritual connections

Sportsman's paradise

Trout fishing – some of the best trout fishing on the east coast

Healthy foodshed



Expand marketing to additional segments of the population.

### **Build on work completed through the Regional Plan Association Peer Exchange Program/Common Waters Partnership – The Natural Economy**

The Common Waters Partnership, through a grant from the Regional Plan Association Peer Exchange Program, held a workshop on May 14, 2013 for Partnership members and community. The workshop provided participants with information about the economic value of the natural resource assets of the Upper Delaware region and helped educate these leaders on the tools, plans, and networking opportunities that can assist them in decision making for their communities and in understanding the value of working across political boundaries. Participants learned how to incorporate natural resource values and regional conservation priorities into their own community objectives and planning initiatives. Specific concepts arising from the workshop to further promote include:

- Riverfront revitalization
- Trail towns/getaway towns
- Blueways (to get the Delaware River designated as a National Blueway, which could give it priority for funding)
- Water trail implementation
- Agri-tourism
- Eco-tourism
- Ecosystem services (pristine water, clean air, biodiversity) provided by forests, farms, streams, wetlands, etc.
- Regional mapping and prioritization efforts to consider in decisions
- Case studies of other NPS units that have worked closely with nearby communities, especially on economic development (NPCA economic value of NPS study, Conservation Fund's Gateway Community Workshops, etc.)

## 2.4.2 Developing Tools and Resources That Will Increase Access to Information and Interpretation



**Visitor centers and kiosks** –The National Park Service information center in a Narrowsburg storefront recently closed because of budget cuts and the entryway to the National Park area as well as the beginning of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway is marked only by small signs, which do not give a visitor a sense of having arrived anywhere in particular. Visitor centers and kiosks should be carefully planned and strategically placed in Port Jervis, Corwin Farm, Fort Delaware Museum, Callicoon, Long Eddy and Hancock.



Corwin Farm

Located in the Town of Lumberland, Corwin Farm is currently owned and run by the National Park Service as a Ranger Station, Corwin Farm presents an opportunity to develop river access, as well as a visitor center with events and offerings to both visitors and residents. A more detailed description of this potential project is located in Section 6.



### Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History

Located in the hamlet of Narrowsburg, the Fort Delaware Museum is an historic replica of a settlement outpost. The site is currently run by the Sullivan County Division of Public Works, and is open during the summer. The site has the capacity to accommodate a regional multi-agency Visitor's Center for the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway or other agencies in the valley including the National Park Service, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the newly created not for profit, the Delaware Company. It would serve to expand the Fort Delaware season as well as give a physical presence to the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway and visitor orientation to the river valley. Another concept is to include the Fort as one of several kiosk like visitor centers, or as part of the Sullivan County Visitors Association's implementation of Infoasis, a project to foster distribution of visitor information. A more detailed description of the Fort Delaware project is located in in Section 6.

**Coordinated signage program** – Signage can be a powerful tool when used appropriately, and in order to be effective it must be used meaningfully. To avoid too many signs, both interpretive and way-finding signage should be coordinated. This will provide needed, related information at well thought out locations. Signs should have a consistent appearance and be approached as a multi-agency endeavor. There was a start to this effort with a Highland Signage Program, which developed a signage system for the Town of Highland, and performed associated research about signs on the Scenic Byway allowable by New York State Department of Transportation, Sullivan County Department of Public Works, and the Town itself. The outcome being an initiative to better implement the signage allowed by the State Scenic Byway program. Additionally, Pike County Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management, and the Upper Delaware River Roundtable will continue work on regional and interstate coordination. More about this project is located in Section 6.

Byway Signage  
 Park Service Signage  
 Water Trail Signage  
 Hamlet Signage  
 Business Signage  
 Bridge Signage for River Users



Examples of multi-agency signage

**Podcasts and the Confluence Project** – podcasts are becoming a popular form of learning about a region while touring. More than one podcast can be created so various geographies and interests can be catered to. Podcasts can be made available on various websites for the region, such as the Scenic Byway Website, the Sullivan County Visitor Association Website, and many others. National Park Service has AM satellite messages at the northern and southern terminuses of the Park Service area. This could be an effective use of these messages.

In conjunction with the Appalachian Gateway Communities, Common Waters has received a seed grant to start work project entitled “CONFLUENCE” consisting of self-guided, place-based audio tours centered on the people, places and stories of the upper Delaware River watershed. The grant will support the development of an oral traditions interview template in a priority community in Delaware County, NY or Pike or Wayne County, PA. The template will be a keystone for outreach and story collecting in additional communities, on both sides of the Delaware River, within the Common Waters region.



[www.trailkeeper.org](http://www.trailkeeper.org)



**Trailkeeper** – this group has currently created a website for hiking in Sullivan County and is working on website improvements and publicity. The group is an example of how for-profit, not-for-profit and governmental entities can collaborate on projects. The website and collaboration was an outgrowth of this LWRP planning project, when a need was identified and a goal seemed readily achievable. The problem was a significant lack of information about hiking trails in the county. Sullivan County has a lot of hiking trails, but there had been no effort to consolidate all of the information since a failed attempt in the early 1990’s. The collaboration made use of enthusiastic hikers and existing groups. It has served to remind people of the beautiful place they live and hopes to serve as an invitation for all levels of hikers to get outdoors and onto the trails. Additionally, Trailkeeper has begun a collaboration with Catskill Regional and Crystal Run medical facilities to work on improving the health of Sullivan County residents, and the Sullivan County Visitors Association has used it widely to show off and share Sullivan County trails with visitors and potential visitors.

**Coordinated River Events Calendar** - Increase coordination of festivals and special events. Almost all year long there is something to do in the River corridor. From pancake breakfasts to operas and theater performances to River festivals and soap box derbies, the range of home spun and world class events is nearly endless. A coordinated calendar will help spread the word in a unified and efficient way. This could also tie into the branding and marketing through an “always something to do” concept. The Sullivan County Visitors Association has a nearly complete events calendar, but it stops at their geographic/political boundary. It would provide a great starting point for regional collaboration.



**First contact/ambassador program** – every business owner, staff person and resident is a potential “point of first contact” and should be knowledgeable about the area’s geography and offerings. It is important to a visitor to encounter people who are helpful and enthusiastic. It increases the likelihood of a longer visitor stay and future visits.

Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce had a “Sullivan Smiles” program, which was a good starting point for a first contact/ambassador program. At the beginning of the season, information about events and assets should be made available to businesses to share with their employees. The Sullivan County Visitors Association tailgate literature exchange in the spring is an excellent opportunity for employees to start learning about what there is to do in the County. Employees should also be encouraged to participate in events and use the resources they will likely be talking about with visitors/customers. Area schools and Sullivan County Community College could introduce these ideas and help promote first contact/ambassadorship.

### 2.4.3 *Improving the Aesthetics and Identity*



In an area that is so full of natural beauty it would seem to make no sense to say that improving the aesthetics is a goal that needs to be achieved. However, the built environment for which nature provides the amazing backdrop appears to lack forethought, polish, and consistency. There is a lack of an identity in design and style. This has been identified as an issue in Sullivan County's Economic Development Plan, "Sullivan County has an image problem created by a proliferation of unkempt properties and public spaces. This issue must receive continued remedial attention as part of the County's economic development efforts." (Sullivan County Comprehensive Economic Development Plan, 2014)

## Improve the pull outs/overlooks



Existing Overlooks / Pulloffs



Pullouts and scenic overlooks should be located at select locations that either provide views of the river and the river valley or that are connected to culturally or environmentally significant places in the corridor. Currently, some of the pullouts host nothing but a small interpretive sign, or an uninviting invitation for “parking” with no indication about why one would be parking. Pullouts should also have a coordinated look and have appropriate signage so a traveler is alerted to a pullout’s presence before passing it, and once there, it should be inviting and useful. Restrooms, picnic tables and appropriately maintained trash receptacles are also very important. This project could be facilitated by an “adopt a resource” type program whereby local businesses and civic groups adopt a pullout/overlook. More information on this project is located in Section 6.

## Selective clearing along Route 97



Since the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway was designated in 2002, the foliage and trees have matured and conceal most of the scenic vistas for which this roadway was known. This was a frequent comment at the community outreach events. Visual access to the river helps a motorist orient him or herself and improves the experience of the river corridor. It is one of the best ways to show off the amazing resource that is the Delaware River.

The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway had a grant to clear some of these vistas, which was only partially successful. Since these vistas are privately owned, negotiating the work was difficult and the project yielded clearing on only a small fraction of the sites identified.

This work should be continued, and as the successful results increase, they can be used to facilitate negotiations with other owners. New York State Department of Transportation, the New York Susquehanna Railroad, county departments of public works and local highway supervisors should be partners. The National Park Service is working with a Geographic Information System program to help with viewshed analysis. This tool should help focus these efforts. Training on this computer program will be given throughout the summer of 2014.

### **Improve and preserve what has been built**

The housing stock of the area is generally older, and often in need of repairs. Properties that are in disrepair or otherwise unkempt can make an area less appealing to second home buyers and adversely impact a visitor's experience. Housing restoration grants could help owners rehabilitate their properties while improving community pride and the area's appeal to visitors and second home owners.

Additionally, preserving the stone walls and the D&H Canal remnants should be a priority, and can be accomplished through local ordinances.

Five communities along the Upper Delaware River have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and additional sites and communities are eligible. Historic preservation in general should be encouraged to save the aesthetic character and heritage of the river



communities. These historic pieces are the foundation of the areas sense of place and continuity that needs to be grown and fostered.

#### **2.4.4 *Improving Infrastructure and Services***

##### **2.4.4.1 *Internet and Cell Phone***

Service is spotty in the river corridor due to the rugged terrain and limited infrastructure. Some improvements have been made, but bringing the corridor’s service levels up is important for economic development and public safety. It should be kept in mind that the improvements should be done with the utmost sensitivity to the landscape and community character that is the foundation of the regional economic drivers.

Sullivan County recently completed a broadband study, which makes recommendations for the improvement of broadband and internet services. These recommendations should be further developed for implementation.

Additionally, the Charrette resulted in a recommendation for creating internet “hot spots” at municipal locations. These “hot spots” create a draw and supply a service that benefits visitors, businesses and residents. More information on this project is located in Section 6.

Another possible solution is to work with companies exploring global infrastructure. For example, Google’ s Project Loon is researching the potential of offering WiFi worldwide by using solar powered high altitude balloons. Other companies such as Microsoft are also working on establishing similar global infrastructure. Google is currently at work on this technology in New Zealand, but the concept has been used in Atlanta, Georgia.

Concurrently, the Upper Delaware Council has been studying a way to insure the implementation of these services is done in a way that is sensitive to the visual corridor. They and the National Park Service have offered workshops to help towns and townships understand their rights, and how to control and profit from location of towers. Materials from this workshop are available from the Upper Delaware Council.

##### **2.4.4.2 *Schools***

From the standpoint of tourism and economics, schools are important. The quality of education directly impacts the quality of the workforce, from all of the summer employment to the ultimate success of the workforce, and thereby affects tourism. A good school system attracts and keeps the lone eagles and high fliers as much as a failing school system can deter families from locating in an area. The Sullivan County towns in the river corridor have a solid public school system, with decent school report cards. Additionally, the area offers two highly regarded private schools for school children up to 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and the ability for advanced students in the public high schools to take classes at the local Sullivan County Community College. A high percentage of area graduates go on to attend college. The perception of these

schools however is quite different, which is problematic on a number of levels. More community involvement and support of the schools and better promotion of the quality of the schools by real estate agents, chambers of commerce, and other economic development groups would greatly help improve the image of these institutions. Additionally, it should be noted that many colleges have a rural quota to fill, and Sullivan County and Delaware County students qualify to fill this quota.



Promoting the region and its assets to the students is another important role that schools can play in economic development and tourism. A population more aware of the community offerings is better able to represent these to people they meet and with whom they interact. A person with a sense of pride of place is enormously valuable, and school is an excellent place to create that pride. That student's pride can also help to affect the pride of the parents. Overall, there is much potential in our school systems to better the communities and the economics of the area.

#### *2.4.4.3 Libraries*

Four libraries serve the project catchment area; Louise Adelia Read Memorial Library in Hancock, Western Sullivan Public Library with branches in Callicoon and Narrowsburg, The Sunshine Hall Free Library in Eldred, and the Port Jervis Free Library. These libraries participate in a regional sharing system called the Ramapo Catskill Library System, which allows library card holders to order and borrow books from 47 libraries in the region. As part of this sharing system, small rural libraries are able to boast of collections comparable to a library in a prosperous urban area. These libraries also offer an array of services, such as computer and internet access, educational programs that serve to enhance business development and area education. They are supportive of the "lone eagles" and "high fliers", as well as the creative arts. Library services and events need to be supported and better publicized.

#### *2.4.4.4 Transit*

Services from Port Jervis up the corridor – Train service from the NYC metropolitan region reaches the southern tip of the Project Area, Port Jervis. Bus service exists to Monticello year round, and to Bethel Woods and the Villa Roma during summer months. The remainder of the corridor is not served by public transportation, and because of this, lacks the ability to reach the substantial "no car" population of the NYC region. Sullivan County Planning and Environmental Management and Sullivan County Visitors Association have had meetings with representatives from the Shortline Bus Company, which services Sullivan County. Shortline is agreeable to work on expanded service to the region. Sullivan County Planning and Environmental Management applied for grant funding to assist with this project, which it did not receive. Other funding



opportunities are possible, and the project should still be pursued.

In addition, there are opportunities with the river outfitters who routinely run buses up and down the corridor and could expand their bus services to include shuttling other types of visitors. And there could be zip car or car sharing at the transit nodes for multi modal transit.

Rolling V, a local bus company recently started running tours of Sullivan County. Opportunities to work with this company in partnership with the other entities could result in a relatively full service for the river corridor.

Also, river users could be able to avail themselves to outfitter buses if they are using their own boats. Some river outfitters offer shuttle services and there are some industrious folks who post their phone numbers and offer a shuttle service in their private cars. This shows there could be an economic incentive for providing this service in an official capacity.

#### 2.4.4.5 *Hotels and Lodging*

The lack of accommodations is the number one obstacle in increasing the duration of a tourist trip, and likely an obstacle to tourism in general. Also, the area lacks a clearing house for information regarding the existing types of accommodations, their locations and offered amenities that would help a traveler in the area. While SCVA provides a good list, it is only a piece of the picture.

Following the Sullivan County Economic Development Charrette in 2009, a committee was formed to look into the issues of hotels and lodging. Their work should be applied to the river corridor, and a committee should be established to work on the issues and opportunities in this section.

*National Brand Hotels* - Just outside the southern downriver section of the project area is the only section of the Upper Delaware River that has hotels with nationally recognized names. There are four chain hotels in this area, but all in the southern section of the Upper Delaware, and only one in the catchment area. These hotels are underutilized and under recognized by the businesses and travelers within the study area. While these hotels do not directly service the area, they are an asset that could be better used to build the tourist market until the region develops a more varied and better located network of overnight accommodations. In any situation, hotel development, whether national brand or niche, should be sensitive to the rural aesthetics of the area.

*Existing Inns, Hotels and Motels* – The existing lodging businesses could use some sprucing up, and would benefit from some solid advertising. A building in Barryville was just renovated into an attractive small inn using Main Street funding, a small former schoolhouse was renovated into a small niche inn, and a new owner for the former Nolan’s Motel in Pond Eddy is looking to renovate it into a respectable place to stay, and

a proposed hotel in Barryville has received Town approval. Communities should assist with the development of these resources, facilitate renovations, maintenance, expansions and increasing business by helping to find funding and assisting the owners with any regulatory processes.

*Conversion of Narrowsburg School and Property and Adaptive Re-use of White Elephant Buildings* – At the onset of this planning process, there was an investment group in contract on the vacant school in the hamlet of Narrowsburg. They had a plan to convert the school to a gym, spa and conference center and build a Hampton Inn on the same parcel that would be in character and connected to the school. The investment group carried the property for a while, making payments to the school board, but eventually withdrew. The school is currently on the market. Possible development scenarios for the Narrowsburg School include a youth hostel, community kitchen, agro hub or niche hotel. This project is further described in Section 6.

*Cottage and other rentals* –There are an increasing number of internet outlets for finding houses, cabins, cottages, and even a Quonset hut for weekend or week long rental. Red Cottage Inc. ([redcottageinc.com](http://redcottageinc.com)), Home Away ([homeaway.com](http://homeaway.com)) and Airbnb are three such services. Improving the number, availability and marketing of these options is a great way for second homeowners and other area owners to make a small profit from their investments, while improving the availability of area accommodations.



Hickok Brook Multiple Use Area



*Wilderness Camping* – the area does have a number of campgrounds, but the opportunity to enjoy a quiet woodland camping experience is available only in the Town of Highland at the Hickok Brook Multiple Use Area, and it is difficult to arrange. Increasing such opportunities is an achievable goal, since there is relatively no infrastructure required for this style of camping. It is important that these sites are sensitively located so as not to disturb private property owners and are a good way to keep river users from inadvertently trespassing by camping on someone’s private property. One such project could be developed in collaboration with the Boy Scouts of America, and is described in Section 6.

*Upscale RV Parks-* Recreational Vehicles are enjoyed by their owners in several different ways. Some tour around to explore and enjoy new areas while others prefer to keep their vehicles at one location they enjoy throughout the season. An upscale RV Park offering more amenities and larger sites, would be useful along the river for both styles of RV enjoyment, and to add to the types of accommodations offered in the river corridor.

*B&B’s, Glamping, Tree Houses, Yurts, Ecopods and Dormitories –*

Rounding out the array of accommodations are more specialized offerings. The development of bed and breakfasts should be encouraged, since, like cabin and cottage rentals, it can provide a form of income for area residents. There is currently one facility for “glamping,” a high end tent and breakfast, and there is room for the more eccentric and often upscale accommodations such as tree houses, yurts and ecopods. Fish Cabin Creek is an excellent opportunity for upscale outdoor type lodging. This type of lodging is appealing to the baby boomer generation who loves the outdoors, but may be somewhat more interested in comfort. Tree houses, yurts and ecopods are also attractive to the “hipster” city population in search of an out of the ordinary place to stay. On the other end of the spectrum, places such as Kadampa offer a reasonably priced dormitory style accommodation that appeal to a younger, often less affluent clientele. A youth hostel would also be an excellent option.

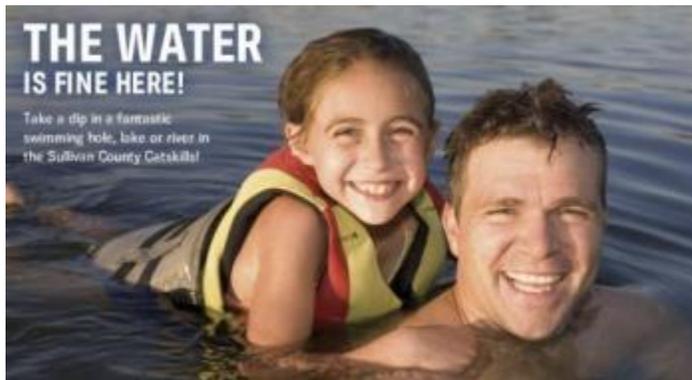


*2.4.4.6 Outdoor Adventures - Hiking, Swimming, Biking, Boating, Paddle Boarding, Snowmobiling, ATV-ing, Motorcycling, Geocaching, Kinetic Sculpture Racing, and Volksmarching*

*Hiking* – the TrailKeeper.org website is a good start to improving knowledge of hiking in the region. However, the group does not create or maintain the trail system. Partnerships with the NYS DEC are an opportunity for communities to use State land in a way that the community desires. One such opportunity is Hickok Brook Multiple Use area in the Town of Highland. This State land has multiple trails and camping opportunities, but the signage to find Hickok Brook, the trail markings, and the knowledge about it in general is lacking. The Town of Highland, or a group of interested citizens, could become a “friends of” group and, with the help of NYSDEC, can start improving the accessibility and usage of the lands.



Partnerships with the Boy Scouts of America and the NY Susquehanna Railroad would provide opportunities to expand the hiking trail network. Currently, the Town of Tusten has an agreement with the Boy Scouts of America to use the Tusten Mountain “Red Dot” trail on Boy Scout land. It is an extremely popular site and opportunities exist to expand this partnership and facilities. Further description of this project can be found in Section 6.



*Swimming* – The Delaware River has a lot of opportunities for boat users, tubers, and fisherman, but relatively little in the way of structured swimming areas. Structured swimming areas with appropriate precautions for swimming in the river need to be addressed and warning signs about the dangers of swimming in the river should be installed to educate the public and help prevent drowning. Even without the oversight of a lifeguard, an appropriately programmed swim area is safer than what currently exists, and can keep swimmers away from anglers, which often presents a conflict. Design for six accesses, some of which may encourage swimming, is described in Section 6.



*Biking* – The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway is part of the State Bicycle Route 17, and immediately on the other side of the river is Pennsylvania Bicycle Route Y. However, there is not much signage for the bike route, and there is not much in the way of bicycle infrastructure. To further encourage bicycling in this area, there are things that could be done:

- *Improve the shoulder conditions on the roadways.* The pavement edge is often ragged and the shoulders are consequently hazardous.
- *Increase the amount of bicycle facilities.* Put in bicycle racks and storage so riders have places to put their bicycles while partaking in boating, dining, and shopping. Bicycle racks also help bicyclists feel welcome.
- *Increase the mountain bicycling facilities.* Some trails currently exist that are available to mountain bikers, but improving the quality as well as the number of trails will increase this type of user.
- *Improve the signs for bicycles.* Add more signs for bicycles to use to navigate and more signs to help motorists be aware of the bicyclists.
- *Work on attracting more professional cyclists* – just up the hill from the Scenic Byway, a former Olympian cyclist runs a small sports resort in Glen Spey. The resort is popular with iron man athletes and professional tri-athletes. There is an appeal of the difficult terrain to professional cyclists and cycling enthusiasts that could be expanded and drawn upon.
- *Work with the New York, Susquehanna and Western Railroad on an annual Bike the River Corridor event* – the railroad that runs along the river is an active railroad, but uses only one of two existing tracks, and runs only one to three trains daily along the line. The railroad representatives have expressed a willingness to allow an annual event whereby the railroad could be used for recreational purposes, such as a one day Bike the Railroad for charity event. Such an event would allow users to use a segment of the railway or traverse the full length of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor along the railroad right of way from Hancock down to Matamoras.
- *Support fledgling events such as the Paddle Pedal and Woodstock Triathlon* – New events in and adjacent to the catchment area need to be supported and fostered. The Pedal Paddle is an event sponsored by Bicycle Shows US and the Woodstock Triathlon is sponsored by Split Second Racing. Both events promise to introduce athletes to the beauty of our area, while supporting local businesses.

*Boating* – The Port Jervis Whitewater Kayak Park is in the planning stages. This proposed park is an outgrowth of the Port Jervis Local Waterfront Revitalization Planning process, and has been moving ahead. Once realized, the park will provide Olympic quality whitewater kayaking opportunities in the Delaware River. The Delaware River Sojourn, held in late June each year, provides opportunities for visitors to enjoy the Upper Delaware River in a well-managed setting, while learning the art of paddling

and enjoying exposure to educational programs and the attributes of the river valley. There are also sporadic canoe regattas and a healthy livery industry.

*Paddle Boarding* – Paddle boarding is a sport growing in popularity, and while it is easier to paddle board on lakes and oceans, rivers are appealing. A local entrepreneur was looking to hold a paddle boarding event on the Delaware River in the summer of 2013, which may increase the use of the river for this activity. Increasing the variety of activity one can do in the area increases the appeal to a tourist.



*Snowmobiling* – riding snowmobiles is a popular winter activity, but warmer winters have slowed down interest in the sport. However, opportunities still exist. Snowmobilers are reliable users of other amenities such as restaurants, service stations and lodging. Identifying and promoting snowmobiling opportunities on trails and properties can expand the tourist season and support local businesses in the historic “off season”. Planning

for expanding the sport in the catchment area must be done cautiously and with proper regulations and education, including respect for private property. Special consideration should be given to locating this activity in places where it will not have an adverse impact on other passive recreation opportunities, or sensitive wildlife.

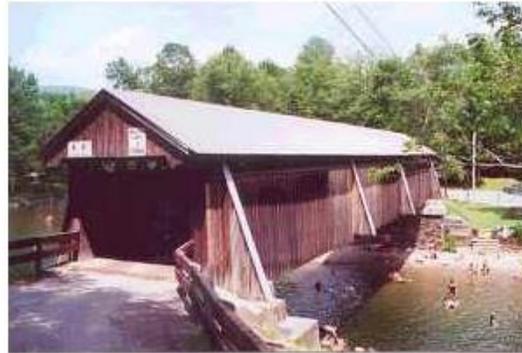
*ATV and 4 Wheeling* – this form of recreation is popular, but considered at odds with other forms of recreation that typically use similar paths, due to noise and speed. However, a group within Sullivan County has been working on ATV trails that negotiate the use of private lands so that public facilities are not overrun with this use. Encouraging expansion of this effort into the study area and promoting its use will improve the experience and number of tourists in the area. Like snowmobiling, this must be done cautiously and with proper regulations and education, including respect for private property and sensitive wildlife.

*Motorcycling* – The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway is a popular road for Motorcyclists, particularly the Hawk’s Nest Scenic Overlook section near Sparrowbush in Orange County. Maintaining the roads in a condition that is safe for motorcyclists will help keep the area a popular destination for this user group. Additionally, opening up the views, creating awareness for the safety of motorcycle riders would add to the appeal and success of this activity.



## Geocache Description:

Travel through our most beautiful Catskill Mountains. Home of the headless horseman, Rip Van Winkle and Washington Irving's Tales of Sleepy Hollow and the Willowemoc Creek and the Neversink River of trout fishing fame. Here are some of the prettiest covered bridges around in a tour that'll take two to three hours of easy driving and easy finding. Just relax, no pressure for this one. Don't forget your camera. Pack your lunch and bathing suit. This is a treat.



Swimming at the Beaverkill

*Geocaching* – this activity, one in which participants use GPS-enable devices to navigate a specific set of coordinates and locate specially hidden containers, or geocaches, has been increasing in popularity with the availability of equipment and programs. The area could benefit from increasing the number of geocaches as well as marketing the area to the geocaching community. The existing geocaches can be seen by going to [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com) and entering an area's zip code.

*Kinetic Sculpture Racing* – two popular kinetic sculpture races are held each year, one in Baltimore Maryland, and one in California. This type of event, human powered all terrain amphibious sculpture races, draws a wide variety of interest, from people who like to build things to artists and school groups to people who enjoy seeing a dynamic and visually fun event. The river corridor would provide the perfect backdrop to such a creative event.

*Volksmarching* – “Volks” translates from the German to “people” or “popular” and volksmarching or volkswalking is a noncompetitive event where people walk a predesigned course. Participants of all ages and abilities register and begin walking the course, which has a marked route and checkpoints with water, snacks, and candy and may have activities. They generally last about three hours and participants receive an award or souvenir at the end. Volksmarching is most popular in Europe, but has fans around the world, including here in the US. Events like this in the river corridor could prove popular with residents and visitors alike. Such events could help promote the area and get people outside and feeling proud of where they live.

#### 2.4.4.7 Restrooms and Trash Disposal

As unglamorous as these two things are, they are very important to the comfort of travelers and to the appearance of the region.



*Restrooms* – more restrooms need to be available for the public. People travelling on the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, boating on the Delaware River, and other recreational users all need more identifiable facilities. Identify opportunities for permanent and portable comfort stations, and create better signage for those that currently exist.

*Trash Disposal* – Trash disposal is a multifaceted problem. One aspect of the problem arises from the availability of resources for second homeowners and another is waste disposal opportunities for day trippers on the byway and in the river. The last is the most intractable; illegal dumping by people and businesses that do so to avoid paying fees and charges or from misconceptions about government or environmental impacts.

Second homeowners, or weekenders are faced with the problem of what to do with their weekend's worth of residential trash, since the County transfer stations are closed on Sunday, and commercial trash pickup isn't usually available until Monday, allowing ample time for wildlife to get into receptacles.

A good starting point is to increase awareness about existing services. Disseminating existing resource documents is something that can be easily accommodated with budgets that are currently stretched thin. This information could be made readily available at multiple locations within the river corridor (liveries, UDC, town offices, NPS contact points, smart phone QR devices, kiosks, stores, etc.) to patrons. Confusion, at least, could be minimized.

Models that could be looked at for future service improvements include one set by the Ulster County town of Hardenburgh. To handle the weekend waste disposal influx the



Town keeps its recycling station open and staffed on Sundays until 7 PM. That way residents and other visitors to that region of Ulster have access to waste and recycling facilities on their way home after spending time at their second homes and area amenities.

Also, Athens-Clark County Georgia at one time contracted with sanitation companies to place strategically-located dumpsters at road intersections to encourage proper disposal of waste by residents and visitors. The problem with unstaffed disposal points quickly becomes abuse of service; i.e. people will continue to dump even after containers are full, unacceptable (“hazotoxic”) materials are indiscriminately discarded, and recycling (even with designated recycling containers) becomes a mess fast. However, routine maintenance and remote monitoring or properly installed security cameras could alleviate those problems. Additionally it is possible that a few small dumpsters could be located near a gas station or other convenience type establishments so users could also avail themselves of other items they might need for their drive home. This would provide an opportunity to provide staffing while increasing the potential for income for area businesses.

The problem of the availability of receptacles for Byway users and for River users is also persistent. Without adequate provision and maintenance of trash receptacles, trash is often disposed of improperly out car windows and on the banks of the river. The County Division of Public Works, municipalities, area businesses and the National Park Service should work together to accommodate the needs of the second homeowners as well as tourists in the river corridor while encouraging “carry-in-carry-out” or “carry back home” policies.

The illegal dumping by those who do so for monetary or theoretic reasons is the most problematic. There are a lot of costs associated with illegal dumping, which the taxpayers must bear. Identifying those who habitually dump illegally and imposing appropriate fines is the first step to rectifying the situation. Litter plucks and work crews do an excellent job of keeping our roadways looking clean, but it is an unfair burden to the communities in which dumping occurs. When bags of trash are found, there are ways to identify the culprit. People should notify the authorities when they encounter illegal dumping.

#### **2.4.5 Expanding the Market and the Season**

Reaching a broader market and increasing the tourist season were common recommendations at the July 2012 Charrette for this plan as well as at other outreach events. This means reaching a larger diversity of users to increase the number of tourists, and expanding the tourist year to include more things to do in what has historically been called the “off season”. To a large extent, improving the infrastructure and services as described above will result in a broadening of the audience and the season, but the following ideas specifically address these issues.

#### 2.4.5.1 *Eagles*



This area is well known for viewing eagles, especially during the winter months. At their winter field office, the Delaware Highlands Conservancy's Eagle Institute sees approximately 6,000 visitors. They also did six eagle tours, which were very popular and drew many people from outside the area, who then spent the night. With proper marketing and coordination, this could easily grow and help fill the winter months.

#### 2.4.5.2 *Grow Kayaking and Diversify Recreational Opportunities*

The promotion and gaining popularity of kayaking will extend the shoulder season. Kayaking allows more protection from the water and makes river trips in the colder months of April and October more enjoyable. With the Port Jervis Whitewater Kayak Park and proper marketing this area could become a Mecca for kayakers. More information on the Port Jervis Whitewater Kayak Park can be found in Section 6.



Snowmobile and 4-wheel drive vehicle events allow for autumn and winter season activity, and could be an attraction if properly managed. Along with growing the traditional off season sports such as downhill and cross country skiing, winter hiking, ice fishing, and ice skating, diversifying outdoor recreation opportunities could result in year round sporting activity. There are many niche and new outdoor pursuits that are emerging and should be pursued. Keeping abreast of sporting trends and development and accommodating and promoting those sports will help the region remain vital. In addition to the activities mentioned in Section 2.4.4.5, such things as Tough Mudder events; birdman rallies and flugtags; parkour; and zorbing appeal to a wide range of participants. In fact, adventure racing grew the most in participation the last five years with participation increasing by 211 percent (Outdoor Foundation, 2013)

#### 2.4.5.3 *Increase and Expand Cultural Events*



Adding cultural events on the shoulder season will help augment outdoor activities that might only be enjoyable for a partial day in colder weather. Bethel Woods offers cultural events throughout the year and smaller venues such as the NACL Theater are extending their seasons through the fall, and have winterized their facilities to allow winter events as well. Cross promoting recreational and cultural opportunities will result in longer stays and wider audiences.

French Woods in Delaware County offers summer camp programs in, among other things, dance, music, circus, and magic. French Woods should be promoted like Interlochen Center for

the Arts in northwest Michigan, where the public is invited to attend a range of performances from both students/campers, and professionals.

#### 2.4.5.4 Team Building and Retreats

Team building activities and retreats or corporate gatherings are a great way to introduce people to the area and get them engaged in doing some of the activities this area has to offer. Compatible activities include rafting, zip lines, paintball, and hikes as well as the possible creation of more “outward bound” type activities. In February 2013, the Lodge at Woodloch, just across the river in Hawley Pennsylvania, received an “honorable mention” for unique corporate retreats from Managing Americans, a blog for business management and professional communication. The New York Times reported in April 2013 that wineries were successfully offering team building experiences that included lessons in wine making. The Upper Delaware has a multitude of opportunities to offer something similar, such as cheese making, brewing, distilling, and farming, and even early American life at Fort Delaware.



An August 2013 episode of the reality show “Project Runway” showed its contestants on a “glamping” trip/retreat in the Upper Delaware River. While here they rode the zipline in Highland and rafted on the river, then were tasked with designing something based on their experience here. This is an excellent example of how the existing resources can already provide a venue for a team building/retreat events.

#### 2.4.5.5 Diversify and Promote Agriculture



Diversify agricultural offerings and increase awareness of local foods. The “slow food” “locavore” and agritourism movements are very strong. Our region offers a rich variety of farm fresh, local foods that should be better incorporated into our restaurants and markets.

Further diversification of the regions food offerings, including more value added products and a wider array of crops will increase the area’s appeal to these consumers. There is currently a “Pure Catskill” brand available for farmers to use, and a “Shop Local Save Land” initiative that identifies area farms, farm products and places to purchase these products. Additionally, agriculture is very important to Sullivan and Delaware Counties, and it provides the backdrop to a lot of the tourism, so it is a natural connection that it should also provide products to the tourists. The Narrowsburg School project is a potential project that addresses some of these issues. Farmstock, an annual scheduled agritourism series is an excellent opportunity to link visitors to area agriculture, but needs more support and advertising. Build upon “Sullivan Grown”, expand Farmers Markets and tailor Community Supported Agricultural offerings to fit

with the second homeowner population's needs, and promote the farm to table connection with restaurants and restaurant supported agricultural programs.

2013 marked the third annual Pig Mountain, a pig roast guest chef culinary event, held in Narrowsburg. This event drew over 2000 people this year with a large number driving up from the metro area just for the day. This was twice the previous year's count. Events like this should be cross promoted with other area things to do so people will come and stay for the weekend and patronize other area businesses. This event highlighted locally sourced produce in a high end "celebrity chef" style.

#### *2.4.5.6 Formalize Eco and Heritage Tourism Programming*

Eco and Heritage tourism are increasing in popularity, and the Upper Delaware is rich in both resources. For instance, bird watching is the fastest growing outdoor recreation, and it contributes billions of dollars each year to state and local economies. According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, people watching birds and other wildlife in New York generate \$1.6 billion annually, NYS has been fostering a "Path Through History" tourism program because of the popularity of heritage tourism.

Within Sullivan County, the Delaware Company has the mission to promote and support the history and historic landmarks of the Upper Delaware River Valley. This includes educational initiatives, the funding of maintenance and improvements, historic preservation and promotion of heritage tourism.



They recently signed an agreement with Sullivan County to help promote and build on Fort Delaware as the historic asset it is. Working with and promoting efforts such as the Delaware Company will help build heritage tourism in the area, as well as serve to lengthen the tourism season by offering a year round interest and schedule of events.

Additionally, working with the "Path Through History" to highlight the State's unparalleled network of museums, historic sites, and cultural institutions. The initiative is utilizing uniform road signs, Thruway kiosks and rest stops, and web-based interface to encourage tourism, local economic development and to serve as an educational tool for all New Yorkers.

A local organization to help "green" the tourism industry, Hospitality Green and the Delaware Highland Conservancy hosted the first annual "Green Tourism" in April 2014. The conference was to promote regional collaboration to formalize "green" lodging and "eco" tourism. Efforts such as this will help cohere the tourism industry around and formalize "eco" for the region.

#### *2.4.5.7 Build on the Foundation of Introductory Outdoor Sporting Opportunities and Offerings*

Family activities beginner outdoorsmen programming will help introduce people to the area and bring in families. The Village of Hancock is developing health and walking trails that link together a number of natural features and are accessible from their hotel on Main Street. This type of effort reinforces the region as one where it is easy to get and stay healthy. Linking together in a marketing campaign these offerings that are family/novice oriented could help bring a whole new generation of visitors to the area.

Again, Trailkeeper.org is an excellent resource that can provide information for people to use to get started. Getting outdoors, hiking, walking and trail running are easy entry sports, requiring little in gear and initial training.

#### *2.4.5.8 Expand the Draw of Hunting and Fishing*



The historic draw of the area as a sportsman's paradise has diminished as interest in hunting and fishing has waned. Sports such as hunting and fishing often require a family or friend's influence to become involved, so promoting classes and special guided events for beginners to safely learn these sports will help grow them responsibly. State lands are available for both hunting and fishing, and privately owned hunting clubs can offer special events that will help cover the costs of maintaining their lands, while reserving most of the season for members' use only. Cornell Cooperative Extension and 4H have the capability to help area residents, but could possibly expand to reach visitors as well as second homeowners.

There are a number of river guides for fishing and while the guides were at one time predominantly local entrepreneurs, the "industry" currently has a number of guides from out of the region. This is a good indication of the regional importance of the area as a recreational fishing destination, but also a good indication of the potential of this market. As further proof, The Town of Hancock holds an annual fly fishing event sponsored by Friends of the Upper Delaware River that sells out at a ticket price of upwards of \$500.

#### **2.4.6 Fostering the Hamlets, Village and City**

Improving the economic strength and vitality of the Village of Hancock, the City of Port Jervis and all the hamlets in between will also serve to help preserve those areas in between these population nodes, and maintain the main reason visitors come to the region. The area is lucky to have these communities, which largely remain uncorrupted by strip malls and development patterns that have served to homogenize so many other communities.

One of the regional possibilities for these communities is to pool resources for advertising and outreach. The ability to reach more and larger markets resides in a larger advertising budget, which could be achieved through this type of collaboration and leveraging of funds.

There is a varying amount of community investment and activity in the communities in the region. The following are the main "nodes" on the New York side of the Upper Delaware that

are the focal points for economic development and improvements to the built environment, and a more densely built environment serves as a multiplier; visitors are more likely to plan a trip, or longer trip, if there are several things to do in a smaller, more accessible area. While the following does not outline all of the development activity in each of the areas, it highlights and seeks to recommend some of the more prominent projects and activities.

#### 2.4.6.1 Hancock



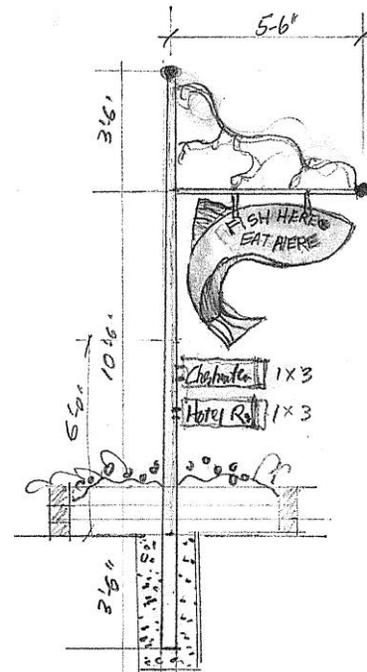
Hancock recently completed an Economic and Community Development Plan (2008) with the assistance of Planit Main Street, Inc. The Hancock E&CD Plan emphasizes creating a more attractive place to live, which in turn will make the community more attractive to investors and businesses needed for growth and prosperity. They have started initiatives using grant funds secured with the assistance of Planit Main Street, Inc. These initiatives include the recently (2013) conversion of an underused parking lot into a town square, and creating the Hancock Fitness Trail and Scenic Overlook. Additionally, Hancock has nice overnight accommodations and new “foodie” restaurants as well as more traditional fare.

- Build on the existing momentum to create a “healthy” destination and community by improving and increasing the outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Work with the Delaware Highlands Conservancy to preserve Point Mountain and create a natural resource attraction with hiking trails and boat launches.
- Work to maintain and improve the built environment as outlined in the HE&CD Plan.
- Preserve and protect the Indian burial ground just downriver from the town center. Foster it as a spiritual place to visit.

#### 2.4.6.2 Long Eddy

Long Eddy is a sleepy hamlet, and great potential destination for visitors and residents. There are two restaurants, a hotel, and a small manufacturing plant- Dedeco. It has a Town owned river access that is heavily used by fisherman, but there is a disconnect between the businesses and the people using the access. Fostering a symbiosis between the businesses and river visitors would greatly improve the vitality of the area, and increase the economic activity. A community volunteer group has made beautification improvements under the Sullivan Renaissance program, which have enhanced the area’s appearance and will continue to do so under a new grant from Sullivan Renaissance. This is one of the sites selected to have a river access design created.

- Work with the local businesses to help them cater to the



public using the access

- Improve the access to accommodate more users while reducing conflict with area residents
- Improve the communication to river users to prevent the public from trespassing on private property
- Work to maintain and improve the built environment to improve the “curb appeal” of the hamlet.

#### *2.4.6.3 Callicoon*

Callicoon is a bustling hamlet whose businesses and streetscapes have received funding under the Sullivan County Main Street grant program. It hosts a very popular farmers market outside in Callicoon Park during the summer and inside the Delaware Youth Center in the winter. It is the location of the Tractor Parade, a very popular parade during the summer. The hamlet is a popular stop for travelers on the Scenic Byway, but official access to the river is difficult and limited. This is one of the sites selected to have a river access design.

- Create a more cohesive main street experience through the proposed “Railroad Square”, which is where there is an old railroad passenger station currently being used for operations by the railroad. The railroad has expressed a willingness to work with the community to create a retail, cultural, or other enterprise in the passenger station and move their operations to another location. Along with working on the road where the train tracks intersect, these projects would unite the upper commercial area with the lower commercial area and create a more cohesive hamlet area. The Town received a grant in the 2013 State Consolidated Funding Announcement to expand parking and make safety improvements at the intersection of the road and the train tracks.
- Work to help sustain and grow existing businesses as well as attract and foster new businesses
- Work to maintain and improve the “curb appeal” of the hamlet.

#### *2.4.6.4 Narrowsburg*

Apart from the Big Eddy Esplanade and Narrowsburg School adaptive reuse, the hamlet is currently engaged in a planning process for a hamlet master plan. Additionally, it was part of a Sullivan County sponsored Main Street grant program, which funded several building renovations and streetscape elements. Fort Delaware and the proposed Visitor Center are also part of the hamlet’s fabric, creating a core of activity that if realized could establish Narrowsburg as an international destination. Narrowsburg is also a hub for cultural and foodie events that are increasing in attendance and renown.

- Help build on the success of Pig Mountain, an annual foodie event that draws from the greater New York City region, as well as other well established cultural events such as digitFest, RiverFest and the Delaware Valley Opera season.
- Help reestablish EagleFest that drew people into Narrowsburg during the winter for a celebration of the bald eagle, which winters in the river valley.

- Support the efforts set forth in the Master Plan for Narrowsburg

#### *2.4.6.5 Barryville*

Barryville is a little sprawling hamlet, which has undergone quick cycles of investment and disinvestment. There have been a number of efforts to knit the community and businesses together in a more cohesive way, which have been relatively successful. It hosts several very popular community events, such as River Road fair, and the Pumpkin Festival, and has a diversity of businesses amenities. Several of the businesses have received Main Street grants for improvements, and the general aesthetics and offerings of the hamlet have greatly improved in recent years. This hamlet is just downriver from the NYSDEC access that is part of the six access design project.

- Work with the community to flesh out the plans for the two public parcels with river access along the River Road
- Continue to work with the business owners to strengthen the businesses as well as continuing to improve the appearance.
- Work to maintain and improve the “curb appeal” of the hamlet.

#### *2.4.6.6 Pond Eddy*

Pond Eddy is the smallest of the hamlets, with its impact on the River and on the Byway consisting of a bridge, a defunct motel, deli and pizzeria, and a struggling sporadically open restaurant and antique shop. The hamlet is well poised to become a thriving node on the river. The Pond Eddy Bridge will be reconstructed, and a new access is being designed. With a river access and a reconstructed bridge leading to Pennsylvania game lands and hiking trails, restaurants, shops and a motel, it could be very attractive to visitors and residents.

- Create better connection to the Pennsylvania hiking trails and game lands through signage.
- Work with the business/property owners to improve and build the hamlet and entice travelers to stop, and residents to visit.
- Work with the Town Historian to market a history walk through the hamlet.
- Coordinate construction of the new bridge with access and hamlet improvements.

#### *2.4.6.7 Port Jervis*

Port Jervis underwent the LWRP planning process and created a plan with the Chazen Companies assistance. They have been steadily progressing on the creation of a white water kayaking park in the river, which would be one of only a few worldwide, and has the potential to draw Olympic trainers, and world class competitive events. Port Jervis is the largest of the nodes, and the only one deemed a “city”

- Work on implementing the existing LWRP
- Continue to work collaboratively on projects of regional significance.
- Improve housing stock

- Support chamber efforts to promote business development.

### 3. River Access

The Upper Delaware River is accessed in several ways. The river is visually accessed by roadway users, and at scenic overlooks and bridges, and from area businesses that boast views of the River. The river is also accessed physically from private and public access points. Improving the connections to the River in both ways will help strengthen the communities and the experiences of the area residents and visitors.

#### 3.1 Visual River Access

##### 3.1.1 *Introduction/Existing Conditions*



Most visitors visually access the river from the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, with a large percentage of these users stopping only in the Hawks Nest section of the region to get out of their vehicles to enjoy the view. Additionally, many area businesses offer a view of the river, such as the Ecce Bed and Breakfast and the Springhouse in Barryville, Nolan's and the Millbrook Inn in Pond Eddy, The Heron and Gerard's Grill in Narrowsburg and the Shamrock Inn in Long Eddy, which was recently sold in the County's tax foreclosure auction.

### **3.1.2 Issues and Challenges**

*Overall disappointment with long gaps limited view sheds* – the distance between opportunities to view the river is long, and the viewsheds are limited. Trees and other vegetation have grown in and now obscure views enjoyed when Route 97 was designated a Scenic Byway by the State.

*Pull offs are not inviting or identified* – for the most part, pull offs are not well signed, and lack any esthetic treatment, or even facilities such as picnic tables, trash receptacles, or comfort stations.

*Poor condition of river access and visual access points* – the existing conditions of the visual access points is sub-standard, having not been restored completely since flooding degraded the quality.

*Some of the best views of the river, such as at the Basket Creek Bridge, don't provide the opportunity to stop and enjoy them.*- pull offs don't exist on Basket Creek Bridge, but the view is one of the best on the Byway.

*Opening up views from the built environment could diminish the natural experience on the River.* – the trees and other vegetation provide a buffer for the river users that shields them from a lot of the built environment. Opening up views from the road to the river could expose the river user to increased noise and diminished viewsheds.

### **3.1.3 Opportunities and Assets**



#### **3.1.3.1 The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway**

The State Route 97 was designated the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway in 2002 and runs throughout most of the catchment area. Fremont and the Town of Hancock opted out of this designation, although SR97 runs through them. The State Scenic Byway system has a cache,

some funding, and a developed interpretive signage system.

There are ample opportunities for rest areas along the route, as well as opportunities for scenic overlooks. There are a number of existing, under programmed roadside amenities as well. This includes the rest/picnic area between Pond Eddy and Barryville, and the Eagle Observatory just upriver from Barryville.

### 3.1.3.2 The Bridges

There are numerous bridges that span the Delaware with varying degrees of history and amenities. All of the bridges offer the potential for viewing the river and the corridor, as well being a visual or marketed asset.



**Basket Creek Bridge** – this bridge has one of the best views of the river from the Byway, but lacks a viewing area.

**The Roebling Bridge (Delaware Aqueduct)** - this Bridge is the most historic, and should be better promoted. It is currently under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service and is also the location of an historic canal house that visitors may tour.

**The Barryville Bridge**- this bridge was built recently and has pedestrian walkway with viewing areas and interpretive signage.

**The Pond Eddy Bridge** – there has been controversy over this bridge that serves an otherwise isolated Pennsylvania small community. There is historic significance to the bridge, but according to many, the bridge cannot meet the needs of the community. Currently, the plan is to construct a bridge slightly upriver from the

existing bridge that will resemble as close as modern design standards will allow, the original bridge. The footing of the original bride will be left as a pull off, viewing area. Sullivan County is planning a river access at this site, and the Pennsylvania side boasts a number of hiking trails that are best accessed by using this bridge.

**Kellam’s Bridge** – there is a steep DEC access site here, which could use better marking. The bridge itself has a historic, rural feel to it.

**Callicoon** – This Bridge leads into and out of the hamlet of Callicoon, but unlike Narrowsburg, is not an aesthetic asset to the community. It does serve as a valuable connection to and from Pennsylvania. There are plans to reconstruct it in the near future, which will provide opportunities to the community for amenities and aesthetic improvements.

**Damascus/Cochecton** – this bridge is visible from the Skinners Falls segment of the

River

**The Narrowsburg Bridge** – This Bridge crosses the narrowest part of the River and is near the deepest part of the river as well. Additionally, it leads into and out of the vibrant hamlet of Narrowsburg, and is a dominant feature there. It is currently undergoing renovations, but should remain the picturesque asset that has been subject of many photographs throughout the years.

**Lordville** – This bridge is located adjacent to the Lordville access.

**Skinnners Falls** – This bridge crosses adjacent to the National Park Service Skinnners Falls Access site, and just upriver from one of the most well used recreational spots on the river. The aesthetic of this bridge lends to the bucolic nature of these recreational sites.

**Port Jervis** – this bridge provides a vital commercial link to businesses in Pennsylvania. One of the most dominant businesses at the bridge in Port Jervis is the old Flo Jean, which once housed a very popular restaurant, but is has been vacant for years.

Restoration of this former community stronghold would be beneficial in many ways, such as creating a positive initial impression of Port Jervis for people entering over the bridge, as well as for people seeing the City from the river.

### *3.1.3.3 Waterside and Ridgeline Trails*

There are at least two trails, the Red Dot/Ten Mile River trail in Tusten and the Bouchoux/Jensens Ledges trail in Lordville that offer beautiful vistas of the Delaware river both from along its banks and from the ridgeline. In the Mongaup Valley, DEC and NPS share jurisdiction over a riverside trail and boat launch. Additionally, there are opportunities to increase the number and length of trails within the catchment area.

### *3.1.3.4 Businesses with Views*

Businesses with views offer an opportunity for residents and visitors to enjoy both a service and a view. Often, restaurants and places of relaxation and recreation are most appealing when they can also boast a location of natural beauty, which abound in scenic vistas.

### *3.1.3.5 Big Eddy Esplanade/Narrowsburg Riverwalk*

This is currently a planned project that will both facilitate visual and physical access to the River.

### *3.1.3.6 Park Avenue Observatory*

The Park Avenue Observatory in Port Jervis offers an amazing view of the region. It currently consists of a small pavilion and parking area with a sign. Often there is a small roadside food truck selling hot dogs.



### *3.1.3.7 Elk Brock Park*

Elk Brock Park is located up a steep ascent from the Scenic Byway in Port Jervis. It provides a great opportunity for an eagle's eye view of the surrounding area, and is of the location for "en plein air" painting classes.

## **3.1.4 Vision and Strategies: Potential Projects, and Partnerships**

The Upper Delaware River provides ample opportunity to enjoy its scenic beauty with well programmed, well-marked, visually appealing rest areas.

### *3.1.4.1 Improve the Existing Overlooks*

Revisit the existing overlooks and do a needs assessment. Working with the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway and the New York State DOT, DPEM has initiated this in the Towns of Lumberland and Highland, and has been presenting findings at the Town Board meetings. This exercise should be completed for all of the Towns (including those not part of the UDSB designation) At this time, the UDSB, DPEM, NYSDOT and the Town of Lumberland are working on some easily implementable projects, such as using the NYS Byway guidelines to improve the existing signs, and sprucing up a picnic area that has been neglected. This exercise can identify opportunities for businesses to "adopt a rest area" and work on maintenance and creating an opportunity to advertise their services.

All of the existing overlooks should be programmed in a thematic designed way that will emphasize to a visitor that one is in a special area, and that this area has many amenities. This thematic design scheme will be developed in part with the river access project, and will help establish a common look for the area and impart a sense of arrival to visitors.

### *3.1.4.2 Create More Opportunities to Visually Access the River*

Locating overlooks and visual access points to visually connect Byway users to the river will increase the visitor's experience in the region, and their understanding of the relationship of the roadway and area to the River. When the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway was first designated, there were many more opportunities to view the river from the road, but as the trees and vegetation filled in, these opportunities became less frequent. Identifying and clearing vegetation for visual access to the river must be done in a way that does not diminish the experience of the river user. Concepts outlined in the Upper Delaware River Design guideline for ridgeline protection should serve as a resource to preserve the experience from the river. Cultivating relationships with landowners should be done mindfully and with a sensitivity to their needs and concerns since private landowners are the predominate landowners in the river corridor and therefore control much of what happens along the Scenic Byway.

#### *3.1.4.3 Provide Directional Signage to the Overlooks*

The existing overlooks are often unmarked, or indicated with a sign reading “Parking.” This is not the most effective way to show off assets and can cause confusion since it is often unclear why one would be parking in a particular location. As part of the needs assessment discussed in 3.1.4.1, this signage can be corrected and improved by better utilizing the NYS DOT Scenic Byway signage program.

#### *3.1.4.3 Enhance the Interpretive and Wayfinding Signage On-Site*

In addition to the above recommended signage improvements, working within the State Guidelines, there is ample opportunity to alert motorists to attractions without cluttering the views with unnecessary visual stimulus. The State of Vermont has done an excellent job of highlighting attractions through a visually homogeneous signage system that alerts without distracting. The NYSDOT guidelines allow for the implementation of a similar system. A needs assessment should include a list of attractions the area would like to highlight through this signage system and an inventory of existing signs, some of which are redundant, unnecessary or no longer apply.

#### *3.1.4.4 Implement Physical Improvements*

Throughout the corridor, and especially along Route 97, improve the physical look of the man made amenities. Working from the next phase River Access designs, build on the design recommendations to implement physical improvements that emphasize the feeling of arriving and travelling within a destination spot. This includes adding amenities such as picnic tables and viewing areas to enhance the passive use of the pull offs and overlooks. Continue to encourage towns to implement design guidelines when reviewing projects in the corridor.

#### *3.1.3.5 Work with New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PENNDOT)*

Keep the NYS DOT involved in the efforts to improve the corridor. NYS DOT should be encouraged to return the overlooks to the pre-2006 flood stage conditions and to develop a NYS DOT Route 97 maintenance program that includes selective cutting and clearing. Working through the needs assessment described in 3.1.4.1 is an excellent way to collaborate on and inform these efforts.

Continue open communications with PENNDOT and NYSDOT to ensure that any bridge and road reconstruction will also factor in improvements such as bicycle lanes, and pedestrian access as well as aesthetic considerations.

#### *3.1.3.6 Create a Public/Private Partnership to Maintain the Facilities*

Create an “Adopt-a-View” program to match area businesses and community groups up with various facilities. Creating the programming for a picnic area or overlook would allow a

business to advertise goods and services in an attractive and contextual manner. This type of partnership promotes better site maintenance and an opportunity to promote other area businesses and offerings.

## **3.2 Physical River Access**

### **3.2.1 Introduction/Existing Conditions**

Public accesses are distributed throughout the river corridor, but not very well marked, and from each access it is difficult to tell where the next access will be. This is very important for people desiring to do one way river trips on boats or inner tubes. In addition, ownership patterns in the river corridor result in not all river bank areas being open to public use. Commercial access also exists, and is a vibrant part of the region's economy. Any access, whether commercial or public, needs to be concerned with flooding, invasive species, erosion and the free flow of river waters.

### **3.2.2 Issues and Challenges**

The predominance of lands in private ownership makes trespassing a common occurrence.

Signage and markings to indicate public accesses and amenities are insufficient to non-existent making them difficult to locate, and their existence incomprehensible. Additionally, signage to help geographically orient people on the river is lacking.

The physical appearance and amenities offered at each public access varies, with some accesses needing attention to aesthetics and other needing attention to function. Virtually all need attention to maintenance and upkeep.

### **3.2.3 Opportunities and Assets**

#### *3.2.3.1 The Delaware River Water Trail*

The Delaware River Greenway Partnership lead the effort to develop a Water Trail for the Delaware River, with uniform signage, maps, a trail guide and an interactive website (see [www.Delawareriverwatertrail.org](http://www.Delawareriverwatertrail.org)) The Delaware River Water Trail is planned to run from the Town of Hancock down to Trenton New Jersey. The Delaware River Greenway Partnership in partnership with the National Park Service and other stakeholder groups have undertaken significant research and planning to determine boaters' needs along the banks and in the waters of the Delaware River. The Partnership obtained Pennsylvania Water Trail Status in the lower reaches of the Delaware and implementation of the Trail on that part of the river has commenced.

#### *3.2.3.2 The National Park Service and the Upper Delaware River Management Plan*

In 1978, Congress designated the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River (From Hancock to Sparrowbush) a National Wild and Scenic River. Land use management in the designated area is largely done through municipal planning and zoning. The significant community buy-in to conform to the Land and Water Use Guidelines published in the River Management Plan has been the key to preserving the Wild and Scenic River's attributes. The River Management Plan was created in 1986 through a collaboration of 15 towns and townships, two states, the Delaware Basin Commission and the National Park Service. These participants established a program of management and cooperation, which is overseen through agreement, by the Upper Delaware Council, on which representatives from the participating jurisdictions sit. The National Park Service and the Upper Delaware Council are currently working toward some updates of the Upper Delaware River Management Plan.

### *3.2.3.3 Existing Accesses and Publicly Owned Riverfront Lands*

There are many existing accesses that can be better programmed and better marked so the public can find and enjoy them. Additionally, there are opportunities to improve and co-market the commercial accesses to help improve the livery businesses.

### **3.2.4 Vision and Strategies: Potential Projects, and Partnerships**

There are ample accesses to the Delaware River for the public to use, and all of the accesses and assets are well marked, well programmed and well designed for enjoyment and prevention of accidental trespass onto private properties.

#### *3.2.4.1 Big Eddy Esplanade/Narrowsburg Riverwalk*

This project is currently underway and when complete will provide riverbank restoration, public access to the river, and access to existing businesses, giving them a riverfront presence that currently doesn't exist. There is more information about this project in \_\_\_\_\_

#### *3.2.4.2 Port Jervis Whitewater Kayaking Park*

This proposed park will provide an Olympic training ground as well as opportunities for kayak enthusiasts to test and hone their skills on a course designed to be within the river itself. The riverbank park adjacent to the proposed kayak course will have opportunities for other types of recreation and concessions stands as well. There is more information about this project in \_\_\_\_\_

#### *3.2.4.3 Sparrowbush Access*

This access is being purchased by Orange County NY to be placed under an easement by the Orange County Land Trust to be used as a public access in perpetuity and will have some of the maintenance provided by the Town of Deerpark. It is a very popular picnic place without routine maintenance, suffers somewhat from its popularity in terms of garbage disposal and



wear and tear. Once under the auspices of the Orange County Land Trust, the access should be programmed and designed in a way that accommodates the uses and allows for proper maintenance of the site.

#### *3.2.4.4 Narrowsburg DEC Access*

This access is very well used by the commercial liveries and public at large. Additionally, this access is used by the Narrowsburg Fire Department for emergency purposes. It originally had a dock and the boat launch has silted in over the years. The access continues to be an asset but should be refurbished to ensure the Fire Department can launch their safety boat and that canoers and kayakers have an easy to use landing. This landing can easily be handicapped accessible given its design.

#### *3.2.3.5 Kellam's Bridge NYS DEC Access*

This NYSDEC access has a nice parking and interpretive area but is very difficult to find. Minor improvements to this site will facilitate its use.

#### *3.2.4.6 Six Accesses*

Six accesses, one in each of the Sullivan County towns were selected to be programmed and designed under an LWRP grant. The designs of these six accesses will be coordinated and have portable elements so that a visitor or resident feels a sense of arrival at a destination and a relationship and identity for the public amenities. Once the designs are publicly adopted, progress toward implementing these designs will be phased in, and possibly completed by multiple entities as appropriate. Each access has a different community, ownership pattern and stakeholder, so an implementation plan will vary from access to access.

Pond Eddy – ensure the new bridge reconstruction is compatible and complementary to the river access designs. Collaborate to see if bridge reconstruction itself can accomplish design implementation.

Highland – create an ADA compliant slope to reach the water, and add design elements that will increase the visual appeal of the access.

Ten Mile River – address issues related to heavy peak use to conserve the natural and scenic values of this access.

Callicoon - Coordinate with NPS, New York State DEC and Callicoon leadership to re-establish a viable river access

Skinnners Falls – improve the looks of this over paved site while addressing some of the access and maintenance issues

Long Eddy – creatively address the parking situation while working to enable the movement of trailers to and from the water.

#### *3.2.4.7 Pike County Pennsylvania Greenway Planning*

In a coordinated effort, Pike County Planning has received a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to create a greenway plan for the Pike Pennsylvania side of the Upper Delaware River. The Pike Planning Department has been very involved in the LWRP process and Sullivan County will continue to work with them to ensure compatibility and harmony of planning efforts. The river has two sides, and it important that they both be addressed in a comparable complementary way.

#### *3.2.4.8 Identify and provide access between Pond Eddy and Port Jervis*

This is the stretch of river with the fewest public accesses. There is a need to identify more opportunities for accessing the river along this stretch.

#### *3.2.4.9 Continue to Work with Private Land Owners to Provide River Access and/or Right-of-Ways for Trails*

There is a lot of potential for mutually beneficial access agreements with private land owners; especially private land owners with a commercial use such as canoe livery. Creating a network of trails and additional river access open to the public will create more opportunity for recreation for visitors and residents. More amenities improves the quality of lives of residents and increases the appeal of the area to visitors.

#### *3.2.4.10 Team with Conservancy Groups for Access to Trails/ROW*

A second arm of the work with private land owners is to get assistance and commitment from area land conservancies to help with long term maintenance and preservation.

#### *3.2.4.11 Improve West End Beach in Port Jervis*

This beach is very popular, but like other accesses suffers from its popularity and a lack of investment. Port Jervis can build on the work to be completed under the six river access site design process in Sullivan County to create a viable plan for the West End Beach.

#### *3.2.4.12 Review the River Management Plan to Assist with Locating and Funding Additional Public Access Points*

#### *3.2.3.13 Work with NYSDEC and NPS to Improve Physical Condition of Existing Access Points*

Work within the schedule of routine maintenance to address substandard conditions, while working to find additional partners to take “ownership” of accesses.

#### *3.2.3.14 Address the Japanese Knotweed invasion along with other invasive species.*

### *3.2.4.15 Coordinate with the NYS DOT/NPS/DEC to Educate and Team Build with Local Leaders on the Resources Available to Them Through the National Park Service*

A daylong workshop or summit to discuss services and schedules. This will benefit how the communities understand the work being done by these agencies, as well as ensuring that work being done is done in a rational order where each agencies efforts add to or at least do not detract from other agencies efforts.

## **4. Arts, History and Culture**



### **4.1 Introduction/Existing Conditions**

Like so many tourist destinations, the Upper Delaware River Corridor is teeming with arts, culture, and historic resources. It is home to a diverse population of local artisans, living history and performing arts, yet it faces similar challenges in marketing and coordination that plague the other segments of the local economy. There are art galleries in many of the hamlets, high caliber visual and performing arts, as well as a growing community of craftsmen artisans, and artisanal manufacturing.

But what makes us unique is our story, and the River valley has a rich and colorful history. Once revered by the Amerindian Lenape tribe, and first settled by Connecticut farmers in the 1750s, it became home to a burgeoning timber rafting industry and played a key role in the American Revolution. The Delaware & Hudson Canal, began operation in 1828, and lead to unprecedented growth in the region. The area has been known for health and as a sportsman's paradise as well. Artifacts from this rich history survives in fragments and in stories, both of which deserve preserving, interpreting and promoting.

### **4.2 Issues and Challenges**

The main issues and challenges for arts, history and culture are similar to other segments of the local economy; marketing and coordination. And, like elsewhere in New York and the United States, there is a lack of resources for staffing, programming, and capital improvements. There

is a limited pool of volunteers for special events, and support services. There is a need for additional outdoor venues.

Additionally, loss of artifacts, sites and structures has been a result of minimal investment in preservation. This loss is the loss of the area's story, of its uniqueness, and history.

#### **4.2.1      *Marketing and Coordination***

There is a fair amount of marketing and increasing coordination of the historic and cultural events and assets, but the efforts have not reached the level that these assets deserve, and to reach a broader audience that would be interested. The area's story has not been interpreted and shared yet in a meaningful and coordinated way. Barriers caused by geographic and political separations, or "turf" need to be overcome, since neither stories nor visitors adhere to them.

#### **4.2.2      *Lack of Resources – Staffing***

The support networks and galleries and venues are all fiscally overburdened and their abilities to support employees at the level they need employees is currently not there.

#### **4.2.3      *Lack of Resources – Programming***

Due partially to depleted staff and dwindling funding, programming has also been reduced

#### **4.2.4      *Lack of Resources – Capital Improvements***

Buildings and assets require repairs and maintenance that has been jeopardized due to less funding and smaller staff sizes. New construction is, for the most part, at a standstill.

#### **4.2.5      *Overburdened Pool of Volunteers***

With more people working more hours, there are fewer hours and less energy left for volunteerism. During the charrette, it was also noted that the pool of volunteers seems to always be the same people, and that new people are not being reached to join.

#### **4.2.6      *Lack of Outdoor Venues***

Summer in the Upper Delaware is glorious, but there are a limited amount of outdoor venues in which to have events.

### **4.3      *Opportunities and Assets***

The Upper Delaware River is teeming with cultural and historical activity. Artists and artisans are untapped troops; armies familiar with the creative process, with interpretation. They hold



the key to telling the area’s unique story and promoting what makes the area unique and interesting. The following list cannot possibly represent the full picture. A more detailed list of assets can be found in the Appendices.

#### **4.3.1 Delaware Valley Arts Alliance**

The DVAA presents programs in the visual, performing, literary and media arts. They are located in Narrowsburg in an historic building listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

#### **4.3.2 Delaware Valley Opera**

This non-profit regional professional opera company makes its home in Narrowsburg and draws local, regional and international audiences.

#### **4.3.3 North American Cultural Laboratory**

NACL creates and produces original and ensemble theater at their theater space in Highland Lake. They also offer artist residencies, professional development retreats, master classes, workshops and early education drama classes. They provide a venue and sophisticated audience for performances by other professional theater troupes to showcase newly developed work.

#### **4.3.4 Forestburgh Playhouse**

While just outside the catchment area the Forestburgh Playhouse serves the catchment area providing a venue for performing arts, specifically live theater, music and dance. They specialize in productions of American musical theater.

#### **4.3.5 Weekend of Chamber Music**

While just outside the catchment area, the Weekend of Chamber Music serves the catchment area providing chamber music as a vital art, and engaging people of all ages and cultures. They make their home at the Eddie Adams Farm.

#### **4.3.6 Eddy Adams Farm/Barnstorm: Eddie Adams Workshop**

This annual event just outside the catchment area through a competitive application process, brings photographers from across the globe for a four day workshop. These photographers experience the Upper Delaware River Corridor and often capture its image for the program.

#### **4.3.7 Bethel Woods Center for the Arts**

While just outside the catchment area, this venue on the site of the 1969 Woodstock Festival serves the entire Upper Delaware River region. The facility is an outdoor music venue, a

museum, and the site of an annual multi weekend harvest festival. They have been developing arts curriculum for children of all ages.

#### **4.3.8 Pottery Trail**

The Sullivan County Visitors Association created a map to all the area potters, many of which are located in the Upper Delaware River area.

#### **4.3.9 French Woods**

This summer camp in Hancock is world renowned for its high caliber programming in the visual and performing arts. It is a draw to the area, and often parents' weekends and performances will fill up area lodging.

#### **4.3.10 Zane Grey Museum**

The prolific western author Zane Grey wrote many of his earliest stories at his farmhouse within sight of the aqueducts in Lackawaxen, PA, and today the home has been restored and is operated as the Zane Grey Museum by the National Park Service.

#### **4.3.11 Revolutionary War Train Wreck**

On the tracks of the Erie Railroad, just a couple of miles downriver from the confluence of the Lackawaxen and Delaware Rivers, an infamous collision occurred on July 15, 1864 between a coal train and a train carrying more than 800 Confederate Army prisoners of war. More than 60 people, including at least 44 Confederate soldiers and 17 Union guards, were killed. The dead were buried in mass graves dug along the train tracks and remained there until disinterred in 1911. A local tavern and inn, Rohman's served as a makeshift hospital for those injured in the event. Rohman's still exists and is currently a popular bar with a bowling alley. Many community events are hosted there.

#### **4.3.12 The Delaware and Hudson Canal (The D&H Canal)**

The Delaware & Hudson Canal, constructed to transport anthracite coal from the Moosic Mountains of Pennsylvania to the Hudson River where it could be shipped to New York City, began operation in 1828, leading to unprecedented growth in the region, as entire communities grew up around it. Part of the canal's expansion in 1848 included the opening of the Delaware and Lackawaxen Aqueducts, which carried the canal over those respective rivers. Both aqueducts were designed and built by John A. Roebling, who later designed the Brooklyn Bridge. Converted to a vehicular bridge after the demise of the canal. The D&H Canal remnants currently provide the opportunity to create a linear trail filled with history. While several segments are currently open to the public, a concerted effort to connect the entire length could result in an outstanding amenity for residents and visitors.



#### **4.3.13 The Roebling Bridge (Delaware Aqueduct)**

The Roebling Bridge was built as an aqueduct to transport boats travelling on the D&H Canal over the Delaware River, since there was too much congestion in the river from the timber rafting. The bridge was designed and constructed by John Roebling, and was built prior to Roebling's more well-known project, the Brooklyn Bridge. It remains the oldest existing wire cable suspension bridge in North America, and is maintained by the National Park Service. It is considered a jewel to those who are interested in the history of engineering both as part of the overall D&H Canal system and as a suspension bridge.

#### **4.3.14 Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History**

The Fort Delaware Museum was built by a former Sullivan County Historian, James W. Burbank as an authentic reproduction of one of the two original stockade settlements in the area. Burbank succeeded in building the attraction through funding and labor from friends and neighbors, and selling bonds. The "Fort Delaware" was opened in 1957 and has had its own history as a roadside attraction and was, at times, filled with anachronisms and myth. Today it is an accurate representation of the original settlement, with costumed interpreters and themed events. The museum embraces the history for which it was created to represent as well as the history in which the museum itself played a part.

The Fort is an asset on several levels. It currently serves as a de facto visitor center for travelers along the Byway. It routinely has events that attract hundreds of area and regional visitors, and in some cases, international visitors. These events include Civil War encampments, Revolutionary War encampments, historic interpretations, and fun events such as a haunted lantern tour on Halloween, and an American Girl Doll Day. It has the ability to orient visitors geographically as well as historically.

#### **4.3.15 The Battle of Minisink/Minisink Battleground**

The Minisink Battleground is a Sullivan County Park preserving the grounds where a Revolutionary War battle was fought on July 19, 1779. The Battle of Minisink was the only major skirmish to be fought in the Upper Delaware Valley. Today, there are hiking trails, a picnic area, monument and comfort station at the site.

#### **4.3.16 Narrowsburg School**

The Narrowsburg School has sat empty for nearly a decade now, and has been identified by the community as a focal point in need of providing goods or services to the community. In the Town Comprehensive Plan, it is recommended that a local group, The Solution Project, has a plan for the adaptive reuse of the Narrowsburg School building to celebrate and support local food along the Upper Delaware River and Finger Lakes Regional Foodsheds through the creation of a Food Hub- supporting small farmers, value added processors while addressing growing demand for local food in NYC. The Solution Project's vision includes community

education and ‘agripreneurship’ through strengthening existing local, regional and national partnerships with the ultimate goal of increasing local food production and consumption, improving the physical health of the community members and fostering community connections around a sustainable and community supported food.

#### ***4.3.17 Community of Artists (Fine and Performing Arts)***

As previously stated, artists and artisans are untapped troops; armies familiar with the creative process, with interpretation. They hold the key to telling the area’s unique story and promoting what makes the area unique and interesting. They are drawn to the area for its natural beauty and diverse and growing artists community.

#### ***4.3.18 Fort Decker and the Decker Stone House***

The Decker Stone House was built in 1793 on the site where Fort Decker once stood. It now operates as a museum and venue for cultural events.

#### ***4.3.19 Port Jervis Turntable***

This turntable is an artifact from a once prosperous railroad line, but still stands as the largest operating turntable in the United States.

#### ***4.3.20 The Delaware Company***

The recently formed Delaware Company was named for the group of hardy Connecticut farmers who in 1755 overcame inestimable hardships to establish Cushetunk, the first permanent European settlement in the Upper Delaware River Valley. The Delaware Company’s mission is to promote and support the history and historic landmarks, it will also sponsor presentations on historical topics, conduct narrated historical bus tours and support and promote relevant historical programs sponsored by other organizations.

#### ***4.3.21 Gillinder Glass***

Located in Port Jervis, Gillinder Glass is one of the oldest glass manufacturers in the country. It houses a small museum and hosts tours while remaining a functioning manufacturer of glass products.

### **4.4 Vision and Strategies: Potential Projects and Partnerships**

The Upper Delaware is known not only for its physical beauty, but for the many cultural and historical offerings that complete a rich and diverse offering for visitors and residents. But the area’s story and uniqueness should be communicated to a larger public. It needs to be shared and enjoyed and used in ways that will make the lives of residents more fulfilling and draw in people to visit the region.



#### ***4.4.1 Use Innovative ways to Incorporate Art into Unexpected Places or in Unexpected Ways***

There are an infinite number of ways to incorporate art into the experiences people have with a place. Encouraging creativity and art that engages the public arena is one way to integrate our artist community with the public while adding another layer of interest to the river corridor. There are places such as Marfa Texas and Storm King New York whose integration of art into the landscape has given them international recognition. It is important to note that there is a balance between highlighting the environment and interfering with it.

One concept proposed during the community outreach was a hidden art project. Similar to geocaching, a hidden art project would encourage residents and visitors to look at the area in a way that will reveal artworks in unusual locations. Working with the incredible troops of artists and artisans to create art in unexpected and unique places and in a way that will engage people, encourage them to travel and visit, explore and rethink places in the area.

#### ***4.4.2 Create and promote historical brochures and tours***

Since the regions stories don't necessarily follow the geo political boundaries efforts to tell the regions stories can be used to stitch together these otherwise artificial barriers. A team working under the umbrella of Common Waters, a regional organization, is working on gathering the assets of the larger region and will compile and curate stories to create an audio tour or series of story vignettes to connect to the regions places.

Another potentially useful program is the State's Path Through History program. This program has begun to build the bones for visitors to be able to plan tours through New York State. The Path Through History website is an interactive tool to plan a day trip, weekend getaway or extended vacation that explores New York State's rich history and culture. As it states on their website, "from U.S. presidents to leaders of the suffragette movement to innovators in industry, technology and art it all happened in New York State. You can visit over 500 destinations across our great state. Choose from 13 themes and 500 destinations to create your own Path Through History for an experience you and your family will always remember."

#### ***4.4.3 Coordinate special events corridor wide***

As part of regionalizing access to "places to visit", coordinate an events calendar of "things to do". This would require collaboration of the regions visitors' associations, tourism boards, and chambers of commerce.

#### ***4.4.4 Promote cooperation in securing funding for outdoor venues***

Developing more outdoor venues will require the collaboration of all of the entities who would benefit from the existence of more venues. Given the scarcity of funds available, the regional, multi entity approach would have a better chance of success.

#### **4.4.5 Build upon “Locally Grown” and “Locally Made” campaigns**



Several campaigns currently exist to foster local consumption of farm and agricultural products. The campaigns should be promoted and coordinated.

#### **4.4.6 Improve signage for cultural arts and historic resources**

Signs are important for getting people to understand where the cultural assets are located, helping people find specific ones they are planning to visit and for general bragging purposes. Providing a better language or vernacular, or even implementing existing available signage programs will greatly help.

### **5. Protecting the Resources**

Without the unparalleled natural resources of the Upper Delaware River, there would not be the tourism, economy, or quality of life that is currently enjoyed. Historically, the region has sought to balance the value of the beauty of the land with the value of those elements in the marketplace. These uses are not necessarily mutually exclusive; for example, logging according to a good forestry plan can improve the quality and beauty of the forest while providing revenue from the resource itself. Additionally, impacts from human activity have irreversibly altered the landscape. Invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed and didymo are now seen in the region. Water quality has deteriorated from unmitigated stormwater runoff, and water levels and temperatures are altered by the management of the New York City reservoirs and the impacts of global warming. There are ways to prevent these influences from further adversely impacting these precious resources, and there are also ways to reduce the impacts already seen.

#### **5.1 Flooding**

In recent years, flooding has become more intense and more frequent in the region. Flooding causes scouring of the lands, deterioration of the built environment, contamination of water, depositing of debris up in the trees and on the land, and can spread the occurrence of invasive species. Abating the rapidity and amount of the water reaching the floodplains and floodways can help reduce the impacts. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has been working on, and mostly completed updated Federal Insurance Rate Maps, which show the areas that are most likely to be inundated with water during 100 and 500 year floods. Communities should be encouraged to follow the Community Rating System’s recommendations to reduce the potential damage to development and the environment. Additionally, participation in the Community Rating System will help lower the flood insurance rates for the municipality. The CRS includes a number of best management practices that should become standard for managing storm water on the site where the water falls and the snow melts.

## 5.2 Invasives



Invasive species can wreak havoc in several ways. They can compete with the native flora and fauna, they can outright destroy the native flora and fauna, and they can be present in a way that reduces the value of a natural asset.

The three most discussed invasive plants in the region are Japanese knotweed, didymo (also known as rock snot), mile a minute vine and purple loosestrife. There are also problems associated with Japanese barberry, and garlic mustard.

Insects such as the emerald ash borer and wooly adelgid are now here, and likely to start causing problems to the regions forests.

Additionally, wild boars have been seen in municipalities adjacent to the region. Wild boars are nocturnal, and prolific, so they are difficult to eradicate, and multiply readily. The impact on the resources is not yet known, but with all invasive species, they compete with the indigenous wildlife for precious resources and space, and in the case of wild boars, can be aggressive and dangerous when encountered, as well as carriers of disease.

Education about not spreading the populations of these species is currently the most effective way to treat the problems. As methods of eradication are developed, education will also play an important part of solving the problem. There is still much work to be done on getting the word out, especially to highway departments whose equipment can easily spread plants and insects throughout a region.

## 5.3 Ridgeline

Protecting the ridgeline from development protects the greater part of the prized views from the Delaware River and from the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway. Properly locating buildings and landscaping will allow for development while preserving these views. The Upper Delaware River Management Plan has a Design Guideline Manual that contains excellent recommendations for municipalities to guide development in these sensitive areas. These should be adopted and implemented by all of the municipalities along the river so as to protect these views, and their economic benefits to the communities.

## 5.4 Riverbank

The riverbank should be afforded several protections: for aesthetic purposes; to prevent erosion; to maintain their functions that reduce impacts from flooding.

The municipalities along the river, for the most part, have in place a hazard mitigation plan that includes flooding. The Federal Emergency Management Agency recently revised their Flood

Insurance Rate Maps, which show where flooding is likely to occur, and where flood waters will collect (flood plains) and where flood waters will be moving (flood ways) These maps along with the hazard mitigation plans and adequate zoning should help avoid a lot of inappropriate river bank development.

Additionally, the Upper Delaware River Management Plan offers a lot of assistance to help.

## **5.5 Water Quality/Forest Stewardship**

The forested areas within the Delaware River basin account for a lot of water filtration that results in the pristine waters of the River itself. Forest management is key to preserving these qualities, and also an economic opportunity. This region is ideal for lumber production, and harvesting this vital resource can be done in a way that is beneficial to the preservation of these forests. Currently, groups like Common Waters worked on assisting large landowners create forest stewardship plans, Delaware Highlands Conservancy offers courses such as “Women and their woods”, and Catskill Forestry Association offers “the Game of Logging”. These efforts need to be supported and landowners need to be reached to participate in programs such as this.

Also, as impervious surfaces increase through development, the potential for stormwater increases, and the water quality decreases. However, it is possible to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff through green infrastructure and low impact development standards. In addition to new construction being directed to use these measures, the existing built environment can be retro fitted to meet these new standards. In addition to improving water quality, reduced stormwater runoff also means a decrease in the high water mark during a storm event.

## **5.6 Water Temperature and Flow**

Friends of the Upper Delaware River has recently finished an economic study into how temperature and flow affect the sport fishing industry and have shown fluctuation in temperature and flow directly affect the industry. With information about river conditions readily available a sport fisher will make a last minute decision based on whether these conditions are better or worse for fishing. Working with NYC Department of Environmental Protection on their releases to help foster more consistently favorable conditions for the fisheries will help avoid these losses in tourism dollars.

## **5.7 Climate Change**

The extent to which the above threats will increase due to a changing climate and harsher weather patterns is unknown. Sullivan County has taken a “Climate Smart Community Pledge” and has acknowledged that the effects of climate change can, “impact our drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities, and pose health threats to our citizens.” Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development, under a contract with Sullivan County, has prepared an



action plan to help the County adapt to change and become more resilient. The County has already realized the economic ramifications of these potential threats and agreed to take preventive action.

Concurrently, the Common Waters group has looked more regionally at the issues of climate change and prepared a report discussing the impacts to the Upper Delaware River as well as how communities can prepare themselves to be more resilient.

## **5.8 Ownership**

Maintaining a large amount of land can be expensive, and often land owners are forced to develop despite their desire to preserve a piece of land. Additionally, estate taxes can force heirs to split apart tracts and sell off parcels they would rather keep.

Delaware Highlands Conservancy and other land trust organizations are at work in the region acquiring easements to assist landowners in maintaining their properties, helping with estate planning, and ensuring that lands are maintained in perpetuity as the owner desires. The work these groups do should be supported and participation in their programs should be promoted.

Additionally, it would be beneficial to ease the cap on how much land the National Park Service is allowed to own. If the National Park Service could own more land, their ability to increase park amenities and river access would be greatly increased. All landowners, however, must be willing sellers for the NPS to acquire a property.

## **6. Projects**

The following are specific projects that are tangible and achievable. They will help emphasize the sense of place, and arriving. The projects will be notable signs that celebrate the landscape and suit the vast scale of the corridor and involve the multiple agencies and entities with representation in the area. They will help create common experiences throughout the corridor through defined pull off zones, a branded corridor and celebration of the vernacular through utilization of local materials. They will let byway and river users know what's coming, celebrate what there is and generally inform us all of the multitude of opportunities throughout the river corridor.

### **6.1 Trailkeeper**

The Trailkeeper.org project is an ongoing public private partnership that has been developing an online resource for hiking trails, and connections to tourism related area businesses such as restaurants and shopping. The group is actively engaging communities to get out on to the trails, and leading hikes regularly throughout the year. The core partnership is comprised of Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management, Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Catskill Mountainkeeper, Sullivan County Visitors Association and Morgan Outdoors.

The partnership launched their website in September 2012, and has led many hiking trips to promote the site and to get people outdoors and moving. The partnership plans to keep making improvements and updates to the site to keep the information current and accurate and to promote hiking in Sullivan County and environs. They see the site as a mechanism to remind residents about the beautiful area in which they live (Look Where We Live) and instill a sense of pride, while concurrently helping residents and visitors access the area's hiking trails and promoting area businesses to help people "make a day (or weekend) of it."

Area businesses should be encouraged by the chambers of commerce and business organizations to use this resource, and include it in their plans for growth. Examples could be to offer a hike to promote their business, sponsor a hike as a way to advertise, or to showcase reasons to stay overnight. The Trailkeeper group is currently seeking funding for website upgrades and educational programming. Additionally, information from the site can be used to help plan for trail networks, work on health initiatives, and tourism promotion.

## **6.2 National Park Service Corwin Farms**



Corwin Farms is currently owned and operated by the National Park Service as a ranger station. Its buildings include a historic house and barns. On site there are also remnants of the D&H Canal. The buildings and site are underutilized, and have great potential for programming and development. During the Charrette, there was great enthusiasm for improving and increasing the uses of this community asset. The property just

upriver, an apartment building called the Coop, is also a possible potential for expansion, with a building potentially suitable for an ADA compliant interpretive center.

The site could serve as a southern visitor center for the river and National Park Service. Given the history of the site as part of D&H Canal and the outstanding condition of Lock #67 and associated buildings, the site could also serve as a regional cultural resource center and a farm interpretive center. The site would be able to accommodate special events and serve as a venue for weddings and other celebrations.

## **6.3 The D&H Canal**

The remnants of the D&H Canal can be spotted throughout the Upper Delaware River area. The Canal was created to get coal from the gravity railroad in Moosic Pennsylvania to the New York City area. Its construction was precipitated by the War of 1812 and the need to get coal for fuel with the traditional sources imperiled. The Canal operated from 1828 to 1898 when railroads made the canal unnecessary. Some of the artifacts left behind include the Roebling Aqueduct and canal house. The Canal is an untapped opportunity to create a heritage trail and multi-use path. It is complicated by ownership and condition, but its preservation and reuse for hiking, biking and visiting would be worthwhile and valuable.



#### **6.4 Fort Delaware Museum and Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Visitor Center**

The Sullivan County owned and operated Fort Delaware is an authentic depiction of the life of the Delaware Company Pioneers who settled in the Upper Delaware Valley in 1754. The Fort is a reconstruction of the original settlement of Cushetunk on Delaware River, with log homes, and high log walls, or stockades. The site has parking, a picnic pavilion, and a gift shop with bathroom facilities.

The Fort currently operates from late June through Labor Day historically because the restroom and gift shop are not heated, and the restrooms must be drained before the cold weather. The limited programming and operating season is also due to budgetary concerns. Although many staff members are volunteers, it still takes a full time coordinator to organize and run the establishment.

The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway has been sharing space at the Upper Delaware Council building in Narrowsburg, and had obtained State and Federal funding to build a visitor center in the Town of Cochecton. The site in Cochecton posed several operational difficulties, since the Byway does not have any staff, and the County would not have been able to assist, so the project was continually deferred until the possibility of a co-location at the Fort Delaware site was considered.

The UDSB and Sullivan County used a UDSB grant to fund a feasibility study to see if a visitor center could be accommodated on the Fort Delaware site. This would allow the Fort to operate year round and increase programming and marketability, and the Visitor Center could make use of existing staff and create a physical presence for the UDSB on the Byway itself. Additional potential benefits to colocation at the Fort Delaware site include building up a hamlet area, fortifying an existing attraction, and creating opportunities for the National Park Service to expand interpretation and provide information.

The feasibility study resulted in the design of a flexible space that could accommodate the various expectations of the entities involved. Appendix contains the project narrative and all of the landscaping and building drawings produced.

The Delaware Company has been authorized by the Sullivan County Legislature to work on the Fort to implement their vision, which may not support the building designed in the feasibility study, but does support the concept of the Fort as a visitor center, and definitely as part of the Sullivan County Visitors' Association Infoasis Program. The need for a longer season enabled by weatherized restrooms and the possibility of other supportive facilities are also a part of the vision.

## 6.5 The Delaware River Water Trail

The Delaware River Greenway Partnership, a not for profit group out of the Mid Delaware region, has done a tremendous amount of work collaborating with groups up and down the entire Delaware River Corridor to complete a water trail plan for the River. Water trails are a water oriented trail system, similar to on land trail systems like the Appalachian Trail, or the Long Path.

Sullivan County has received funding as an extension of this planning process to plan and start to implement a signage system for the Upper Delaware River, and to work on an access in each of the River Towns.

### 6.5.1 Water Trail Signage



The Delaware River Greenway Partnership identified a signage system that will help river users navigate and orient themselves on their journeys however long. Since there are several styles and designs currently implemented along the river, Sullivan County is endeavoring to develop signs that will coordinate with these efforts while adequately representing and describing those entities and agencies at work in the corridor.

### 6.5.2 Water Trail Accesses

The need for a new access and improved accesses along the Delaware River was an important part of the water trail plan, and an important part of this plan. The following accesses are being worked on and advanced as part of this initiative to achieve a physical branding of the area, establishing a vernacular design that will create a cohesive look and improve the aesthetics of the region.

#### Pond Eddy Access

The Water Trail plan identified Pond Eddy as along a stretch of the river that needed an access, so as an extension of this plan, Sullivan County identified a County owned parcel of land upriver and downriver of a planned bridge renovation or reconstruction, which presented an opportunity to create an access. Pond Eddy has one struggling business, and one business struggling to open. Both businesses will benefit from a public access in such close proximity.



## Highland Access

Highland has several options for access improvement, and through a grant Sullivan County has assisted the community to identify the access on which the grant will focus, and then design from there. The access that is the focus of the design is up river from Barryville and can provide ADA access from the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway to the river.

The remaining two accesses, which are both located in Barryville should be addressed at a future time and can benefit from work done at the Highland Access.

## Tusten Access

In Tusten, the access that will be addressed is the Ten Mile River access. The access is currently run by the National Park Service and heavily used by the commercial river outfitters and the general public. It is on Boy Scout property and a trailhead for the Tusten Mountain trail is nearby. The Tusten Mountain Trail is further described in section.....

## Cochecton Access

Skidders Falls will be further developed under this grant. It is privately owned, but leased by the National Park Service. Commercial outfitters are adjacent on both sides of the access.

## Delaware Access

There was a public access near the Delaware Youth Center that was highly utilized, but a river channel overflow caused erosion that makes getting to it difficult. The grant will either find a way to alleviate the effect of the overflow channel, or relocate the public access. Bridge work may provide an opportunity to locate an access nearer to the Park and Hamlet of Callicoon's main street.

## Fremont Access

In the hamlet of Long Eddy, there is a very popular fishing access and boat launch. This design effort will focus on connecting the access to the commercial enterprises and making the access area itself more useable and visible.

### **6.5.3 Blueway Legislation**

As part of the Outdoor America program, the Federal Government has identified two rivers as Blueways. An effort is underway to have the Delaware River identified on a Federal level as a Blueway. This is a positive step to promoting the river as the unrivaled natural asset it is. This designation, while currently not associated with any funding, could help to prioritize the river for future funding and preservation efforts.

## 6.6 Gateway Signs

The National Park Service holds a lot of cache, which is underutilized and not well recognized in the region. One of the first and easiest things that could be accomplished is constructing welcome signs at the entrances to the Upper Delaware River that are in scale with the regional scale of the area itself. These signs can be designed to accommodate the inclusion of signs for the other entities represented in the regions, such as the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

## 6.7 The Big Eddy Esplanade: the Narrowsburg Riverwalk



This project on the shore of the Delaware River in Tusten will provide access to the river along stone and earthen riverbank restoration. The plans for this project have two main objectives, the first being the restoration of the riverbank with the use of local natural materials.

The construction of buildings along Main Street that are perched upon the riverbank has resulted in the disruption of water flow in this area of the riverbank. This disruption has caused a chronic erosion problem which requires the implementation of a program aimed at stabilization and restoration. This project is not only necessary from the standpoint of preservation of these buildings, but it will enhance the natural environment and the view from the river and the Pennsylvania approach from the Narrowsburg Bridge into NY.

This stabilization and restoration will also provide for the second objective, which is to create an inviting riverside park - the esplanade. The esplanade park will provide access to the river's edge which will become an important destination for tourists and visitors. The architect's



rendering depicts a naturally terraced landscape that cascades down to the river.

The stone wall components are designed to be built in the local construction vernacular using local natural materials and utilizing the local and regional labor force - providing good local construction jobs to the community. This kind of work is important in the region and could become a model for continuing the craft of traditional stone construction and could also inspire local apprenticeship programs. This project is a simple yet innovative solution - by nature, and provides sustainable economic and environmental benefits and will create good traditional local jobs. It will also inspire other river basin towns, many of which have similar issues to contend with along the river corridor.

Access to the riverfront along the Upper Delaware is to a great extent restricted to private land, and the limited public access that exists has not been integrated into the towns and hamlets. The project as envisioned is designed to provide an inviting and appealing destination at the river's edge, which enhances the river experience for resident and visitor, and also brings them into the historic downtown of Narrowsburg where they can be introduced to the local culture and arts community, local foods and farmer markets.

The esplanade is located just off the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, of which the Delaware River is the prominent focus. The scenic, recreational and natural resources in this area will be better utilized, enhanced and protected as a result of the esplanade project. The esplanade is in essence an extension of Main Street and will be a visitor and tourist destination by providing a unique and special place within the town to enjoy and experience the river. This will provide an important economic boost for the quaint commercial establishments lining the street.

The Town of Tusten, in which this project is located, held a public hearing to discuss the project, and for the Town Board to vote. The public reaction was overwhelmingly positive and the Town Board voted to approve the designs. The committee working on this project has continued meeting and working on other necessary approvals. The work will likely start in the eagle observation area due to work being done on the Narrowsburg Bridge. The committee will work with the appropriate DOT's to ensure that where possible work on one project will benefit the other.

## **6.8 Port Jervis Whitewater Kayak Park**

This project aims to take Riverside Park, a 40-acre prime waterfront site located in downtown Port Jervis, and make a premier kayak destination named The Port Jervis Whitewater Kayak Park (PJWKP). This park is expected to serve thousands of tri-state boaters, swimmers, and fishing enthusiasts. It will provide scenic viewing areas alongside the river for passive recreation, in addition to varying degrees of wave features providing for a wide range of users from novice boaters to expert kayakers. The PJWKP is further envisioned as having stream side seating, picnic areas, walking trails, and deep, slow pools and eddies for increased fishing access. The PJWKP represents the only planned Whitewater Kayak Park in the entire Hudson Valley as well as an addition to the 32 existing Whitewater Kayak Parks in the entire United

States.

The hope for this project is to bring people to the river and foster an appreciation for the natural environment, which will lead to an increase in environmental education and participation in outdoor activities amongst residents and visitors. The park's uniqueness will contribute to the overall attractions of the Upper Delaware

## **6.9 Tusten Mountain Old Tusten Settlement**

Old Tusten Settlement is located along the Delaware by Ten Mile River. It is the area of the Town of Tusten first populated by white settlers in 1757 (Hawker) A stone arch bridge and Baptist church, both built in the 1800's, are all that remain there today. The Boy Scouts of America own the 12,000 acres around the site, and has worked with the community in the past to allow for public benefits such as a river access and a hiking trail.

During the charrette for this plan, community members identified this part of the Boy Scout property as having opportunities for public benefits that could also be beneficial to the Ten Mile River Boy Scout Camp. The group discussed limited vehicular access, tent camping, lean-tos, expanding the existing trails for hiking, cross country skiing, and snow shoeing, adding picnic areas and scenic overlooks.

## **6.10 Overlooks and Pull Outs**

Defined pull of zones contribute to recognition of a branded corridor. Currently, pull off zones along the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway are uncoordinated, and interpretive information is not consistent.

Charrette participants recommended having nodes of information throughout the corridor that would be coordinated around themes. The themes recommended were:

- Culture/history
- Natural History
- Regional Ecology
- Orientation/Scenic Views of the River Corridor/Historic Views
- Activities in the Corridor – Recreation, Visual and Performing Arts, Agriculture, Economic Centers, Local Businesses

Existing infrastructure could be used, and existing information could be incorporated.

Amenities such as picnic areas, scenic overlooks, and rest areas can offer rich and varied experiences while creating a sense of place. They offer a visitor a chance to stop and orient themselves.

## 6.11 Internet Hot Spots

Internet and cell phone coverage in the region is spotty and in need of improvement. As a result of the charrette, a recommendation was made for DPEM to assist the municipalities in installing internet hot spots at the town halls or other civic venues. This would provide some internet service while more regional coverage is being built.

These hot spots could also serve to bring visitors to an area where they might purchase items or use other services.

## 6.12 Wilderness Camping

Wilderness camping is also known as back country camping. It is unsupported, carry in/carry out camping that provides more solitude and few or no services. It is a type of camping that is largely lacking in the catchment area. Hickok Brook Multiple Use Area offers this type of camping, but cannot be accessed from the River.

One area that could provide wilderness camping is the Boy Scout Ten Mile River camp. It is remote but also accessible by vehicle for emergency and maintenance purposes. There could be a way to coordinate reservations so the general public would be able to use sites when the Boy Scouts are not.

## 6.13 The Narrowsburg School

The Narrowsburg School is being purchased by a local family from the Sullivan West School system. The family is looking to redevelop the site for community uses and is currently researching possibilities.



One of the previous proposals for the adaptive re-use of the Narrowsburg School was from a local group, The Solution Project. Their plan is to celebrate and support local food along the Upper Delaware River and Finger Lakes Regional Foodsheds through the creation of a Food Hub- supporting small farmers, value added processors while addressing growing demand for local food in NYC. The Solution Project's vision includes community education and 'agripreneurship' through strengthening existing local, regional and national partnerships with the ultimate goal of increasing local food production and consumption, improving the physical health of the community members and fostering community connections around a sustainable and community supported food.

The Solution Project seeks to establish a unique economic development initiative to support and preserve the natural assets of the Upper Delaware and Finger Lakes Regional through the creation of a Food Hub. By partnering with SUNY Sullivan with the creation of a western campus at this site, essential food systems related certification and job training programs will be provided. This initiative will be implemented by acquisition, renovating and repurposing this building as a mixed-use facility to serve these needs. Supporting small family farms and value added processors, this effort will also address the unmet demand for local food in the immediate community and the larger NYC market. The Solution Project's vision of adaptive reuse for the Narrowsburg School will serve as an example for the many other shuttered schools throughout New York State and will foster community education and 'agripreneurship' by strengthening existing local, regional and national partnerships.

Another proposal that is being discussed would use the school to consolidate the National Park Service operations while building on a visitor center concept. These two proposals could be compatible, but the town has proposed a summit to gather the interested parties together and put together a concept. Sullivan Renaissance has agreed to assist with a feasibility study once a concept is formulated and agreed upon.



## 6.14 Point Mountain

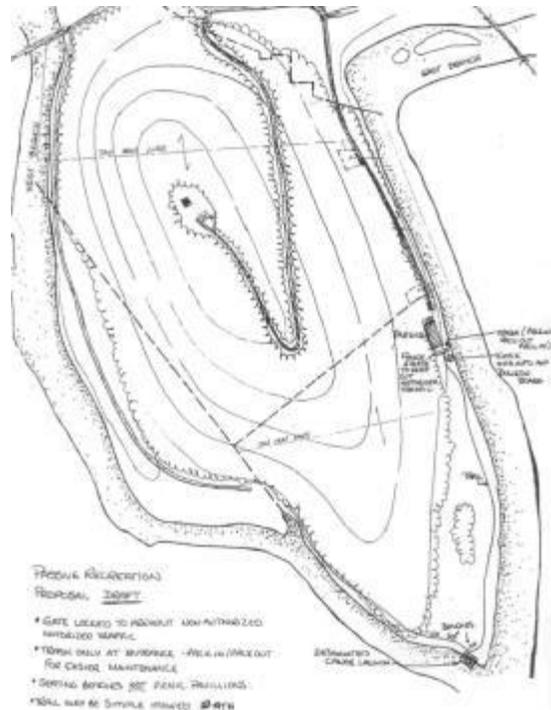
Concerned citizens, outdoor enthusiasts, municipal leaders and non-profit organizations have come together to raise funds for the purchase of a unique 78-acre tract of undeveloped land in the Village of Hancock, Delaware County, New York.



Known as Point Mountain, the parcel boasts 5,000 feet of Delaware riverfront and sits at the confluence of the East and West Branches of the Delaware River. Aptly named the “Wedding of the Waters” by early Native American settlers, the property marks the beginning of the main stem of the Delaware River, the longest free-flowing river in the Northeast and one of the most productive native trout fisheries in the United States. It is home as well to numerous breeding pairs of American Bald Eagles.

In addition to its geographic prominence and importance as a wildlife habitat, Point Mountain is significant for its biological diversity, rich anthropological and scenic resources, and potential as a park and recreational area for Catskill residents and visitors to upstate New York.

Although several efforts have been made over the past decade to put the Point into public hands, none to date has succeeded. Like many areas of the region, this section of mountain and riverfront faces severe development pressure. There is interest from private investors to subdivide it for residential development. In response, a coalition of citizens, municipal officials and regional and national conservation organizations have been working to acquire Point Mountain. With the lack of local resources to purchase, develop or even maintain a park, the coalition is seeking funds from individuals, foundations and state and federal government agencies to help make Point Mountain Park a reality.



## 7. At Work in the Region: Ongoing Regional, Local, and National Efforts

There are a multitude of groups whose efforts are focused, if not completely, at least partially within the Upper Delaware River corridor.

**Catskill Mountainkeeper's** mission is, "to be the strongest and most effective possible advocate for the Catskill region; working through a network of concerned citizens they promote sustainable growth and protect the natural resources essential to healthy communities." The Mountainkeeper participates in many of the regions coalitions such as Trailkeeper, the Upper Delaware River Roundtable and many of the studies lead by Columbia University's Urban Design Lab.

[www.catskillmountainkeeper.org](http://www.catskillmountainkeeper.org)

**Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed** was formed to help protect and restore the Delaware River, its tributaries, and surrounding landscapes. They held their first annual conference in June 2013 in Lambertville, New Jersey, and their second conference this year in Bethlehem, PA. They are currently lobbying for a Delaware River Basin Conservation Act, and for the Federal Government to put in their contribution towards funding the Delaware River Basin Commission.

[www.facebook.com/DelawareRiverCoalition](https://www.facebook.com/DelawareRiverCoalition)

**Columbia University Urban Design Lab** has used this area as a focus for several graduate studies thesis projects. The topics have ranged from agriculture to water. The reports can be downloaded from their website.

[www.urbandesignlab.columbia.edu](http://www.urbandesignlab.columbia.edu)

**The Common Waters Fund/ Common Waters Partnership** is a regional partnership of public and non-profit organizations and agencies focused on supporting the development of sustainable communities and working landscapes in the Delaware River watershed upstream of the Delaware Water Gap. Its primary focus is providing good scientific information at a regional level and encouraging cross boundary communication. Their mission is to conserve clean water, natural places and working lands through cooperation, scientific research, education, and technical assistance by and for the stakeholders of the region. The partnership strives to facilitate information sharing through joint publications, shared web delivery systems and establishment of communications network across municipal, county and state boundaries.

The Common Waters Fund was established as part of a forest-to-faucet initiative to preserve the quality of water in the Delaware River Basin by helping forest landowners in the Upper Delaware River Watershed improve the management of and conserve their



private forest lands, and to enlist downstream users who benefit to help in that conservation effort.

The partnership includes Building Consensus for Sustainability, Catskill Forest Association, Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Delaware River Basin Commission, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Park Service, and the Pinchot Institute.

[www.commonwatersfund.org](http://www.commonwatersfund.org)

**The Delaware Highlands Conservancy** is an accredited land trust dedicated to conserving the *natural heritage and quality of life* in the Upper Delaware River region in partnership with the region's landowners and communities. The Conservancy has offices on both sides of the Delaware River, and in addition to holding easements on 14,000 acres of land, they offer educational programs and actively engage in community outreach.

[www.delawarehighlands.org](http://www.delawarehighlands.org)

**Delaware River Basin Commission** manages the Delaware River Watershed, which stretches 330 miles from the Delaware River's headwaters near Hancock, N. Y., to the mouth of the Delaware Bay. In 1961, President Kennedy and the governors of Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York signed concurrent compact legislation into law creating this regional body with the force of law to oversee a unified approach to managing a river system without regard to political boundaries.

The members of this regional body include the four basin state governors and the Division Engineer, North Atlantic Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who serves as the federal representative.

The Compact's signing marked the first time since the nation's birth that the federal government and a group of states joined together as equal partners in a river basin planning, development and regulatory agency. It replaced a convoluted system of 43 state agencies, 14 interstate agencies, and 19 federal agencies that exercised a multiplicity of splintered powers and duties within the watershed,.

Commission programs include water quality protection, water supply allocation, regulatory review (permitting), water conservation initiatives, watershed planning, drought management, flood loss reduction, and recreation.

The DRBC is funded by the signatory parties, project review fees, water use charges, and fines, as well as federal, state, and private grants.

[www.state.nj.us/drbc/](http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/)

**Delaware River Greenway Partnership (DRGP)** is a non-profit organization founded in 1998 that works to bring individuals, communities, businesses, recreational users and all levels of government together to promote and protect a continuous corridor of natural and cultural resources along the Delaware River and its tributaries. In 2000, DRGP played a leading role in the successful campaign to include the Lower Delaware River in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Also, DRGP is the host organization for the federally designated Delaware River Scenic Byway.

Their strategic plan focuses on activities in three areas:

- River corridor protection
- Land and water trail development
- Stewardship and community involvement

[www.delrivgreenway.org](http://www.delrivgreenway.org)

**Delaware Riverkeeper/Delaware Riverkeeper Network** monitor the river and all of its tributaries for threats and challenges, and then take this information and advocate, educate and litigate for protection, restoration and change. The Delaware Riverkeeper and Delaware Riverkeeper Network work to restore natural balance in the River and watershed where it has been lost, and to ensure preservation where it still exists.

[www.delawariverkeeper.org](http://www.delawariverkeeper.org)

**Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR)** has a mission to protect, preserve and enhance the ecosystem and cold-water fishery of the Upper Delaware River System and to address any environmental threats to the area for the benefit of local communities, residents and visitors to the region. FUDR works with other organizations, area businesses and interested parties to enhance the ecosystem of the Upper Delaware System and its cold water fisheries.

[www.fudr.org](http://www.fudr.org)

**National Audubon Society** has two chapters that cover this region, one in Pennsylvania, and the Sullivan County Audubon Society in New York. Audubon's mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and earth's biological diversity.

<http://www.audubon.org/about-us>

**National Park Service's** mission as set forth in the "Organic Act", the act signed by President Woodrow Wilson to create the NPS, is, "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." The NPS is a bureau of the US Department of the Interior and it



manages 401 parks of the National Park System, as well as dozens of affiliated sites, the National Register of Historic Places, National Heritage Areas, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Historic Landmarks and National Trails.

Within the region, the National Park Service is seen within the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, as well as the Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area. In the Upper Delaware they work with the Upper Delaware Council and help implement the Upper Delaware River Management Plan.

[www.nps.gov/upde](http://www.nps.gov/upde)  
<http://www.nps.gov/dewa>

**Open Space Institute** was founded in 1974 to protect significant landscapes in New York State. They have been a leader in environmental conservation and look at funding and preservation from a landscape-level scale. They have expanded scope to include most of North America, but maintain a permanent fund specifically for New York State.

They have partnered with Columbia University's Urban Design Lab for several studies specific to this region including studies about farming and Marcellus shale exploration.

[www.osiny.org](http://www.osiny.org)

**Orange County Land Trust** was formed in 1993 with the mission of preserving the fields, forests, wetlands, ridgelines and river corridors in and around Orange County New York, for the benefit of the people.

[www.oclt.org](http://www.oclt.org)

**Pinchot Institute for Conservation** was founded in 1963 to strengthen forest conservation thought, policy and action by developing innovative, practical, and broadly supported solutions to conservation challenges and opportunities.

Through the Common Waters Partnership, the Pinchot Institute has been able to get the Upper Delaware regional stakeholders to focus on the Institute's priorities:

- Climate and Energy
- Water
- Forests
- Communities
- Policy
- Market-based Solutions
- Sustainable Bioenergy Development
- Conservation Science and Policy
- Community-based Conservation
- Sustainable Natural Resource Policy Development

[www.pinchot.org](http://www.pinchot.org)

**Sullivan County Visitors Association** markets Sullivan County to potential visitors while creating packages and products to help visitor experiences and facilitate trip planning.

[www.scva.net](http://www.scva.net)

**Sullivan Renaissance's** mission is to, "enhance the appearance of Sullivan County, New York while building a sense of pride and spirit in the community." They approach this mission through providing seed money for beautification projects throughout the county and funding larger projects through a competitive process. Their involvement in the Upper Delaware River corridor has included eagle viewing areas, business beautification and even assisting citizen influence on major bridge reconstruction projects.

[www.sullivanrenaissance.org](http://www.sullivanrenaissance.org)

The **Trailkeeper** project is a collaboration of government, not for profit and for profit entities that joined together to create a website and programming related to hiking and utilizing existing trails in Sullivan County. Prior to this effort, there was no one source to find out information on the public trails in the area. Within its first year, the website saw over 50,000 page hits, and sponsored multiple outreach events discussing health issues, marketing of the area through promotion of its assets such as hiking, as well as leading and promoting organized group hikes.

[www.trailkeeper.org](http://www.trailkeeper.org)

**Upper Delaware Council** evolved from special provisions in the 1978 legislation that designated the Upper Delaware River as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This provision called for the development of a regional management plan and program that would provide for the coordinated implementation and administration of the plan. The Upper Delaware Council was formed in 1988 as a result of that process.

Today, the UDC operates under a long term renewable Cooperative Agreement with the National Park Service and provides the mechanism to address actions by local, state and federal agencies that affect the river valley.

[www.upperdelawarecouncil.org](http://www.upperdelawarecouncil.org)

**Upper Delaware Preservation Coalition** formed to rally citizen involvement to block a proposed high voltage transmission line that would have had damaging fiscal impacts. Their mission is to help preserve the natural environment of the Upper Delaware River Valley.

[www.udpc.net](http://www.udpc.net)

**Upper Delaware River Roundtable** is a networking initiative to foster communication and collaboration between regional partners and stakeholders in the Upper Delaware River Valley and provide tools and educational opportunities to enhance the future of this national natural resource. They have sponsored initiatives such as hosting training for local



officials through Pace Law Center to explore land use strategies, consensus building and regional stewardship. They facilitated conversations about a whole systems approach to natural gas drilling and helped vet the Pinchot Institute’s Marcellus Shale Resources report. Most recently, they hosted a “Natural Economies” conference that promoted regional conversations on a range of topics related to the Upper Delaware River.

**Upper Delaware Scenic Byway** is a 71.35 mile section of New York State Route 97, which was designated a State Scenic Byway in 2002. The vision of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway is to, “highlight what is already an exceptional feature of the region’s appeal to residents and visitors alike – the highway itself. The most significant and attractive aspects of the byway will continue to be its spectacular highway vistas, access to the Delaware River and its resources, and the uniqueness of the communities along the byway.”

[www.upperdelawarescenicbyway.org](http://www.upperdelawarescenicbyway.org)

### **Watershed Agricultural Council**

**The William Penn Foundation** was founded in 1945 to improve the quality of life in the Greater Philadelphia region. Because one of the focus areas of the Foundation is ensuring a sustainable environment, they have expanded the region in which they work to include the Pocono Kittatiny watershed that includes a large portion of the Upper Delaware River. Their focus in this region is on water quality and ways to get stakeholders and residents upstream to care for the water quality downstream.

[www.williampenfoundation.org](http://www.williampenfoundation.org)



# Appendix A: Asset Inventory

Shopping	Cultural	Recreational	Institutional	Restaurants	Events	Lodging
27 Front	Erie RR Turntable	Church Street Park	Bon Secours Hospital	Angies Food on the Run (food truck)	Arbor Day Celebration	Days Inn
A&G Jewelers	Erie Depot	Port Jervis Youth Center	Information Center	Arlene and Tom's Diner	Arts Walk	
Canale's Gift Gallery	Fort Decker	Riverside Park	Port Jervis City Hall	Bagel Station	Christkindmarkt	
Casa Bella	Gillinder Glass Museum	West End Beach	Port Jervis Free Library	Brother Bruno's	City Wide Yard Sale	
Cedarwood Auction House	Graeb Pointe		Port Jervis Post Office	Burger King	Cruizin Port	
Dollar General	Point Peter			Erie Hotel	Delaware Run	
Family Dollar	Port Jervis Council on the Arts			Erie Trackside	Fall Foliage Festival	
Farmers Market	Presby Players			Gio's Gelato	Fireman's Parade	
Flora Laura	Stephen Crane/Orange Square Veterans Park			Good Friend Restaurant	First Night	
Gillinder Glass Gift Shop	Tri-State Monument			Homer's Coffee Shop	Flag Day	
Gina's Hope Chest	Up Front Exhibition Space			Kenny's Pizza	July 4th Reading of the Declaration of Independence	
Jamaica Junction				Len and Jo's	Movie Night in the Park (Summer)	
Laurel Grove Nursery				MI Casita	National Night Out	
Marciel's Antiques				Ming Moon	Pearl Harbor Memorial	
Neversink Lumber/ACE Hardware				Port Jervis Diner	Soap Box Derby	
Port Jervis Save-A-Lot				Port Jervis Gourmet Pizza	Summer Band Concerts	
Quicksilver Antiques				Riverside Creamery	Tree Lighting/Holiday Parade	
Royal Furniture				Subway	Tri-State Chamber Holiday	
Samaki Fish				Sweet D's	Tri-State Classic 5K/10K	
The Variety Show				The Lynx	Tri-State Film Festival	
Trico TV&Appliance						
				Victoria A. Ingrassia Private Chef & Caterer		Eddy Farm Retreat and Conference Center
			Big Eddy Retreat and Conference Center			
			Homestead School	Dips N Dogs	Annual Flea Market	Burn Brae Mansion (Limited)
Pete's Country Store			Kadampa	The Millbrook Inn	Burn Brae Mansion Haunted House	Inn the Glen
				Yeoman's Pizza	Children's Christmas Party	Kadampa
					Cultural Series Concerts	Nolans (opening soon)
					Durn Brae Mansion Murder Mystery	
					Earth Day	
					July 4th Parade	
					Memorial Day	
Barryville Antiques	Minisink Battle Ground	Cedar Rapids Outfitter	Sunshine Hall Library	Bakers	Farmers Market	ECCE Bed and Breakfast
Barryville Bottle	Roebing Bridge	Indian Head Canoes		Barryville Hotel (BVH)	Mid Winter Warm Up	Mount Pleasant Bed & Breakfast
Barryville Farmers Market		Kittatiny Paintball		Carriage House	Pumpkin Festival	The Carriage House



# Appendix A: Asset Inventory

Shopping	Cultural	Recreational	Institutional	Restaurants	Events	Lodging
211 Bridge (antiques, etc.)						
Campfield Stone Mason						
		Skimmers Falls			Coffee, Tea, and History	
Callicoon Farmer's Market	Callicoon Movie Theater	Delaware Youth Center	Western Sullivan Public Library	1906 Restaurant	Easter Egg Hunt	Villa Roma Resort & Conference Center
Callicoon Wine Merchant	Under the Moon in Callicoon Summer Concert Series	Delaware Youth Center Playground	CRMC Hospital-Grover Hermann Division	Café Devine	Tractor Parade	Western Hotel
Pecks Market	Holy Cross Church	Delaware Youth Center Pool	Delaware Valley Job Corps Center	Landers River Café	Farmers Market	
IOU Thrift Store	Callicoon United Methodist Church	Delaware Youth Center River Access	Sullivan County Democrat	Matthew's On Main	5K River Run	
Lee Hartwell Antiques	St. James Episcopal Church	Landers River Trips	Callicoon Post Office	Peppino's	Callicoon Street Fair	
Delaware Valley Farm & Garden	Kenoza Lake Methodist Church	Callicoon Kristal Bowl	Hortonville Post Office	Callicoon Creamery	Community Yard Sale	
Callicoon Supply		Villa Roma Ski Area	Kenoza Lake Post Office	1906 Restaurant	Halloween Parade	
Western Hotel Liquor Store		RV Park on Delaware River	Mike Preis Insurance	Villa Roma Resort	Halloween Dance	
Callicoon Natural Foods & Juice Bar			George Burkle Insurance	Garden Café at the Villa Roma	Holiday Craft Fair	
Kohler Lumber			Bank of America	Beechwoods Restaurant at the Villa Roma Clubhouse	Christmas in Callicoon	
Roche's Garage			Jeff Bank	Sidetracks	Kiwanis Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast	
Buddenhagen's Garage			Catskill Hudson Bank	Callicoon Brewing Co.		
Dick's Auto Sales				Seamus's Public House & Eatery	Callicoon Firemen's Pancake Breakfast	
Jeffersonville Garage			Callicoon Counseling Center	John's Chuck Wagon	Hortonville Field Day	
Sportsmen's Den/Diehl's Farm Market			Dr. Linda F. Borelli, Chiropractor	Ronnie's Deli at the Villa Roma	Kenoza Lake Fire Department Chicken BBQ	
Rosehaven Alpacas Farm Store			Dr. Maureen Whipple, Family Dentistry		Kenoza Lake Fire Department Roast Beef Dinner	
Nature's Reserve Alpacas Farm Store			Stewart-Murphy Funeral Home		Hortonville Fire Department Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast	
Tree and Three			Hortonville Fire Dept.			
Trash Queen			Callicoon Fire Dept.			
Kountry Korner			Kenoza Lake Fire Dept. Protection Hose Co. #1, Jeffersonville			
Antique Center of Callicoon			Baum Law Offices			
Georgia Chambers Studio & Gallery			Frances Clemente, Esq.			
Ridgeback Sports			Klimchok Real Estate			
Landers River Mart			Matthew J. Freda Real Estate			
			Callicoon Real Estate			

# Appendix A: Asset Inventory

Shopping	Cultural	Recreational	Institutional	Restaurants	Events	Lodging
		DEC Boat Launch				
Tops Market	Alma Yoga	Town of Hancock Golf Course	NBT Bank	Hancock House	Hancock Firemen's Field Days	Becky's Bed & Breakfast
Vetrone's Beverage Express	Emory United Methodist Church	French Woods Golf & X-Ski Resort	Sidney Federal Credit Union	Hancock Town House	East Branch Firemen's Field Days	Bass Cabins
Bisbee Lumber	Calvary Baptist Church	Capra Cinemas	Louise Adelia Read Memorial Library	Circle E Diner		Hancock House Hotel
Marino's Outdoor World	Hancock Baptist Church	My Shady Lady	Hancock Family Practice	Little Italy		Capra Inn Motel
Hancock Liquor Store	1st Presbyterian Church	Fox Bowling Center		Cow Lick		Smith's Colonial Motel
Crazy Daisy Florist Shop	St. Paul's Catholic Church	Hancock Video		The New China		The Cranberry Inn
Cerama Craft Florals & Gifts	Rock Valley One Room Schoolhouse			Bluestone Grill		
Family Dollar Store				Sweets & Eats		
B & R Furniture				The Bakery		
Radio Shack				McDonald's		
Delaware Delicacies Smokehouse				Subway		
				Hancock Country Store and Kitchen		
				Hancock Getty Food Mart		
	D&H Canal				Delaware River Sojourn	Scenic Byway, Route 97
					Hot Kiln Tour	Susquehanna Railroad
	Bethel Woods					Best Western Inn at Hunts Landing (Matamoras PA)
	Eddie Adams Farm					Central House Resort (Beach Lake PA)
	Forestburgh Playhouse					Hampton Inn (Milford/Matamoras PA)
	Grey Towers					Hotel Forchere (Milford PA)
	High Point State Park					Roebling Inn on the Delaware (Lackawaxen PA)
	NACL Theater					Settlers Inn (Hawley PA)
	Weekend of Chamber Music					The Inn at Lackawaxen (PA)
						Villa Roma Resort and Conference Center (Callicoon, NY)
						Woodloch Resort (Hawley, PA)





# Appendix B: The Upper Delaware River: Making the Connections

Organization	Project	Location	Protecting the Resource	Other
Western Sullivan Public Library System				
Wayne County PA				
WSU Radio				
WVF Radio				
Western Agricultural Council				
Upper Delaware State Byway				
Upper Delaware River Roundtable				
Upper Delaware Council				
TR State Chamber of Commerce (NY, NJ, PA)				
Three Herald Record				
The Nature Conservancy				
Sussex County Planning (NJ)				
Sullivan Renaissance				
Sullivan County Visitors Association				
Sullivan County Planning (NY)				
Sullivan County Partnership				
Sullivan County PA				
Sullivan County Democrat				
Sullivan County OPW				
Sullivan County Community College				
Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce				
Sullivan County Board of Realtors				
Sullivan Alliance for Sustainability				
Shorline Bus Company				
River Reporter				
Regional Planning Association				
North Lewis Chamber of Commerce				
North Lewis (PA)				
Pike County Planning (PA)				
Pike County PA				
Orange County Tourism				
Orange County Planning (NY)				
Orange County Land Trust				
Open Space Institute				
Open Space Cultural Laboratory				
North American Railroad				
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation				
New York State Department of Transportation				
Natural Lands Trust				
National Park Service (Upper Delaware River & Delaware Water Gap)				
National Audubon Society				
Narrowburg Chamber of Commerce				
Morgan Outdoors				
Municipalities				
Lumberland Music Series				
Livers & Guides				
Hospitality Green				
Hancock Partners				
Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce				
Friends of the Upper Delaware River				
Forstburgh Playhouse				
Eddie Adams Farm				
Delaware Valley Opera				
Delaware Valley Arts Alliance				
Delaware Riverkeeper				
Delaware River Coalition				
Delaware River Blue Way				
Delaware River Basin Commission				
Delaware Highlands Conservancy				
Delaware County Planning (NY)				
Delaware County Chamber of Commerce				
Delaware Company of New York, Inc.				
D&H Canal Historical Society				
D&H Canal Historical Expansion				
Cornell Cooperative Extension				
Cooperage - Harford PA				
Common Waters Partnership				
Coaston Historical Society				
Catkill Shoppers				
Catkill Regional Medical Group				
Callicoon Business Association				
Boy Scouts of America				
Bethel Woods Center for the Arts				
Baldet Creek Historical Society				
8 Trade				
Promote cooperation in securing funding for outdoor venues				
Build upon "locally grown" and "locally made" campaigns				
Improve signage for cultural arts and historic resources				
5				
Progress				
National Park Service Corwin Farms				
Fort Delaware Museum				
The Delaware River Blainey				
Blainey				
Blainey Associates				
Blainey Logistics				
Gateway Sign (Entry sign for NY)				
Big Edgy episode, The				
Port Lewis Whitewater Kayak Park				
Hickok Brook Multiple Use Area				
Tusker Mountain Old Tusten Settlement				
Overlook & Pull Out				
Intermet Inc. Sports				
Wilderness Company				
The Nazareth School				

# Appendix C: Plan Goal Matrix

Project Feature	Delaware River Water Trail Project	Fremont Comp Plan	Delaware Comp Plan	Cochecton Comp Plan	Tusten Comp Plan	Highland Comp Plan	Lumberland Comp Plan	New York State Open Space Plan 2009 (in the process of being updated)	Dr. Tarlow	River Management Plan 1986	Sullivan County Economic Development Charrette 2009	Delaware River Basin Assessment 2013*	Conserving Open Space & Managing Growth	The Marcellus Shale: Resources for Stakeholders in the Upper Delaware Watershed Region	Ground Up: Cultivating Sustainable Agriculture in the Catskill Region**	A Citizen's Guide to Residential Development***	Notes
Public Access	X*					X**	X***	X		X							* additional access between Barryville and Mongaup ** Town owned access in Barryville *** Pond Eddy Bridge access
More group camping opportunities	X	X			X*	X**											* high end RV park ** Hickok Brook
Traveler connection to bed and breakfasts	X																
Implement blueway signage	X																
Make signage bi-lingual	X																
Safety and education	X		X			X				X*			X*				*educate public about sites
Marketing	X	X				X			X*		X						* go beyond the negative- work w/PA
River stewardship "leave no trace"	X																
Links between water and land trails	X				X*		X**						X				* red dot hiking trail ** PA hiking trails
Create a special zoning district for areas of special value such as the Upper Delaware River to <a href="#">protect resources</a>		X	X	X	X	X*	X	X	X**	X							* river overlay RMP ** honor the land and recognize its sense of spirituality
Economically revitalize town and hamlets		X	X		X	X*	X			X**			X				* historic district for Barryville River Road **Maintain local economy and tax base
Project Feature	Delaware River Water Trail	Fremont Comp Plan	Delaware Comp Plan	Cochecton Comp Plan	Tusten Comp Plan	Highland Comp Plan	Lumberland Comp Plan	New York State Open Space	Dr. Tarlow	River Management	Sullivan County Economic	Delaware River Basin	Conserving Open Space	Marcellus Shale	Ground Up	Citizen's Guide	Notes
Promote tourism		X	X	X	X	X*	X			X	X		X				* heritage tourism, dhcanal, silver age resorts, mini battlgrnd, roebeling bridge
Support continuation of natural resource industries		X															
Design standards for hamlet development		X				X											
Address recommendations of the RMP		X	X		X	X	X										
Sullivan West empty Schools			X		X												
Preserve community character (UpDe)			X		X	X	X	X	X*	X			X*				* rural
Trespassing problems were the greatest			X														
Congestion and lack of parking			X*		X**												* Calicoon ** Narrowsburg
River use has not increased since 83		X															
Public restrooms					X												
Provide strong infrastructure (sewer, water, broadband, transportation)					X	X*			X**								* broadband/highway infrastructure ** high speed rail access
Connect river to mainstreet					X												
Develop access to the flats for public events					X												
Water recreation area for residents					X												
Fort Delaware as info and service for visitors					X	X											
Ridgeline protection					X		X	X									
Steep slope					X		X										
Protect scenic vistas					X	X	X	X	X	X							
Riparian buffer						X	X						X				
Restore flood plains					X		X	X					X				
Exceptional cold water fishing							X	X	X								



## Appendix C: Plan Goal Matrix

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\*The Delaware River Basin Assessment is an overview of the outstandingly remarkable values (ORV) offered by the river segments within the basin. Our segment, the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, is classified as having Cultural, Ecological, Geological, Recreational and Scenic ORVs. Therefore, this report goes into detail about why our segment has these designation but does not discuss ways to continue protecting them or ways in which they are already protected.

\*\* The Ground Up assessment is a look at multiple agriculture operations within Sullivan County and the value of these operations. This assessment looks at the owners of successful farming operations and their commitment to producing quality produce and dairy, while working hard to ensure that sustainability and environmental preservation are considered at the fore-front. The report suggests that these farming operations be given more local support and recognition.

\*\*\* A Citizen's Guide to Residential Development is exactly what the title implies; It is a guide that discusses the current ecological and environmental situations that the county is in and outlines the processes that the county has concerning residential development. The guide brings to the readers attention the environmental issues that the Upper Delaware region is facing and how certain residential development practices may contribute to the worsening of those issues.