





Congressional designation, 1978

Conference of Upper Delaware  
Townships (COUP), 1981

River Management Plan drafts, 1980s

Cooperative Agreement with NPS,  
1984 (federal partner)

Final River Management Plan, 1986

UDC board: 13 municipalities, NY,  
PA (15 voting) & DRBC



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ESTABLISHED IN 1988 AS A 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION THROUGH CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION TO COORDINATE THE FEDERAL-STATE-LOCAL PARTNERSHIP THAT COOPERATIVELY ADMINISTERS THE UPPER DELAWARE SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN







The mission of the Upper Delaware Council is to conserve, enhance and promote the Upper Delaware River Corridor's natural and cultural resources and social and economic vitality by fostering cooperation among public and private partners to implement the River Management Plan.

UDC MISSION STATEMENT, ADOPTED JANUARY 2021



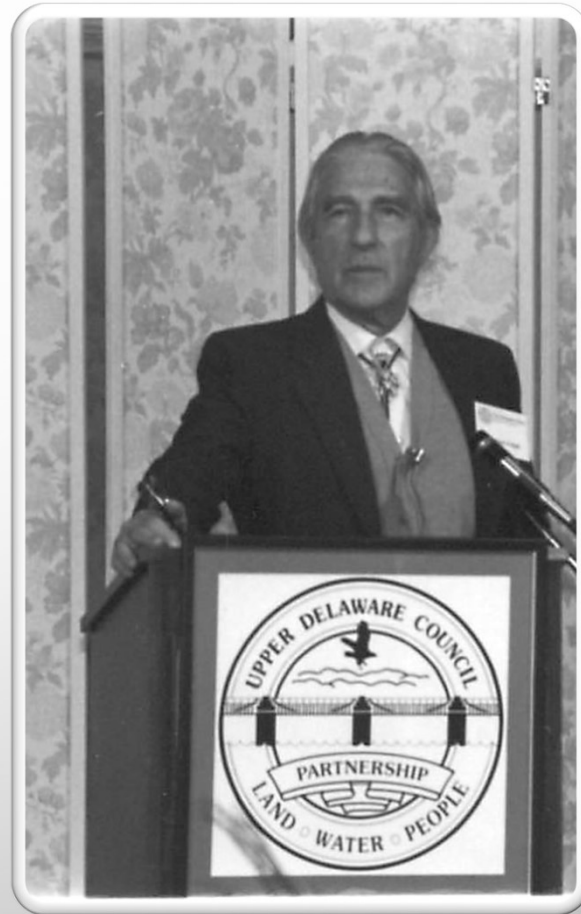
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## FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

THE FINAL RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN ADOPTED IN 1986 OUTLINED A 60% FEDERAL/40% STATES COST-SHARING RATIO WITH A \$500,000 ANNUAL BUDGET AND FIVE FULL-TIME STAFF POSITIONS.

THE STATE OF NEW YORK AND COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AS ACTIVE VOTING MEMBERS, WOULD EACH CONTRIBUTE \$100,000 AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR/NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WOULD ALLOCATE \$300,000 THROUGH A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT LINE ITEM IN THE UPPER DELAWARE SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVER'S ANNUAL BUDGET.



## STATIC FEDERAL \$\$ AND ZERO ANTICIPATED STATE FUNDING

- WHILE THE NPS MET ITS COMMITMENT, NEITHER STATE EVER CONTRIBUTED ITS SHARES. THE COUNCIL OPERATES ON A 60% FLAT BUDGET.
- ADJUSTING FOR INFLATION USING THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, THE \$300,000 FROM 1988 WOULD BE AT **\$769,568** TODAY.
- INSTEAD, THE PURCHASING POWER IS WORTH ONLY **\$116,645**. *“It doesn’t take an accountant to realize that the UDC is running on fumes,”* says UDC 2023 Chairperson Aaron Robinson.



# STAFF POSITIONS ELIMINATED



- THE RMP RECOMMENDED IN 1986 THAT THE UDC HAVE A TEAM OF 5 FULL-TIME STAFF PLUS ASSISTANCE FROM CONSULTANTS.
- THE UDC HAS BEEN UNDERSTAFFED FROM THE START WITH 4 AND ONE CONSULTANT.
- IN 2012, THE STAFFING LEVEL DROPPED TO 3 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES AND A PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER.
- AT PRESENT FUNDING LEVELS, THE UDC WILL BE FORCED TO ELIMINATE ANOTHER POSITION IN 5-6 YEARS, DESPITE NO DECREASE IN THE WORKLOAD.



# A VALUE PROPOSITION

- A FIRST STEP IN DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS MODEL IS TO EVALUATE THE SERVICES THAT THE UDC PROVIDES, THE BENEFICIARIES OF THAT SERVICE, AND THE PAYMENTS IT RECEIVES FOR PROVIDING THOSE SERVICES.
- “THE UDC ... SERVES A VALUABLE SERVICE IN THE SOCIAL ORDER OF RIVER CONSERVATION. ITS ROLE AS THE ARBITER BETWEEN LAND, WATER, AND PEOPLE IS MORE RELEVANT NOW THAN EVER BEFORE. WHILE THE FIRE THAT FIRST BRANDED THE UDC HAS SINCE SUBSIDED, THE NEED FOR LOCAL CONTROL IS JUST AS STRONG AS WHEN THE MATCH WAS FIRST LIT.” [FISCAL STUDY REPORT BY MICHAEL D. CRANE, Dec. 2021]



## **Upper Delaware Economic Impacts of Tourism**

### *National Park Service Visitor Spending Effects Report for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River:*

- ❖ 270,718 visitors spent \$13.5 million in recreational dollars in 2022.
- ❖ This visitation supported a total of 129 jobs, with \$7 million in labor income and \$11.3 million in value added income.
- ❖ Tourism generated \$17.1 million in economic output to gateway communities surrounding the Upper Delaware.

# RESOURCE PROTECTION





# ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION



# LIAISON ASSISTANCE AND OUTREACH





# UDC FAMILY RAFT TRIP

HELD 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF AUGUST TO PROMOTE STEWARDSHIP





# ANNUAL UPPER DELAWARE LITTER SWEEPS

*Began in 2021, with land clean-ups in all 15 communities*



# RIVER AND SHORELINE CLEAN-UP GRANTS

*UDC AWARDED \$48,403.13 FROM 2014-2023*





# ANNUAL RIVER VALLEY AWARDS BANQUET

*ONLY GROUP TO RECOGNIZE UPPER DELAWARE ACHIEVEMENTS*



# PUBLIC MEETINGS, PRESENTATIONS AND TRAININGS





# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

AWARDED \$943,096 FOR 264 PROJECTS SINCE 1988



# MONITORING DEVELOPMENTS





# CELEBRATING THE UPPER DELAWARE RIVER VALLEY



*January 11, 1988 letter to Upper Delaware Council Chairperson Phil Fitzpatrick on River Management Plan completing its final review:*

**“The legislation which the plan implements breaks new ground by assuring the future of the valley’s residents. It replaces federal land acquisition with a management framework based on local zoning and state laws. With your commitment to see that the legislation and this plan work, you have chosen an ambitious path for your communities that, if adhered to, will improve the vitality of the region’s economy and maintain the independence and leadership of your local institutions... The Upper Delaware is unique in the eastern United States, and that is why Congress acted to protect it before it was lost. We urge you to take this conservation plan seriously and make the most of it. If you do, fifty years from now when the Upper Delaware is still a quality river, your children and their children will thank you for the steps you are taking today.”**

*~ Members of Congress Benjamin A. Gilman, Matthew F. McHugh, Joseph M. McDade*



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# Questions?

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Full Council meets 1st Thursday monthly, 7 pm



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