

Sustaining and Growing Delaware River Communities

A SOURCEBOOK



Situated near America's national parks, gateway communities benefit from beautiful landscapes, abundant wildlife and proximity to historic sites. Gateway communities included in this Sourcebook largely are located near the Delaware River between Hancock, New York and Dover, Delaware and include gateway communities of the:

Appalachian National Scenic Trail: New York | New Jersey | Pennsylvania
Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River: New York | Pennsylvania
Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area: New Jersey | Pennsylvania
First State National Historical Park: Delaware | Pennsylvania

The Sourcebook focuses on best practice models and successful approaches for gateway communities to meet the following goals:

1

Engage local entrepreneurs, small businesses, civic groups, and governments in providing a distinctive, authentic visitor experience.

2

Highlight respect for local culture and tradition by emphasizing and promoting local character.

3

Create a nationally and internationally branded travel destination.

4

Promote the region's unique character by preserving natural habitats, heritage sites, scenic and recreational appeal and local culture.

5

Enhance sustainability and authentic visitor experiences.

To view the full sourcebook, go to www.npca.org/sourcebook

Above: Port Jervis, New York ©Jon Bilous | Dreamstime

Examples of Best Practices and Strategies



Callicoon, New York

Callicoon Depot, a **historic 1896 train station**, was recently **repurposed** as the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway visitor center and town commons. The Callicoon Business Association signed a long-term lease with the Central New York Railroad Corporation to implement grant-funded improvements and turn the station into a public space. Tours of the revived historic depot started in April 2021.

Musicians Brewster Smith and Elizabeth Rose perform at Callicoon Depot ©Evan Eisenberg



Milford, Pennsylvania

Milford Borough has an extensive **Street System Guide** built into its town **Design Standards code**. The guide outlines best practices for cul-de-sacs, street widths, street alignments, street grades, intersections and storm drainage to maintain the town's character.

Downtown Milford, Pennsylvania ©Jeff Greenberg



Blirstown, New Jersey

In partnership with the National Park Service, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy can designate a gateway community as an “**Appalachian Trail Community**.” Benefits can include increased community viability and economic health; increased community environmental stewardship; increased sense of place and cultural sustainability; and trail-friendly promotion through ATC-assisted marketing. The greater Blirstown area in Warren County is New Jersey's first designated “Appalachian Trail Community.”

Historic Blirstown Village decorated for Fall Fest ©Cynthia Montes



Wilmington, Delaware

The **Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Trail Program** is a state-level matching grant program assisting with public parkland acquisition and outdoor recreation facility development. Wilmington has used this program to fund 29 projects, including the Northern Delaware Greenways Trail, with the most recent completed project being the 2018 renovation of Eden Park.

Northern Delaware Greenways Trail ©Terri Jones

This sourcebook is intended to be useful to residents, municipal staff and others seeking to preserve their community's character, to promote their community's health and that of their national park neighbor, and to stimulate their local economy for the benefit of their residents and visitors.

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