"The Delaware Basin States, it should be emphasized, are by no means relying solely on the Federal Government to provide outdoor recreation facilities for their ever-expanding population.

"... Voters of the three Delaware Basin States of New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey have in the 1960s authorized the expenditure of more than a quarter of a billion dollars for the purchase of land that is to be preserved for conservation and recreation purposes. ... The land acquisition program of each of these states has been planned on the assumption that the Tocks Island Recreation Project would one day be a reality. The program ... is, therefore, an integral part of an interstate network of open space and preservation programs financed largely by local citizen initiative."

from Statement by Delaware River Basin Commission before the National Parks Subcommittee of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Subcommittee, June 8, 1964
"Unlike other proposals, the Tocks Island Recreation Area is an integral part of an already authorized multiple-purpose dam and reservoir project. Advance engineering and preparation for the project on the dam and reservoir area has been under way by the Corps of Engineers, and construction will begin within the next two to three years. Official authorization of the recreation area must come soon before action on the dam gets too far along, for to allow the recreation area authorization and planning to lag behind the reservoir work might result in the loss of this outstanding recreation facility altogether.

Each of the bills introduced in the Congress to authorize the recreation area states that the plan is proposed 'in order to further the purposes' of the 1961 Delaware Basin Compact. They state further that the administration of the Federal responsibilities in connection with the project shall be undertaken in a manner 'consistent' with the Compact. The provisions in the Tocks Island Recreation Bills . . . are 100 percent inline with the spirit of the Delaware Basin Compact as approved by the Congress and the four States in 1961.'”

from Statement by Delaware River Basin Commission before the National Parks Subcommittee of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Subcommittee, June 8, 1964.
THE SPLENDOR OF A 37-MILE LAKE

winding through the extraordinarily beautiful Delaware River Valley just upstream from the scenically famous Delaware Water Gap and within a hundred miles of 30 million people gives the Tocks Island area national significance as a potential Recreational Area. About 62 airline miles west of the heart of New York City and 75 miles north of central Philadelphia, Tocks Island lies just within the western edge of Megalopolis, the east coast’s rapidly developing regional super-city.

Today, 15 percent of our Nation’s population lives within 100 miles of the Tocks Island area. By 2010 more than 47 million people will live within 100 miles and more than a million within 25 miles.

National Recreation Areas are created to serve people. To serve these millions—now and in the future—the National Park Service proposes the creation of a large National Recreation Area around a 37-mile man-made lake. It would be varied enough in topography to provide facilities for almost every type of outdoor recreation . . . large enough to provide a satisfactory outdoor recreation experience to an estimated 10 million visitors annually . . . and big enough to preserve the natural scene for all time.

Nucleus of the area’s recreational importance will be the multipurpose lake created by a dam now on the drawing boards of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Part of the overall plan for the Delaware River Basin, this dam was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1962 to provide supplies of water, flood control, production of hydroelectric power and recreation. The Public Works Act of 1964 and 1965 provided $690,000 for planning the dam and its impoundment.

Planning, development and management of all recreational aspects of the entire Tocks Island project by the National Park Service was included in the Comprehensive Plan of the Delaware River Basin Commission, adopted March 28, 1962. To date, however, no authorization has been made to include the additional lands and facilities needed to develop this recreational potential; thus the need for Congressional authorization to establish a Tocks Island National Recreation Area.

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THE NEED

By the turn of the century, the report of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission states, the people of our metropolitan areas will have the greatest need for outdoor recreation, and their needs will be the most difficult to satisfy. Urban centers have the fewest facilities (per capita) and the sharpest competition for land use. In their recommendations, the Commission urges highest priority for acquisition of areas close to population centers. "The need is critical--opportunities to place these areas in public ownership is fading each year as other uses encroach."

THE AREA

The extensive water-oriented recreational resource of the 14,800-acre Tocks Island Reservoir furnishes the stimulus and justification for setting aside of adjacent lands in the Delaware River Valley for public use. This artificial lake will extend 37 miles up the main stem of the Delaware River and 9 miles up Flat Brook Valley. It will have an average width of a half-mile, and a maximum of about 1-1/2 miles. At the dam, the normal depth of the lake will be 105 feet.

The terrain of this area is interesting and varied. Many places on the Pennsylvania side, the land rises steeply about 800 feet above the future lakeshore to a rolling plateau.

Today within 100 miles of 30 million people, the region is rapidly becoming a resort for individuals, families and groups. Even now there is virtually no place along the river where a person who does not own property or belong to a private fishing or hunting club can get on to the land. The completion of the Tocks Island Dam will increase this recreational value and is expected to produce a flood of developments. It is difficult to conceive of such a large mountain and valley area overrun with developments and no longer an attractive amenity. But a subdivision has already begun on the crest of the Delaware Water Gap and around Hidden Lake. And the pattern of developments mushrooming in the region surrounding the proposed Area indicates that similar developments will soon be made in the Area, if immediate action is not taken.

Only Federal ownership of a large area—as recommended in this proposal—can prevent the development of this resource for a few. Only Federal intervention can reserve the natural scenic character for public recreation use.

These scenic qualities, the capacity of the reservoir and the surrounding terrain to provide a variety of varied recreational activities, the ease of access to a large portion of the Nation's population having a tremendous need for outdoor recreational opportunities combine to give the proposed Tocks Island National Recreation Area national significance. The National Park Service would plan, develop and manage these lands and waters to accommodate the greatest possible number of recreationally beneficial and meaningful uses and still protect their natural and recreational values for future generations.
RECREATIONAL VALUES

For generations, the Delaware Water Gap has been renowned as a spectacular scenic attraction. Today this whole valley area—its mountains, waterfalls, ponds and the River—is becoming more attractive for individual, family and group outdoor recreation. Within a few years the extraordinarily beautiful valley between the Water Gap and Port Jervis, New York, will be enhanced for recreation by the creation of the Tocks Island reservoir.

This is true, not just because of the scenic qualities of the area for outdoor recreation, but because it is conveniently located to so many recreation seekers. It would be difficult to find another area so attractive, so unspoiled, so endowed by nature, or so strategically located to take care of the recreational needs of so many millions of Americans as this section of the Delaware Valley and its environs. Indeed, it could not be better located to serve this huge urban complex.

That this region needs such recreation resources is made evident by a drive through the miles and miles of city, suburb and factory districts surrounding the eastern metropolitan centers. These people are dependent upon already overtaxed state and local park facilities for their outdoor recreation experience. Even if existing parks and recreation areas increased their facilities to a theoretical maximum there would still be a major deficit. Programs for additional parks and recreational areas—New Jersey's "Green Acres" program and Pennsylvania's "Project 70"—are being built around the Tocks Island National Recreation Area proposal.

A Federal reservation surrounding the Tocks Island reservoir is proposed primarily to supply outdoor recreation needs. The National Recreation Area designation is agreed to be the most appropriate classification for this reservation, as its basic purpose includes recreational activities normally banned in National Parks, such as hunting, and installations that would normally be excluded from a National Park as incompatible with the mandate to preserve the integrity of the natural scene.

Accomplishment of these recreational goals for today's visitors is adequate justification for the Tocks Island National Recreation Area.

The proposed Tocks Island National Recreation Area, developed and managed as outlined in this brochure, meets the primary criteria governing selection, establishment and administration of National Recreation Areas as devised by the Recreation Advisory Council: a spacious area, developed for high carrying capacity, offering significant recreation opportunities in answer to high priority needs, and conveniently located to urban areas in an area requiring Federal involvement. But when the values of this region to the citizens of Megalopolis are considered, the need for protection is apparent.
THE RECREATION ADVISORY COUNCIL does not require scenic beauty for a National Recreation Area, but there is no question that the variety and caliber of the natural scene adds measurably to the recreational value of any area. The Tocks Island Lake with its hundred miles of varied shoreline, the several miles of free-flowing river, and the surrounding terrain will provide a natural setting which can accommodate, within the four seasons of the year, ten million meaningful recreation visits.

The Tocks Island region contains a variety of habitats that add to its value for general recreation and as a living laboratory for the serious study of nature.

About a century ago, during the great lumbering days, the original white pine forest was stripped and the streams polluted with sawdust. The tanbark industry followed, taking most of the yellow oak and hemlock. Forest fires subsequently burned much of what remained. But nature healed herself. Today most of the land is covered with well developed forests of second growth hardwoods: oaks, ash, tulip and maples predominate. With protection, the slopes and uplands of another fifty years will be covered primarily with new white pine forests.

The river cliffs with their talus offer another habitat for nature study, with magnificent views of the surrounding country for climbers who succeed in scaling their crests.

The deep ravines on the Pennsylvania side of the valley present still another natural habitat. These gorges are natural gems, with clean trout streams and waterfalls, luxuriant and varied vegetation, nesting birds and mammals.

Other distinct habitat types may be listed: slope and upland deciduous forest, old fields, sphagnum bogs, scrub oak barrens, beaver ponds, small artificial and natural ponds, and scattered bits of climax forest. The reservoir and its shoreline will form new and interesting habitats.

Fishes

Due to the popularity of angling as a sport, the fish of this region are now and will continue to be very important assets. The impoundment made by the Tocks Island Dam some authorities believe, will probably become the most heavily fished lake on earth. With careful management, the waters within the proposed Recreation Area can maintain good fishing in spite of the expected intense fishing pressures.

About half of the 45 known species present today can be expected to provide sport fishing. Most sought after will be the brown and rainbow trout, large and small-mouthed bass, chain pickerel, walleyed pike, shad, panfish of various species, and possibly the striped bass.

Amphibians & Reptiles

About 23 species of amphibians (frogs, toads and salamanders) and 22 species of reptiles (turtles, lizards and snakes) live in the Tocks Island area. Preservation of the area will make available to science teachers a living laboratory.

Birds

The combination of habitats make this section of the Delaware Valley something of an oasis for birds and a popular field area for "watchers." About half of the 215 identified species nest here; the other half are transients,

NATURAL VALUES
the Valley being a natural migration flyway. Until recently, the peregrine falcon, our fastest bird and one of evolution’s most amazing creatures, nested in the river cliffs. One pair still nests at the Delaware Water Gap; and it is hoped others will return. The American Raven, uncommon in this area, has nested at the Water Gap, and Bald Eagles are occasionally seen fishing along the river.

Native birds, both species and individuals are abundant in this section of the River Valley. National Park Service protection would almost certainly make it one of the most important areas for serious bird study in the United States.

Mammals

About 48 species of mammals have been identified with the Tocks Island area. White-tailed deer abound; raccoons are excessively abundant; porcupines have come into the area and seem to be prospering. Beavers and their dams are common, and river otter can occasionally be seen. Wildcats are about as rare as the river otter and are a surprise and delight to anyone lucky enough to see one. The eastern representative of the western trade or pack rat, the Allegheny cave rat, lives in rock piles and talus slopes.

Plants

The Tocks Island area is lush and green and varied. Varied types of soils, slopes, exposures, and attitudes, unexploited by excessive road building or economic development, make it a botanical paradise with more than 1,100 plant species.

In many areas the forest floor becomes a wild flower garden during spring and summer. Orchids, milkworts, anemones, arbutus and hundreds of other species are widespread and abundant. In late June and July, the native cactus Opuntia spots the river cliffs with clusters of yellow flowers. Northern species, brought here by glaciers, are found on the cool north-facing slopes of the gorges, while the warmth-loving species cover the south-facing slopes. Rock slopes of the glens are completely covered with mats of living green: mosses, liverworts and ferns.

These natural history resources of the Tocks Island region have the capacity to make a significant contribution towards meeting the deficiency of outdoor recreation in the Northeast United States.

HISTORICAL VALUES

Dutch settlers discovered this Valley and built here before William Penn founded Pennsylvania. By 1664, the Dutch are believed to have transported copper dug from pits, quarries and shafts of the Pahaquarra Copper Mines opposite Shawnee some 104 miles to Esopus (now Kingston, N.Y.). Portions of the Old Mine Road, possibly the first road over 100 miles in length in America, and traces of the mines are still evident.

Descendants of these early settlers participated in the Indian Wars and the Pennamite War of the 18th century. During the American Revolution, when Washington’s forces in upper New York and near Philadelphia were separated by British forces in New Jersey and New York, this valley became a vital link in the line of communications.

The valley saw the rise and decline of the rich farmlands of the Middle Atlantic as this Nation’s “bread basket.” It witnessed the development of transportation: the Old Mine Road of 1664; the Delaware and Hudson Canal, completed in 1829; the New York and Erie Railroad reached Port Jervis in 1848.

Interesting and varied excursion into commerce and industry took place in the Valley, such as the Pahaquarra Copper Mines; woolen mills using wool from sheep imported from Yorkshire, England in 1825. Knowledge of the history of the Delaware River, always one of the great waterways of the East, will add to the visitor’s enjoyment and appreciation of the Tocks Island area.

ECONOMIC VALUES

Judging from past experience in establishment of National Park Service areas elsewhere in the United States—and specifically areas like Cape Hatteras National Seashore—the proposed Tocks Island National Recreation Area would have a pronounced beneficial effect upon the surrounding community. Land would change ownership over a period of years; adjustments would come gradually. Commercial enterprises supported by the influx of visitors could be expected to offset any initial setback. Business profits—and consequently higher assessed evaluations on commercial and residential properties in adjacent regions—could actually be expected to augment the prosperity of this part of the tri-state area.

An impartial study to determine the economic impact of the proposed Tocks Island National Recreation Area on employment, income levels and the tax base on the five counties involved is now being made for New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania State planning agencies by Robert R. Nathan Associates, Inc., independent consulting economists.

CONSERVATION VALUES

Together, the Tocks Island Dam and the National Recreation Area would conserve a singularly attractive scenic region as a green space for the future in a region which is rapidly becoming urbanized and suburbanized.
HISTORY OF THE PROPOSAL

THE DELAWARE RIVER VALLEY, and particularly the Delaware Water Gap, has been renowned as a scenic area for generations. Several times since the 1930's, interest in preserving the scenic qualities of the Water Gap prompted suggestions that the area be made a National Park. Important and beautiful as this geological feature was, however, no action was ever taken.

Shortly after the disastrous floods of 1955, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was directed by the Congress to make a comprehensive study of the water and related land resources of the Delaware River Basin. The National Park Service, at the request of the Corps, undertook the study of the Basin's recreational potential. Recognizing the tremendous recreation potential of the reservoir recommended by the Corps, and considering the earlier proposals for the Delaware Water Gap, the National Park Service recommended that the valley adjacent to the proposed impoundment and the Water Gap be preserved for public recreation enjoyment.

Strategic location to population centers, scope of needed developments and problems of administering an interstate area prompted recommendation that development and administration be undertaken by the Federal Government. Precedent for and leadership in such a Federal undertaking has been established by the National Park Service at recreation areas in the west.

While the Corps of Engineers prepared its final report—which included recreation as a basic purpose—bills were introduced in the 87th Congress to authorize a Tocks Island National Recreation Area to provide “for public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment” and to preserve “the scenic, scientific and historic features contributing to public enjoyment.”

One of the first acts of the Delaware River Basin Commission, created in 1961, was the adoption of most of the Corps' recommendations as its first phase Comprehensive Plan. Thus, the Tocks Island project was recommended by both the Corps of Engineers and the Delaware River Basin Commission.

Essentially, both recommended that:
1. an earth dam be constructed across the River at the northern tip of Tocks Island;
2. the 37-mile long impoundment be used for flood control, water supply, hydroelectric power and recreational purposes; and
3. the entire project "be in operation no later than 1975." The Commission's Comprehensive Plan also stated that "project lands are planned for development as a National Recreation Area by the National Park Service."

Bills proposing a Tocks Island National Recreation Area were introduced in the 87th Congress; no action was taken. The legislation was re-introduced in the 88th Congress. Senators and Representatives from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York sap-
ported the proposals and Congressional hearings were held by Sub-committees of both Houses, but the 88th Congress adjourned before any action could be taken.

Legislation carrying bipartisan support was re-introduced in the 89th Congress calling for a recreation area of some 72,000 acres embracing the reservoir and related lands. Responsibility for the recreational use of the land and water would be given to the Secretary of the Interior, with management delegated to the National Park Service. The Corps of Engineers would administer the project for water supply, flood control and hydroelectric power; individual States involved would continue their legal jurisdiction. Authority to adjust boundaries, without increasing acreage, would be given to the Secretary of the Interior. He could also permit continuance of existing uses and utilization of natural resources, so long as they were consistent with the purpose of the legislation. Hunting and fishing, within the regulations of the State areas involved, would be permitted. Administration by the Secretaries of the Army and the Interior would be coordinated and consistent with the establishing legislation of the Delaware River Basin Commission.

OWNERSHIP and ADMINISTRATION

If the Tocks Island National Recreation Area bills are enacted into law, the Secretary of the Army would be directed to acquire the necessary lands, and to transfer jurisdiction of all that would be used for recreation to the Secretary of the Interior. When enough land was acquired to make it an administrable unit, the Secretary of the Interior would declare the National Recreation Area established and administer it under the provisions of the enabling Act. The individual States would retain civil and criminal jurisdiction over the portions of the area within their respective states, but with Federal regulations enforced by the appropriate Federal Agency.

Lands and installations of the Tocks Island Project other than those designated for recreational use would be administered by the Corps of Engineers of the United States Army.

Authorization of the Tocks Island National Recreation Area will assure public access to the outdoor recreation benefits of the natural, scenic, scientific and historic resources of its lands and waters. It would further assure preservation of the resource for future generations.

BOUNDARIES

In places, the base of the eastern escarpment of the Kittatinny Mountains is the most logical natural boundary; at other places the heights of land and roads are followed. Features within the recommended boundaries include Mount Tammany, some 10 miles of the Kittatinny Mountain ridge, rolling plateau country on the Pennsylvania side, scenic hemlock gorges, a score of small ponds, and at least two notable waterfalls.

Within the proposed boundaries are New Jersey's Worthington Tract, Pennsylvania's Childs State Park, and limited game lands.
TODAY, recreational use of this section of the Delaware River Valley would reach considerable volume if the public had general access to the River for boating, swimming and fishing, and if facilities for picnicking, camping, hiking and sightseeing were available. The Tocks Island reservoir will generate a tremendous demand for access to this area and may quickly reach the optimum capacity for the area. The mission of the National Park Service at the Tocks Island National Recreation Area would be to improve the capacity of the area to accommodate the greatest possible number of visitors, to help them have the most pleasant, meaningful, effective and beneficial visit possible, and to perpetuate these opportunities for future generations.

The National Recreation Area would be created primarily as a setting for activities associated with lakes, forests and hills. Facilities would be provided to accommodate both the visitor taking an afternoon sightseeing drive and the family camping during a two-weeks vacation.

Ten areas would be developed on the shores of the reservoir to provide such recreational opportunities as boating, swimming, fishing and water sports. Access routes to these areas would be planned to avoid concentration of traffic.

A master plan would provide for a variety of appropriate recreational uses, the safety of visitors, and protection of the natural and scenic values. Sightseers could tour both sides of the reservoir without penetrating or disrupting specialized use areas or programs. Most visitors would seek a specific facility or combination of facilities for some aspect of outdoor recreation. Because the terrain of the New Jersey side is suited to large scale development and is easily accessible from both the Philadelphia and New York metropolitan areas, day-use activities would be provided there. Day-use also would be provided for on the Pennsylvania side. Considerable overnight camping would be developed in the ample areas on both shores. Land acquisition priorities would be established to permit construction of permanent recreational facilities before the dam is completed and to provide access over lands destined for flooding during this interim period.

Basic recreational values of the area are dependent upon the natural and scenic qualities so a proper balance between improvements and nature must be maintained. The natural values would be identified and subsequent development plans would provide for their protection and use. Historical sites, structures, personages and events likewise would be inventoried, evaluated and preserved, to make their maximum contribution to the enjoyment and inspiration of the visitor.

An interpretive program would inform the visitor about the area and the many contributions that its natural, scientific, historical, and recreational values can make to his ex-
experience. Every improvement, development, rule, regulation, person and job would contribute to its fullest realization of this theme.

Public benefits would accrue from research and study programs related to many aspects of the area’s substance and evolution.

Every effort would be made to integrate and coordinate the needs and resources of interested educational agencies with the resources and needs of the area.

Management of fish and wildlife resources would be a cooperative endeavor with the three states involved. Management of the habitats would be the responsibility of the National Park Service; hunting and fishing, desirable and compatible with the mission of the Area, would be regulated by the separate States.

Visitor services would be kept to the minimum necessary to provide the visitor with the type experience for which the Area would be established. The National Park Service would not provide services that could be provided satisfactorily in the vicinity by private enterprise.

The National Park Service would consult with local, county, State and regional governmental agencies to encourage comprehensive land-use planning for the region. The Corps of Engineers and the National Park Service would establish procedures for the coordination of planning, development, operation, and use, to assure consistent and effective administration.

Contact would be maintained with the Staff of the Delaware River Basin Commission to coordinate planning, development and administration of the area with the Comprehensive Plan developed by the Commission to provide for the development and use of the water resources of the Delaware Basin.

Planning, development and operation of the area would be correlated to the programs and practices of park, forest, highway, and game agencies of the three States affected. Public use development and operation at the Corps of Engineers dam site would be integrated into the development and operation of the National Recreation Area by access control and routing, interpretation of interpretive programs and devices, and as otherwise appropriate to promote visitor enjoyment.

Academic, scientific, educational and research potentialities of the natural resources of the area would be identified, evaluated and coordinated with representatives of interested colleges, universities and State and local educational departments.

The requirements of concurrent uses of the management of water in the reservoir and associated lands would be mutually agreed upon with the Delaware River Basin Commission, the Corps of Engineers and the National Park Service and coordinated with area planning and management.
PROPOSED RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

PRELIMINARY STUDIES SUGGEST these ten general areas for recreational development: The Delaware Water Gap, Poconos, Wallpack Bend, Flatbrook, Egypt Mills, Hornbeck Gorge, Dingman Gorge, Namencok, The Knob and Tom Quick.

THE DELAWARE WATER GAP AREA extends from about one mile upstream from the damsite to a point seven miles downstream, including shore areas and several river islands. It includes an outstanding portion of the Kittatinny Mountain and the famous Water Gap.

Development of the tract would be simple. This mountain area would be preserved and maintained in essentially its natural, wild character. About 6,200 acres of this area are now owned by the State of New Jersey and administered as part of the Worthington Tract Forest Preserve.

Six miles of river below the dam would provide trout and bass fishing, canoeing, picnicking and family camping and general scenic enjoyment.

The Appalachian Trail traverses this area, following the crest of the Kittatinny Mountains. To preserve the natural character of the Trail, the area through which it passes would be preserved and maintained in essentially its present condition.

THE POXONO AREA is located on the Pennsylvania shore, from the damsite upstream to a bay that will be created at what is now Bushkill. It takes its name from an island that will be inundated by the reservoir.

This area is capable of absorbing the major concentration of day-use activities of the western side of the National Recreation Area. Parts of the 13 miles of future reservoir frontage could support beach developments; the remainder of this shoreline, moderate to steep in slope, includes sites suitable for facilities for boating and other water-related
The assistance of the Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin in the design and production of this brochure is gratefully acknowledged.

The map showing origins of anticipated annual use was prepared by the Delaware River Basin Commission.