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Delaware River Basin

Tocks Island

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AND OUTDOOR RECREATION FOR THE CROWDED EAST, Answers to



YOUR Questions About the Proposed Tocks Island National Recreation Area

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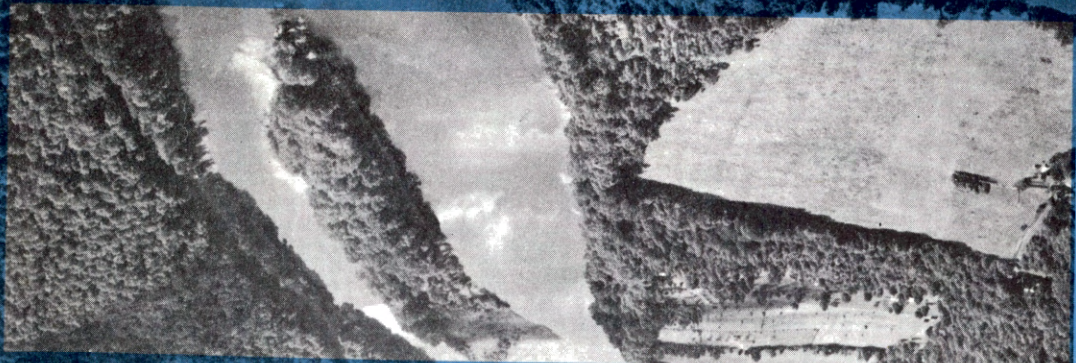
Tocks Island

AND OUTDOOR RECREATION FOR THE CROWDED EAST
ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE
PROPOSED TOCKS ISLAND NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

In his speech dedicating the Gifford Pinchot Institute of Conservation Studies in Milford, Pennsylvania on September 24, 1963, the late President John F. Kennedy noted that three great national seashores — Cape Cod, Point Reyes and Padre Island — had been created during his administration and then added:

“Other parks and recreation areas are being added, and their ranks I hope will soon include the Tocks Island National Recreation Area on the Delaware River.





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*The Background . . . **Tocks Island** is a small island in the Delaware River about six miles north of the famous Delaware Water Gap. This island will soon become the focal point of one of the largest and most important water resource projects in the Eastern United States . . . and possibly of the first National Recreation Area in the Eastern United States.*



The basic facts about the Tocks Island dam and reservoir project can be stated very simply.

Both the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Delaware River Basin Commission have recommended that: (1) an earthen dam be constructed across the Delaware River at the northern tip of Tocks Island; (2) the 37 mile long reservoir created behind the dam be used for flood control, water supply, hydroelectric power and recreation purposes; (3) the entire project be in operation "no later than 1975."

The United States Congress has approved the above recommendations and, in the 1964 Public Works Appropriations Bill, appropriated \$250,000 to the Army Corps of Engineers to begin preliminary engineering and design work. With continued appropriations, construction of the dam and reservoir should begin in 1967 and end about 1972. With assistance from Mother Nature, the reservoir should be filled and in complete operation no later than 1974 and, very possibly, a year or more earlier.

The importance of the Tocks Island dam and reservoir project cannot be overestimated.

Tocks Island will be the only reservoir project in the Delaware River Basin large enough to simultaneously meet the rapidly expanding water supply needs of the Philadelphia metropolitan region and other metropolitan

regions in North and Central New Jersey. When the Delaware River Basin is again afflicted with "too much water," Tocks Island will afford substantial flood protection to communities along the river as far south as Burlington, New Jersey. The enormous Tocks Island reservoir will also permit the development of substantial amounts of hydroelectric power.

If developed by the National Park Service as recommended, the 12,000 surface acres of water in the Tocks Island reservoir will become the heart of the first National Recreation Area in the densely populated Eastern United States. This facet of the Tocks Island project... outdoor recreation... is the subject of this pamphlet.

CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION NEEDED FOR RECREATION AREA . . .

The land area surrounding the 37 mile long stretch of the Delaware River that will become the Tocks Island reservoir is not only outstandingly beautiful but also ideally suited for outdoor recreation uses. This land area contains many waterfalls in deeply eroded hemlock gorges, over 50 lakes, countless ponds, varied types of open spaces, generally magnificent forest cover and a ruggedly mountainous part of the Appalachian Trail.

Moreover, a short distance below the site of the dam is the dramatically beautiful and famous Delaware Water Gap.

The National Park Service has recommended that the Federal Government acquire approximately 60,000 acres of this beautiful area around and below the Tocks Island reservoir (including the Water Gap), and that this land, in conjunction with the reservoir, be developed as a National Recreation Area to make every type of outdoor recreation activity conveniently available to much of the population of the Eastern United States.

The gap between recommendation and action, however, remains to be bridged.

The Tocks Island National Recreation Area (TINRA) cannot be created under the existing Congressional authorization for the Tocks Island dam and reservoir. Since land acquisition and development for TINRA will require the expenditure of approximately \$60,000,000 of Federal funds, TINRA must receive specific Congressional authorization. To this end, three bills are now before the United States House of Representatives (H.R. 2441, H.R. 2632 and H.R. 8696) and one before the United States Senate (S.606). It is very likely that: (1) Congressional hearings on these bills will be held between January and March of 1964; (2) *given additional public support*, TINRA will be authorized by the end of 1964.

THE REASON WHY . . .

The Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin receives an enormous number of inquiries about the proposed TINRA, most of which ask (1) when TINRA will be created, (2) who it will serve and (3) what must be done to have TINRA created in the near future. To answer these questions, and others, this pamphlet has been written.

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROPOSED TINRA

Is there a definite need for the Tocks Island National Recreation Area?

Yes. According to the study made by the National Park Service, "there are few, if any, regions in the United States that have greater need of additional recreation land and water space than the area that would be served by the proposed project (Tocks Island) . . ."

Why did the National Park Service recommend that the recreation potential of Tocks Island be developed by the Federal Government rather than by the States?

Largely because of (1) public need, discussed above, and (2) the strategic location of Tocks Island, the National Park Service determined that the proposed TINRA would have both regional and national significance. It is expected that the proposed TINRA will heavily attract persons from points up to 200 miles from Tocks Island . . . or from at least ten Eastern States. •



Why is Tocks Island considered to be so strategically located?

Consider three facts:

Over 20,000,000 persons reside within a 75 mile radius of Tocks Island (both New York City and Philadelphia are within this radius).

Over 30,000,000 persons reside within a 100 mile radius of Tocks Island.

Tocks Island is within a day's driving time of one-third of the population of the United States.

How many visitors is the proposed TINRA expected to attract each year?

The National Park Service estimates that it will attract approximately 7,000,000 visitors each year . . . thus making it the most heavily used facility in the National Park system. It will be designed to accommodate at least 150,000 visitors per day.

Where are most of the visitors expected to come from?

As noted, TINRA is expected to heavily attract persons from points up to 200 miles from Tocks Island. Figure 1 will give you a clear idea of the number of visitors it is estimated will be attracted from various general areas each year.

What types of outdoor recreation will be available within

TINRA? Will the recreation available be largely seasonal?

Virtually every conceivable kind of outdoor recreation activity will be available within TINRA. These will range from fishing, hunting and hiking through camping and boating to swimming, picnicking and scenic driving. While activities like swimming and water skiing will be seasonal, there will be activities available all year round. For example, besides the 12,000 acre reservoir, there are over 50 lakes in the proposed TINRA, many of which will be ideal for various winter outdoor activities.

Will the proposed TINRA be used for educational purposes of any kind?

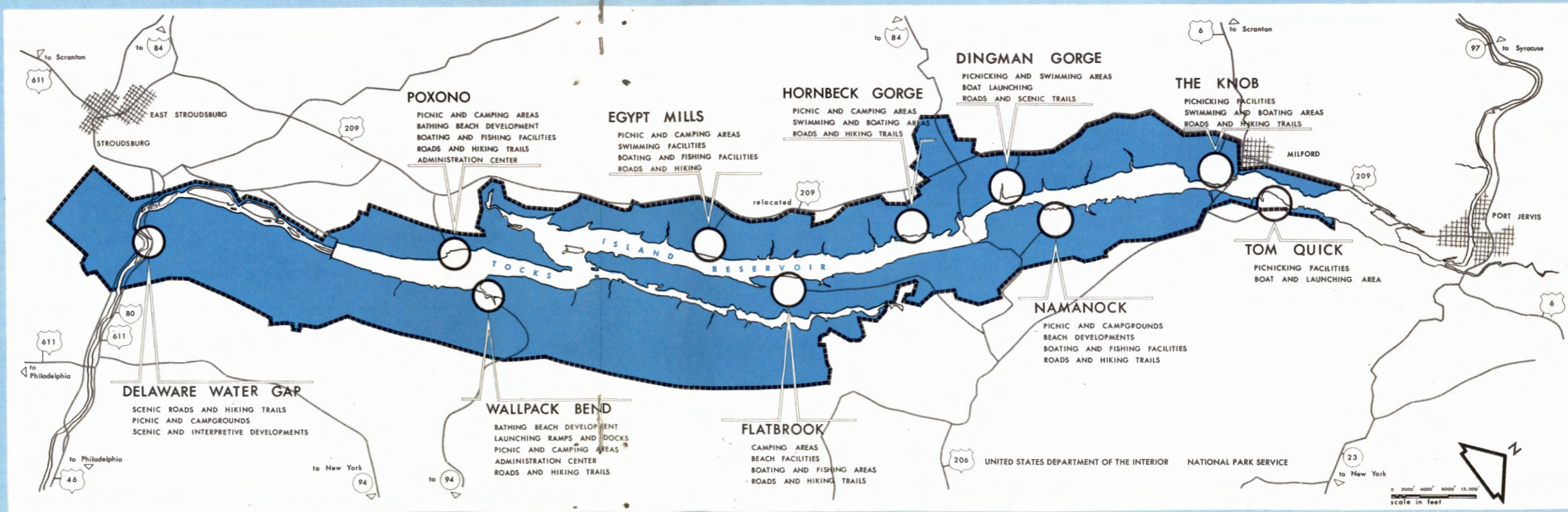
Yes, for many educational purposes. For example, through the interpretive services of the National Park Service, thousands of children and adults will be able to:

1. See, hear and learn about the plant life, wildlife and geology of the area;
2. See, hear and learn about the many items of great historical interest that will be preserved in the area.

What agency of government will be responsible for planning, developing and administering the proposed TINRA?

The National Park Service cooperating with the Delaware River Basin Commission and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

*Proposed Tocks Island
National
Recreation Area*





Is it important that TINRA be authorized by the United States Congress this year (1964) ?

Yes. It is very important for at least two reasons.

1. Land values in some sections of the Tocks Island area have risen sharply because of the activities of speculators anticipating the creation of TINRA.
2. The development of the dam, reservoir and TINRA should proceed concurrently to avoid confusion in planning, duplication of effort and to take advantage of the economies inherent in having a single agency (the Army Corps of Engineers) simultaneously acquire all of the land for all facets of the project.

If Congress authorizes TINRA this year, when is it likely to be open to the public ?

TINRA would be fully open to the public when the Tocks Island reservoir is in full operation . . . probably about 1973 or 1974. However, parts of TINRA could probably be opened to the public earlier, perhaps as early as 1968.

Can the complete Tocks Island project (dam, reservoir and TINRA) be economically justified ?

Yes. Studies made by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers show that the complete Tocks Island project has a benefit-cost ratio of 2.2, that is, figured on an annual basis, every \$1.00 of economic cost will produce \$2.20 in benefits. The Tocks Island project, including TINRA but excluding

certain hydroelectric power features, will cost an estimated \$122,000,000.

Will the proposed TINRA have a beneficial economic impact on those parts of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania directly involved in the project?

Yes. An unofficial estimate, probably very conservative, indicates that TINRA will generate expenditures in the five-county Tocks Island region (Warren and Sussex, New Jersey; Monroe and Pike, Pennsylvania; and Orange, New York) of approximately \$80,000,000 per year. An official study of this impact will begin in the near future.

Is a National Recreation Area the same as a National Park?

No. The National Parks are designed largely to *preserve* . . . usually unique geologic phenomena or magnificent scenic vistas. The National Recreation Areas are deliberately *developed* . . . to serve the outdoor recreation needs of a significant portion of the American people.

How many National Recreation Areas are there in the United States? How were they created?

There are four National Recreation Areas in the United States. These have been developed around reclamation

projects using publicly owned lands. These are located at the: Grand Coulee Dam in the State of Washington; Glen Canyon Dam in Arizona and Utah; at Lake Meade in Arizona and Nevada; at Shadow Mountain Lake in Colorado.

Since publicly owned lands were used, the above areas were created very simply by "Memorandum of Agreement" between the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service.

Unlike the existing National Recreation Areas, the proposed TINRA requires Congressional authorization since substantial public funds will be needed to acquire and develop what are now privately owned lands.

Who introduced the bills "to authorize the creation of the Tocks Island National Recreation Area?" Are these bills significantly different?

S. 606 was introduced by United States Senator Joseph S. Clark (D.-Pa.) joined by Senators Hugh Scott (R.-Pa.), Jacob K. Javits (R.-N.Y.), Clifford P. Case (R.-N.J.) and Harrison A. Williams, Jr. (D.-N.J.).

H.R. 2441 was introduced by the late U. S. Representative Francis E. Walter (D.-Pa.); H.R. 2632 by Representative John P. Saylor (R.-Pa.); and H.R. 8696 by Representative Frank Thompson, Jr. (D.-N.J.).

All four bills are virtually identical.

Does the proposed TINRA conform to the Federal Government's criteria for National Recreation Areas?

Yes. Policy Circular No. 1 of the President's Cabinet-level Recreation Advisory Council, adopted on March 26, 1963, establishes seven primary criteria for the creation of new National Recreation Areas. TINRA fully measures up to all seven criteria.

What agencies of government support the creation of the proposed TINRA?

The Federal Government; the States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Delaware; the Delaware River Basin Commission; and over a score of counties and cities in the Delaware River Basin.

Is there much "grass roots" citizen support for TINRA?

Yes, very substantial "grass roots" support. Over 50 major non-profit organizations (state-wide and region-wide) in the Delaware River Basin Service Area have passed resolutions of support (this includes the WRA/DRB). Moreover, many industries and businesses, as well as hundreds of just plain citizens, have expressed support in various ways.

Is additional "grass roots" support needed?

Very definitely. In a democracy nothing is more important than *your* expression of support.

How or to whom should a person or organization that supports the creation of the proposed TINRA express this support?

The Congressional proponents of TINRA suggest that you:

1. Write, wire or speak to your Congressman telling him that you support H.R. 2441, H.R. 2632 and H.R. 8696 and urge him to do likewise.
2. Write, wire or speak to your United States Senators telling them that you support S. 606 and urge them to do likewise.
3. Write to the members of the Senate and House Interior and Insular Affairs Committees who are listed below (a) telling them that you or your organization support(s) the creation of TINRA and (b) urging them to have their Committee act on the Tocks Island bills as soon as possible.

The mailing address for Senators is Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. For U. S. Representatives, House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

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*WHERE CAN I GET DETAILED
INFORMATION ON THE
TOCKS ISLAND PROJECT (DAM AND
RESERVOIR) AND THE
PROPOSED TINRA?*

*FOR FREE INFORMATION,
PLEASE PHONE OR WRITE:*

Executive Director, WRA/DRB
901 Stephen Girard Building
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 19107
Code 215 LOcust 3-8572

District Engineer
U. S. Army Engineer District, Philadelphia
Custom House - Second and Chestnut Sts.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 19106
Code 215 MARKET 7-6000

Regional Director, Northeast Region - Nat'l Park Service
143 S. Third Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 19106
Code 215 MARKET 7-6000

FIG. 1 ORIGIN OF
ANTICIPATED ANNUAL USE

*Tocks Island
National Recreation
Area*



Prepared by the Delaware River Basin Commission



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The Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin (WRA/DRB) is a non-profit, impartial federation of over 600 citizens' groups and interested individuals whose purpose is to generate citizen interest and understanding in proposals for developing and fully utilizing the water resources of the Delaware River Basin.



A WRA/DRB Publication, January

WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION OF THE DELAWARE RIVER BASIN — 21 SO. 12 ST., PHILADELPHIA, PA.

