

Chapter 5



Frank Miles/USFWS

Great blue heron feeding on common carp at the refuge

Consultation and Coordination

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5.1 Introduction

This chapter describes how we engaged others in developing this CCP. In chronological order, it details our efforts to encourage the involvement of the public and conservation partners: other Federal and State agencies, Tribes, county officials, civic groups, nongovernmental conservation and education organizations, and user groups. It also identifies who contributed in writing the plan or significantly contributed to its contents.

It does not detail the dozens of informal discussions the refuge manager and his staff have had over the last two years where the CCP was a topic of conversation. Those involved a wide range of audiences, including local community leaders and other residents, refuge neighbors, refuge visitors, and other interested individuals. During those discussions, the refuge manager and his staff often would provide an update on our progress and encourage comments and other participation.

According to Service policy, we must review and update our final CCP at least once every 15 years. We may update the plan sooner, if we determine that we need to markedly change management direction or our Director or Regional Director deem it necessary. If so, we will once again announce our revised planning and encourage your participation.

5.2 Planning to Protect Land and Resources

January 2010

Our refuge planning began formally on January 21, 2010 during a conference call between refuge staff, regional office staff, and contractors. One of the major outcomes of the meeting was a timetable for accomplishing the major steps in the planning process and determining when and how we should involve others.

February 2010

Our pre-planning activities in February included development of a draft communications plan and finalizing the contact database for notification of the CCP and invitation to the agency scoping meeting. Invitations to the scoping meeting were sent to 55 Federal and State contacts, elected officials, and 13 federally recognized Tribes associated with Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey.

On February 3, 2010 refuge staff met with the contractor to identify data needs, obtain input on the contact database and review the CCP process.

On February 18, 2010 refuge staff, regional staff, and the contractor reviewed the agency scoping meeting agenda, meeting logistics, and determined the display maps and presentation materials needed for the meeting. We also discussed finalization of maps to show refuge boundaries, in-holdings, and utility right-of-ways.

On February 20, 2010 the refuge manager sent invitations to the agency scoping meeting with attachments that included: the meeting time and location, agenda, guidance on the refuge establishment authority, and the Service mission and Service policy that guides the CCP planning process.

March 2010

Our pre-planning and scoping activities in March included coordination with the Delaware Nation on participation in the CCP process; holding the agency scoping meeting on March 31, 2010; and preparing for and setting the date for the public scoping meeting for May 11, 2010.

On March 23, 2010 refuge staff, regional staff, and the contractor reviewed and commented on the agency scoping meeting presentation, meeting logistics, and display maps and handouts to be provided at the meeting.

On March 29, 2010 refuge staff, regional staff, and the contractor met at the visitor center to finalize the draft vision and goals, finalize meeting power point presentations, and set the date of May 11, 2010 for public scoping meetings during the afternoon and evening.

The agency scoping meeting was held on Wednesday, March 31, 2010 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the visitor center and included a total of 26 attendees including the refuge staff and the core planning team. The list of attendees is attached and a summary of comments from the Federal agencies' representative is provided below. The meeting was an open house format with brief presentations on the CCP process and refuge status, and displays of the refuge context, habitat management units, visitor services and facilities, and handouts on the draft vision and goals.

April 2010

On April 20, 2010 refuge staff, regional staff, and the contractor reviewed and commented on the agency scoping meeting presentation, meeting logistics, and display maps and handouts to be provided at the public scoping meeting.

The press release announcing the scoping meeting and requesting public input was distributed to major media outlets on April 22, 2010.

A newsletter announcing the Service's intent to prepare a CCP and EA was prepared and distributed to 380 people on the contacts list. 280 of those contacts received the newsletter via email, while an additional 100 were mailed paper copies since no email address was available for those contacts. In addition, the refuge made an additional 200 copies available to the public in its visitor center.

May 2010

The Notice of Intent to prepare a CCP and EA for John Heinz NWR was published on May 7, 2010 (75 FR 25285), officially opening the public scoping period for comments through June 11, 2010.

We held two public scoping meetings which were at the refuge's visitor center on May 11, 2010 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm and from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

The meetings included a total of 18 attendees, including refuge staff and the core planning team. The list of attendees is attached and a summary of comments from the attendees and those providing comments by June 11, 2010 is provided below. The meeting was an open house format with brief presentations on the CCP process and refuge status, and displays of the refuge context, habitat management units, visitor services and facilities, the past and planned marsh restoration projects, and handouts on the draft vision and goals.

June 2010

Our scoping activities in June included summarizing comments from the public scoping meeting and other written comments submitted before the official comment period ended on June 11, 2010.

On June 21, refuge staff, regional staff, and the contractor discussed the major issues identified in the public scoping meeting, decided on a format for summarizing the scoping comments, followed up with the education community, and discussed the content and deadlines for the newsletter. The core planning team also determined that the main objectives of meeting with the Service hydrologist would be to assist in evaluating hydrology issues, such as control of water in the impoundment, stormwater flowing onto the property from offsite sources, and monitoring needs for climate change and water management.

On June 29th the refuge staff, contractor, and Tincum Township Engineer, Mr. Herb McCombie, met with the Service hydrologist from the Pennsylvania Ecological Service's Office, Dr. Larry Brannaka. They reviewed hydrology issues at the refuge, natural and man-made drainage south of the refuge that connects with or influences stormwater flowing onto the property, and flooding, tidal, and drainage issues in Tincum Township. On June 30th the refuge staff, contractor, and Dr. Brannaka discussed the hydrology data needs for evaluating impoundment management options and monitoring needs for climate change and water management.

July 2010 through June 2011

The core team prepared a newsletter that informed interested parties of the summary of scoping activities and comments received during the public comment period. This newsletter was distributed on August 9, 2010 to approximately 294 contacts via email, plus an additional 88 paper copies were mailed to those contacts for which email addresses were unavailable.

From July through December 2010, the core team worked together to analyze comments and evaluate alternative management options that would help achieve the refuge's purposes and draft goals. Over the course of three workshop-style meetings, the core team developed the basic framework for what is proposed within this draft CCP/EA.

From December 2010 through June 2011, the planning team developed alternatives, completed appendices, and wrote and edited the various chapters.

- March 2012** On March 22, 2012, we announced the availability of the draft CCP/EA in the *Federal Register* for 30 days of public review and comment. We also distributed a newsletter, sent out a press release announcing the public comment period. The Federal Register notice, newsletter, press release, and our planning Web site also announced the two public meetings we planned for April 2012.
- April 2012** We hosted two public meetings at the refuge. At each of the meetings we gave a short overview of the refuge and the CCP planning process. We also recorded all the comments and suggestions provided at the meetings.
- May 2012** We compiled and considered all the public comments we received and drafted a response to each substantive comment. Based on these substantive comments, we reviewed and revised, where appropriate, the draft CCP/EA.
- June to July 2012** We compiled the final CCP for the Regional Supervisor, Regional Chief, and Regional Solicitor's Office before submitting it to the Regional Director for review and approval. The Regional Director determined a Finding of No Significant Impact was appropriate, and approved the final CCP. We published another *Federal Register* Notice of Availability to announce the availability of the final plan.

Congressional Meetings

- May 21, 2009** Met with Congressional Staff Eriade Hunter (Congressman Robert Brady, PA-1), Kasey Gillette (Senator Robert Casey, Jr.), and Alex Halper (Senator Arlen Specter) with Sue McMahon from FWS-Region 5.
- December 8, 2010** Met with Congressional Staff-Maureen O'Dea (Senator Robert Casey, Jr.) and Ashley Shillingsburg (Congressman Robert Brady, PA-1) with Joseph McCauley from FWS-Region 5.

5.3 Partners Involved in Refuge Planning

Refuge programs enjoy a great deal of support from outside the Service in many areas, including: conducting biological surveys, enhancing public use and refuge programs, restoring habitat, and protecting land. Our partnerships will continue to expand under the increasing interest in conserving refuge resources. Since January 2010, we have contacted the following partners to apprise them of the planning process and encourage their involvement.

- Academy of Natural Sciences
- American Birding Association
- American Fisheries Society
- American Sportsfishing Association
- AmeriCorps Vista
- Army Corp of Engineers, Regulatory Branch
- Assateague Coastal Trust
- Audubon Society, Valley Forge Chapter
- Audubon, Mill Grove
- Bartram's Garden
- Borough of Folcroft
- Borough of Norwood
- Borough of Prospect Park
- Boy Scouts of America, Cradle of Liberty Council

- Brandywine Conservancy, Inc.
- Brandywine Environmental Education Center
- Brandywine Valley Association, Inc.
- Brandywine Visitor Bureau
- Brandywine Zoo
- Brandywine CVB
- Cabrini College
- Camden Academy
- Cayuga Nation
- Chester Valley Sportsmen Association
- Chester-Ridley-Crum Watershed Association
- Chestnut Hill Local
- Clean Air Council
- Clean Water Action
- Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
- Congressman Joe Sestak
- Congressman Robert Brady
- Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement
- Council on Environmental Quality
- Daily Pennsylvanian
- Darby Borough
- Darby Creek Valley Association
- Darby Township
- Darby-Cobbs Watershed Partnership
- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Delaware Coastal Management Program
- Delaware County Conservation District
- Delaware County Cooperative Extension of Penn State
- Delaware County Field and Stream Association
- Delaware County Institute of Science
- Delaware County Orienteering Association
- Delaware County Parks and Recreation Board
- Delaware County Planning Department
- Delaware County Solid Waste Authority
- Delaware Estuary Program
- Delaware Museum of Natural History
- Delaware Nation of Oklahoma
- Delaware Nature Society
- Delaware Planning Department
- Delaware River and Bay Authority
- Delaware River Basin Commission
- Delaware Riverkeeper Network
- Delaware Tribe
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
- Drexel University
- Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
- EarthForce
- Eastern Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania
- EHY Associates

- Energy Coordinating Agency of Pennsylvania
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Federal Aviation Administration
- Fairmount Park Commission
- French Creek State Park
- Friends of Heinz Wildlife Refuge
- Forest Partners International
- Fort Mifflin
- Franklin Institute
- Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania
- GreenSpace Alliance
- Haverford College
- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary
- International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- Keystone Trails Association
- Longwood Gardens
- Mid-Atlantic Council of Watershed Associations
- Morris Arboretum
- Nanticoke Indian Association, Inc.
- Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape
- National Audubon Society
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association
- National Rifle Association of America
- National Trappers Association, Inc.
- National Wildlife Federation
- National Wildlife Refuge Association
- Natural Lands Trust, Inc.
- Natural Resources and Conservation Service
- New Jersey Adventure Aquarium
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- North American Butterfly Association
- National Water Resources Association
- Oneida Indian Nation
- Onondaga Nation
- Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts
- Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry–William Penn District
- Pennsylvania Citizens Advisory Council
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
- Pennsylvania Forestry Association
- Pennsylvania Game Commission
- Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives
- Pennsylvania State Museum
- Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
- Patrick Center for Environmental Research
- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

- Pennsylvania Environmental Council
- Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen Clubs
- Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society, Inc.
- Pennsylvania Resource Council
- Pennsylvania Sea Grant
- Pennsylvania State Preservation, Historical Museum Commission
- Philadelphia Recreation Department
- Philadelphia Herpetological Society
- Philadelphia University – School of Science and Health
- Philadelphia Water Department
- Philadelphia Zoo
- Rails to Trails
- REED
- Ridley Creek State Park
- Ridley Township
- Ridley Township Business Association
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Camden County
- Rutgers University, Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory
- Safari Club International
- Student Conservation Association
- Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education
- Senator Arlen Specter
- Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.
- Seneca Nation Tribal Historic Preservation
- Senior Environmental Corp
- Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority
- Sierra Club – Eastern Pennsylvania Group
- Stroud Water Resources Center
- Swarthmore College
- Temple University
- The Academy of Natural Sciences
- The Conservation Fund
- The Corps Network
- The Humane Society of the United States
- The Izaak Walton League of America, Inc.
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Wilderness Society
- The Wildlife Legislative Fund of America
- The Wildlife Society
- Tincum Township
- Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research
- Trout Unlimited
- Trust for Public Land
- Tyler Arboretum
- US Department of Transportation
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- United American Indians of Delaware Valley, Inc.
- University of Delaware

- University of Sciences, Philadelphia
- Ursinus College
- US Geological Survey
- US Department of Agriculture
- Villanova University
- Wagner Free Institute of Science
- Webbed Foot Wildlife Rehab
- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy–
Natural Heritage Division
- Widener University
- Wildlife Forever
- Wildlife Management Institute
- Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic
- William Rush Memorial Bird
Carvers Association

5.4 Contact Information

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