

# *Discover Revolutionary New Jersey*



## **CROSSROADS** *of the* **AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

★ NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ★



**MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY**



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Noreen Bodman

101 Barrack Street  
Trenton, NJ 08608

tel: 609-633-2060

email: [info@RevolutionaryNJ.org](mailto:info@RevolutionaryNJ.org)

web: [www.RevolutionaryNJ.org](http://www.RevolutionaryNJ.org)

## **Message From The Board President**

HUZZAH! ...Echoes across the years to encourage us, remind us, and inspire us. Our journey began over ten years ago when the National Park Service studied the American Revolution in New Jersey. It found that the best means to educate and protect the nationally significant sites and scenes of the story of the Revolution was to recommend the creation of a National Heritage Area.

In October 2006, when President George Bush signed legislation creating the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area, we were charged to prepare a plan to partner with the many state, county, local and private organizations that care for the sites within the designated area of New Jersey. For the past three years a broad array of partners has collaborated with us, the National Heritage Area's managing organization, to develop this plan. We obtained approval from the Department of the Interior in December 2011 for our plan to ***Discover Revolutionary New Jersey***.

We have an over-arching mission to foster the conservation, preservation and interpretation of New Jersey's Revolutionary-era sites and landscapes. With our partners, we will enhance public understanding of the people, places and events that transformed the course of American and New Jersey history. We envision a comprehensive program of interpretation, preservation, revitalization and stewardship. Within this context we seek to encourage private investment to provide hospitality services for visitors to more fully enjoy and appreciate their experience. We intend to raise awareness of our common heritage, contribute to the quality of life and educate our diverse citizenry about the sacrifices made to found our nation.

A summary of key elements of this strategic vision follows in these pages. For the complete management plan, please refer to our website: ***[www.RevolutionaryNJ.org](http://www.RevolutionaryNJ.org)***.

We are grateful for the support of the hundreds of individuals and organizations that helped develop this plan and we look forward to our continuing partnership.

Sincerely,

Kevin Tremble, President

*Discover Revolutionary New Jersey* <sup>TM</sup>



*Celebrating and discovering the American Revolution as a way to strengthen the identity and spirit of New Jersey's communities is a powerful vision.*



From the heights of the Palisades at Fort Lee to the shores of the Delaware River at Red Bank Battlefield, The Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area offers an unprecedented opportunity to interpret and celebrate our state's rich history through collaborative partnerships. Historic sites, preservation groups, historical societies, friends organizations, state, county and local governments, schools, libraries and museums will work together to tell the stories of the American Revolution and New Jersey's significant contributions to our nation.



Our storylines include:

- ★ Defense of the Hudson
- ★ Retreat Across the Jerseys
- ★ Delaware River Towns
- ★ Ten Crucial Days
- ★ Road to Morristown
- ★ Greater Morristown – Patriot Enclave
- ★ Forage Wars
- ★ Maritime Wars
- ★ Philadelphia Campaign
- ★ Road to Monmouth
- ★ Middlebrook and the Defense of New Jersey
- ★ Battle of Springfield
- ★ Divided Loyalties
- ★ Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route

And within each of these are personal stories of perseverance, entrepreneurship, dedication, loss and victory – stories that make us who we are today.

## WHAT IS A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA?

A national heritage area is a region recognized by the United State Congress for its unique qualities and resources. Heritage areas bring together residents, government agencies, non-profit groups

and private partners in a collaborative approach to heritage development. Decision-making authority is locally maintained, usually by a dedicated non-profit organization, with the National Park Service serving as a partner and advisor.



**The Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area** encompasses approximately 2,155 square miles in New Jersey, including 213 municipalities in 14 counties. Federal legislation specifies its role:

- ★ to assist communities, organizations, and citizens in preserving New Jersey's historic identity;
- ★ to foster close working relationships among all levels of government, the private sector, and communities;
- ★ to provide for the preservation and interpretation of resources for the educational and inspirational benefit of future generations; and
- ★ to strengthen Morristown National Historical Park as an asset to the state.





## THE CROSSROADS CHALLENGE

Many New Jersey communities bear the clear imprint of the American Revolution, but the significance of these remarkable resources can be easily overlooked in the hustle and bustle of modern life. In other places, particularly in our urban centers, growth and development have erased much of the Revolutionary War landscape. However, the connection to our Revolutionary roots lies just under the surface. Virtually every place in New Jersey bears witness to the key role our state played in America's struggle for independence—a role that is as important today as it was over 200 years ago.

New Jersey's heritage area is large, diverse, and complex – ranging from rural countryside to rapidly growing suburban communities and densely populated urban areas. The pace and energy of the state has been a source of global innovation and inspiration, but it can also distract our attention from the heritage that forms the foundation of our continued success.



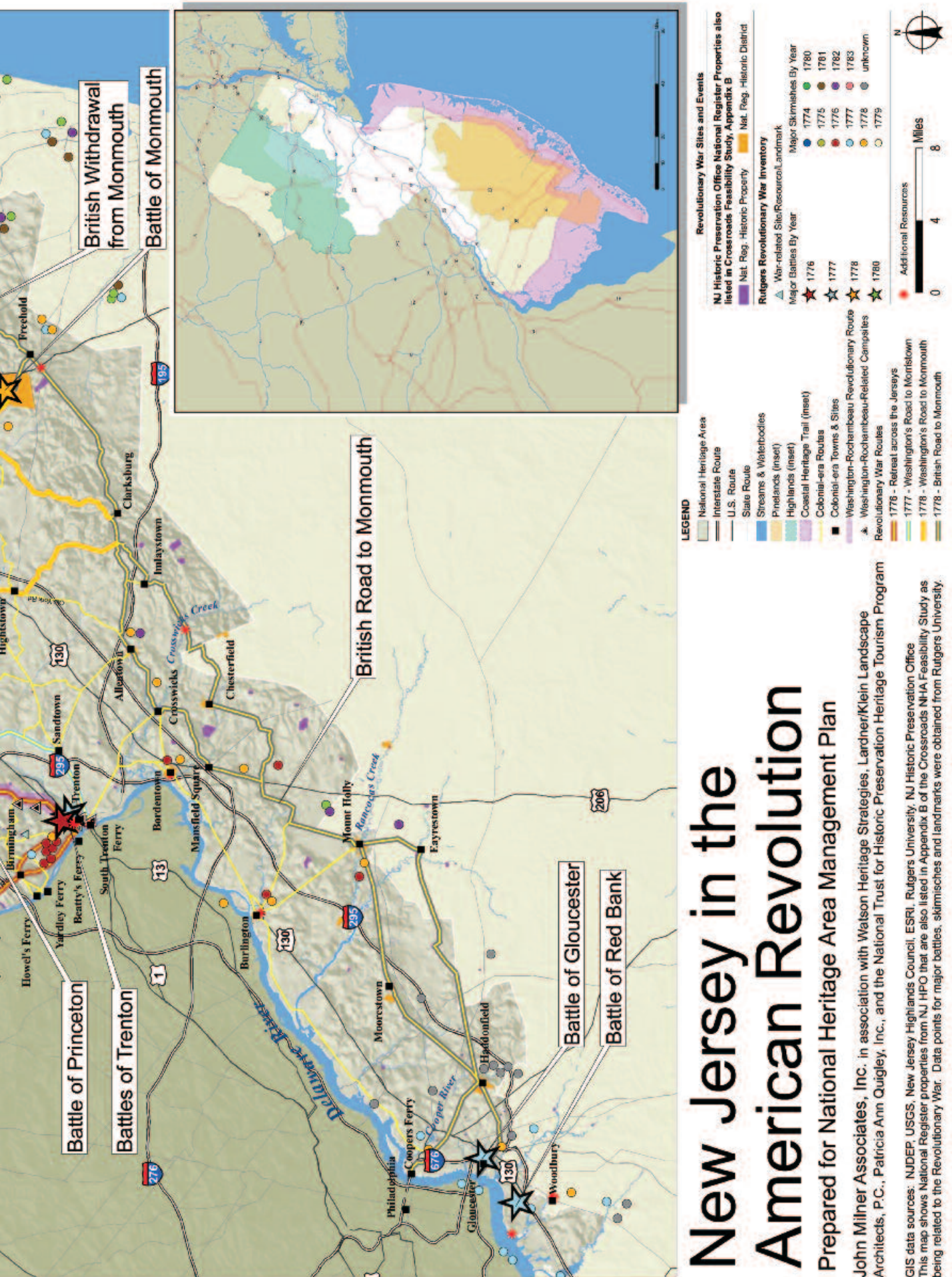
The **Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area** management plan provides a roadmap to *Discover Revolutionary New Jersey*. The plan outlines collaborative partnership strategies to enhance and promote our Revolutionary War resources in ways that engage, educate and inspire residents and visitors alike. New Jersey is already recognized nationally for its leadership in promoting conservation of natural and historic resources exemplified by the state's Green Acres Program and the New Jersey Historic Trust. Crossroads will complement such programs, focusing on heritage development.











# New Jersey in the American Revolution

## Prepared for National Heritage Area Management Plan

John Milner Associates, Inc. in association with Watson Heritage Strategies, Lardner/Klein Landscape Architects, P.C., Patricia Ann Quigley, Inc., and the National Trust for Historic Preservation Heritage Tourism Program

GIS data sources: NUDEP, USGS, New Jersey Highlands Council, ESRI, Rutgers University. NJ Historic Preservation Office. This map shows National Register properties from NJ HPO that are also listed in Appendix B of the Crossroads NHA Feasibility Study as being related to the Revolutionary War. Data points for major battles, skirmishes and landmarks were obtained from Rutgers University.



## A VISION FOR THE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

In the **Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area**, the people of New Jersey will create a new sense of place; one of protected Revolutionary War landscapes and cultural sites, interpretive facilities and programs, trail systems and driving tours, improved historic communities, and compatible economic development.

- ★ Visitors to the region will gain a new appreciation of New Jersey as they experience its history and outstanding natural and cultural resources.
- ★ The people of New Jersey in this and succeeding generations will take pride in this special place and understand how the events that occurred here have shaped the values of the nation.
- ★ Schools will feature the Crossroads of the American Revolution and students will gain a life-long personal attachment to the many cultural and natural attributes of the region.
- ★ Historic resources, surviving cultural landscapes, and authentic places where events occurred will be protected, improved, and appreciated.
- ★ Communities will identify with their history through local programming and events recognizing New Jersey as the Crossroads of the American Revolution.



The National Heritage Area will combine the energies and resources of governments, non-profits, businesses and residents to achieve this vision through collaboration so that our rich heritage can be explored, promoted, and maintained.





# GOALS FOR THE CROSSROADS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

## Interpretation & Education:

Ensure that residents and visitors have the opportunity to learn about and preserve New Jersey's American Revolution resources.

Support a broad-based interpretive program that promotes awareness of the region's Revolutionary Era history; relates authentic landscapes, communities, and sites to the historic events that occurred there; and supports the preservation and community enhancement goals of the heritage area.

Develop educational programs that encourage exploration, broaden public understanding, and promote appreciation for Revolutionary War resources.

## Stewardship:

Work with all levels of government, the private sector, and local communities to guide land use in a manner sensitive to significant Revolutionary War era historic resources and landscapes.

Advocate for the conservation, preservation, enhancement, interpretation and appropriate management of relevant resources for the educational and inspirational benefit of future generations.

Support the development and use of heritage area recreational opportunities.

Establish a long-term program of research to support the preservation and interpretation of Revolutionary War resources and artifacts.

## Visibility:

Create an identity that reflects the significance of the heritage area, the nature of its Revolutionary Era resources, and the character of its visitor experience.

Strengthen the value of Morristown National Historical Park as an asset to the state through networking and partnerships.

## Economic Development:

Develop a Crossroads visitor experience that conveys the state's Revolutionary Era stories and contributes to the state's economy.

Develop a collaborative marketing and promotion program that emphasizes the experiences a visitor will enjoy within the heritage area.

Create an organizational structure that includes destination marketing organizations (DMOs), historic sites, museums, and other key regional and state partners to guide implementation of heritage tourism plans and to advocate support for heritage tourism among elected officials and other stakeholders.





## TELLING THE STORIES

Story-telling is the most critical activity of the heritage area. Interpretation highlights the importance of historic resources, educates audiences, creates linkages that support community revitalization, and stirs community pride. The management plan emphasizes the importance of collaborative projects that engage residents and visitors in the stories of the Crossroads of the American Revolution. Those stories are grouped into three broad themes:

**A Revolutionary Landscape** seeks to convey how the 18th century landscape is a vital part of understanding the war. It encourages exploration of how New Jersey's critical location, topography, and natural and manmade resources influenced the actions of both armies and the outcome of the American Revolution. Every community and resource within the heritage area can contribute to this understanding by telling its own story in relation to the war.

**Rendezvous for Rebellion** focuses on how the campaigns and engagements that occurred here greatly influenced the outcome of the war. The many smaller raids, engagements, and skirmishes that were conducted over the course of the war were characteristic of the bitter and tragic nature of the conflict in New Jersey.

**Divided Loyalties** highlights how New Jersey's cultural diversity and economic circumstances created different opinions about the Revolution. Strong divisions led to civil war within communities and even families. These divisions erupted along religious, ethnic, and economic lines, resulting in tragic violence, uprooted residents, and widespread disruption of community life.



## EARLY ACTIONS

The management plan identifies six key early actions for the **Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area**.

- ✦ Establish a consistent identity and brand
- ✦ Focus on core interpretive activities
- ✦ Build communications and outreach capabilities
- ✦ Build organizational strength in ways that assist Heritage Area partners
- ✦ Prepare for heritage tourism marketing
- ✦ Build organizational sustainability





## THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION IN NEW JERSEY

New Jersey played a crucial role in the American Revolution. Positioned between the new nation's capital in Philadelphia and the British stronghold in New York, no place in New Jersey was spared the ravages of war. During more than six years of conflict, General George Washington and the Continental Army spent more days in New Jersey than in any other state. By the time victory was won, the fight for American independence touched every community in New Jersey. More than just a crossroads on the map, New Jersey became the crossroads in the birth of a nation.

For the British, central New Jersey offered a direct overland route connecting New York with Philadelphia and the southern colonies. But for the Continental forces, New Jersey was an unassailable fortress, with the Watchung Mountains providing an extended natural rampart shielding it from surveillance and offering a safe route linking New England with states to the south.

The National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program lists 296 significant military engagements within the state, and hundreds more skirmishes, from 1775 through 1782.

Key events that determined the course of the war occurred here, including:

- ★ the **Battles of Trenton and Princeton**, which changed the British strategy from offense to defense;
- ★ the **Battle of Monmouth**, which demonstrated the Continental army's ability to stand toe to toe with the British army as an equal;
- ★ the **Middlebrook Encampments**, which provided a strategic, protected position that ultimately contributed to the army's success; and
- ★ the terrible winters at **Morristown**, which tested the army's ability to survive.

Here in New Jersey, the fledgling Continental army teetered on the brink of disaster, but somehow emerged stronger. And it was in New Jersey that the mighty British army's vulnerabilities were revealed.



Just as today, New Jersey during the Revolutionary War was a microcosm of the national experience. For the state's culturally diverse population, the fight for American Independence meant nearly eight years of civil war. Both armies launched disruptive forays throughout the state as they vied for food, fuel and other resources.

The ravages of this occupation forced a reluctant population to take sides. Ad hoc militias waged unconventional warfare. Bitter divisions developed. Neighbor turned against neighbor as allegiances shifted with the fortunes of war. Yet here, through endurance and survival, a nation was born.

New Jersey's Revolutionary story is not one of easy triumph and glory. It is an authentic experience represented by significant victories and personal tragedies – of heroism on the battlefield and conflict in communities. The story of the **Crossroads of the American Revolution** is one of tenacity, controversy and perseverance. It is a story that lives on today in the people and places of New Jersey.



The Crossroads of the American Revolution Association gratefully acknowledges the dedication, support and hard work of our partners.

### **U.S. Congressional Representatives**

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Congressman Frank LoBiondo  
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Congressman Chris Smith  
Congressman Scott Garrett  
Congressman Frank Pallone  
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Congressman Steve Rothman  
Congressman Donald Payne  
Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Congressman Rush Holt  
Congressman Albio Sires

### **The National Park Service**

Kenneth Salazar, U.S. Secretary of the Interior  
Jon Jarvis, Director of National Park Service  
Martha Raymond, National Coordinator for  
Heritage Areas  
Peter Samuel, Program Coordinator, National  
Heritage Areas  
Jill Hawk, Superintendent Morristown National  
Historical Park

### **The State of New Jersey**

Governor Chris Christie  
New Jersey Department of State  
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
New Jersey Cultural Trust  
New Jersey Historical Commission  
New Jersey Historic Trust  
New Jersey Council on the Humanities  
New Jersey Division of Travel & Tourism

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Candace Ashmun  
Dennis Davidson  
Anne DeGraaf  
Jessie Havens  
George Hill  
Martha Lieblich  
Sally Lane  
Cate Litvack  
Patrick Murray  
David Siegfried  
Kevin Tremble  
Randy Turner

### **Consultants**

John Milner Associates, Inc  
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And special thanks to our partner historic sites, museums, elected officials, conservation groups, friends organizations, destination management organizations, heritage tourism commissions, reenactors, journalists, businesses and friends. Without you none of this would be possible.



[www.RevolutionaryNJ.org](http://www.RevolutionaryNJ.org)