

BACKGROUND

Leading up to the preparation of the management plan a number of key steps were undertaken to create the heritage area and obtain information that will guide the planning process. These include preparation of the **2002 Special Resource Study and Feasibility Study**, passing of the **2006 Congressional legislation** establishing the national heritage area, **visioning workshops** that were undertaken to assess themes and visitor experience, and a recent **pilot study of a 14 municipality region in Morris and Somerset Counties**.

The Feasibility Study

The *Crossroads of the American Revolution in New Jersey Special Resource Study, National Heritage Area Feasibility, and Environmental Assessment* <http://www.nps.gov/crossroads> was completed by the National Park Service in 2002 and resulted in a recommendation that a national heritage area be created. The study provides valuable background information that supports the current planning process. The study also set the boundary for the heritage area.

<http://revolutionarynj.org/heritageArea/index.php>

Authorizing Legislation

The Crossroads of the American Revolution was created through Congressional enactment of *P.L. 109-338, Subtitle J, Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area Act of 2006*. http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_public_laws&docid=f:publ338.109.pdf

This legislation authorizes and describes the organization, boundaries, mission, and scope of the national heritage area. In addition to requiring the preparation of a management plan, the legislation stipulates requirements it must meet.

Visioning Workshop

Following establishment of the national heritage area, a visioning process was undertaken to review potential interpretive themes, audiences, and visitor experience. Challenges were identified, goals for interpretation were established, and potential initial projects were identified.

<http://revolutionarynj.org/documents/VisioningWorkshopsReport2006.pdf>

Morristown Area Pilot Study

In preparation for the management plan, a pilot study was undertaken focusing upon the resources and communities located in the region around the Morristown National Historical Park. The pilot study reviews background information, identifies issues, and outlines strategies that provide a foundation for work on the management plan for the entire heritage area.