



New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation

DRAFT STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2014-2019





The National Park Service, Department of the Interior, under the provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (Public Law 88-578) , as amended, provided support in the preparation of this report. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, strictly prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of Federal assistance should write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington DC 20240.

**The New York State
Draft Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor
Recreation Plan
and
Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement
2014 – 2019**

Prepared by : New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Completed: January 15, 2014

Contact: Diana Carter, Director
Bureau of Resource and Facility Planning
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Albany, NY 12238
(518) – 486 – 2909

Comment Period Ends: February 21, 2014

Email Comments to: SCORP.Plan@parks.ny.gov



Andrew Cuomo
Governor

Rose Harvey
Commissioner



**SEQR
POSITIVE DECLARATION
NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF A DRAFT GEIS**

Date of Notice: January 15, 2014
Lead Agency: New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP)
Title of Action: **Adoption and Implementation of the 2014-2019 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan**
SEQR Status: Type I
Location of Action: Statewide

This Notice is issued pursuant to Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review) of the Environmental Conservation Law.

OPRHP, as lead agency, has determined that the proposed action described below (Draft Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2014-2019) may have a significant impact on the environment, and has prepared a Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Brief Project Description: The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is prepared periodically by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) to provide statewide policy direction and to fulfill the agency's recreation and preservation mandate. The updated SCORP serves as a status report and as an overall guidance document for recreation, resource preservation, planning, and development from 2014 through 2019. The document is also used to guide the allocation of state and federal funds for recreation and open space projects. The direction for recreation in the state is guided by three overarching statewide initiatives, with associated goals and recommendations. These together respond to the current issues impacting the state's natural, cultural and recreational resources. The initiative areas are: 1. Enhance and Revitalize the State Outdoor Recreation System, 2. Improve Connections between Recreation, Economics, Sustainability, and Healthy Lifestyles, and 3. Strengthen the Link between People, Nature, Recreation, and Resource Stewardship. Potential environmental impacts associated with adoption and implementation of the plan as well as mitigation measures that could be taken to reduce potential impacts, are included as a part of the Plan which, in its entirety, constitutes a DGEIS.

Public Comments: Persons may provide comments in writing no later than the **end of the comment period –February 21, 2014**. All comments should be forwarded to the agency contact person.

One public Webinar will be held on **February 4, 2014 from 2-4 pm**. People wishing to attend the webinar should send an email to SCORP.Plan@parks.ny.gov with their name, title and organization requesting registration for the webinar. A registration confirmation email will be sent. Three working days prior to the webinar they will receive login information. **Deadline to register is January 28, 2014.**

Agency Contact:

Diana Carter
Director Resource and Facility Planning
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
Albany, NY 12238
SCORP.Plan@parks.ny.gov
(518) 486-2909
Fax: (518) 474-7013

AVAILABILITY OF DGEIS: Copies of the Draft Plan/DGEIS are available for review at the office of the agency contact and the document can also be reviewed on OPRHP's website at:
<http://www.nysparks.state.ny.us/inside-our-agency/public-documents.aspx>.

Contents

- Chapter 1: Executive Summary and Introduction3
 - Executive Summary3
 - Introduction4
 - Evolution of the State Park System6

- Chapter 2: The Planning Process11
 - Objectives12
 - Process12

- Chapter 3: Research and Analysis -- New Yorkers Respond13
 - Population Trends13
 - Youth14
 - Social Conditions15
 - Public Health and Parks15
 - Urban Areas17
 - Universal Accessibility17
 - Composition of the Population17
 - Energy & Climate Change17
 - Recreation Supply19
 - Recreation Demand19
 - Activity Analyses20
 - Recreation Need28

- Chapter 4: Goals and Recommendations33
 - Vision for Recreation in New York State33
 - Goals and Recommendations33
 - Enhancing and Revitalizing the State Outdoor Recreation System33
 - Improving Connections between Recreation, Economics, Sustainability, and Healthy Lifestyles..36
 - Strengthening the Link between People, Nature, and Resource Stewardship42

- Chapter 5: Implementation and Funding45
 - Funding and Partnership Opportunities45
 - Federal46
 - State48
 - Grant Allocation50
 - Partnerships50

- Chapter 6: Environmental Impacts53
 - Generic EIS53
 - Environmental Setting53
 - Alternatives53
 - Environmental Impacts and Mitigation54
 - Cumulative Impacts62

- References65

- Credits69

List of Tables

Table 3.1 - Most Population Activities among New York Residents Age 65 -85.....	14
Table 3.2 - Recreational Facilities in New York State by OPRHP Region	18
Table 3.3 - 2012 Activity Participation and Activity Days	19
Table 3.4 - Day Use Facilities by Operator and Region	22
Table 3.5 - Swimming Facilities by Operator and Region	23
Table 3.6 - Boating Facilities by Operator and Region	24
Table 3.7 - Winter Activities by Operator and Region	25
Table 3.8 - Camping Facilities by Operator and Region	27
Table 3.9 - Golf Facilities by Operator and Region	28
Table 3.10 - Relative Index of Needs	30
Table 3.10 (Continued): Relative Index of Needs	31
Table 5.1 - LWCF Appropriations for New York State 1989-2012	47

List of Figures

Figure 3.1 - New York State's Population Growth	13
Figure 3.2 - New York vs. US Population Growth	13
Figure 3.3 - New York State's Aging Population	14
Figure 3.4 - New York State's Changing Population	15
Figure 3.5 - OPRHP State Park Regions	17
Figure 3.6 - Acreage of Sites by Region	18
Figure 3.7 - Number of Sites by Region	18
Figure 3.8 - Recreational Acreage by Region	18
Figure 3.9 - Need for Walking, Jogging and Hiking Facilities	20
Figure 3.10 - Need for Bicycle Facilities	20
Figure 3.11 - Need for Park and Playground Facilities	21
Figure 3.12 - Need for Field Sport Facilities	21
Figure 3.13 - Need for Court Game Facilities	21
Figure 3.14 - Need for Swimming Facilities	23
Figure 3.15 - Need for Boating Facilities	24
Figure 3.16 - Need for Local Winter Activities	25

Appendices

Appendix A: The State of the State Outdoor Recreation System

Appendix B: Legal Authorization to Prepare the SCORP

Appendix C: Wildlife as a Recreational Resource

Appendix D: State Parks, Historic Sites and Other Properties

Appendix E: State Nature and Historical Preserves

Appendix F: Statewide Programs

Appendix G: CFA Selection Criteria

Chapter 1: Executive Summary and Introduction

Executive Summary

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is prepared every five years by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) to provide statewide policy direction and to fulfill the agency's recreation and preservation mandate.

While the overall purpose of this document is to satisfy eligibility requirements for continued funding under the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the 2014 SCORP will serve as a status report and as an overall guidance document for recreation resource preservation, planning and development of the State's resources through 2019. It is the State's assessment and policy statement to the executive and legislative branches of state government, other units of government, recreation and preservation interest groups, and the general public on the state of recreation in New York. Planners, researchers, administrators, legislators, educators, special interest groups, the general public and private sector entrepreneurs utilize the SCORP document as a basic information source particularly for outdoor recreational issues, policies, priorities, and for supply and demand data. The SCORP is used to inform the allocation of state, federal, municipal, and not-for-profit funds for recreation and open space projects. The information and analysis presented throughout the SCORP are translated into criteria for evaluating projects in an objective manner.

The 2014-2019 SCORP for New York titled, *New York State Outdoors: Healthy Living through Nature*, is divided into four sections. The first chapters focus on the public participation element of the plan, as well as the research and analysis completed for the document. The latter sections contain goals and recommendations and the implementation / action plan to facilitate improvements to New York's outdoor recreation system.

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), the state agency designated as the plan liaison, began planning efforts in 2012. As the plan liaison, OPRHP has been charged with identifying the research necessary to better understand the state's outdoor recreation needs over the next five years. OPRHP teamed up with a consultant, Fountains Spatial, to assist with the analysis of statistical, census, and outdoor recreation data on a county basis throughout New York State.

In order to assure maximum opportunity for public participation, OPRHP has:

- Surveyed and inventoried recreation providers statewide
- Evaluated public preferences for recreation
- Coordinated with user groups

Gauging the public's perception and feedback on the recreation and open space opportunities is an on-going process. OPRHP routinely conducts park surveys and visitor surveys at various facilities every year. Utilizing this information, the plan will lay the necessary groundwork to maximize the public benefit of the dollars spent for recreation and open space.



The SCORP is part of a continuing planning process that evolves over time. The value of this document is not just in what it says, but in how it is used to protect and manage the natural, cultural, and recreation resources of New York State for future generations.

The plan provides 10 programmatic goals. The recommendations of the goals were crafted through the public outreach and the advisory committee and are framed by the three overarching initiatives of the SCORP:

1. Enhance and Revitalize the State Outdoor Recreation System
2. Improve Connections between Recreation, Economics, Sustainability, and Healthy Lifestyles
3. Strengthen the Link between People, Nature, Recreation, and Resource Stewardship

Lastly, this document includes a review of the potential environmental impacts of the plan and a series of appendices that provide a more in-depth perspective of the recreation and outdoor resources of New York State.

Introduction

Parkland and open space are two of New York State’s most valuable, nonrenewable resources that enhance our quality of life. These important places have a long history dating back to Niagara Falls State Park, the “Oldest State Park” in the country, and Central Park in New York City. With a vast range of year-round outdoor recreation opportunities, New Yorkers enjoy the outdoors. With the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers traversing the state, the Adirondacks, Catskills, and Taconic mountain ranges, the majesty of Letchworth State Park—the Grand Canyon of the east, and the beaches of Long Island and the Great Lakes, there isn’t much you can’t find in New York State.

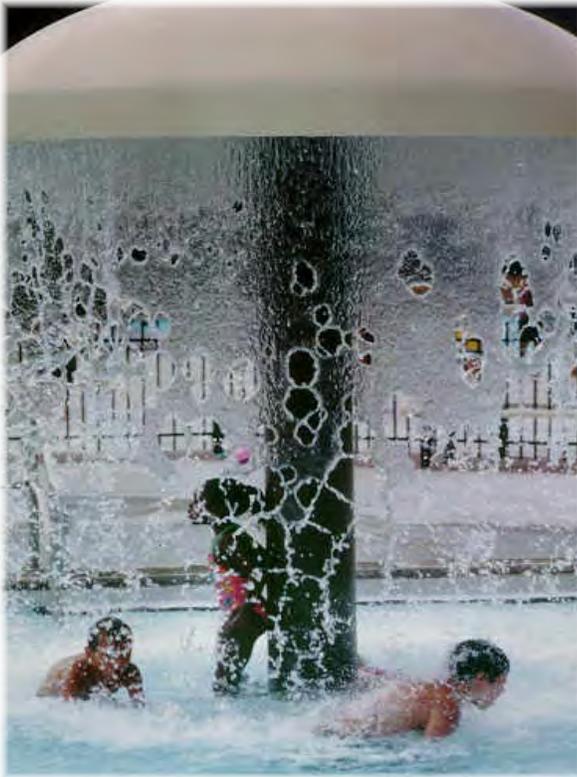
As the environmental and economic value of recreation / open space increases, federal, state, and local governments, who act as stewards of these resources, are faced with a challenging situation of maintaining and revitalizing aging park systems. At the same time, they must look to the future to keep the core services of these great resources attractive, affordable, and accessible—especially to underserved communities. The benefits derived from these efforts are far reaching; enhanced quality of life, increased tourism, improved health, protected ecosystems, and sustainability of our environment. Parks and open spaces are truly important places and must be protected.

These protected places are the result of a long history supported by various funding sources including, but not limited to: bond acts, the State’s Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The parkland conversion process (associated with parks funded through LWCF) and the parkland alienation process (applicable to all municipal park lands) afford long term protection of these special places. It’s important that these mechanisms are maintained for the benefit of future generations.



Waterfalls at Letchworth State Park

Currently, OPRHP and DEC are responsible for the bulk of outdoor recreation and conservation in the State. OPRHP administers about 335,000 acres of land incorporating 180 state parks, 35 historic sites, 67 marine facilities and boat launch sites, 20 parkways, over 5,000 structures, 67 developed beaches, 36 swimming pools, 29 golf courses, over 800 cabins and rental houses, 8,355 campsites, and over 1,650 miles of trail, as well as several outdoor education centers, museums, and nature centers. DEC administers 4.3 million acres of land (including 3 million acres of Forest Preserve, over 784,500 acres of State Forest, and over 199,000 acres of Wildlife Management Areas), over 907,000 acres of Conservation Easements, 52 campgrounds, several day-use areas, 12 fish hatcheries, 1,300 miles of easements for public fishing rights, over 400 boat launch and fishing access sites, three Submerged Heritage preserves, and about 4,000 miles of trail, as well as several environmental education centers and summer camps.

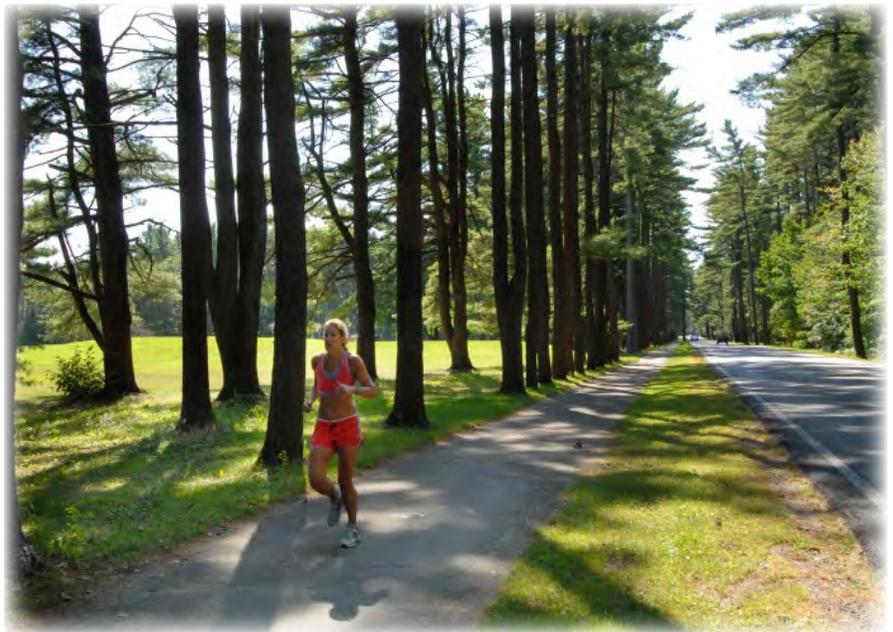


The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is charged with protecting the quality of New York State's land, water and air, the character of its scenery, the health and diversity of its fish and wildlife populations and habitats. Additionally, DEC conserves both living and non-living resources for appropriate use. This includes managing the Forest Preserve in the Adirondacks and Catskills, protecting wetlands, rivers, lakes, and salt water embayments, all the while serving as stewards of the State's plant and animal species. Conservation and management of open space is a key part of this mission. In doing this, however, DEC bases its approach not just on the number of citizens who wish to participate in outdoor recreation activities, but also on the value of the resources.

Today, the Empire State faces many challenges as it tries to protect lands and waters, while trying to meet the outdoor recreational needs and demands of a diverse population during a time of continual change. The population of New York is only anticipated to increase by 2% from 2010 to 2030; but the population is aging. In particular, the number of residents over the age of 65 is projected to increase by 38.2%. These changes,

more than the change in total population, will have the greatest effect on recreation patterns. With an aging population, shifts are anticipated in passive recreation needs.

In addition to changing demographics in New York State, recent weather events (e.g. storms Irene and Lee and Superstorm Sandy) have proved that New York is increasingly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Coastal areas were decimated from storm damage; in addition to homes and businesses, many beaches, rivers, parks, and greenways, campgrounds, etc. were ruined. With storms of this magnitude and intensity increasing,



Swimming and jogging at Saratoga Spa State Park.

proactive planning must be done to ensure outdoor recreation areas and natural resources are more resilient to future storms.

The 2014-2019 SCORP for New York State represents a new effort to refine recommendations to ensure that funding and implementation of the plan is feasible. Like many other states, New York's parks and open spaces have suffered during economic shortfalls. While land acquisitions have remained steady, the funding to properly steward the land isn't always there. With demographics and land use shifts occurring statewide and development pressure on rural landscapes and open space, climate change, and economic recession, the need to plan for the outdoor recreation needs of New York State is more apparent than ever.

Evolution of the State Park System

In the mid-nineteenth century, most New Yorkers lived in rural areas and nature was seen as a struggle, not as a place to relax and enjoy. The only state agency managing natural resources was the New York State Land Commission, which was established to dispose of excess property. In the 1870s, old-growth timber lands owned by New York State were being sold to loggers. Attitudes gradually began to change and people thought about how they could nurture and preserve nature instead of conquer it. Industrialization and suburbanization drastically altered the land use patterns of the people and the landscape. As preservationists began to organize, so did social reformers. Their common goal was healthy people prospering among natural beauty; the result was a conservation and recreation ethic.

Throughout the nineteenth century, artists and tourists sought inspiration from the grandeur of Niagara Falls and were distressed by the commercialism growing around the falls. Efforts to preserve the scenery culminated in the creation of the State Reservation at Niagara by the New York State Legislature in 1883. Following the success at Niagara, in 1885 the State legislature established the Forest Preserve in the Adirondack and Catskill Mountain regions. These areas were also plagued by uncontrolled timbering and mining, a decline in public open space, and the growing need for fresh water. The legislation stated that the Preserve "shall be forever kept as wild forest lands." Within a couple years, New York had become the first State to not only preserve the environment, but to restore it.



Staatsburgh State Historic Site

Created in 1892, the Adirondack Park was identified by a blue line on a map within which State acquisition of private in-holdings was to be concentrated. At the 1894 Constitutional Convention, a new amendment to achieve meaningful protection of the Forest Preserve was included, stating “The lands of the State, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the Forest Preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold, or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed, or destroyed.” The State constitution now prohibited logging on the Forest Preserve lands. A number of amendments have been added to Article 14 since its adoption in 1894; however, none of them changed or diminished the original wording that was approved by the citizens of the State in 1894. The Catskill Park was created in 1904 in the same manner as the Adirondack Park.



John Brown Farm State Historic Site

Across New York, wealthy and influential residents had been observing the effects of industrialization / urbanization with concern and moved to secure some of the state’s most scenic areas. For example, from 1859 to 1906 William Pryor Letchworth acquired about 1,000 acres in the area of the Genesee River gorge and decided to give his land to the State for a public park. As was customary at the time, Letchworth gave control of the park to the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, which was originally incorporated by act of the State legislature as the “Trustees of Scenic and Historic Places and Objects” in 1895. The purpose of the Society was to acquire, preserve, and improve places of natural beauty or historical significance for public use and benefit, demonstrating the alliance between the movements for both natural and cultural preservation in turn-of-the-century America.

In 1900 the Commissioners of the Palisades Interstate Park was established by Governor Theodore Roosevelt of New York and New Jersey Governor Foster Voorhees. The group was created in response to the destruction of the cliffs from quarrying in the Palisades and this effort was intended to protect the Palisades from further decline and defacement. The Commissioners had jurisdiction in both states with power to acquire whatever territory was deemed necessary along the Palisades for preservation, education, and recreation, authorization later being extended to the north and west. Subsequently, the Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC) was federally chartered by Congress in 1937. PIPC, comprised of five commissioners each from New York and

New Jersey appointed by their respective state's governor, now has jurisdiction over 24 state parks and 8 historic sites of more than 100,000 acres.

By the 1920's, New York State had more than 40 areas of scenic, recreational, and historical interest. However, there was no coordination and no single body responsible for directing park, conservation, or recreation policies statewide. Reorganization of state government in the 1920's resulted in the first unified state park system in the country with the creation of the State Council of Parks in 1924. The State Council of Parks had under its jurisdiction state parks and historic sites outside of the Forest Preserve and was charged with establishing uniform park policy, developing its parks, and acting as a clearinghouse and advisory body. It charted a course of carrying out a comprehensive outdoor recreation program, including providing recreational motor routes, or parkways, to reach parks by increasing numbers of automobile tourists, especially in the years following World War II.

Reforestation of New York State occurred as a result of abandonment of farmland through much of the 20th century, as well as conscious efforts to return once-cleared land to forest. The State Reforestation Law of 1929 and the Hewitt Amendment of 1931 authorized the Conservation Department to acquire land for reforestation areas, consisting of not less than 500 acres of contiguous land, to be forever devoted to "reforestation and the establishment and maintenance thereon of forests for watershed protection, the production of timber, and for recreation and kindred purposes." These Reforestation Areas became the nucleus of our



Baby Red Foxes at Allegany State Park



present day State Forests. Reforestation in the state has resulted in a profound increase from 20- 25% forest cover in 1890 to about 62% today.

During the 1960s, changing public attitudes and the availability of environmental science led to the realization that government had a strong role to play in preserving resources and keeping the environment healthy. In 1970, this expanded sense of awareness and responsibility led to the establishment of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), created on the first Earth Day by Governor Nelson Rockefeller. At the same time, the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation was removed from the Conservation Department and elevated to full agency status as the new Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR).

The Office of Parks and Recreation was assigned the responsibility for maintaining state parks and historic sites, as well as providing recreational opportunities for the people of the State and being steward of the State's archeological and historical resources. Eleven State Park Regions were assigned to the OPR while the twelfth region, consisting of the Adirondack and Catskill Parks, was retained by the DEC. The official title of the OPR was changed to the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) in 1981.



Fishing on Lake Ontario.

Chapter 2: The Planning Process

Preparing the SCORP is a lengthy process that puts an emphasis on public participation pursuant to the LWCF Act of 1965, as amended. With the need for data collection and analysis, preparations for SCORP begin more than a year in advance of the actual release of the draft plan. The plan was coordinated and written primarily by staff from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) with input from various state and regional agencies, including, but not limited to: the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC); the NYS Department of State (DOS) - Office of Planning and Development; the Adirondack Park Agency (APA); and many others.

The planning process is utilized to guide the decisions made and the overall direction of the plan. These decisions are largely influenced by the planning principles that were set forth by the agency many years ago.



Principles

The planning process for the SCORP is predicated upon three basic principles (outlined below). An understanding, acceptance, and faithful adherence to these principles is fundamental to the success of OPRHP's overall goal to provide a unified State Park and Recreation System which will serve the needs of all residents. The plan and the process must also be responsive to modification in an expeditious and practical manner as warranted to meet changes in societal values and environmental conditions.

The three principles are:

- **Planning is a Continuous Process:** Planning must match the dynamics of its environment, constantly re-examining assumptions, methods and objectives, in light of changing conditions and new information. Planning does not produce a finished blueprint of the future; it is an open-ended process which places before decision-makers the range of effective options.
- **Planning Must be Comprehensive:** The planning process, and thus the information and research base which supports this process, must encompass the entire range of human activity and the environment—social, economic, and physical. Accordingly, planning for recreation facilities, programs and services must include careful consideration of all available physical resources and their potential use. Recreation planning must also consider environmental impacts, socio-economic values / changes, abilities, and needs of the various segments of the population.
- **Planning Must be a Coordinated Process with Public Participation:** Coordination and cooperation among all government levels and the private sector is essential. No planning process should fail to include opportunity for a citizen's participation and input.

Objectives

The following objectives have been established to support the aforementioned goals and planning principles:

- To formulate, maintain and update the Statewide Park and Recreation Plan as required under the Parks and Recreation Law (Consolidated Laws, L. 1972, Chapter 660) Article 3, Section 3.15, (See Appendix B) as part of a continuous planning process.
- To develop an outdoor recreation component within the framework of the Statewide Park and Recreation Plan in accordance with the Land and Water Conservation Fund Manual, Chapter 630.1.
- To establish a statewide recreational planning framework to serve as a guide to regional and local agencies in the formulation of plans, program policies, and priorities.
- To develop and maintain adequate information in support of OPRHP's planning, development, administration, coordination, and review functions.
- To establish and maintain citizens' participation through outreach and surveys.

Process

The 2014-2019 SCORP represents a shift from previous planning efforts; a more efficient document that works off of the stated agency goals of both the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. This plan will refine recommendations from these agencies, build on the findings of previous plans, and will develop implementable projects based on the public input process and surveys.

Planning is a continuous, open-ended process. The programs and statewide initiatives outlined in the SCORP have a five-year horizon; as a result, the SCORP is always evolving in light of changing conditions and new information. The policies and recommendations of the plan reflect a continuous and extensive effort to collect and analyze information vis-a-vis public outreach, engagement of recreation and outdoor experts, as well as original and collected research.



Fireworks at Niagara Falls State Park

Chapter 3: Research and Analysis -- New Yorkers Respond

During the second decade of the 21st Century there are many challenges in meeting the recreation needs and desires of the citizens of New York State and its visitors. The financial crisis and the recession that followed raised concerns about funding outdoor recreation resources. However, with the rise of childhood obesity rates and the public’s growing desire for outdoor activities it is important to have a clear understanding of the supply and demand for recreational facilities. The State is part of a dynamic recreation system that includes county, local, and private facilities. As the population composition, land use and environmental conditions change so do the types and demand for recreation activities and available resources. To meet the future demand for recreation, all factors need to be considered. This includes an assessment of existing recreation supply, participation rates, demand, demographics, issues and trends.

Population Trends

New York State is the third most populous state in the United States with population of 19.3 million according to the 2010 Census. The population level will remain fairly level through the year 2030 by which time the population is estimated to be 19.8 million.

The population of New York State will increase by 2% for the period 2010 to 2030. This population increase is almost completely due to an increase in the population of the five boroughs of New York City. Long Island has a very modest increase in Suffolk County balanced by a small decrease in Nassau County resulting in growth of about 0.7%, while the remainder of New York State will have a slight decrease in population, both in absolute numbers and relative to the rest of the state. As geographic location influences what types of facilities are available, this will affect the overall patterns of recreation.

These changes are a result of the large number of immigrants from abroad; a net out-migration especially among younger New Yorkers; an increase in racial diversity; and the increased proportion of the elderly population resulting from both the continuing increase in life expectancy and, most importantly, the aging of the baby boomers. In particular, the number of residents over the age of 65 is projected to increase by 38.2%. These changes, more than the change in total population, will have the greatest effect on recreation patterns.

Aging

The baby boom generation (those born from 1946 to 1964) will continue the transition from being the most elderly part of the workforce to retirement. For recreation providers, this means a trend away from activities typically associated with youth: team sports, court games and other highly physical activities and a growth of

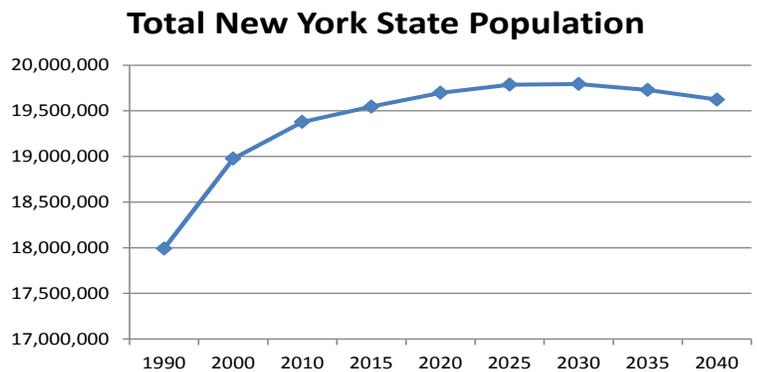


Figure 3.1 - New York State’s Population Growth

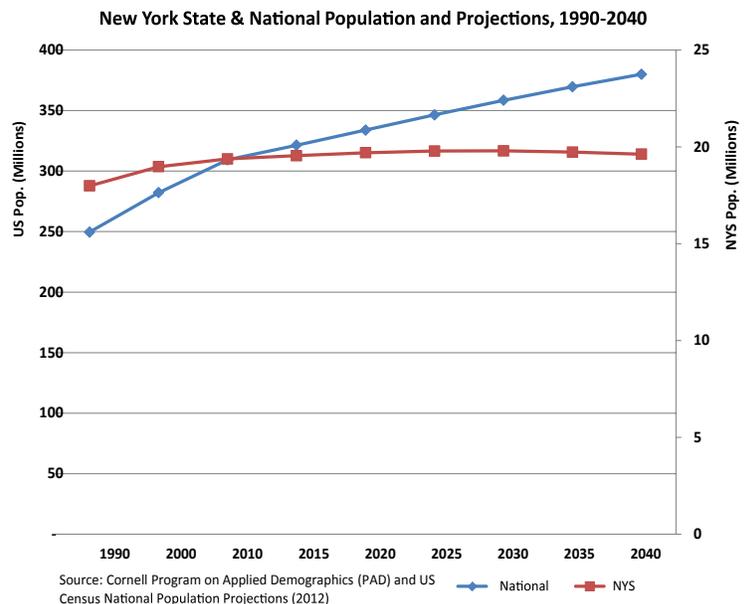


Figure 3.2 - New York vs. US Population Growth

New Yorkers Aged 65 and Older

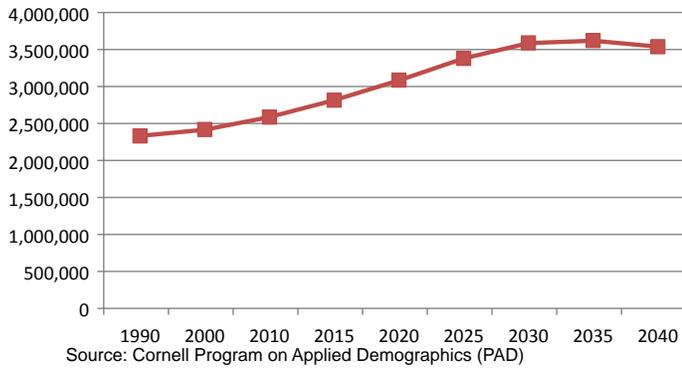


Figure 3.3 - New York State's Aging Population

other activities such as golf, relaxing in the park, walking, and other passive activities. Although New York's population is increasing slightly over the projected period, the number of senior citizens is increasing substantially. This will have a dramatic effect on the quantity and types of outdoor recreation taking place within New York State.

The changes to the state's population will require OPRHP to adapt to its new clientele. Attendance is expected to increase. Much of the increase may occur during the week when some of OPRHP's services are provided free or at reduced cost to

Table 3.1 - Most Population Activities among New York Residents Age 65 -85

Most Popular Activities Among New York Residents Age 65-85		
Rank	Activity	Percent Participating
1	Walking for Enjoyment - including jogging/day hiking	80.6%
2	Relaxing in the Park - picnicking, playground use, visiting nature areas or gardens	75.4%
3	Swimming - Ocean, lake and river swimming and public and private pools	52.7%
4	Motorboating/Sailing/Canoeing, Kayaking, etc.	26.1%
5	On and off-road biking including mountain biking	17.1%
6	Fishing - from land or boat	17.0%
7	Golfing - 9/18/par 3 courses	14.7%
8	Camping- Tenting/Backpacking/RV usage	10.2%
9	Court Games - Tennis/Handball/Racquetball/Basketball, etc.	8.7%
10	Local Winter Activities- Ice Skating/Cross Country Skiing/Snowshoeing	8.4%
11	Downhill Skiing/Snowboarding	8.4%
12	Field Sports- Baseball/Soccer/Football, etc.	6.2%
13	Snowmobiling	1.3%

seniors. However, this increase in attendance (as any increase in the use of facilities, trails, etc.) will cause increased impacts on the environment and the aging recreation facility infrastructure. An aging population will also require greater adherence to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards in order to be able to enjoy these facilities and services.

Further, additional training of OPRHP staff to work with the aged will be required.

Based on the 2013 General Public Recreation Survey, the most popular activities, with participation rates, among New Yorkers, age 65 - 85 are shown above.

The charts on page 15 show the age/sex breakdown for New York State in the years 2010 and 2030. The most notable change is the movement of the baby boomers, from the age group 43 to 62 years old to 66 years old and older.

Youth

Young people today are less connected to the natural world than ever before. They spend half as much time outdoors than they did 30 years ago and the effects of sedentary indoor lifestyles have become increasingly evident as the childhood obesity rate has more than doubled and the adolescent obesity rate has more than tripled. Obesity decreases life expectancy and leads to a higher risk of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and joint problems.

There has been a growing movement to get children to exercise and eat healthier as part of their daily life. Federal agencies, the White House, research organizations, NYS agencies and non-profits are taking the charge at changing the course when it comes to this nation's youth. The National Association of State Park Directors and the National Park Service agreed on a joint "Children and Nature Plan for Action" in September of 2007.

This initiative calls for state and national parks to work collaboratively to increase public awareness of the value of connecting children and nature, discuss common issues and solutions, share information about opportunities, engage other agencies and organizations in shared technology, programs, and activities, and promote a national campaign to highlight the importance of connecting children and nature.

There are numerous programs to encourage and aid children visiting parks. The National Park Foundation has a “Ticket to Ride” program which makes an effort to provide transportation to students in order to visit parks. There has also been an effort to have local New York State

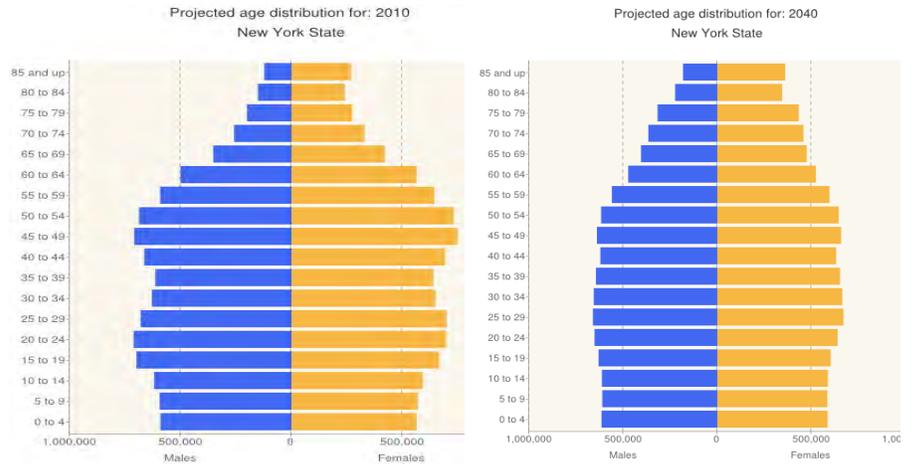


Figure 3.4 - New York State's Changing Population

transportation agencies connect urban residents to state parks. For example, the Capital District Transportation Authority, in Albany, NY, has buses connecting residents to Grafton Lakes State Park. The US Department of the Interior also has the *Youth in the Great Outdoors Initiative* to help achieve the vital goal of connecting young people with America's natural and cultural heritage. Working with partner organizations they hire, educate and engage young people on conservation, culture, wildlife and more.

Social Conditions

The economic gap between the affluent and the poor continues to increase. According to research, social economic status of a community can have an impact on recreation activities. Some studies show that there are fewer free-for-use facilities in areas with lower socio-economic status while higher socio-economic status communities have a greater number of free-for-use facilities. Other studies have also shown that communities with a poverty rate of 1% were 57% more likely to have a bike path whereas a community with 10% poverty rate only had a 9% chance of having a bike path in their community. The disparity of facilities and programming are not the only reason that those communities with low socio-economic status lag in outdoor recreation participation. There are concerns regarding fees, safety, drug abuse, gangs and crime rates in parks and playgrounds that research suggests could lower use.

Public Health and Parks

The 2013 NYS General Public Recreation survey indicated that there was a significant correlation between obesity rate and activity days on a county level. On a federal level the U.S. Surgeon General and the White House are working on building momentum and initiatives to tackle obesity. The U.S. Surgeon General has an *Every Body Walk!* Initiative to explore the roles of walking and walkable communities to increase active living and improve public health. At the White House, First Lady Michelle Obama's campaign *Let's Move* is a comprehensive initiative dedicated to solving the problem of obesity within a generation. The *Let's Move* campaign is dedicated to increasing physical activity and works with parents, schools, local officials, community leaders, chefs, kids, and health care providers in achieving change.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's (RWJF) is the nation's largest philanthropic organization devoted to public health and they have been working with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute to create the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps program. The Health Rankings & Roadmaps program aims to help communities create solutions that make it easier for people to be healthy in their own communities, focusing on specific factors such as education, income and access to recreation facilities.

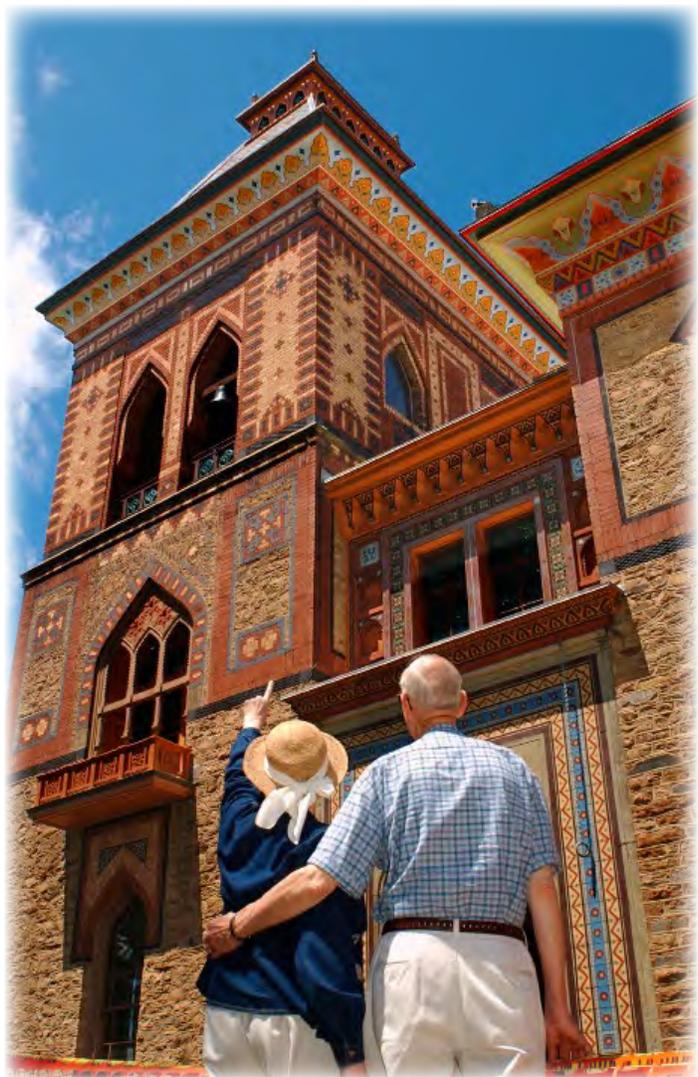
Additionally, organizations like the Trust for Public Land are making the case that parks are good for public health. Their 2006 report, “The Health Benefits of Parks” described the benefit of physical activity, reducing pollution, and the positive psychological effects of parks. In their 2011 report, “From Fitness Zones to the Medical Mile: How Urban Park Systems Can Promote Health and Wellness” they call on parks to improve public health through partnerships with other stakeholders and programming that can enhance the value of parks as a tool to improve community health.

The New York State Prevention Agenda 2013-17 is the blueprint for state and local action to improve the health of New Yorkers and to reduce health disparities for racial, ethnic, disability, socioeconomic and other groups who experience them. The Prevention Agenda asks community partners to work together to foster healthy communities and improve the health of New Yorkers. This initiative focuses on primary prevention strategies to promote healthy environments and behaviors that lower the risk of disease. One of these priorities - to promote healthy and safe environments – entails enhancing the quality of our physical environment to improve public health and safety including enhancing the design of communities to promote healthy physical activity. The Prevention Agenda highlights many health conditions in its five priority areas including diabetes and cardiovascular disease for which risks can be reduced by providing opportunities for exercise and recreation. It also includes an objective to reduce the percentage of children and adults that are obese by 5 percent by the end of 2017.

The agenda includes the goal increasing the number of municipalities that have passed complete streets policies which can include connecting to complementary trails and bike paths that provide safe places to walk and bike. Furthermore, the Agenda promotes establishment of agreements to open public areas and facilities for safe physical activity and adopting, strengthening and implementing local policies and guidelines that facilitate increased physical activity for residents of all ages and abilities.

The Prevention Agenda supports offering information regarding the availability of parks and trails to and in discussion with those seeking free activities close to home. It also suggests increasing State parks infrastructure, repairing and improving park operations and providing technical assistance to community groups and local government wishing to create or enhance parks, playgrounds and trails as physical activity opportunities for residents, including those with disabilities. The agenda supports increasing awareness of and demand for additional local and State parks and open space protection in each community.

The Healthy Soils, Healthy Communities program in New York, supported by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences is a collaboration between the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), Cornell University and New York City Parks. This program works to serve NYC Parks’ 20,000 community gardeners, including those who garden at 300 community gardens on Parks’ land, along with many others, to encourage gardening as



Olana State Historic Site

a healthy activity while reducing exposure to urban soil contaminants.

NYSDOH also works on a project funded by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry that is helping transform brownfields in communities like Utica into green fields such as a community park and community gardens. More information is available at: http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/prevention_agenda/2013-2017/.

Urban Areas

There are 61 cities in New York State. Not including New York City, approximately 2 million people live in these cities. Most of the cities, particularly those in the “rust belt” (that portion of America most affected by the decline of manufacturing) are losing population. However, with the aging of population and change in living styles by the younger working class, there is renewed interest in residing in urban areas that provide services and cultural opportunities. Revitalization of these areas should be guided by smart growth principles. Past development and transportation practices will need to be revisited to make communities more walkable and pedestrian friendly. For example, Buffalo, NY has committed to install at least 10 miles of new bike infrastructure annually.

Universal Accessibility

Approximately 11% of the New York State population above the age of 5 is considered to have a disability. Providing recreational opportunities to this segment of the population will require existing and future recreation facilities to be universally accessible.

Composition of the Population

The population of New York State will increase very slightly over the next twenty years, but the composition of this population will be different from what it is today. There will most likely be increased diversity especially a greater Asian and Hispanic population, the two ethnic groups that have had an increase in population in New York State between 2000 and 2010. Facility design, signage and public awareness will need to consider the populations being served.

Energy & Climate Change

The future of travel, tourism and recreational activities dependent on gasoline will become more uncertain due to cost and availability. This can impact such recreational activities as snowmobiling, ATV usage, boating and camping. As a result, there will be an increase in non-fuel related activities.

As the previous SCORP described “climate change will undoubtedly impact the landscape, environmental resources and recreational activities.” Over the last five years our recreational facilities have had to deal with the impact of storms such as Irene, Lee, and Sandy and respond with increasing the resiliency of facilities. Planning ahead for sea level changes has become a component of the recreation planning process.



Figure 3.5 - OPRHP State Park Regions

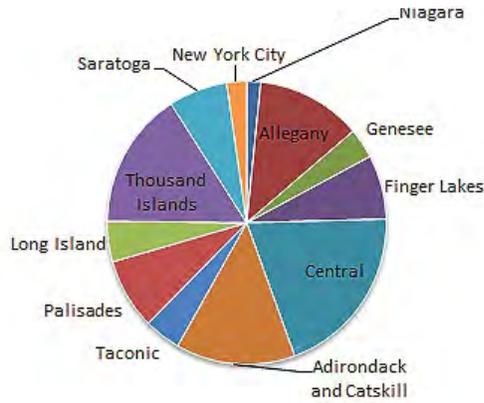


Figure 3.6 - Acreage of Sites by Region



Figure 3.7 - Number of Sites by Region

Note: Included in the chart to the right and the rightmost 2 columns of the table below are undeveloped recreational lands under the jurisdiction of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

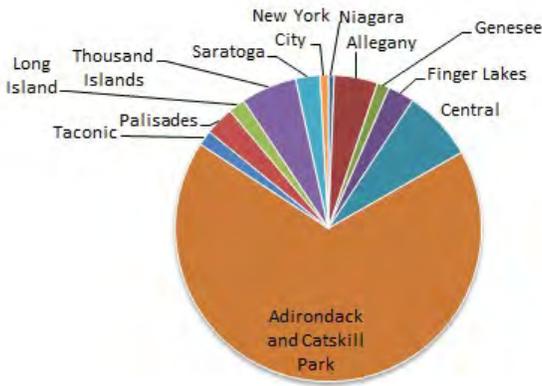


Figure 3.8 - Recreational Acreage by Region

Table 3.2 - Recreational Facilities in New York State by OPRHP Region

Recreation Facilities in New York State by OPRHP Region						
Region	Number of Sites		Acreage of Sites		Total Acreage	
Niagara	328	4.6%	26,101	1.6%	26,101	0.61%
Allegany	216	3.0%	196,606	12.2%	196,606	4.60%
Genesee	247	3.5%	55,837	3.5%	55,837	1.31%
Finger Lakes	362	5.1%	118,571	7.3%	118,571	2.77%
Central	855	12.0%	320,453	19.8%	320,453	7.49%
Adirondack and Catskill Park	218	3.1%	223,293	13.8%	2,885,000	67.45%
Taconic	484	6.8%	68,140	4.2%	68,140	1.59%
Palisades	316	4.4%	130,791	8.1%	130,791	3.06%
Long Island	1,520	21.4%	75,035	4.6%	75,035	1.75%
Thousand Islands	319	4.5%	253,148	15.7%	253,148	5.92%
Saratoga	495	7.0%	110,109	6.8%	110,109	2.57%
New York City	1,753	24.6%	37,200	2.3%	37,200	0.87%
Total	7,113	100%	1,615,285	100%	4,276,992	100.00%

Recreation Supply

There are over 15,500 public and private recreation sites within New York State. OPRHP's Outdoor Recreation Facilities Inventory maintains information on the location of each of these sites and the number and types of recreation facilities each provides. For analysis, this report only takes into consideration publicly owned facilities.

There are fewer facilities operated by State agencies as compared to other operators but the sites are larger in acreage. Commercially operated sites account for about one-quarter of the total sites but are generally smaller in acreage than government run facilities. An important difference between these two groups is that one function of the government is to provide recreation opportunities of various types and locations which are not profitable for the private sector. This would include large areas that are set aside for conservation and passive recreation.

There is a considerable difference in the distribution and number of recreation sites and recreational acreage throughout the state. The table and charts show this information by OPRHP regions and the DEC Forest Preserve.

Additional details on the supply of recreation facilities for selected activities are presented in tables in the following section on activity analysis. The data in these tables are derived from the New York State Outdoor Recreation Facilities Inventory.

Recreation Demand

The demand for recreation facilities is derived from the 2013 General Public Recreation Survey. The survey addressed levels of participation and perceived recreation needs for the community.

Table 3.3 - 2012 Activity Participation and Activity Days

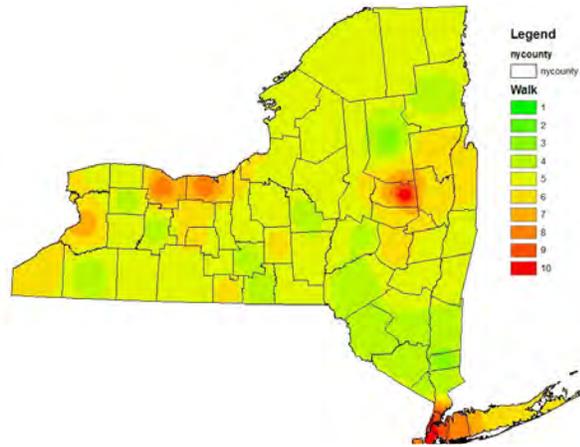
2012 Activity Participation and Activity Days					
Activity	2012 Participation		2012 Activity Days		Per Participant
Walking for Enjoyment - including jogging/day hiking	12,892,228	20.25%	612,082,197	55.84%	47.48
Relaxing in the Park - picnicking, playground use, visiting nature areas or gardens	12,497,573	19.63%	159,236,899	14.53%	12.74
Swimming - Ocean, lake and river swimming and public and private pools	9,463,546	14.87%	109,070,526	9.95%	11.53
On and off-road biking including mountain biking	5,231,355	8.22%	51,840,992	4.73%	9.91
Motorboating/Sailing/Canoeing, Kayaking, etc.	4,435,908	6.97%	27,826,552	2.54%	6.27
Field Sports- Baseball/Soccer/Football, etc.	3,357,543	5.27%	28,580,614	2.61%	8.51
Court Games - Tennis/Handball/Racquetball/Basketball, etc.	3,332,135	5.23%	24,730,878	2.26%	7.42
Local Winter Activities- Ice Skating/Cross Country Skiing/Snowshoeing	3,067,683	4.82%	17,042,229	1.55%	5.56
Camping- Tenting/Backpacking/RV usage	2,831,970	4.45%	17,625,031	1.61%	6.22
Fishing - from land or boat	2,721,649	4.28%	19,133,393	1.75%	7.03
Golfing - 9/18/par 3 courses	1,888,807	2.97%	16,083,391	1.47%	8.52
Downhill Skiing/Snowboarding	1,422,305	2.23%	9,343,580	0.85%	6.57
Snowmobiling	513,080	0.81%	3,517,504	0.32%	6.86
Total	63,655,783	100%	1,096,113,786	100%	17.22

The 2013 General Public Recreation Survey was directed at a geographically stratified selection of households residing in New York State. The survey is a

valuable component of the SCORP process because it is one of the few opportunities to receive input from the entire citizenry, rather than special interest groups, park visitors, activity club members and the like. Findings from the survey were analyzed and demographic variables were assessed as to their influence on recreation choices. The results of this analysis were used together with U.S. Census data to make projections for current and future levels of recreation by activity and county within New York State.

The following maps are a visual representation of the Relative Index of Need (RIN). Red represents 10 indicating the greatest need and green represents 1 indicating the lowest need.

Figure 3.9 - Need for Walking, Jogging and Hiking Facilities



In this survey, OPRHP collected data from 3,187 individuals on participation in outdoor activities during the 2012 calendar year. Walking for enjoyment--including jogging/day hiking--is now the recreation activity enjoyed by most New York residents. This is followed by relaxing in the park, swimming, biking and boating. This is a change from previous surveys in that relaxing in the park had a higher participation level. Walking for enjoyment continues to have the highest total of activity days followed by relaxing in the park, swimming, visiting sites, and biking and participating in court games such as basketball or tennis.

As part of the General Public Recreation Survey, New Yorkers were also asked what recreation facilities they felt were needed within 30 minutes of their home. Seventy-one percent of respondents replied that they thought more facilities were needed and 27% of those respondents thought that more local parks for picnicking and playground use were most needed in their community. Twenty percent of those who wanted more facilities said that trails for hiking, biking and equine use were needed.

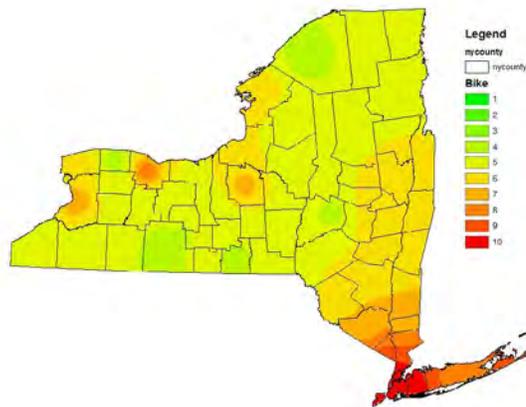


Figure 3.10 - Need for Bicycle Facilities

Activity Analyses

Trail Activities

Walking for Enjoyment/Jogging/Day Hiking

Walking, jogging and day hiking was the most popular activity from the 2012 General Public Recreation survey with over 88% of the population between the ages of 18-85 participating and encompassing over half of the total activity days. Trails are an important component to active transportation such as cycling and walking and increasing recreation. According to the American Public Health Association using active transportation can lead to a decreased risk of cancer, decreased risk of cardiovascular risk, and better mental health.

Walking, jogging and day hiking was the most popular activity from the 2012 General Public Recreation survey with over

Bicycling

Bicycling is one of America's major outdoor recreation and transportation activities. While this document is more focused on the recreational aspect of bicycling, it should be noted that the transportation component will likely grow in importance as the cost of gasoline and concerns over environmental issues increase in the future. According to the National Household Travel Survey (NHTS) bicycle use is already growing both for recreation

and for commuting, with an increase nationally by 27% from 2001-2009.

For recreation purposes, on and off-road biking, including mountain biking, was the fourth most popular activity in the 2012 General Public Recreation Survey with 36% of respondents participating at least once. Statewide there were over 50 million activity days.

Because bicycling is a growing mode of transportation, and because much of the recreational bicycling takes place on public roads, an important component of improving this activity is increased safety. This can be accomplished in a number of ways including the use of helmets, traffic law education and the construction or designation of separate lanes for bicyclists. The installation of separated bike lanes has been gaining in popularity and acceptance across the country and has been shown to increase cycling and reduce risk to cyclists.

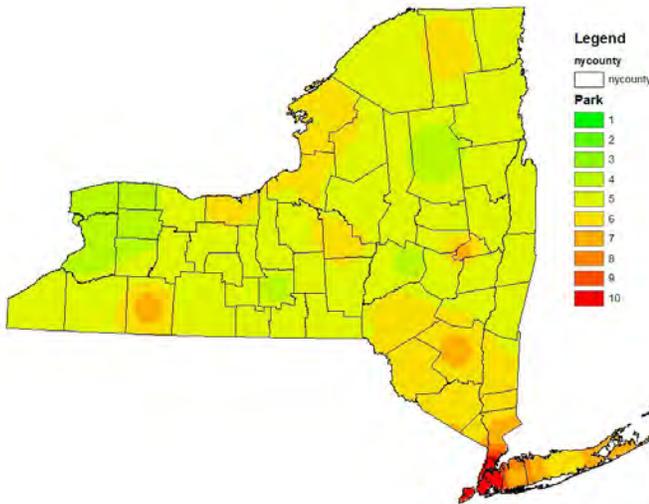


Figure 3.11 - Need for Park and Playground Facilities

Equestrian

Horse ownership and ridership is a popular activity throughout New York State and is important to many local economies. Based on information from the New York State Horse Council, there are over 200,000 horses in New York and this activity produces \$2.4 billion worth of goods and services within the state providing the equivalent of over 35,000 full-time jobs.

Horseback riding is not limited to the suburban and rural areas of the state. The Outdoor Recreation Facilities inventory lists equestrian trails in every county, including New York City. Within New York State, many of the trail networks provided by DEC provide support facilities such as hitching rails, horse shelters, lean-tos for riders and parking amenities.

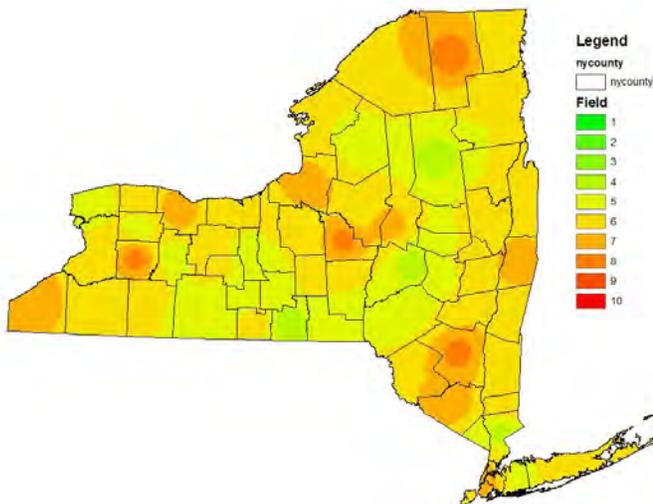


Figure 3.12 - Need for Field Sport Facilities

Day Use Activities

Relaxing in the Park

This category includes picnicking, relaxing in the park and playground use. Requiring minimal physical exertion and almost no equipment costs, these activities can be enjoyed by the young and old, rich and poor. It is therefore no surprise that the number of participants for picnicking/day use/relaxing in the park is one of the largest of all the activities studied for this report – 85% of the State’s population. Additional facilities for relaxing in the park was also the top requested facility in 2012 General Public Survey.

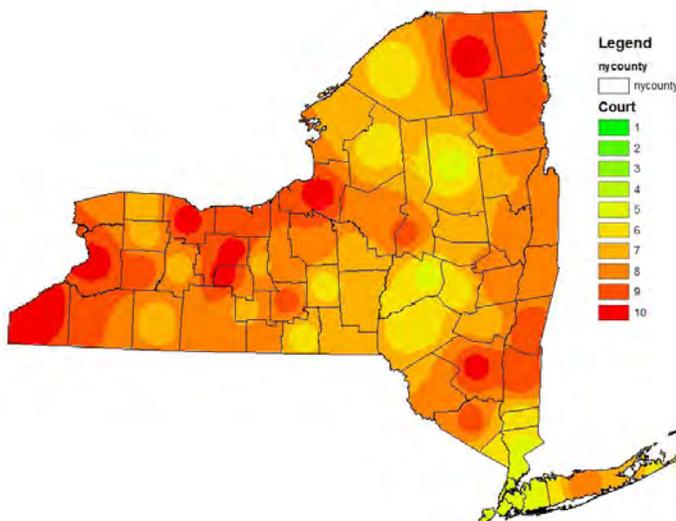


Figure 3.13 - Need for Court Game Facilities

Field Games (Baseball/Soccer/Football, etc)

Table 3.4 - Day Use Facilities by Operator and Region

Day Use Facilities By Operator																
Operator	Places with Picnicking	Picnic Tables # (est.)		Places with Tennis		Places with Basketball		Places with Playgrounds		Baseball		Football		Soccer, Rugby and Multi-Use		
State	314	20.7%	39,946	49.1%	31	3.0%	53	3.7%	138	5.2%	39	2.6%	13	5.7%	56	21.6%
County	177	11.7%	21,931	27.0%	56	5.4%	27	1.9%	100	3.8%	69	4.6%	16	7.0%	13	5.0%
City or Village	489	32.3%	10,101	12.4%	566	54.4%	985	68.2%	1,620	60.9%	801	53.8%	118	51.8%	87	33.6%
Town	528	34.9%	9,260	11.4%	385	37.0%	380	26.3%	802	30.1%	578	38.8%	81	35.5%	103	39.8%
Federal	7	0.5%	121	0.1%	2	0.2%	-	0.0%	1	0.0%	3	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	1,515	100%	81,359	100%	1,040	100%	1,445	100%	2,661	100%	1,490	100%	228	100%	259	100%

Day Use Facilities By Region																
Region	Places with Picnicking	Picnic Tables # (est.)		Places with Tennis		Places with Basketball		Places with Playgrounds		Baseball		Football		Soccer, Rugby and Multi-Use		
Niagara	95	6.3%	15,026	18.5%	111	10.7%	65	4.5%	164	6.2%	161	10.8%	32	14.0%	19	7.3%
Allegany	73	4.8%	2,035	2.5%	21	2.0%	12	0.8%	39	1.5%	35	2.3%	5	2.2%	3	1.2%
Genesee	105	6.9%	6,381	7.8%	42	4.0%	24	1.7%	96	3.6%	105	7.0%	17	7.5%	7	2.7%
Finger Lakes	139	9.2%	5,766	7.1%	35	3.4%	64	4.4%	133	5.0%	109	7.3%	8	3.5%	19	7.3%
Central	258	17.0%	9,937	12.2%	134	12.9%	191	13.2%	324	12.2%	198	13.3%	38	16.7%	50	19.3%
Forest Preserve	97	6.4%	4,092	5.0%	13	1.3%	6	0.4%	41	1.5%	11	0.7%	2	0.9%	3	1.2%
Taonic	142	9.4%	7,166	8.8%	115	11.1%	104	7.2%	159	6.0%	148	9.9%	35	15.4%	72	27.8%
Palisades	100	6.6%	5,795	7.1%	41	3.9%	59	4.1%	102	3.8%	68	4.6%	19	8.3%	11	4.2%
Long Island	202	13.3%	12,596	15.5%	252	24.2%	228	15.8%	528	19.8%	289	19.4%	24	10.5%	23	8.9%
Thousand Islands	118	7.8%	4,397	5.4%	52	5.0%	51	3.5%	97	3.6%	69	4.6%	23	10.1%	22	8.5%
Saratoga	133	8.8%	5,858	7.2%	83	8.0%	130	9.0%	192	7.2%	109	7.3%	17	7.5%	17	6.6%
New York City	53	3.5%	2,310	2.8%	141	13.6%	511	35.4%	786	29.5%	188	12.6%	8	3.5%	13	5.0%
Totals	1,515	100%	81,359	100%	1,040	100%	1,445	100%	2,661	100%	1,490	100%	228	100%	259	100%

Field sports are ranked the 6th most popular activity in the 2012 General Public Recreation Survey. Field sports have an adult participation rate of 23%. There are over 2,500 public facilities (excluding school districts) that have sport fields. There are many more fields for baseball than any other fields for recreational use with Long Island having the most baseball fields.

Court Games (Tennis/Handball/Racquetball/Basketball, etc)

Court games also had a participation rate of 23%. There are over 7,000 courts in New York State operated by cities, counties, state, town and federal operators. The largest operator of court games are cities and villages. The New York City region has the greatest number of basketball courts, according to the Outdoor Recreation Facilities Inventory

On the Water

Swimming

Of the activities studied in the 2013 General Public Recreation Survey, swimming was the third most popular when measured by activity days and number of participants. When asked what type of recreation facility was needed within 30 minutes of their homes, respondents mentioned swimming facilities was the second most requested facility behind local parks.

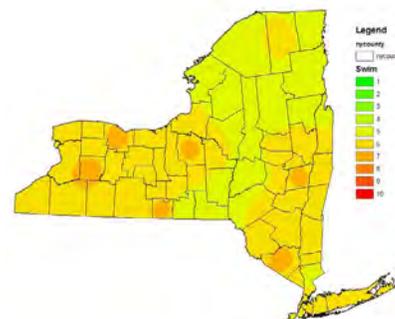


Figure 3.14 - Need for Swimming Facilities

Table 3.5 - Swimming Facilities by Operator and Region

Swimming Facilities by Operator										
Operator	Places with Swimming		Places with Beaches		Beaches Linear Ft.		Places with Pools		Pool Sq. Ft. (est).	
State	204	15.1%	117	20.0%	90833	31.5%	71	9.7%	330,111.00	18.8%
County	69	5.1%	38	6.5%	23085	8.0%	30	4.1%	102,980.00	5.9%
City/Village	575	42.5%	142	24.3%	67294	23.3%	425	58.1%	828,679.00	47.2%
Town	501	37.1%	285	48.7%	92129	31.9%	206	28.1%	494,676.00	28.2%
Federal	3	0.2%	3	0.5%	15270	5.3%	0	0.0%	-	0.0%
Total	1352	100%	585	100%	288611	100%	732	100%	1,756,446.00	100%

Swimming Facilities by State Park Region											
Operator	Places with Swimming		Places with Beaches		Linear Ft. of Beach		Places with Pools		Pool Sq. Ft. (est).		
Niagara	102	7.5%	17	2.9%	12480	4.3%	84	11.5%	124664	7.10%	
Allegany	21	1.6%	14	2.4%	6550	2.3%	7	1.0%	6500	0.37%	
Genesee	38	2.8%	12	2.1%	6240	2.2%	25	3.4%	46545	2.65%	
Finger Lakes	74	5.5%	31	5.3%	11640	4.0%	41	5.6%	62575	3.56%	
Central	205	15.2%	44	7.5%	24008	8.3%	146	19.9%	394236	22.45%	
Forest Preserve	88	6.5%	84	14.4%	23291	8.1%	3	0.4%	11000	0.63%	
Taconic	92	6.8%	40	6.8%	9815	3.4%	48	6.6%	83179	4.74%	
Palisades	70	5.2%	25	4.3%	10060	3.5%	41	5.6%	171922	9.79%	
Long Island	375	27.7%	229	39.1%	115023	39.9%	146	19.9%	472747	26.91%	
Thousand Islands	67	5.0%	47	8.0%	22732	7.9%	19	2.6%	28149	1.60%	
Saratoga-Capital District	91	6.7%	22	3.8%	6865	2.4%	63	8.6%	156532	8.91%	
New York City	129	9.5%	20	3.4%	39907	13.8%	109	14.9%	198397	11.30%	
Total	1352	100%	585	100%	288611	100%	732	100%	1756446	100.0%	

Swimming is very popular in the southern areas of the state, including New York City and Long Island. Based on information from the Outdoor Recreation Facilities Inventory, the two counties in the Long Island region have approximately 40% of the New York’s developed beach and approximately 20% of the state’s pool area.

Boating

New York State has abundant water resources and most areas of the state provide numerous facilities for this activity. The Long Island Region has the greatest percentage of boating facilities. The analysis zones that have the greatest number of participants in boating are in the Central and Northern regions of the state. OPRHP is responsible for providing the public with a safe, enjoyable environment for recreational boating. Ultimately, the goal is to help boaters develop safe boating habits.

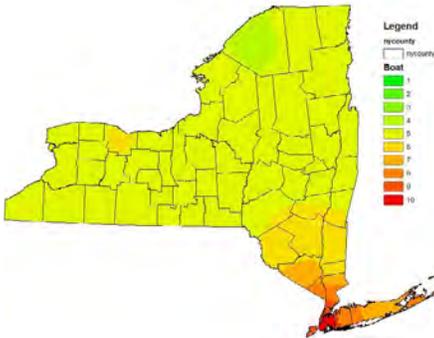


Figure 3.15 - Need for Boating Facilities

Table 3.6 - Boating Facilities by Operator and Region

Boating Facilities by Operator										
Operator	Cartop Launches		Boat Ramps (#)		Places with Docks or Anchorages		# of Docks/Moorings		Boat Rental	
State	209	83.3%	188	36.6%	135	36.1%	3426	20.7%	106	49.3%
County	12	4.8%	50	9.7%	26	7.0%	1464.3	8.8%	46	21.4%
City or Village	20	8.0%	105	20.4%	90	24.1%	4673	28.2%	33	15.3%
Town	10	4.0%	169	32.9%	122	32.6%	7001	42.3%	30	14.0%
Federal	0	0.0%	2	0.4%	1	0.3%	1	0.0%	0	0.0%
Totals	251	100%	514	100%	374	100%	16565.3	100%	215	100%

Boating Facilities by State Park Region											
Region	Cartop Launches		Boat Ramps (#)		Places with Docks or Anchorages		# of Docks/Moorings		Boat Rental		
Niagara	7	2.8%	34	6.6%	15	4.0%	522	3.2%	10	4.7%	
Allegany	10	4.0%	15	2.9%	11	2.9%	533	3.2%	10	4.7%	
Genesee	14	5.6%	16	3.1%	9	2.4%	102	0.6%	9	4.2%	
Finger Lakes	23	9.2%	52	10.1%	31	8.3%	1484	9.0%	16	7.4%	
Central	57	22.7%	41	8.0%	20	5.3%	464	2.8%	24	11.2%	
Forest Preserve	26	10.4%	52	10.1%	23	6.1%	330	2.0%	47	21.9%	
Taconic	14	5.6%	22	4.3%	20	5.3%	2414	14.6%	17	7.9%	
Palisades	23	9.2%	14	2.7%	8	2.1%	64	0.4%	20	9.3%	
Long Island	12	4.8%	146	28.4%	131	35.0%	7914.3	47.8%	26	12.1%	
Thousand Islands	46	18.3%	71	13.8%	69	18.4%	1543	9.3%	10	4.7%	
Saratoga-Capital District	17	6.8%	30	5.8%	21	5.6%	146	0.9%	11	5.1%	
New York City	2	0.8%	21	4.1%	16	4.3%	1048	6.3%	15	7.0%	
Totals	251	100%	514	100%	374	100%	16564.3	100%	215	100%	

Fishing

New Yorkers can choose from a variety of fishing experiences. Salt water fishing, surf casting and deep water fishing are popular throughout Long Island and New York City. Because of the abundant sources of water throughout New York State, freshwater fishing is also popular. In the winter, ice fishing is popular in many areas. Fishing is most popular in the Western region according to the 2013 General Public Recreation Survey. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation requires fishing licenses and publishes an annual guidebook for fishing regulations and locations.

To help people make healthier choices about which fish to eat, the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) issues advice about eating sportfish (fish you catch). People can get the health benefits of fish and reduce their exposures to chemicals, or contaminants, by following the NYS DOH advice. The advisories tell people which fish to avoid and how to reduce their exposures to contaminants in the fish they do eat. More information can be found here:

http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/fish/health_advisories/

Winter Activities

Local Winter Activities

For a number of reasons, the shorter season and school attendance, to mention two, total participation in winter sports is generally lower than summer activities. This category includes a

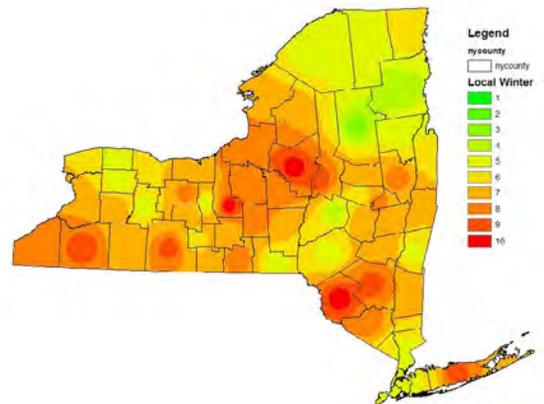


Figure 3.16 - Need for Local Winter Activities

Table 3.7 - Winter Activities by Operator and Region

Winter Activities By Operator								
Operator	Places with Ski Areas		Lifts (#)		Places with Ice Skating		Winter Trails Miles	
State	10	17.2%	3	23.1%	52	9.4%	1,467.18	85.3%
County	9	15.5%	3	23.1%	51	9.3%	45.45	2.6%
City or Village	19	32.8%	1	7.7%	232	42.1%	30.00	1.7%
Town	20	34.5%	6	46.2%	215	39.0%	176.50	10.3%
Federal	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.2%	-	0.0%
Totals	58	100%	13	100%	551	100%	1,719.13	100%

Winter Activities By Region									
Region	Places with Ski Areas		Lifts (#)		Places with Ice Skating		Winter Trail Miles		
Niagara	5	8.6%	1	7.7%	44	8.0%	46.40	2.7%	
Allegany	1	1.7%	0	0.0%	8	1.5%	25.00	1.5%	
Genesee	5	8.6%	0	0.0%	36	6.5%	24.50	1.4%	
Finger Lakes	1	1.7%	0	0.0%	22	4.0%	117.90	6.9%	
Central	6	10.3%	1	7.7%	94	17.1%	390.55	22.7%	
Forest Preserve	11	19.0%	7	53.8%	24	4.4%	251.00	14.6%	
Taconic	6	10.3%	0	0.0%	67	12.2%	99.70	5.8%	
Palisades	3	5.2%	1	7.7%	33	6.0%	351.00	20.4%	
Long Island	4	6.9%	1	7.7%	81	14.7%	20.20	1.2%	
Thousand Islands	3	5.2%	2	15.4%	31	5.6%	177.30	10.3%	
Saratoga- Capital Region	3	5.2%	0	0.0%	64	11.6%	209.20	12.2%	
New York City	10	17.2%	0	0.0%	47	8.5%	6.38	0.4%	
Totals	58	100%	13	100%	551	100%	1,719.13	100%	

number of outdoor winter activities, e.g. ice skating, sledding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. It does not include snowmobiling or downhill skiing as these two activities require considerably more of an investment by their participants in both equipment expenses and travel time. There are approximately 1,700 miles of trails in New York State for winter activities and 21% of the state participated in at least one day of local winter sport activities in 2012.

Snowmobiling

Snowmobiling is an important part of the economy in many remote New York communities. A recent report (2012) indicated that spending attributable to snowmobiling is in excess of \$860 million. This figure includes expenditures not only on equipment, but insurance, maintenance, gasoline and travel. However, in recent years the number of snowmobiles registered in New York State has decreased from approximately 172,000 in 2002-03, to 130,000 in 2006-07 and 117,000 snowmobile registrants in 2012-13.

Downhill Skiing

As with snowmobiling, this activity is an important component of the local economy for certain areas within New York State. Skiing is a commercially viable operation and the private sector provides most of New York's facilities. Over 55 million dollars was spent on winter sports equipment in New York State last year. The New York State Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) was originally created by New York State to manage the facilities used during the 1980 Olympic Winter Games at Lake Placid. In addition to operating these former Olympic sites, ORDA operates the ski areas at Whiteface Mountain, Gore Mountain and Belleayre Mountain. These ski areas had almost \$25 million in revenue for the 2012-2013 seasons.

Other

Camping

Camping differs from most other outdoor recreational activities in that it is a multi-day activity frequently involving other activities such as hiking, fishing, boating, etc. The style of camping, e.g. tent, RV, etc. changes over the course of the individual's lifetime. Younger campers are more likely to participate in backpacking and tent camping. Older campers prefer cabins and RVs.

Camping facilities are available throughout New York State although limited within New York City and Long Island. Because travel is an important component of these activities, campers in New York City and Long Island are willing to travel to the more remote areas of the state. The Catskill and Adirondack Forest Preserves contain the most camping sites of any other region and offer a variety of other recreation opportunities year round.



Autumn at Fahnestock State Park

Table 3.8 - Camping Facilities by Operator and Region

Camping Facilities by Operator										
Operator	Places with Camping		# of Campsites (est.)		Places with Cabins		# of Cabins (est.)		Places with Group Camps	
State	197	59.3%	15,701	73.9%	32	86.5%	827	95.5%	24	50.0%
County	63	19.0%	2,594	12.2%	4	10.8%	38	4.4%	14	29.2%
City or Village	19	5.7%	891	4.2%		0.0%		0.0%	3	6.3%
Town	47	14.2%	1,906	9.0%	1	2.7%	1	0.1%	5	10.4%
Federal	6	1.8%	148	0.7%		0.0%		0.0%	2	4.2%
Total	332	100%	21,240	100%	37	100%	866	100%	48	100%

Camping Facilities by State Park Region										
Region	Places with Camping		# of Campsites (est.)		Places with Cabins		# of Cabins (est.)		Places with Group Camps	
Niagara	14	4.2%	1,023	5.2%	2	5.4%	2	0.2%	1	2.1%
Allegany	23	6.9%	538	2.7%	2	5.4%	380	43.9%	2	4.2%
Genesee	13	3.9%	1,312	6.7%	4	10.8%	114	13.2%	5	10.4%
Finger Lakes	38	11.4%	2,478	12.6%	8	21.6%	96	11.1%	5	10.4%
Central	46	13.9%	1,756	9.0%	7	18.9%	104	12.0%	7	14.6%
Forest Preserve	66	19.9%	6,268	32.0%		0.0%		0.0%	3	6.3%
Taconic	26	7.8%	849	4.3%	3	8.1%	60	6.9%	4	8.3%
Palisades	19	5.7%	1,101	5.6%	2	5.4%	39	4.5%	1	2.1%
Long Island	24	7.2%	1,674	8.5%	1	2.7%	1	0.1%	9	18.8%
Thousand Islands	42	12.7%	1,674	8.5%	7	18.9%	68	7.9%	8	16.7%
Saratoga- Capital District	20	6.0%	889	4.5%	1	2.7%	2	0.2%	3	6.3%
New York City	1	0.3%	38	0.2%	-	0.0%	0	0.0%		0.0%
Totals	332	100%	19,600	100%	37	100%	866	100%	48	100%

Golfing

Golfing is one of the few activities that participation rates seem to increase with age, although an increase in income over the same years of the lifetime may also be a contributing factor. With the aging of the baby boomers, this has been a rapidly growing activity for many years. Now, however, with the youngest baby boomers turning 49 the number of golfers is not increasing as rapidly as before.



Table 3.9 - Golf Facilities by Operator and Region

Golf Facilities by Operator								
Operator	Places with Regulation Golf		# of Holes		Places with Miniature Golf		Places with Driving Ranges	
	State	19	14.7%	465	18.5%	6	28.6%	12
County	25	19.4%	495	19.7%	7	33.3%	12	23.1%
City or Village	48	37.2%	873	34.7%	6	28.6%	13	25.0%
Town	34	26.4%	630	25.0%	2	9.5%	14	26.9%
Federal	3	2.3%	54	2.1%		0.0%	1	1.9%
Totals	129	100%	2517	100%	21	100%	52	100%

Golf Facilities by State Park Region									
Region	Places with Regulation Golf		# of Holes		Places with Miniature Golf		Places with Driving Ranges		
	Niagara	17	13.2%	270	10.7%	0	0.0%	6	11.5%
Allegany	0	0.0%	3	0.1%	3	13.6%	0	0.0%	
Genesee	5	3.9%	99	3.9%	1	4.5%	1	1.9%	
Finger Lakes	8	6.2%	154	6.1%	3	13.6%	4	7.7%	
Central	10	7.8%	208	8.3%	2	9.1%	2	3.8%	
Forest Preserve	3	2.3%	36	1.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Taconic	15	11.6%	234	9.3%	3	13.6%	4	7.7%	
Palisades	13	10.1%	243	9.7%	0	0.0%	8	15.4%	
Long Island	24	18.6%	675	26.8%	7	31.8%	15	28.8%	
Thousand Islands	8	6.2%	81	3.2%	2	9.1%	3	5.8%	
Saratoga-Capital District	8	6.2%	172	6.8%	1	4.5%	6	11.5%	
New York City	18	14.0%	342	13.6%	0	0.0%	3	5.8%	
Totals	129	100%	2517	100%	22	100%	52	100%	

The General Public Recreation survey indicated that golf was the 7th most popular activity among those ages 65-85 with over 2 million activity days in 2012.

Recreation Need

Recreation need considers the supply of recreation facilities and the level of participation (demand) in estimating how this level of participation will change, both geographically and quantitatively in the future. The Relative Index of Needs (RIN) translates this need by county into a numerical scale, +10 the highest level of need and +1 the least. Five is considered the statewide average. In all cases, there is a future need for all activities, but the relative level will be different among activities and counties.

A number of sources of data are used in calculating the Relative Index of Needs. One of the factors used is the current population of New York State by age and county. These figures are available from the U.S. Census Bureau. The next step is to estimate what percentage of the population engages in the activities being evaluated and how many days per year they participate. These figures have been calculated based on a recreation survey conducted during the spring of 2013, asking New York State residents about their participation in 2012.

The sources of data provide information on where recreationists live and how often they participate. However, much recreation involves travel, including travel across county lines. The Relative Index of Needs also takes

into account the fact that people travel for recreation by using available information on the location of parks and other recreation facilities. Using data on the quantity of recreation amenities at various destinations and an estimate of an individual's resistance to traveling for a particular activity, it is possible to calculate how much activity takes place at various destinations.

Comparing the number of future recreationists at the destination counties with the availability of present facilities helps to project the present and future needs for both new and rehabilitated facilities.

The 2013 Relative Index of Needs only assessed recreation facilities on the federal, state, and county level. This excluded many of the private and city operated facilities. For activities, the data on the supply side, that is location and quantity of recreation facilities, were inadequate in some counties or regions. Some activities, like golf and downhill skiing/snowboarding are largely operated privately. To account for this change the average of the surrounding counties or analysis zone was used to determine the county's capacity. Another possible data shortfall could be a lack of information on willingness to travel to participate in an activity. For these reasons, relative index of need figures were unfortunately not computed for certain activities, e.g. surfing, ATV riding, birding and equestrian use.

To get a more comprehensive view of the relative need variables the percentage of seasonal housing and adult and childhood obesity in a county was also considered in calculating the RIN. These figures were supplied by the US Census Bureau and the New York State Department of Health.

Due to the limitations of the 2013 General Public Recreation Survey an alternate means can be utilized to provide a RIN at the county level for grant rating purposes. In these cases, an estimated RIN can be calculated on an ad hoc basis using information from the available RIN table. For instance, if a RIN figure were needed for ATV activity, its value might be estimated by averaging the values in the snowmobiling column with those in the hiking column. While ATV use is distinct from both of these activities, there are certain commonalities. ATV use appeals to participants that enjoy using vehicles to explore the outdoors and, at the same time, often requires the availability of trails such as those that are enjoyed when hiking. This approach, while not optimal, would provide an approximation of real-world needs. If this methodology is applied, the inputs will be determined by OPRHP and maintained for future use so that figures are applied consistently through time.

While these figure are valuable in looking at the big picture, often times, the number presented for the county represents an average for the county as a whole and the actual need is not homogeneous within a county. For example, a county may have a river or other natural resource that would attract great numbers of recreationists with limited facilities while at the same time having largely undeveloped areas elsewhere in the county that satisfy the recreational needs in those locations. The county-wide figure would consider both areas. It would over-estimate the needs in certain areas of the county and underestimate it in others. Nonetheless, the Index of Need is relevant in comparing one county to another.

The Relative Index of Needs is a valuable tool to determine need for facilities at geographic areas over the next twenty years, but other factors can and should be taken into account for any final decisions.

Abbreviations used in the Relative Index of Needs Table

- Park – Relaxing in the park, picnicking, playground use, other generic day use.
- Swim – Outdoor swimming, either pool, lake, ocean or other.
- Bike – Non-motorized use of bicycles whether on trails, established paths, off-road or on highways for recreational purposes.
- Golf – Golfing on either regulation 18 or 9-hole courses as well as par 3 and pitch and putt courses.
- Court– Court Games includes basketball, handball and similar sports.

Field – Field Games includes baseball, football, soccer and other similar sports.

Walk – Walking/Jogging on paths and trails. Walking for pleasure, generally requiring less equipment than hiking.

Camp – Camping including tent, RV camping and backpacking.

Fish – Fishing, Salt and Fresh Water fishing from either shore or a boat, but not ice fishing.

Boat – Boating including canoeing, sailing, motorboating, row boating.

LocW – Miscellaneous local winter activities: Ice Skating, Sledding, Hockey

Ski – Downhill skiing and snowboarding

SnM– Snowmobiling

Table 3.10 - Relative Index of Needs

County	Park	Swim	Bike	Golf	Court	Field	Walk	Camp	Fish	Boat	LocW	Ski	SnM
Albany	4	7	6	5	8	6	4	5	6	5	6	6	6
Allegany	7	6	4	5	6	5	5	5	6	5	6	6	5
Bronx	10	6	10	5	4	6	9	8	4	9	5	6	10
Broome	4	4	5	5	7	4	5	5	5	4	4	6	5
Cattaraugus	5	6	4	6	8	5	3	5	5	4	9	6	5
Cayuga	5	5	5	6	8	5	4	6	6	5	10	6	6
Chautauqua	4	6	4	6	10	7	6	5	5	5	8	6	5
Chemung	5	7	5	5	8	6	6	6	6	5	6	6	6
Chenango	5	5	4	5	6	5	4	6	6	5	6	6	6
Clinton	4	4	5	5	8	5	5	5	6	4	6	5	5
Columbia	4	5	5	5	9	5	4	6	6	5	4	6	7
Cortland	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	5	8	6	6
Delaware	6	5	5	5	5	4	3	6	6	5	4	6	6
Dutchess	5	6	6	5	9	5	4	6	5	5	7	6	7
Erie	3	6	7	7	10	5	7	5	6	5	7	8	6
Essex	4	4	4	5	9	5	3	5	5	4	3	5	5
Franklin	6	6	5	6	10	8	5	6	6	5	4	6	6
Fulton	4	5	5	5	6	5	10	6	6	5	7	6	6
Genesee	3	5	4	5	6	4	3	5	5	4	4	5	4
Greene	5	5	5	5	6	6	5	6	6	5	7	6	7
Hamilton	3	4	4	5	4	3	2	5	5	4	2	5	5
Herkimer	5	5	5	5	9	7	5	6	6	5	9	6	5
Jefferson	6	5	6	7	7	5	5	6	6	5	6	7	6
Kings	10	6	10	6	4	7	10	8	5	10	5	6	10
Lewis	5	4	4	5	5	4	5	5	5	4	7	5	5
Livingston	4	5	4	5	6	4	3	5	5	4	4	5	5
Madison	6	5	5	5	6	8	3	6	6	5	7	6	6
Monroe	5	7	8	7	10	7	8	6	7	6	6	6	6
Montgomery	5	5	5	6	6	4	5	6	6	5	5	6	6
Nassau	6	5	9	5	5	4	7	7	6	7	5	6	9
New York	10	6	10	6	5	7	10	8	5	9	5	6	10

Table 3.10 (Continued): Relative Index of Needs

County	Park	Swim	Bike	Golf	Court	Field	Walk	Camp	Fish	Boat	LocW	Ski	SnM
Niagara	4	5	6	6	8	4	5	5	6	5	6	7	6
Oneida	4	5	4	5	8	5	5	5	5	4	10	6	5
Onondaga	5	7	7	7	8	5	5	6	7	5	7	8	7
Ontario	5	5	4	5	10	5	5	5	5	4	8	5	5
Orange	5	7	6	5	9	7	3	6	6	6	8	6	8
Orleans	3	5	3	4	6	6	4	4	4	4	4	5	4
Oswego	5	5	5	6	10	7	5	6	5	5	8	7	6
Otsego	3	4	3	4	4	3	3	5	5	4	3	5	5
Putnam	5	5	6	4	5	6	2	6	5	5	6	5	7
Queens	10	6	10	6	4	6	9	8	5	10	4	6	10
Rensselaer	4	5	5	5	7	7	4	5	5	4	6	5	6
Richmond	9	5	10	5	4	5	7	7	5	8	5	6	9
Rockland	5	5	8	5	6	4	3	6	5	7	5	5	7
St. Lawrence	4	4	3	5	5	6	4	4	5	3	4	6	4
Saratoga	5	6	6	6	8	6	5	6	6	5	8	6	6
Schenectady	7	6	6	6	8	6	6	6	6	5	8	6	7
Schoharie	4	5	5	5	5	4	6	6	6	5	7	6	6
Schuyler	4	5	4	5	6	4	4	6	6	5	5	6	5
Seneca	4	5	4	5	6	4	4	6	5	5	4	6	5
Steuben	4	5	3	4	8	4	4	5	6	4	9	5	5
Suffolk	5	5	7	5	8	5	5	6	5	6	9	6	10
Sullivan	5	5	5	5	7	6	4	6	6	5	10	6	7
Tioga	5	4	3	4	5	3	3	5	4	4	8	5	5
Tompkins	3	5	4	5	9	4	3	5	5	4	6	6	5
Ulster	7	6	6	5	10	8	4	6	6	6	9	6	8
Warren	4	4	5	5	7	5	6	6	6	5	4	5	6
Washington	5	5	5	5	7	5	5	6	6	5	5	5	5
Wayne	6	5	5	6	8	6	8	6	6	5	6	6	6
Westchester	6	4	8	5	4	3	3	7	6	7	4	6	8
Wyoming	4	7	5	6	9	8	5	5	6	5	7	6	5
Yates	4	6	4	5	10	6	6	6	6	4	7	6	5

Chapter 4: Goals and Recommendations

Vision for Recreation in New York State

The vision for recreation in New York State is: “to provide a system of safe and enjoyable recreational and interpretive opportunities for all New York State residents and visitors and to protect and improve the quality of the valuable natural, historic and cultural resources.” In meeting this vision, the quality of life will be improved with incentives for a healthier life style and economic vitality. This vision establishes a direction and leadership role for the State in providing a “greener” environment.

Goals and Recommendations

The direction for recreation in New York State is guided by three statewide initiatives with stated goals. These goals provide direction and support for protection and management of natural, cultural and recreation resources. These goals will provide a strong, statewide structure to support specific actions and administrative and legislative decisions. Recommendations that support the goals are also identified.

Enhancing and Revitalizing the State Outdoor Recreation System

Since taking office, the Governor and his administration has made preserving, enhancing and revitalizing the state outdoor recreation system a priority. Parks and recreation areas have been the backbone of the state’s economy for decades, but have been slowly deteriorating. According to the NYS Office of the State Comptroller, every state park and historic site has some infrastructure need and OPRHP estimates that there is a \$1.1 billion backlog of park improvements ranging from health and safety to infrastructure. Utilizing funds from the NY Works Initiative, the Governor and the NYS Legislature allocated \$89 million to OPRHP in 2011 and another \$90 million in 2012 which leveraged a historic infusion of capital funding to hundreds of millions to create jobs and stimulate local economies throughout the state. These numbers represent the changing tide towards recreation infrastructure in New York State.

Resource and Facility Planning

State agencies have responded to the commitment of funding from the Governor and the Legislature through the preparation of plans for recreation and open space throughout the state. With plans completed, several in-progress, and more in the queue, projects to improve parks and other recreational facilities have been vetted and reviewed pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and are now shovel ready.

At the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, thirteen state park master plans, several trails plans, management plans, and other plans have been completed for state park facilities. In addition, special planning efforts have been undertaken at the keystone parks within the state park system like, Niagara Falls State Park, Jones Beach State Park, Roberto Clemente State Park, and Riverbank State Park.

MASTER PLANS COMPLETED SINCE 2008:

- Black Diamond Trail
- Midway State Park
- Saratoga Spa State Park
- Minnewaska State Park Preserve
- Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve
- Allegany State Park
- Hallock State Park Preserve
- Robert G. Wehle State Park
- Green Lakes State Park
- Fahnestock State Park / Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve
- Grafton Lakes State Park
- Mills-Norrie State Parks / Staatsburgh State Historic Site
- Rockland Lake, Hook Mountain, Nyack Beach, & Haverstraw Beach State Parks
- Thacher and Thompson’s Lake State Parks
- NYS Trails Plan

Goal: Increase and Deepen the Visitor Experience by Reinventing and Redesigning Our Parks and Historic Sites

Recommendations:

- Rehabilitate and/or adaptively reuse existing recreation and historic facilities when feasible, to satisfy existing and projected recreation, interpretive and education needs.
- Promote compatible multiple uses and maximize, as appropriate, the length of activity seasons.
- Promote public health and safety and universal access in rehabilitation and new construction.
- Protect natural and cultural resources in undertaking park and historic site operation, maintenance and management activities.
- Encourage the training of park, historic site and land managers in best management practices for protection of natural and cultural resources, as well as for operation and maintenance of facilities to ensure public health and safety.
- Continue to develop master plans, site plans, management plans, and other planning documents to facilitate the reinvention and redesign of parks and historic sites.
- Facilitate inventories and analyses of park, recreation, natural and historic resources through Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and other technologies.
- Ensure appropriate public participation in planning, research and environmental review efforts.

FOCUS ON: CAUMSETT STATE HISTORIC PARK PRESERVE MASTER PLAN

The Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve Master Plan was adopted in 2010 after a nearly 18-month planning and environmental review process. The planning team consisted of OPRHP staff, members of the friends group associated with the park, the Caumsett Foundation, and assistance from a consultant. This 1,200-acre park preserve is one of the largest undeveloped tracts of land on the north shore of Long Island. A former country estate for Marshall Field III, Caumsett was acquired by the state in the 1960s and has largely remained untouched since that time. The plan recommended designating the historic park as a park preserve under Article 20 of NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law. This designation provides added protection

to the wealth of natural and cultural resources at the park. In addition, cultural and natural resource management strategies were developed for the facility and car-top boat launching was recommended at the Long Island Sound.



Goal: Build a 21st century green and sustainable park system: fix and green the aging infrastructure of our parks and historic sites and open new facilities

Recommendations:

- Improve and expand the statewide commitment toward environmental sustainability in all parks, recreation and historic sites and support facilities.
- Develop policies and procedures for reductions in energy consumption, reduction in the production of greenhouse gases through increased energy efficiency and increased use and support of renewable energy sources.
- Develop policies and procedures to maximize the procurement of environmentally preferable or ‘green’ products and services.
- Ensure practices that promote waste reduction, reuse, and recycling.
- Promote the procurement of locally produced commodities.
- Increase the use of non-fossil-fuel-based transportation, public transit and alternative transportation to and within recreational areas and open spaces.
- Develop “green” design standards for buildings where LEED certification may not be feasible.
- Maximize energy efficiency and utilize sustainable / green building materials in new facility design and construction.



Above: Swimmers enjoy Robert Treman State Park in the Finger Lakes Region



Hummingbird at Thacher State Park



Improving Connections between Recreation, Economics, Sustainability, and Healthy Lifestyles

There is an intrinsic value and relationship between open space, recreation, economics, and healthy living. As a steward of extensive recreation opportunities and open space, the State of New York works to bring people to nature. In addition, natural and recreation attractions serve as a critical piece of the economy in New York State, especially in upstate and western New York. The world around us is increasingly technological; we're always "connected" via the internet and smart phones. Longer commutes and other lifestyle changes have yielded a more sedentary lifestyle and, as a result, the need to connect people with the outdoors and recreation has never been greater.

The Value of the Outdoors (Economic, Human Spirit, and Natural)

When thinking about open space, parks, and recreation areas it's often easiest to place a value on the land itself.

If this park wasn't here, how many houses could be built here? Or what business would be here? While there is a value to the land, there is also a value that can sometimes be difficult to associate a number with. That value is in the economic benefit that the open space brings to a community. Parks and open space provide a destination where people go to recreate, exercise, spend time with family, connect with nature, look up at the sky, and enjoy the views. Open spaces allow humans to disconnect and embrace their surroundings. Children can explore on a hike; see a salamander—build their self-esteem when they reach the end of the trail.



There is a real economic benefit to outdoor recreation, as well. According to a 2010 report from the NYS Office of the State Comptroller, outdoor recreation contributes approximately \$11.3 billion dollars to New York's tourism economy —that's over 25% of the state's total tourism industry. In addition, nearly \$800 million dollars of tax revenue can be attributed to the outdoor recreation economy. The NYS Park System alone generates approximately \$1.9 million in sales and output in visitor spending.

FOCUS ON: ALLEGANY STATE PARK MASTER PLAN

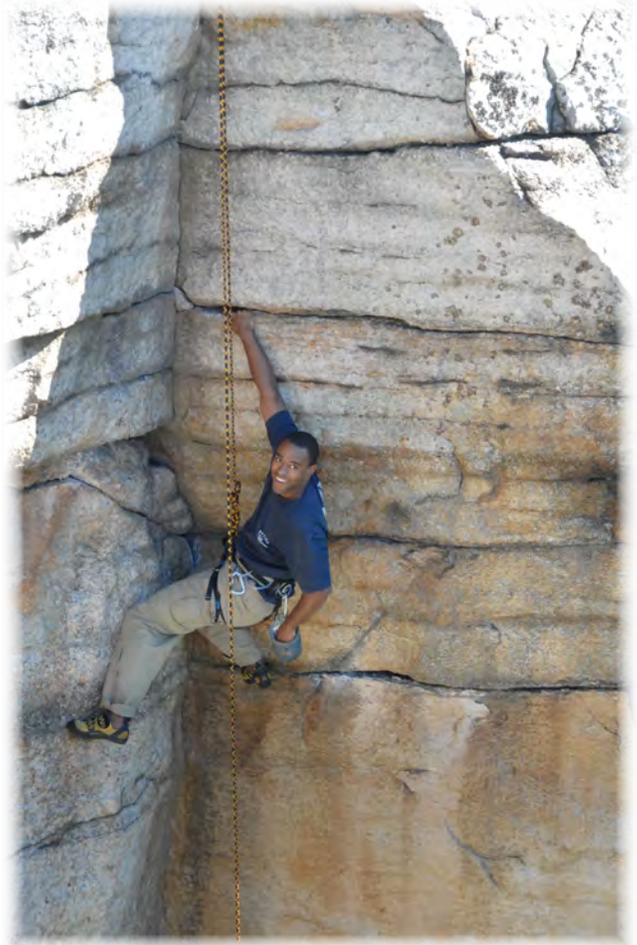
After nearly twenty years with a draft plan (never formally adopted) the master planning effort for Allegany State Park was revived in 2009 and completed in 2010. One of the biggest accomplishments of the plan included designating park preserve areas to help protect the natural resources of the park. In addition, new camping facilities, upgrades to existing ball fields and courts, a new basketball court, new playground equipment, a new car-top boat launch at Quaker Lake, and numerous improvements to the extensive trail system were recommended (non-motorized and motorized trails).



In addition, visitor spending helps to support 20,000 public and private sector jobs that represent roughly \$440 million in employment income here in New York State.

More recently, extraordinary weather events have put the value of natural processes in a new light. In the wake of Superstorm Sandy, hundreds of miles of coastline were damaged. The beaches with sand dunes and other protective features, however, fared the storm significantly better than those without.

With climate change upon us and the idea that 100-year storms are arriving with greater frequency (Hurricanes Irene, Lee, and Superstorm Sandy), people are starting to appreciate the value of natural resources in protecting interior lands and development. For example, with strong storms impacting New York State, the value of wetlands is becoming increasingly apparent in coastal areas. Similarly, when floods ravage upstate areas, the pervious surfaces and vegetation found in parks and open space allow for water absorption and help to slow stormwater runoff. Thereby demonstrating an ecological value to natural resources and open space as well.



Climbing at Minnewaska State Park Preserve

Goal: Launch a statewide “Explore Your Outdoors” campaign in conjunction with Empire State Economic Development Corporation (ESEDC) and the “I Love NY” program

Recommendations:

- Promote the outdoor recreation opportunities statewide.
- Highlight New York’s unique landscape and diverse recreation opportunities.
- Launch a website dedicated to outdoor recreation opportunities in NYS that would combine OPRHP, DEC, county, and private recreation information in one location. The site would be interactive and searchable.
- Continue to utilize social media and technology to engage younger generations and gain their interest in outdoor recreation.

Goal: Continue to Improve, Repair, and Expand Outdoor Recreation Facilities to Attract Visitors to Parks

Recommendations:

- Encourage the legislature to continue to keep OPRHP budget allocations consistent (\$90 million in 2013) so that the excessive backlog of capital projects can be addressed.
- Evaluate existing infrastructure to address critical repair needs.

- Address facility needs in a comprehensive and thoughtful manner.
- Evaluate vulnerable coastal parks and lands to ensure natural processes are not hindered by development and embrace improvements/repairs that will prepare facilities to better handle future weather events.
- Continue to improve recreation facilities to ensure universal access with recognition of the needs of the aging population.

Reducing Obesity through Outdoor Recreation

According to the May 2010 report from the Taskforce on Childhood Obesity, one in three (approximately 32%) children in America, ages 2-19, is overweight or obese. In addition, when polled, 40% of children ranked “watching TV or playing video games” as more important to them compared to 4% of the 10,000 children polled who felt saving the environment was most important. Obesity is a major risk facing the future of



Young New Yorkers enjoy the snow at Grafton Lake State Park

America, as well. With higher obesity rates, the likelihood of developing diabetes or other diseases increases significantly. Ergo, health care costs are anticipated to rise as our collective health as a nation diminishes. Our military readiness is also put at risk with soaring obesity rates as more than a quarter of all Americans ages 17-24 are considered unfit to serve in the military because they are too heavy .

Childhood obesity rates are further complicated by socio-economic factors. Studies show that obesity rates are higher among non-Hispanic black and Hispanic children, though non-Hispanic white children are not far behind. There is also a higher incidence of obesity amongst non-Hispanic white (16.7%) and Hispanic boys (25.5%) and non-Hispanic black girls (29 %). Adults and children are getting less physical activity in general.

FOCUS ON: I LOVE MY PARK DAY!

I Love My Park Day is an annual event sponsored by Parks and Trails New York, a non-profit dedicated to advocating for the betterment of New York’s parks, trails, and open spaces. I Love My Park Day began in 2012; in its second year more than 4,000 volunteers spent a Saturday in early May sprucing up parks and historic sites. Volunteers from across the state helped with clean up, gardening, painting, and construction projects in 80 parks and historic sites! The event brings together public and private entities that work as partners with a shared interest to improve the parks and historic sites.



School districts are experiencing budget reductions and are choosing to save money by eliminating physical education teachers and/or reducing the state required class time for students. Recess, perhaps the only time during the school day for free play, is also being eliminated or reduced. Increased “screen time” between television, iPads, video games, and personal electronic devices is also contributing to increased obesity in children and adults. Time spent in front of a screen yields less time outside for physical activity, organized sports, and informal play.

Goal: Reconnect Children and Adults with Nature and Recreation by Improving Access to Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Recommendations:

- Identify new outdoor recreation opportunities for underserved communities.
- Improve access to outdoor recreation opportunities through public transit, bikeways, and greenways.
- Partner with corporate sponsors to develop a bike program for eligible children.
- Explore bike sharing opportunities in parks.
- Promote greenways as a means of urban recreation and transportation.
- Develop programming in parks for kids and adults that encourages physical activity.
- Explore partnerships with NYS Department of Health, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and NYS Economic Development Corporation to support programs that connect New Yorkers with nature, recreation, and health.
- Develop a public health campaign to encourage people to reduce their “screen time” and get outside.
- Encourage the use of trails to increase physical activity and combat the obesity epidemic, as well as reduce the risk of many chronic diseases .
- Support NYS Department of Transportation and their efforts for the Safe Routes to School Program that encourages kids to get more physical activity by walking or bicycling to school.
- Foster partnerships with like-minded companies (i.e. LL Bean and REI) to support outdoor recreation programs.



Connecting Communities and Nature through Parks, Open Space, and Trails

Now, more than ever, there is a need and desire to find alternative transportation; not only to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels, but for recreation and physical activity. One such way is through the creation of parks, trails and greenways and the preservation of open space. All of these things provide recreation space and can also serve as a physical link between communities. New York City is home to several and very well-used bikeways and greenways. According to the New York City Department of Transportation, over a half a million New Yorkers ride a bike at least several times a month according to a recent study . Greenways are defined as a separated two lane path (for biking and walking/jogging).

Goal: Continue to develop a comprehensive, interconnected recreation-way, greenway and blueway trail system.

Recommendations:

- Identify and encourage when feasible, the creation of recreation-ways, greenways, and blueways in and around metropolitan areas, along major water corridors and along other natural, abandoned railroad and utility corridors.
- Foster partnerships between federal, state and local governments, not-for-profit organizations, trail groups and private landowners in the development and maintenance of trails.
- Support improvements to the canal recreation-way system.
- Encourage local volunteer participation in the development and management of trail segments.
- Strengthen the statewide trails program for the coordination, planning and technical assistance of trail development.
- Encourage the development of trails within subdivisions to provide pedestrian access to neighboring communities and facilities.
- Encourage trails and open spaces in the revitalization of urban areas.
- Encourage the expansion of universally accessible trail systems.

FOCUS ON: THE MANHATTAN WATERFRONT GREENWAY

With over 578 miles of waterfront, New York City has some of the most spectacular views in the world. Developed in 2003, the Manhattan Waterfront Greenway has al-



lowed New Yorkers to access 32 of those miles and connects several waterfront parks, esplanades, and trails to create a cohesive and dedicated space for bicyclists, walkers, joggers, and other users. The Manhattan Waterfront Greenway even connects to the larger Hudson River Valley Greenway that runs from Albany to New York City.

Land Conservation

Open space conservation and expanding existing parks has been a long time goal in New York State. With increased development pressures throughout the state, the need for open space and parkland also increases. Open space, as this document has explored, has a monetary and intrinsic value. Land conservation is critical for habitat preservation and wildlife, too. It also can help preserve historic landscapes and areas of scenic significance.

Goal: Continue to Protect Natural Connections Between Parks and Open Space

Recommendations:

- Continue to inventory and identify important ecosystems and natural connectors.
- Encourage the protection and/or acquisition of critical connectors between parks and open space acquisition of in-holdings and important properties adjacent to existing public landholdings.
- Ensure that the acquisition of open space resources is consistent with the approaches and recommendations identified in the NYS Open Space Plan.
- Encourage open space preservation by assessing lands adjacent to parks and forests to gauge their potential for future acquisition.
- Encourage the use of fee and non-fee acquisition as well as other techniques in the protection of important open space, scenic, historic, and ecologically sensitive areas.
- Continue to promote efforts to increase knowledge and awareness of biodiversity and develop state-wide, local and regional approaches to biodiversity protection and maintenance.



Below: Jones Beach State Park



Strengthening the Link between People, Nature, and Resource Stewardship

The tagline for the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is “Escape; Experience; Explore.” This is an active message that the agency endorses and wishes to strengthen via a visit to the SCORP. In previous sections of this chapter there are recommendations for expanding parks and increasing accessibility to recreation. In this section, the idea is to foster the link between people, nature and resource stewardship—specifically younger generations. Over 70,000 students visit NYS Parks annually for school-led environmental education and they should be met with expanded programs.

In addition, with climate change and the severity of recent storm events, it is imperative to educate and engage residents about the impact climate change has on ecosystems and the environment and what can be done to help lessen those impacts.

Goal: Engage Park Visitors through Programming at Parks and Historic Sites

Recommendations:

- Expand environmental and cultural education and interpretation programs throughout the state park and historic site system.
- Explore partnerships with colleges and universities to help develop and implement environmental education and interpretation programs throughout the state (see the SUNY Environmental Sciences and Forestry (ESF)—example in the Central/Finger Lakes Regions).
- Expand existing environmental education programs throughout the state (i.e. the Taconic Outdoor Education Center; Emma Treadwell Nature Center; etc.).
- Expand partnerships with established park, trail and advocacy groups.
- Continue to foster partnerships with Friends groups to garner support for individual parks and historic sites.



Goal: Continue Efforts to Restore, Conserve and Protect the Biodiversity of State Lands

Recommendations:

- Continue to work towards eradicating invasive plants, insects, and other animals statewide.
- Continue wildlife management efforts to improve biodiversity in parks and natural areas.
- Continue to preserve and connect natural areas and ecosystems to improve biodiversity statewide.
- Educate staff and visitors to parks and natural areas about the importance of biodiversity and how threats like climate change, habitat loss and fragmentation and invasive species can impact and change the environment.
- Take maximum advantage of conservation and youth service corps and other volunteer groups in the preservation of natural areas.
- Strengthen consistency and collaboration among state, federal and local programs and policies.



Above: Gantry Plaza State Park in New York City



Chapter 5: Implementation and Funding

One of the main reasons for completing the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is to prioritize goals and direct federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) dollars. New York State is fortunate to have funding for outdoor recreation projects through the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) but the slow economic recovery, increasing fuel prices, and higher priorities for funding (transportation/infrastructure needs, health care, education, etc.) has led to park budgeting challenges. The funding from the LWCF and other sources helps fill those critical gaps.

The goals and recommendations set forth in the SCORP provide the framework to allocate the parks budget and other funding. There are four implementation priorities that have been distilled through the planning process for SCORP:

Keep Parks / Outdoor Recreation Areas Open

Find new ways to perform routine operations--embrace technology/automation, staff training, adopt new ways to manage facilities (team approach), enhance/improve facility management by developing new partnership with friends groups and volunteers. Continue to develop plans for recreation facilities and historic sites to assist these facilities in the future.

Performance Metrics

Measurable results—how are we doing? Provide more quality services and increase the numbers of satisfied visitors. Bolster marketing and branding and develop more visitor surveys utilizing technology.

Improve Access and Deepen the Experience

Ensure universal access for all patrons. Reassess concession agreements to increase access to healthy food options at concessionaires. Expand and improve environmental education, interpretation and connections.

Sustainable Recreation Facilities

Ensure that sustainable design and construction measures are incorporated into the capital program. Support energy efficiency initiatives, alternative fuel maintenance equipment, changes in maintenance and landscaping practices, alternative/green energy sources, recycling, waste and water reduction, composting, and adaptive reuse of structures.

Funding and Partnership Opportunities

In addition to helping direct the allocation of funds, this chapter explores some of the funding sources on a federal and state level and how those funds are used in New York State.

When managing recreation facilities and open space statewide, it is helpful to look at the big picture and to balance the past, present and future needs. Looking at the past shows that many facilities and open spaces



Repairing the roof at Olana State Historic Site

which were acquired years ago are now worn out, not designed to meet today's needs, or have met and exceeded their life expectancy. Looking ahead, it is important to try and predict the need to develop new facilities and to continue to protect natural, cultural and open space resources. To achieve this balance, a partnership of all segments of the population is required — individuals, interest groups, private industry, and all levels of government.

Federal

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The LWCF was enacted by Congress in 1964 as a dedicated fund to provide grants to the states for outdoor recreational facilities and to provide funds for federal land management agencies to acquire additional holdings for their systems.



Swimming and playing at Roberto Clemente State Park

Funding for the program was authorized at \$900 million a year through revenues from offshore oil and gas leases. The funds are split between the stateside grant-in-aid program and the federal agencies. The grants-in-aid program requires at least 50% of total project cost as a local match with LWCF.

In the history of the program, over \$3.6 billion has been provided for the LWCF, which has helped support 40,000 local park projects, including the protection of over 2.6 million acres of open space.

At its high point in 1979, New York State received about \$24 million, which was used to provide grants to municipalities and to undertake State Park development and land acquisition projects. Since 1965, the LWCF has partially funded 1,250 projects within the State. Virtually every community in the State has acquired and/or developed outdoor recreational facilities with the help of the LWCF.

When funds are apportioned, it is the State's responsibility to solicit applications, evaluate projects and recommend grants to the National Park Service for approval. The State may allocate funds among both local and state projects.

Eligible projects include parkland acquisition, the development of new parks, and the rehabilitation of existing recreational facilities. All project areas are "mapped" and cannot be converted to any use other than public outdoor recreation without the approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

From 1989 through 1995, federal funding was extremely limited. From Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 1996 to FFY 1999, there was no stateside appropriation. This "0" appropriation trend was finally broken in FFY 2000, when \$40 million was appropriated nationally resulting in nearly \$1.9 million for the State.

Table 5.1 - LWCF Appropriations for New York State 1989-2012

1989	\$ 758,549	2000 - 1,881,460	2011 - 1,801,087
1990	- 957,052	2001 - 4,518,431	2012 - 2,035,726
1991	- 1,632,851	2002 - 7,085,103	
1992	1,090,278	2003 - 4,823,954	
1993	1,365,492	2004 - 4,543,804	
1994	1,323,714	2005 - 4,462,762	
1995	1,313,382	2006 - 1,382,142	
1996	0	2007 - 1,382,142	
1997	0	2008 - 1,139,569	
1998	0	2009 - 1,339,888	
1999	- 0	2010 - 1,885,406	

These federal funds, as they have been used in the past, provide recreational opportunities for the public in close proximity to where they live. Every federal dollar spent on stateside LWCF is matched by the local sponsor and results in no less than two dollars spent on local recreation facilities. In fact, for the State, the \$224 million provided between 1965 and 2006 resulted in \$500 million being invested in park and recreational facilities. Annually, enhanced federal funds to the states for LWCF initiatives will provide an assurance that federal commitments for important initiatives are kept, as well as assuring that the states are able to plan for future acquisitions and the development of outdoor recreation facilities most effectively.

Recreation Trails Program

The U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration administers the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) in consultation with the Department of Interior (National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management) and the Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service). The RTP is a state-administered, federal assistance program to acquire, develop and maintain recreational trails for both motorized and non-motorized trail use; the funds come from the Federal Highway Trust Fund as well as an excise tax on recreation-ally used motor fuel. OPRHP administers the program for the State.

Funds are available to state, municipalities, tribal governments, and private organizations. Since 1993 through 2011, the States obligated \$762 million in RTP funds for about 15,000 projects (http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/overview/benefits/).



Rafting in the Adirondacks

Transit in the Parks Program

The Transit in the Parks program was administered by the Department of Transportation and provided grants for planning or capital projects in or near federally owned or managed park, refuge or recreation areas that are open to the public. The goal of the program was to reduce automobile traffic near the federal lands to reduce congestion and improve air quality. This program was not funded for 2014, but funds were most recently applied in 2012.

There are a number of federal lands throughout New York State, so this program provided an opportunity to build or improve alternative transportation and connectivity of the State and Federal park system. Most recently (2011-2012), grant funding was been awarded to the Gateway National Recreation Area in and around Jamaica Bay in Queens, NY for planning of the Jamaica Bay Greenway including identifying alternative routes and non-motorized multi-modal connections and the Riis Landing Basin final planning and environmental assessment/permitting (US DOT Alternative Transportation, 2013).

Forest Legacy Program

The Forest Legacy Program was established as federal law in the 1990 Farm Bill. The goal of the program is to identify and protect environmentally sensitive forests which are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. The law authorizes the U.S. Forest Service, through the Secretary of Agriculture, to acquire land and conservation easements from willing sellers in participating states.



Under the state grant option, the State is using Forest Legacy funds to enhance the Working Forest program. Projects that have been undertaken using Legacy funds include the Taconic Ridge, Sterling Forest, the New York City Watershed in the Catskills, throughout the Adirondacks, and the Pine Barrens on Long Island.

Eligible forestlands include those with one or more resource values, such as scenic, recreational, cultural and ecological values, as well as riparian areas, fish and wildlife habitats and threatened and endangered species. Potentially eligible lands also should provide opportunities for traditional forest uses, such as timber management and forest-based recreation.

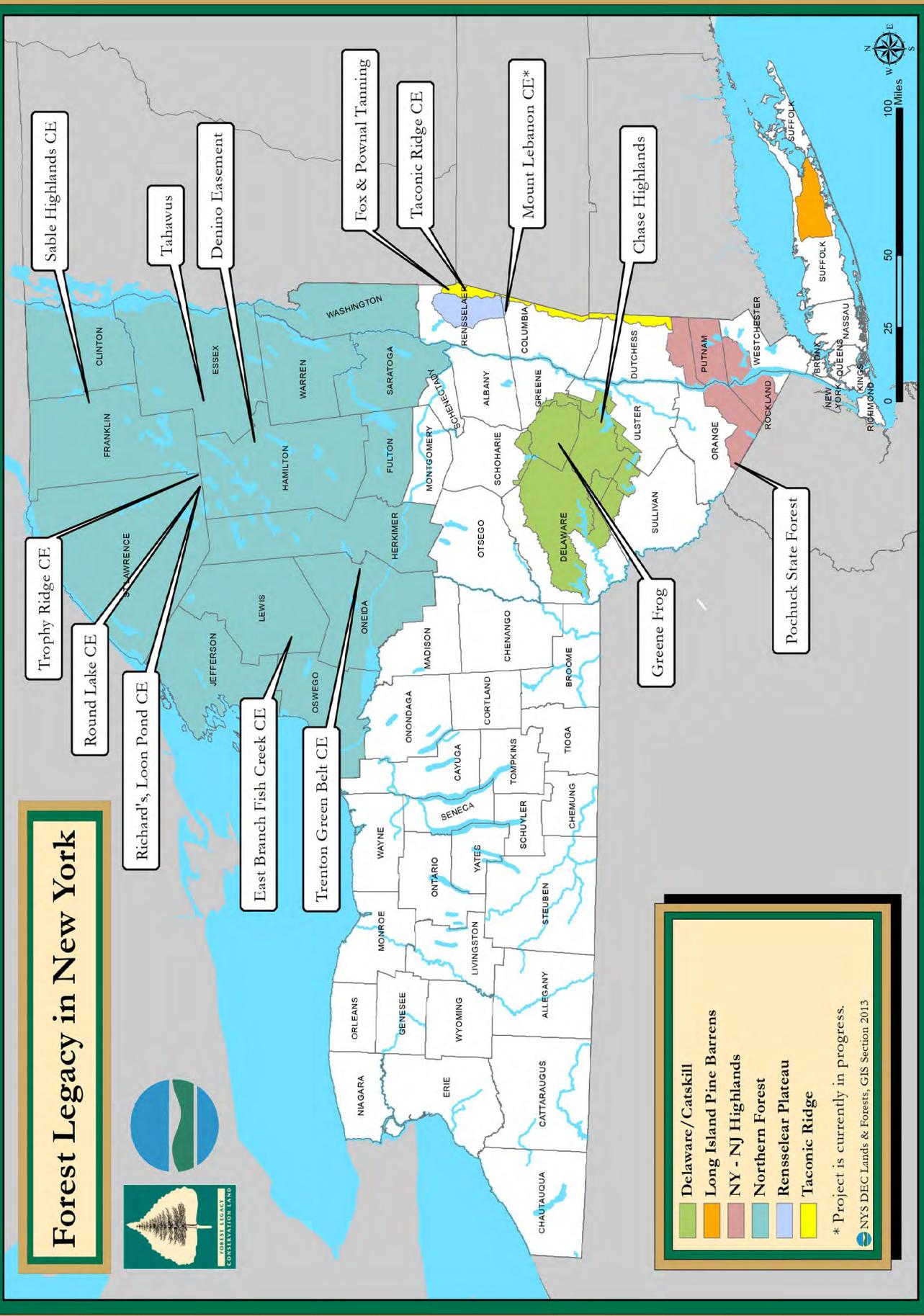
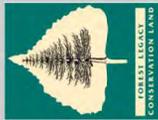
All such easements acquired must meet the conservation objectives and goals contained in the NYS Open Space Conservation Plan.

State

Environmental Protection Fund

In 1993, the Legislature enacted the Environmental Protection Act and created, for the first time in the State's history, a permanently dedicated Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) to meet the State's pressing environmental needs. Some of these needs include: the acquisition of priority projects identified in the NYS Open Space Conservation Plan; work on the identification, research and conservation of the State's bio-diversity; the municipal parks and historic preservation grant programs administered by OPRHP; local farmland protection projects administered by the Department of Agriculture and Markets; local waterfront projects administered by the Department of State (DOS), and, more recently, stewardship funding for DEC's and OPRHP's land and facility holdings and implementation of the Hudson River Estuary Action Plan.

Forest Legacy in New York



- Delaware/Catskill
- Long Island Pine Barrens
- NY - NJ Highlands
- Northern Forest
- Rensselaer Plateau
- Taconic Ridge

* Project is currently in progress.

NYS DEC Lands & Forests, GIS Section 2013

The acquisition of open space conservation projects is provided for in Title 3 of Article 54 of the Environmental Conservation Law. Title 9 of Article 54 authorizes OPRHP to administer a matching grants program for municipal parks, recreation and historic preservation projects. Revenues to support the EPF include real estate transfer tax (RETT), refinancing of state and public authority obligations, sale of surplus State lands, sale or lease of State-owned underwater lands, revenues from a conservation license plate program dedicated to open space conservation land projects and the “Bottle Bill.”

More information can be found at the Agency’s website (<http://nysparks.com/grants/documents/EPFRules-Regulations.pdf>).

Grant Allocation

SCORP provides the foundation for the allocation of state and federal funds for recreation and open space projects. The policies, needs assessment, initiatives and goals, are translated into criteria for evaluating projects in an objective manner. The SCORP is utilized to develop the rating systems for the Open Project Selection Process (OPSP) for LWCF projects, the EPF grants for municipal and not-for-profit projects, RTP grants and various acquisition categories consistent with the Open Space Plan.

SCORP helps guide the allocation of municipal and not-for-profit organization funds to local areas in greatest need and for facility types which are most deficient. The State’s park and recreation priority rating system helps rank projects on a statewide basis, translating measurements of need and statements of policy to the maximum fulfillment of recreation wants and protection of natural assets.

All applications receive statewide and compliance reviews. Joint meetings with regional field representatives and technical staff provide final review, ranking and approval, assuring full continuity from assessment and policy formulation to resource protection and program implementation.

Partnerships

Partnerships among governmental agencies with the private sector, not-for-profit organizations, and volunteers are an important tool in the acquisition, development, operations, and maintenance of recreation facilities. The State has made significant efforts to foster new partnerships at several recreational facilities over the past five years. The goal for these partnerships is to assist public agencies in providing quality and safe recreation opportunities while protecting natural and cultural resources, all the while maintaining a high level of service to the public.



A fresh snowfall at Thacher State Park



In order for a partnership to be successful, it must maintain the integrity of the park/site and its recreational, natural and cultural resources. The administering agency should not relinquish ownership, control or responsibility for the protection of the land and facilities under its stewardship. Partnerships should be designed to supplement not supplant resources provided to an agency through their normal budgetary process.

Over the past five years OPRHP has entered into several new partnerships including, but not limited to the following: park visioning and revitalization efforts at Niagara Falls and Jones Beach State Parks with the Alliance for NYS Parks; I Love My Park Day! An annual event organized and sponsored by Parks and Trails New York with larger, corporate sponsors such as LL Bean; a Learn to Swim program at Riverbank and Roberto Clemente State Parks with the American Red Cross; Smorgasburg—a weekly food event held from April to November at East River State Park; and an organic farming operation at Mills-Norie State Parks.

Types of Partnerships

Partnerships at parks and other state owned facilities are designed to be mutually beneficial for the administering agency, the partners, the facility, the environment, and the public. The following is a listing of some of the types of partnerships:

Acquisitions – In some cases, a not-for-profit has the ability to advance acquisitions with a landowner in a more efficient manner than a government agency. The not-for-profit organization purchases and then holds the property until the governmental body can secure the funding and facilitate the acquisition process. In addition, a not-for-profit can function as a third party in the negotiations with a landowner.

Cooperative/Management Agreements – A public agency can enter into an agreement with not-for-profit groups where the group operates a facility on the agency's behalf. The not-for-profit is then largely or solely responsible for all day-to-day operations and expenses for that facility.

Friends Groups - An agency can enter into an agreement with a not-for-profit organization to form Friends Groups to support a specific park, historic site or recreation area.

Concession Agreements – These generally involve for-profit entities, an agency determines that there is a need for a service and solicits proposals from the private sector. One objective is to encourage competition for private sector investment and operation of public service facilities.

Gifts - Gifts in terms of land or facilities from the private sector to a governmental body.

Sponsor – Some events conducted at public facilities are sponsored by various businesses or organizations. Typically, events advance the goals of the sponsor(s) while providing an activity / benefit for / to the public.

Volunteers - In addition to the more formal arrangement with the not-for-profits, there are numerous informal arrangements with volunteers on public lands. These may range from local service organizations to Camper Assistance Programs.

Adopt a “Beach” or “Trail” Program - These are programs directed at a specific resource such as a beach or trail, etc. The supporting groups would be responsible for the stewardship of that resource.

Research - These are partnerships with individuals, not-for-profit organizations, and institutions to conduct inventories and research on public lands to improve their stewardship, protection and management. The information is also valuable in the development of environmental education and interpretive programs.

Multi-agency and organization partnerships can promote common goals such as invasive species management, environmental and cultural interpretation and education, and wildlife monitoring.

Guidelines

Guidelines for partnerships are important to ensure that the partnership is compatible with the mission of the agency and with the framework that governs the agency. With the assistance of a working group comprised of representatives from various recreation, environmental and cultural organizations, OPRHP developed a set of public/private partnership guidelines. Although these are specific to OPRHP, they could apply to other public agencies as well. The guidelines flow from the Agency’s mission statement to the goals and objectives identified in SCORP and can found online here: <http://nysparks.com/publications/documents/PublicPrivatePartnershipsInStateParksAndHistoricSites.pdf>



“I Love My Park Day” Volunteers at Riverbank State Park

Chapter 6: Environmental Impacts

New York's State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) requires all state and local government agencies to consider environmental factors in agency decision-making processes and actions, including actions they have the discretion to approve, fund or directly undertake. SEQR requires agencies to balance environmental impacts with social and economic factors when deciding to approve or undertake an "action." Agencies must assess the environmental impacts of actions which they propose, evaluate alternatives, develop methods for minimizing potential adverse impacts, and provide an opportunity for the public to participate in the planning process when proposals may have significant impacts.

When an action is determined to have potentially significant adverse environmental impacts, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required. The SEQR process uses an EIS to examine ways to avoid or reduce adverse environmental impacts related to a proposed action, including an analysis of all reasonable alternatives to the action.

The action in this case is the adoption of the updated SCORP 2014- 2019. The updated SCORP will guide future recreational planning, activities, and development. Its adoption and implementation has the potential for significant effects. Since SCORP is a broad-based plan, an EIS that evaluates site-specific impacts of projects is not possible; thus, a Generic EIS (GEIS) is being prepared. It is more conceptual in nature than a site specific EIS which addresses a particular proposed project.

Generic EIS

This chapter, together with the remaining chapters of SCORP, constitutes a draft GEIS for SCORP and discusses the impacts and mitigation of impacts associated with adoption and implementation of the 2014 SCORP by OPRHP. SCORP 2014 describes changing recreational needs, development of statewide initiatives and related goals and recommendations, as well as general projections for future recreation needs and activities.

The GEIS presents a review of the overall SCORP direction in the context of maximizing needed recreational opportunities while protecting the State's natural and cultural resources from significant adverse impacts, and improving and enhancing the durability and resilience of the state's recreational opportunities and resources. The environmental analysis of SCORP focuses on the adequacy, clarity, and appropriateness of the stated initiatives, goals and recommendations that implement the vision of SCORP.

The Draft SCORP/GEIS are being made available for public review and will be the subject of a public meeting in accordance with the public review process of the SEQR. Comments on the Draft SCORP/GEIS are welcome and will be incorporated and addressed in the Final SCORP/GEIS as part of the SEQR record, prior to adoption of SCORP.

Environmental Setting

The environmental setting for SCORP consists of the people and the natural, recreational, scenic, historic and cultural resources of New York State, as well as social and economic characteristics. The resources potentially affected by SCORP include recreational areas, lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, coastal and estuarine waters, significant habitats, fish and wildlife, rare species of plants and animals as well as common species, forests, agricultural areas, parklands, historic sites, archeological areas, scenic areas, and communities. The setting also includes the general public, park and recreation service providers and both resident and nonresident users.

Alternatives

Choosing not to prepare this plan is not a viable option since the state is required to prepare SCORP, both pursuant to State law and to maintain eligibility of federal funds under the LWCF.

At the implementation level, not preparing the SCORP would mean that there would be no statewide guidance for the provision of outdoor recreation, or if the 2008 SCORP were continued, there would be no updates concerning changing recreation supply and demand, and initiatives and goals for recreation. In addition, failure by the State to implement SCORP may result in the loss of opportunities for public access and outdoor recreation, without proper identification of those opportunities. Adverse impacts to the environment could occur without the guidance provided in the goals and recommendations. Moreover, without the focus and goals set by SCORP, the opportunity for creation and maintenance of statewide systems of natural, cultural and outdoor recreation facilities will be substantially hindered.

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation

Within this section, the implications as to the environmental impacts of SCORP are discussed and, where possible, general approaches to mitigation of potential adverse impacts are also identified.

Planning Process

The planning principles described in Chapter 2 assure that recreation planning in the State considers natural as well as human resources. Constantly reevaluating assumptions, methods and objectives in the planning process helps assure protection of natural resources by adjusting preservation measures when conditions change or new information is available.

The objectives of OPRHP's planning process continue to support SCORP goals and planning principles. These objectives further the protection of resources by guiding agencies in formulating priorities. Adequate information and analysis, coordination and citizens' participation are key to implementation of actions that protect resources and enhance recreation.

The planning process considers land and water resources and user impacts, and emphasizes the best use of available resources and knowledge. Participation by the public in the planning process provides a balance of interests in plan formulation. Protection of open space, natural and cultural resources, and interests and priorities of the public are reflected in SCORP as well as in specific programs and projects implemented pursuant to SCORP.

Trends, Issues and Needs

The goal of measuring the supply of recreation in the State, estimating the needs of the citizenry and projecting this information in the future is met through the processes described in Chapter 3. The results provide an objective framework for the evaluation of future impacts upon the recreation system, as well as provide guidelines for the allocation of recreation resources. By continuing to improve communication and coordination among public and private recreation providers, the information network on recreation supply can continue to improve. Inventories and analyses will be furthered by ongoing use of GIS and other technologies.

While information is generated on supply and demand, it can also be used in evaluating the impact of recreational use on the environment, particularly whether a facility is being used within its capacity or exceeding proper use levels.

As in the past, this SCORP recognizes that urban recreation needs are a major component of the State's total recreational need. Changing populations and ethnic diversity are also recognized. Due to demographic changes, activities with high entry costs, such as golf and downhill skiing, will decrease in total participation. Such activities also have a greater tendency to cause adverse environmental impacts compared to other activities such as trail uses. There will also be an increase in trail uses such as biking, and for cultural activities such as historic sites and museums. There will be a need for non-fuel activities due to pressures on energy supplies. Generally, there will be a trend towards recreational uses that will have less intensive impacts. Providing recreational opportunities at the local level will be subject to local review processes, including SEQR if applicable.

Camping may include resource-intensive development, especially due to an increased demand for recreational vehicle (RV) camping facilities which usually require paving and higher capacity water and sewer (or pump-out) facilities. Even tent camping can result in impacts due to overuse and compaction of soil. There is a need for additional research on campground impacts and development of alternative development methodologies to minimize the adverse impacts of campground development.

Winter activities involve a range of impacts, from low-intensive snow shoeing to more intensive downhill skiing and snowboarding. The latter activities will continue to be provided primarily by the private sector, with a likely emphasis on expansion or redevelopment of existing facilities due to costs and approval processes. Provision for comfort stations and warm-up facilities for lower intensive outdoor activities such as skating is important; such facilities must be provided in an environmentally sensitive manner.

Trail activities include some winter sports such as cross-country skiing. An emphasis should be placed on small, localized facilities to minimize the extent of development required and to best meet the needs of users who are seeking areas close to home. Walking and hiking are also popular trail activities. These generally involve low intensity development, and are usually provided on public lands. Cross-country ski areas can be adapted for summer trail use, or vice versa. ATVs and other off-road vehicles are used by a small percentage of the population and most trails are on private lands. Biking is a favorite of many, young and old, and is expected to increase. Bike trails can be provided in association with improvements in transportation corridors as well as with other trail facilities. Mountain biking can cause conflicts both with other users (such as horseback riders) and with resources when bikers ride off trails. Communication and cooperation among all types of trail users and providers is necessary, as well as research to enhance resource protection in providing and using trails.

Initiatives, Goals and Recommendations

In order to maximize the social and economic benefits associated with providing recreation while minimizing adverse impacts to the resources of the State, it is critical that during planning for recreation programming and development of recreational facilities, consideration be given to the entire set of SCORP initiatives, goals and recommendations.

Focus on a portion of the goals or giving undue weight to certain recommendations can result in substantial reduction in the quantity of potential recreation services (and the associated benefits) or in the quality of the State's natural and cultural resources.

The SCORP initiatives, goals and recommendations are comprehensive and are consistent with OPRHP's mission to provide safe and enjoyable recreational and interpretive opportunities for all state residents and visitors and to be responsible stewards of its valuable natural, cultural and historic resources. The initiatives and goals also reflect the guiding principles of the mission which are commitments to people, preservation, service and leadership. The Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law contains a provision to declare stewardship of resources as a responsibility of the State, and includes as a guiding principle that OPRHP conserve, protect and enhance the natural, ecological, historic, cultural and recreation resources and provide public access in a manner that will protect them for future generations.

Assurance that the entire set of SCORP initiatives, goals and recommendations is applied to development of recreational programs and facilities is provided through use of grant allocation criteria, planning processes and public participation, and environmental review procedures. Resource protection is continually balanced with other goals to achieve optimal levels of recreational facilities and programs in view of the capability of resources to support use. Each time that SCORP is updated, suggestions for additions or revisions are sought from OPRHP staff, State Council of Parks and regional councils, and cooperating agencies as well as the public through the public participation process. This process assures that the goals and recommendations continue to be responsive to recreational needs and resource protection.

Since SCORP is a broad framework within which more detailed planning will take place, it is not possible to definitively identify adverse effects. It is consequently infeasible to suggest specific mitigation measures. Consistent, however, with OPRHP's stewardship mission, the review processes assure that due consideration is given to protection of the State's natural and cultural heritage. These processes by which more detailed plans and projects are developed and evaluated should serve to minimize, if not eliminate, adverse effects possibly associated with development of recreational facilities.

This SCORP contains initiatives and goals that reflect major issues and provide a larger context to enhancing existing recreational programs and activities across New York State.

Initiative: Enhancing and Revitalizing the State Outdoor Recreation System

Goal: Increase and deepen the visitor experience by reinventing and redesigning our parks and historic sites.

Rehabilitation has significant beneficial impacts, and with the exception of major expansion or reconstruction, adverse environmental effects are minor. Rehabilitation is generally more cost effective than development of new facilities.

The encouragement of compatible multiple uses as well as extension of user seasons means more efficient use of existing recreational facilities, but an overall increase in the numbers of users at a specific site. Multiple uses can result in more even distribution of users over the course of a day, and extension of user seasons has a similar effect over the course of a year. The quality of the recreationist's experience can thus be improved through potentially lower peak use periods. At the same time, an increase in the total number of users has the potential for adverse impacts on resources. Planning for each facility must be done with a careful evaluation of the capacity of resources to accommodate increased use and effects on the quality of recreation, with an emphasis on compatibility of the uses with the resources.

Proper management of the resources requires the training of park, historic site and land managers. This should be done on a continuous basis to assure best management practices are being utilized in protection of environmentally sensitive areas. This also includes training for operation and maintenance of facilities to ensure public health and safety and protection of sensitive natural resources and

The recommendation to develop master and management plans for parks, recreation, natural, historic and cultural areas recognizes the potential for substantial adverse environmental effects due to the lack of proper planning. Deficiencies in resource inventories can result in damage to significant resources, and overuse due to unknown resource capacity. Without adequate knowledge of resources, facility design and park operations may be inadequate to assure resource protection. The absence of planning may result in unnecessary environmental reviews of individual projects, duplicating previous efforts resulting in delays of project implementation.

Overall, the recommendations are consistent with and may advance coastal policies under the Coastal Management Program (CMP). For instance, rehabilitation and adaptive reuse promotes the CMP's development policy to restore, revitalize and redevelop deteriorated and underutilized waterfront areas. Training of managers in best management practices can advance the fish and wildlife policy to protect, preserve and restore habitats; the recreation policy to protect, enhance and restore historic sites or areas; and, water resources policies related to the use of best management practices in control of storm-water runoff and non-point discharge of pollutants.

Goal: Build a 21st century green and sustainable park system: fix and green the aging infrastructure of our parks and historic sites and open new facilities.

The potential benefits of new, installed sustainable infrastructure means that the Agency has the ability to perform and implement these recommendations with little environmental impact to the resources of the State.

Enhancing the Agency's commitment toward environmental sustainability is one mitigating factor in any project design, as environmental sustainability ensures there is a balance and reduction of the impacts on natural resources. Policies for the reduction of energy use and energy consumption have a beneficial environmental impact, as do practices that promote the use of green products and services. Enhancing reuse and recycling as well as procurement of locally produced commodities reduces the environmental impacts of facility operation. Energy efficient design standards for new buildings include reduction of impacts on natural resources as well as actions to increase and improve the natural aspects of a site, such as green storm water control, day-lighting of streams, improved culverts and use of native plants.

This goal reflects a commitment for State Parks to be a leader in demonstrating sustainable design technologies. An agency-wide sustainability initiative to adopt energy efficient technologies, green building design, fuel efficient vehicles, and green products procurement will provide a framework for similar efforts by other recreational providers.

Initiative: Improving the Connections between Recreation, Economics, Sustainability and Healthy Lifestyles

Goal: Launch a Statewide "Explore your Outdoors" campaign in conjunction with Empire State Economic Development Corporation and the "I Love NY" Campaign.

Promoting outdoor recreation, highlighting NY's unique landscape and diverse recreational opportunities and utilizing social media will likely have no adverse impact on the environment. These recommendations and actions could potentially increase visitor's knowledge of the ecosystems of the State and enhance their appreciation of these resources, leading them to respect the fauna and flora around them.

Such actions as interpretive programs promote recreation policies and informal recreational use of fish and wildlife resources. Compatible recreation and interpretive programs generally do not adversely impact coastal areas and are thus consistent with coastal policies. Site specific review should be conducted as applicable to assure that the manner in which recreation and interpretive programs are provided will be consistent with coastal policies.

Goal: Continue to improve, repair and expand outdoor recreation facilities to attract visitors to parks.

Recommendations within this goal to encourage continuous budget allocations, evaluate existing infrastructure, and evaluate coastal parks and lands to preserve natural process, are activities that are not likely to have any adverse impact on the environment, though they could result in knowledge that would improve understanding of the parks' natural systems allowing better, compatible designs. Continuing to improve recreational access to ensure universal access will be an action that could potentially be reviewed under the state SEQR processes.

Such activities as basic information gathering, research and planning must take place to support the achievement of other goals. This is no less important than protection and preservation of resources, since only through adequate information base and proper planning can such protection be assured.

Goal: Reconnect children and adults with nature and recreation by improving access to outdoor recreation opportunities.

Recommendations within this goal, such as identify new outdoor recreation opportunities, improve access to outdoor recreation through public transit and greenways, partner with corporate sponsors to develop a bike program, explore bike sharing opportunities, promote greenways as a means of urban recreation and transportation and develop programming in parks that encourages physical activities, could be both beneficial and adverse to the environment. Following the process of environmental review helps to identify and mitigate potential adverse impacts. For example, in identifying new outdoor opportunities for underserved communities, the

agency will follow review processes that ensure open space is conserved and that ecological communities are protected. In general though, these types of actions will not require or likely have a large impact on the environment. Other recommendations with this goal such as partnerships, a public health campaign, and fostering partnerships are not actions that would require SEQR review or that would be likely to have negative impacts.

Partnerships are essential in improving outdoor recreation opportunities. Key to this goal is to have clear agreements and responsibilities to preserve and protect natural and cultural resources. Partnerships can also be used to assist individuals in gaining access to the parks, such as working to improve roads outside the park to include bicycle lanes and bus stops.

To support urban recreation initiatives and reaching out to underserved communities, creative use must be made of existing school, community, and park facilities. Outreach, encouragement of public transportation to distant parks, facilitation of pedestrian access and coordination with community groups are all necessities for successful urban recreation programs. Through environmental interpretation and other programs, better use can also be made of urban open space to create an awareness of important natural resources even within the confines of urban areas.

Encouraging physical activity not only improves health, but can reduce greenhouse gas emissions (walk and bicycle) and increase awareness of the need to preserve open space and recreation.

Goal: Continue to develop a comprehensive, interconnected recreationway, greenway, blueway and heritage trail system.

Identifying and encouraging the creation of recreationways, partnerships and improvements to canal way and other recreationway systems, strengthening the statewide trails program, and the development of urban and suburban trailways could potentially have adverse and beneficial impacts on the environment. Identifying and encouraging the creation and preservation of bikeway and greenway systems promotes recreational uses compatible with those resources, provided that connectivity, particularly of significant habitat areas, insured. The use of defunct transportation and utility corridors to extend trail systems can be beneficial to the multiple-use concept. Such corridors lend themselves naturally to the development of trails; they are nearly ready-made facilities with little need for additional development and impacts.

The recommendations related to developing different types of trail systems are consistent with, and advance coastal policies. Trail systems assist in protecting and increasing the levels and types of access to public water-related recreation resources and facilities. The greenway concept promotes water dependent and water enhanced recreation, as well as preservation of historic and cultural resources. This is accomplished while providing primarily passive uses and minimizing effects related to intensive development. Recreationways along shorelines promote coastal policies with regard to development, scenic quality, public access, and recreation.

The 2010 Statewide Trails Plan provides a framework for statewide trails and greenways. Issues such as over-use, illegal use, and conflict among user groups and landowners will be considered in development of the plan. The plan's goals will promote proper stewardship of trails and associated natural and cultural resources and encourage trails that are better designed, more compatible with the natural and cultural resources and more accessible to the public

Many of the connections discussed are related to coastal resources and are fully integrated with or are part of the coastal program, thus promoting coastal policies related to public access, recreation, historic and scenic resources, as well as natural resources such as fish, wildlife and water.

Goal: Continue to protect natural connections between parks and open spaces.

Recommendations within this goal include inventory and identification, protection and acquisitions, and efforts to increase knowledge and awareness of biodiversity and approaches to biodiversity protection and main-

tenance. In general these types of recommendations will have positive impacts on the environment. Acquiring important and otherwise non-protected lands to encourage open space protection can protect biodiversity. Creating connections between parks and open space is important for ecological integrity especially in the light of current threats such as climate change, habitat disturbance, and invasive species.

This goal recognizes the importance of natural connections to the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity. It ensures that landscapes and buffer lands that surround our parks are protected from encroaching development and incompatible land uses. It fosters the development of “connections” of protected lands, greenways, and trails so that people and wildlife can move across New York’s landscapes. In order to protect these natural connectors, it is important first to inventory and identify the ecosystems that should be connected, and then to encourage the protection and/or acquisition of critical connectors. One way in which this recommendation will be promoted is through the identification and prioritization of land parcels adjacent to State Park land suitable for acquisition based upon their potential to protect and enhance biodiversity. The overall impact of supplying and preserving open space where it is most needed is beneficial; however, careful consideration, planning and public cooperation is necessary.

Another strategy is acquisition of in-holdings and important properties adjacent to existing public land holdings. Acquisition of such properties is normally cost effective, since operational mechanisms are already in existence. If additional land is acquired for the purpose of new recreational development, careful analysis is necessary to assure that the new facilities are needed and that development will be compatible with existing resources. The impacts of acquisition are further addressed within the 2009 Open Space Conservation Plan.

This goal furthers coastal policies regarding protection of fish and wildlife resources. Also, through careful balancing of protection and use of these corridors, recreation and public access goals can be advanced as well.

Initiative: Strengthen the Link between People, Nature and Resource Stewardship

Goal: Engage the park visitors through programming at parks and historic sites.

The goal to expand environmental education and cultural interpretation throughout the park system and to explore partnerships to help develop and implement such programs is important for expanding the number of supporters of state parks. As people learn more about their parks they become more connected to them and thus may work to protect and preserve them. The inventory and recognition of natural and cultural resources within parks has increased and this has resulted in a growing demand to make these resources available for interpretation and viewing by the public. Encouraging interpretation and access to natural and cultural resources is not likely to have a negative environmental impact as long as resources are protected.

There are other important considerations in the provision of interpretive and recreational programs. These programs must be geared towards availability to all potential users: the disabled, underprivileged and other underserved populations. Without properly qualified and trained personnel, recreational and interpretive programs may be inappropriate and ineffective. OPRHP must coordinate with other agencies to enhance recreational and interpretive programs.

OPRHP and DEC continue to provide important interpretive opportunities, and interpretation of significant natural and cultural resources will be encouraged at a statewide level. As indicated previously, opportunities for natural and cultural resource observation, interpretation, and education are essential to provide users with an awareness of the value of those resources. This, in turn, creates new generations with a greater appreciation of the need to preserve our resources.

Education and interpretive programs connect people with nature. They help empower the public with a greater role and involvement in, environmental protection and sustainability. Connection to nature among the young, and new connections or reconnections among adults, will increase not only awareness but prompt action on the part of citizens to protect the environment and promote sustainable actions.

Efforts to enhance partnerships with both friends groups and other trail and advocacy groups to expand environmental and cultural education at parks and historic sites are vitally important. With decreased staffing and resources the state faces, partnerships enable work to be completed, while benefiting both groups- with the public as the major benefactor. It is unlikely that entering into agreements with these groups to provide education will result in negative impacts to the environment, but agreements and understandings should be developed and in place, so that each understands their role and responsibilities.

Goal: Continue efforts to restore, conserve and protect biodiversity of state lands.

Responsible stewardship of plants, animals and their habitats reflects the broad duties of protectors of open space to be caretakers of the biological resources under their jurisdiction. This goal recognizes that species and their habitats need to be protected. This protection may not always require management, such as the correct siting of projects that mitigate negative impacts on biodiversity. In other cases, specific projects may be undertaken with the goal of improving, preserving or restoring biodiversity. These projects, such as habitat restoration or invasive species removal, would have beneficial impacts on the environment. These projects may be undertaken by State Parks and/or in combination with any number of partners (local, state, federal and not-for-profit organizations).

The recommendations within this goal are imperative to carrying out the State's stewardship responsibilities. Protection of the State's resources is critical in providing opportunities to use those resources and maintain quality recreation. Ensuring that recreation development is compatible with environmental limitations and carrying capacities of resource areas is accomplished through the various review processes. It is important to note, however, that better resource information is necessary to identify limitations and carrying capacities.

Partnership efforts regarding invasive species policy and management and education efforts will also enhance awareness and sensitivity to the impact of invasive species and result in measures to reduce the effect of such species and enhance biodiversity.

Identifying threats to natural, cultural and recreational resources assists in preservation efforts by anticipating potential adverse impacts. Improved resource inventories and evaluation help identify those important resources that may be impacted by actions occurring outside or within recreation resource bounds.

Land Conservation

Some of the State's most significant natural and cultural assets are located within State Parks and other protected lands. These recreation and open space areas provide numerous benefits to society, direct and indirect, short-term and long-term. There are both tangible and intrinsic values associated with recreation. These can be characterized as tourism and visitor expenditures, environmental protection, quality of life and reduction in public service requirements. Tourism and economic development programs must take into account the important contribution of natural and cultural resources to these programs.

Stewardship of the state's natural, cultural and recreational resources is essential to protect them. Through stewardship programs potential adverse impacts of recreational development and use are minimized and consistency with coastal policies is assured.

Statewide Programs

Appendix F describes numerous programs that provide recreation and protect natural and cultural resources within the state. These programs are subject to environmental review processes and balancing of policies as described earlier in this chapter. This GEIS is not designed to evaluate the impacts of each of these programs. Where adverse environmental impacts may be significant, the programs are subject to SEQR. Many of the programs described in Appendix F are designed to protect resources, such as Heritage Programs, wetlands,

fish and wildlife, biodiversity, and coastal programs. Following is a further discussion of the latter and its relationship to SCORP.

The State's Coastal Management and Inland Waterways programs, administered by the Department of State (DOS), are carried out in partnership with local governments and state and federal agencies. These programs are designed to better manage coastal resources and advance revitalization of waterfront communities.

New York State developed a Coastal Management Program (CMP) and enacted implementing legislation (Waterfront Revitalization and Coastal Resources Act) in 1981. The CMP is based on a set of 44 coastal policies that guide coastal management actions at all levels of government in the State and ensure the appropriate use and protection of coasts and waterways. The coastal policies are grouped into the following categories:

- Development Policies
- Fish and Wildlife Policies
- Flooding and Erosion Hazards Policies
- General Safeguards
- Public Access Policies
- Recreation Policies
- Historic and Scenic Resources Policies
- Agricultural Lands Policy
- Energy and Ice Management Policies
- Water and Air Resources Policies

The full text of the coastal policies can be found at: <http://www.dos.ny.gov/opd/programs/pdfs/CoastalPolicies.pdf>

Decision-making standards and procedures known as "consistency provisions" ensure coordination of governmental decision-making that affects the achievement of the State's coastal policies. Consistency review is the decision-making process through which proposed actions and activities are determined to be consistent or inconsistent with the coastal policies of the CMP or approved LWRPs. State agencies are also required to follow certain consistency review procedures for actions, direct or funding, and for any action, including permits, for which they are an involved or lead agency pursuant to the SEQRA and for which an EIS may be necessary.

Implementation

To fully implement the recommendations outlined, specific and programmatic actions will need to be developed, translating initiatives, goals and recommendations into the delivery of recreation services and protection of natural and cultural resources.

Implementation vehicles include state and federal funding, such as the allocation of state and federal funds for recreation and open space projects. The partnership philosophy is supported throughout SCORP, particularly relating to improving cooperation and coordination in providing recreational opportunities and in enhancing natural and cultural resource stewardship and education between all levels of government and the private sector. These partnerships play an increasingly important role in providing quality recreation and assuring resource protection

Environmental justice must be an overarching goal in providing recreational facilities and services. Environmental justice responds to the need to reach underserved communities.

Implementation strategies advance numerous coastal policies, including those related to development, public access and recreation.

The grant rating system is revised on an annual basis to reflect changing initiatives, goals and recommendations within the context of the most recent SCORP. The SCORP priority system assures that consideration is given to an appropriate balance of SCORP policies when evaluating and ranking applications for federal and state assistance in acquiring or developing recreation or open space resources. Projects which directly relate or contribute to SCORP or other state programs receive a relatively high priority, and those identified in adopted regional or local plans also receive priority. Protection of ecological, historical and open space resources is another important factor. Negative impacts on these resources would result in a lower rating. Through continuous agency review and input from providers and the public, evaluation assures that a proper balance of policies and fair distribution of monies is achieved.

Cumulative Impacts

The initiatives, goals and recommendations defined within SCORP 2014-2019 will have a positive impact on the environment. The primary effect of SCORP is to promote the initiatives, goals and recommendations identified in Chapter 4. Highlighting goals which describe processes to protect, conserve and maintain the environment, such as the ecosystem-based management goal, brings natural resource stewardship on par with development activities and recognizes that healthy ecosystems mean healthy communities.

SCORP recommendations regarding resource protection are consistent with, and promote, a number of coastal policies identified in the State's CMP. Open space programs promote coastal policies dealing with preservation, recreational use of fish and wildlife resources, public access and water recreation.

Chapter 3 identifies major recreational needs in all counties of the State and the activity maps provide an indication of where the highest levels of need exist within the State. Rehabilitation of existing facilities and the acquisition and development of new facilities is required to satisfy the demand. Innovative, regional and statewide approaches need to be considered to make the facilities more accessible. Accomplishing this will have cost and environmental implications. Some of the types of recreation facilities have greater impacts on the environment than others. Trails and informal picnic areas will have less of an impact than swimming pools and ball fields. However, for some sites, such as brownfields, any recreation development will be an environmental improvement. Public health and safety considerations must be incorporated into planning for recreational opportunities.

The cumulative effects of applying the policies and objectives of the 2014 SCORP in a systematic manner will be substantially beneficial. Existing recreational services to the public will be maintained while at the same time protection of natural and cultural resources will be ensured.

Perhaps one of the most important cumulative effects of SCORP is also the least tangible. The implementation of recreational and resource protection programs through the SCORP policies substantially enhances the physical and psychological wellbeing - the quality of life - of the residents of the State.

Enhancing the quality and quantity of recreational services and programs has substantial beneficial effects on economic activity. Implementation of efficiently designed plans for recreational facilities often contributes to the attractiveness of a municipality for investment by businesses. Thus, the facilities and programs flowing from SCORP are an important adjunct to factors leading to economic recovery and development. Growth usually occurs in the State where there is already a sufficient base of tourism, transportation and support services. These existing and recognized centers generally stabilize existing investments and services. Identification of the need for recreational services and facilities is based primarily on existing population and on growth projections.

Additional planning and sustainability recommendations will facilitate proper balancing of the SCORP and advance environmentally sensitive recreational development and use.

The stated in SCORP will not result in any significant increase in energy consumption associated with recreation activities. On the contrary, several of the recommendations and initiatives defined in SCORP will promote reduction in energy consumption by recreation providers and users. These policies should offset increased energy use which would be associated with extension of activity .

Since SCORP is a general plan, identification of program-specific or site-specific adverse impacts, including those which are unavoidable, will be accomplished during future planning and environmental review of programs and projects.

Recommendations in SCORP for the development of recreation require a commitment of planning resources. Resources are committed through programs or projects identified within state or federal legislative action or through gifts to the State. SCORP helps determine the priority for use of these committed resources. Implementation of the recommendations defined in SCORP will result in irreversible and irretrievable commitments of time, funds, and energy resources, but overall the benefits of preservation, stewardship and providing recreation outweigh these commitments.



References

- American Public Health Association; Active Transportation: Benefiting health, safety and equity; Washington D.C; 2013; accessed September 2013; <http://www.apha.org/NR/rdonlyres/A3C32D1B-5799-4C7F-8D73-110B09AB75F2/0/APHAActiveTransportationFactSheet2010.pdf>
- Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council; Canandaigua Lake Watershed Management Plan; 205 Saltonstall St., Canandaigua, NY 14424; <http://www.canandaigualake.org> ; accessed October 2013.
- Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization; Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization: For a Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan; 29 Auburn Rd., PO Box 186, Lansing, NY 14882; www.cayugawatershed.org ; revised 4/22/04, accessed November 2013.
- Cornell Program on Applied Demographics, NY Counties: Projections; September 8, 2011; ; <http://pad.human.cornell.edu/counties/projections.cfm>; Accessed August 2013.
- DiNapoli, Thomas J. NYS Office of the State Comptroller. "Economic Benefits of Open Space Preservation." March 2010.
- ESRI Community Analyst, Business Summary 2012, http://help.arcgis.com/en/communityanalyst/online/data/data_descriptions.html; Accessed August 2013.
- Go Bike Buffalo; "Complete Streets: Exciting Developments in 2013" ; <http://gobikebuffalo.org/programs/complete-streets/>; Accessed September 2013.
- The Great Lakes Commission; About the Great Lakes Commission; Eisenhower Corporate Park, 2805 S. Industrial Hwy, Suite 100, Ann Arbor, MI; www.glc.org/about/ ; revised September, 2012.
- Great Lakes Information Network; Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs) in the Great Lakes Region; The Great Lakes Commission, Eisenhower Corporate Park, 2805 S. Industrial Hwy, Suite 100, Ann Arbor, MI; www.great-lakes.net/lakes/ref/lamps.html ; revised November 2013.
- Great Lakes Protection Fund; Ideas in Action; 1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 880, Evanston, Illinois; <http://www.glpf.org/> ; accessed October 2013.
- Green Technology; Our Green Future: Cultivating Change; <http://www.green-technology.org/index.html> ; modified 2006, accessed October 2013.
- Harnik, Peter and Bel Welle; "From Fitness Zones to Medical mile: How Urban Park Systems Can Promote Health and Wellness" The Trust for Public Land; Washington, D.C; 2011
- Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commission; "The Journey Continues...Welcome"; Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 1, Albany, NY 12238; www.exploreny400.com ; accessed October 2013.
- Hudson River Valley Greenway Conservancy; Grants and Funding; Capital Building, Room 254, Albany, NY <http://www.hudsongreenway.ny.gov/GrantFunding/GrantsOverview.aspx> ; accessed October 2013.
- Hudsonia; Biodiversity Education; http://hudsonia.org/?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=20&Itemid=59#map ; accessed October 2013.
- Lake Champlain Basin Program; Opportunities for Action: An Evolving Plan for the Future of the Lake Champlain Basin; <http://plan.lcbp.org/> , PO Box 204, 54 West Shore Road, Grand Isle, VT 05458; Site updated September 16, 2013.
- Lake Champlain Basin Program; 2012 State of the Lake Report; http://sol.lcbp.org/introduction_what-is-state-of-lake-report.html; PO Box 204, 54 West Shore Road, Grand Isle, VT 05458; Accessed October 2013.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: Home Page; 1120 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20036; <http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home>; accessed February 1, 2013.

National Household Travel Survey, 2001-2009; <http://nhts.ornl.gov/>; Accessed September 2013.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); National Estuarine Research Reserve System; Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, , 1305 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; <http://www.nerrs.noaa.gov/Reserve.aspx?ResID=HUD> ; accessed November 2013.

National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse; TE Basics; 1100 17th Street NW, 10th floor, Washington, D.C.; <http://www.enhancements.org/> ; accessed October 2013.

The Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government, State University of New York, in cooperation with the New York State Division of Budget; 2011 New York State Statistical Yearbook: 36th Edition, Revised and Expanded; 411 State Street, Albany, NY; June 2012.

NYC Department of Transportation; “Bicycle Ridership Information”; 2013. <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/bicyclists/ridership-facts.shtml>; accessed August 2013

NYS DEC; Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda 2010-2014; http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation_hudson_pdf/hreaa2010draft.pdf ; Hudson River Estuary Program, 21 South Putt Corners Rd, New Paltz, NY;. March 2013

NYS DEC; The Hudson River Estuary Program; 625 Broadway, Albany, NY; <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4920.html> ; accessed September 2013.

NYS DEC and Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP); Strategic Plan for Economic Development through Expansion of Waterway Access to the Great Lakes; Albany, NY; December 1982.

NYS DEC and OPRHP; 1990 Statewide survey of Boating use at Public Waterway Access Sites in New York State; Albany, NY; 1992.

NYS DEC, OPRHP and Department of State (DOS); New York State Open Space Conservation Plan 2009: New York State Open Space Conservation Plan and Generic Environmental Impact Statement; 625 Broadway, Albany, NY; <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/47990.html> ; accessed August 2013.

NYS Department of Health (DOH); Cardiovascular Health in New York State; Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY; http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/cardiovascular/heart_disease/ ; October 2013.

NYS DOH; Physical Inactivity and Cardiovascular Disease; Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY; <http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/chronic/cvd.htm> ; accessed June 2013.

NYS DOH; NYS Community Health Indicator Reports – Obesity and Related Indicators; (2008-2009); <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/chac/indicators/obs.htm> ; Accessed June 2013

NYS DOH; Prevention Agenda Toward the Healthiest State (2008-2012); http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/prevention_agenda/; Accessed November 2013

NYS DOH; NYS Laws and Regulations Section 7-1.60 - Additional duties of travel vehicle park and campsite operators; http://www.health.ny.gov/regulations/nycrr/title_10/part_7/subpart_7-3.htm#s739 ; accessed October 2013.

NYS Department of State (DOS); Long Island Sound Coastal Management Program; Office of Planning and Development, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY; <http://www.dos.ny.gov/opd/programs/pdfs/LISC-MP.pdf>; accessed July 2013.

NYS DOS; Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve: Comprehensive Management Plan; Office of Planning and Development, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY; <http://www.dos.ny.gov/opd/programs/pdfs/SSERCMP.pdf>; accessed July 2013.

NYS DOS; Brownfield Opportunity Areas; Office of Planning and Development, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY; <http://www.dos.ny.gov/opd/programs/brownFieldOpp/index.html>; accessed August 2013

NYS DOS; Local Waterfront Revitalization Program; Office of Planning and Development, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY; <http://www.dos.ny.gov/opd/programs/lwrp/html>; accessed July 2013.

New York State Invasive Species Task Force (NYS ISTF); Final Report; Fall 2005. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7005.html>; accessed August 2013.

NYS OPRHP; Harbor of Refuge Planning and Development, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario; Agency Building 1, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY; March 1980.

NYS OPRHP; Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan: People, Resources, Recreation; Agency Building 1, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY; December 2008.

NYS OPRHP; 2004 General Public Recreation Survey; Agency Building 1, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY; 2004.

NYS OPRHP; The Year 2005 Park Professional Survey; Agency Building 1, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY; 2005.

NYS OPRHP; 2005 Recreational Boating Report; Agency Building 1, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY; 2005.

NYS OPRHP; “Snowmobile Report 2012-2013”; Albany, NY 12238; 2013.

NYS OPRHP, 2013 General Public Survey, Albany NY; 2013.

NYS OPRHP; The Statewide Recreation Facility Inventory; Agency Building 1, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY; 2012.

NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority (NYSORDA); 2012-'13 Annual Report; 2013 Lake Placid; <http://www.orda.org/corporate/pdf/annual/annreport12-13.pdf>; Accessed September 2013.

NYS Office of the State Comptroller (NYS OSC); “Economic Benefits of Open Space Preservation, March 2010”; <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/reports/environmental/openspacepreserv10.pdf>; accessed June 2013.

New York State Snowmobile Association (NYSSA); 2011 Snowmobile Owners Survey Executive Summary; 2012; http://www.nyssnowassoc.org/joomla_prod/images/pdf/2012/NYSSA-Economic-Study-Executive-Summary-And-Discussion-9-13-12.pdf; Accessed September 2013.

Northeast Climate Impacts Assessment (NECIA) Synthesis Team; Confronting Climate Change in the U.S. Northeast: Science, Impacts and Solutions; USC Publications, 2 Brattle Square, Cambridge, MA 02238; July 2007; <http://www.climatechoices.org/assets/documents/climatechoices/confronting-climate-change-in-the-u-s-northeast.pdf>; accessed August 2007.

Parks and Trails NY (PTNY); 2009. “The NYS Park System: An Economic Asset to the Empire State.” http://www.ptny.org/pdfs/advocacy/peri_full_report.pdf; accessed June 2013.

PLAN NYC, “A Stronger, More Resilient New York”; pg. 43. NYC Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency, <http://www.nyc.gov/html/sirr/html/report/report.shtml>; accessed September 2013.

Qazi, Hammand Ali; “Childhood obesity and parks and playgrounds: A review of issues of equality, gender and social support”; *Journal of Research in Medical Services*; 2010 November, accessed June 2013

Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program, National Park Service; *Economic Impacts of Protecting Rivers, Trails and Greenway Corridors Resource Book*; National Park Service; 1989.

United States Census Bureau, SF1 New York State; 2011; Accessed April 2013

US Department of Transportation (DOT); FHWA Recreational Trails Program; 1200 New Jersey Ave SE, Washington DC; http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/index.cfm ; accessed June 2013.

US DOT-Federal Highway Administration; Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation_alternatives/; accessed November 2013

US Executive Office; “Solving the Problem of Childhood Obesity Within a Generation;” 2010. White House Task Force on Childhood Obesity, http://www.letsmove.gov/sites/letsmove.gov/files/TaskForce_on_Childhood_Obesity_May2010_FullReport.pdf; accessed June 2013.

U.S. FWS; Sport Fish Restoration Program Overview; Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA; <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/SFR/SFR.htm> ; updated September 25, 2013.

US FWS; North American Wetlands Conservation Act; Division of Bird Habitat Conservation; 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA; <http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/index.shtm> ; accessed September 2013.

US Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program; http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/ ; updated August 2013.

US Geological Survey; NAS – Nonindigenous Aquatic Species; U.S. Geological Survey, 7920 NW 71st Street, Gainesville, FL 32653; <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/about/default.aspx> ; Last Modified November 15, 2012.

U.S. Green Building Council (GBC): “LEED Rating Systems”; 2101 L Street NW, Suite 500 | Washington, DC 20037; <http://www.usgbc.org/leed/rating-systems> ; accessed November 2013.

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; “County Health Rankings & Roadmaps” 2013; <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/> ; Accessed May 2013

Credits

State of New York

Andrew Cuomo,
Governor

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Rose Harvey,
Commissioner

Andy Beers
Executive Deputy Commissioner

Ruth Pierpont
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation

John Pocerobba
Deputy Commissioner for Capital Programs

Patrick Bradford
Counsel

Carol Clark
Deputy Commissioner for Real Property and Legislative Affairs

Mindy Scott
Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration

Andy Fyfe
Special Assistant to the Commissioner

Christopher Pushkarsh
Deputy Commissioner for Regional Operations and Resource Development

Tom Alworth
Deputy Commissioner for Resources and Partnerships

Randy Simons
Public Information Officer

Marc Talluto
Director of Agency Operations and Programs

OPRHP Regional Directors and Offices

Robert Hiltbrand, Regional Director
Central New York Park Region
6105 E Seneca Turnpike
Jamesville, NY 13078-9516
(315) 492-1756

Fred Bonn, Regional Director
Finger Lakes Park Region
2221 Taughannock Park Road
P.O. Box 1055
Trumansburg, NY 14886-1055
(607) 387-7041

Wayne Horsely, Regional Director
Long Island Park Region
Belmont Lake State Park
Box 247
Babylon, NY 11702-0247
(631) 669-1000

Karen Phillips, Regional Director
New York City Park Region
Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Bldg.
163 West 125th Street, 17th floor
NY, NY 10027
(212) 866-3100

Jim Hall, Executive Director
Palisades Interstate Park Commission
Administration Building
Bear Mountain, NY 10911-0427
(845) 786-2701

Alane Ball-Chinian, Regional Director
Saratoga/Capital District Park Region
19 Roosevelt Drive
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-6214
(518) 584-2000

Linda Cooper, AICP, Regional Director
Taconic Park Region
Staatsburg, NY 12580
(845) 889-4100

Kevin Kieff, Regional Director
Thousand Islands Park Region
Keewaydin State Park
Alexandria Bay, NY 13607
(315) 482-2593

Western District
Mark Thomas, District Director
Assistant Deputy Commissioner

Ronald Peters, Deputy General Manager
Niagara Frontier Park Region
Prospect Park
P.O. Box 1132
Niagara Falls, NY 14303-1132
(716) 278-1770

Mark Whitcomb, General Park Manager
Allegany State Park Region
Allegany State Park
2373 ASP Route 1, Suite 3
Salamanca, NY 14779
(716) 354-9101

Richard Parker, General Park Manager
Genesee Park Region
1 Letchworth State Park
Castile, NY 14427-1124
(585) 493-3600

OPRHP Bureau Directors

The following bureaus and individuals made significant contributions, particularly on elements relating to their functional responsibilities:

M. Pamela Otis
Director, Natural Resource Protection

Diana Carter
Director, Resource and Facility Planning Bureau

Christina Croll
Resource Analysis and GIS

Sandy Burnell
Real Property Bureau

Frank McCue
Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Capital Programs

Harold Hagemann
Director of Concessions Management

Paul Laudato
NHT Counsel

Julian Adams
Director of Bureau of Community Preservation Services

Mark Peckham
Director of Historic Sites Bureau

John Bonafide
Bureau for Technical Preservation Services

Brian Kempf
Director of Marine Services

Richard Alden
Director of Water Safety

Deborah Keville
Director, Regional Programs and Services

Michael Wise
Director of Energy and Equipment Management

Carol Casale
Director of Budget and Finance

Michael Washington
Affirmative Action Officer

Allen Payne
Executive Director of Natural Heritage Trust

Tracy Robbins
Director of Internal Audit

Chuck Parmentier
Director of Human Resources Management

Kevin Cassidy
Director of Golf Operations

Brian Lee
Director of Labor Relations

James DelBelso
Director of Business Office Management

Maryann Corbisiero
Director of Camping

John Orsini
Director of Health, Safety and Emergency Management

Colonel Gregory Stewart
New York State Park Police

Stephen Lewis
Director of Snowmobile Unit

OPRHP Staff

The 2014 New York Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is a product of the continuing planning process of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bureau of Resource and Facility Planning has the primary responsibility for developing the plan. However, its development would not have been possible without the valuable contributions of other agency staff; other state agencies; park, recreation, and preservation organizations; and private citizens as identified in the “Acknowledgements” section.

Overall supervision of the SCORP Program was provided by:

Diana Carter, Director of Resource and Facility Planning

Resource and Facility Planning Bureau Staff:

Elisabeth Draper, Park Planner

Wesley Bartlett, Associate Economist (retired)

Lauren Alpert, Park and Recreation Aide VII

Kathy Nahm, Secretary

Resource Analysis – GIS Staff:

Nathan Krish, Mapping Technologist

Lynne Gort, Park and Recreation Aide Activity Specialist

Other OPRHP Contributors:

M. Pamela Otis, Director of Environmental Management

Janet Zuckerman, Environmental Analyst II

Lynn Bogan, Natural Resource Stewardship Coordinator

Kristen Cady-Poulin, Natural Resource Steward

Overall coordination and editorial responsibility for the entire SCORP document was provided by Elisabeth Draper of OPRHP's Bureau of Resource and Facility Planning. Kristen Cady-Poulin of the Environmental Management Bureau played an invaluable role in preparing the environmental impact sections of the plan.

DEC Staff

Coordination of input from the Department of Environmental Conservation was provided by:

Jeffrey Mapes, Associate Administrative Analyst, Division of Lands and Forests

Additional contributions from the Department of Environmental Conservation were provided by:

Division of Lands and Forests

Robert Messenger, Bureau Chief, Bureau of State Land Management,

Charles Vandrei, Agency Historic Preservation Officer, Bureau of State Land Management,

Stephanie Schmid, GIS Section Head, Bureau of State Land Management

Josh Houghton, Natural Resource Planner, Bureau of State Land Management

Peter Frank, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Forest Preserve Management

Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources

Roy Jacobson, Landscape Conservation Section Head, Bureau of Habitat,

Gordon Batcheller, Chief Wildlife Biologist, Bureau of Wildlife

Ed Woltman, Public Use and Extension Section Head, Bureau of Fisheries

DEC Region 4

Jerome Fraine, Regional Wildlife Manager,

Division of Operations

Mike Buzelli, Bureau Chief for Recreation, Bureau of Recreation,

DEC Regional Office Addresses

Region 1

State University of New York
Building 40
Stony Brook, NY 11794-2356
(631) 444-0373

Region 2

1 Hunters Point Plaza
47 -40 21st Street
Long Island City, NY 11101-5407
(718) 482-6516

Region 3

21 South Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, NY 12561-1696
(845) 256-3042

Region 4

1150 N. Westcott Road
Schenectady, NY 12306-2014
(518) 357-2398

Region 5

Route 86, P.O. Box 296
Ray Brook, NY 12977-0296
(518) 897-1394

Region 6

317 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601-3787
(315) 785-2242

Region 7

615 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, NY 13204-2400
(315) 426-7408

Region 8

6274 E. Avon-Lima Rd
Avon, NY 14414-9519
(585) 226-2830

Region 9

270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203-2999
(716) 851-7009

Appendix A: The State of the State Outdoor Recreation System

The “heart and soul” of the State’s outdoor recreation system is not the facilities or activities but its natural and cultural resources. Care and stewardship of these resources must be maintained and fostered. If these resources are lost so is the quality of the recreational experience which is the system’s primary attribute. The public will not come to swim at our lakes and ocean, or hike the trails if the environmental quality of the resources is impaired.

The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the Department of Environmental Conservation are the two primary state agencies that manage land resources and provide recreational opportunities. The Canal Corporation, Department of Transportation and Office of General Services are also land managers.

The mission of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) is to provide safe and enjoyable recreational and interpretive opportunities for all New York State residents and visitors and to be responsible stewards of our valuable natural, historic and cultural resources. Within this capacity OPRHP manages the State Park System that includes state parks and historic sites. The Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law also provides for a State Council of Parks and Recreation as an advisory body and the creation of the State Board for Historic Preservation. The board provides advisory services and acts as the federally mandated review body in the nomination of sites for listing on federal and state registers of historic places. In addition, the law divides New York State into 12 park regions, 11 under the jurisdiction of OPRHP and 1 administered by DEC. The 11 OPRHP park regions are located outside the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves.

The mission of the Department of Environmental Conservation is to protect the quality of New York State’s land, water and air, the character of its scenery, and the health and diversity of its fish and wildlife populations and habitats. Within this capacity DEC has dual focus of land management and environmental regulation. As a land manager DEC manages the Forest Preserve in the Adirondacks and Catskills, State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, State Nature and Historical Preserve areas and facilities and land areas that support fish and wildlife programs.

State Park System

OPRHP administers about 330,000 acres of land, 180 state parks, 35 historic sites, 67 marine facilities and boat launch sites, and 20 parkways. OPRHP oversees more than 5,000 structures, 76 developed beaches, 53 water recreation facilities, 29 golf courses, over 850 cabins, cottages and rental houses, 8,566 campsites, and 2,000+ miles of trails. Nearly 80% of the park system is in natural areas with a wide range of geological features and ecological habitats. This includes the water fall at Niagara Falls, the Genesee River gorge called the “Grand Canyon of the East” at

Letchworth, extensive forested areas of Allegany and Sterling Forest State Parks, the gorges of the Finger Lakes parks, islands in the St. Lawrence and Hudson Rivers, cliffs at Minnewaska, and the beaches of Long Island. Appendix C lists the State Parks, Historic Sites and other properties under the jurisdiction of OPRHP.

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) manages 59 day use and campsite facilities within the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves.

Water Access/Water Recreation

New York has abundant resources for water-based recreation. Boating, fishing and swimming are popular activities for New Yorkers. As a result, there is a high demand amongst existing facilities and services which create a need for more public access to the State's waters. With 3.5 million acres of lakes and ponds, 70 thousand miles of rivers and streams, 10 thousand miles of lake and marine shorelines, wetlands and canals all of which constitute 14% of the total surface area of the State. New York has approximately 460,000 registered powerboats in 2012 and ranks 7th in the nation for registered powerboat vessels. High numbers of boater registrations has a positive effect on the state, regional and local economy through job creation. Statewide, recreational boaters generated \$1.8 billion towards the economy and 18,700 jobs. (OPRHP Recreational Boating, 2005)

DEC sells fishing licenses to both New York residents and non-residents. Over the past 25 years the number of resident fishing licenses sold has ranged from a low of 8 thousand in 1984-85 to a high of over 1 million in 2002-03 and 2003-04. Reported sales for the most recent year available (2005/2006) are 978 thousand. Current (2005/2006) nonresident sales are 148 thousand.

Water Based Resources

Private and commercial sectors provide over three-fifths of the number of facilities. State operated beaches and pools constitute less than 6% of the swimming facilities statewide but tend to be larger facilities. These figures do not include privately owned backyard pools which satisfy a fairly large percentage of the State swimming demand. Similarly, most boating facilities in New York State, aside from car top launch sites, are owned and operated by the private sector. Since 1935 DEC has been acquiring public fishing rights easements along the bed and banks of the State's major trout streams. These easements allow the public walking and wading access, for the purpose of fishing only.

The 2004 General Public Survey asked New York State residents if additional recreation facilities were needed within approximately 30 minutes of their home. Their responses indicated a desire for many types of recreation amenities. Of those indicating a specific need, approximately 24% mentioned boating and water access facilities. (OPRHP General Public Survey, 2004) A similar survey of local park professionals also indicated a need for more water based recreation services. Among the professionals, approximately 35% identified fishing and 25% identified boating as

activities in their communities in need of additional facilities. Swimming pools were also identified as needed, although beaches were not mentioned as often. Beaches may not be feasible in many of the areas surveyed because of physical constraints. (OPRHP General Public Survey, 2004)

Over 75% of the general public indicated that they believe that the government should increase and/or create additional public access to water resources such as lakes, streams, beaches and ocean fronts (OPRHP General Public Survey, 2004). Park professionals responded to this issue positively as well; over 70% of the respondents agreed that government should purchase additional public access to water resources (OPRHP General Public Survey, 2004).

State Lands and Forests

DEC manages over 4 million acres, including 3 million acres in the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserve, 780,000 acres of reforestation and multiple use areas, more than 200,000 areas in wildlife management areas, and 840,000 acres in conservation easements.

Forest Preserve

The statute creating the Forest Preserve incorporated all state-owned lands within three Catskill counties (later amended to incorporate four Catskill counties) and all state-owned lands within 11 Adirondack counties (later amended to 12) into the Forest Preserve. These Forest Preserve areas provide extensive camping, trail, hunting, fishing and other passive recreational opportunities.

The Adirondack Park, established by statute in 1892, is unique among parks within the nation in that it encompasses both state and private lands. Originally established at 2,800,000 acres the park is approximately 6 million acres. An estimated 2.7 million acres are in state ownership most all of which is classified as Forest Preserve.

The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) controls land use on state and private lands. The APA is an independent, bipartisan state agency responsible for developing long-range park policy in a forum that balances statewide concerns and the interests of local governments in the Adirondack Park. It was created by New York State law in 1971. The legislation defined the makeup and functions of the APA and authorized the Agency to develop two plans for lands within the Adirondack Park. The Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan regulates land use and development activities on the approximately 3.2 million acres of privately owned lands in the Park. The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) sets forth guidelines and criteria for the DEC's management of the remaining 2.8 million acres of public lands.

The policy framework provided by the APSLMP is resource-capacity driven, rather than user-demand driven, with protection of the Park's outstanding natural resources the underlying mandate governing New York State's provision of recreational opportunities on the State-owned

lands and waters in the Adirondacks. This is reflective not only of the statewide importance of these resources, but also of their national and international significance.

APA has been working with DEC in a concerted effort to undertake planning that is critical to improving recreational opportunities throughout the Park. Numerous, unit management plans (UMPs) have been drafted and approved for specific areas that span the range of diversity from popular public campgrounds to the region's more remote, less-used wilderness areas. As this inter-Agency planning process continues, a primary objective of APA is to work with DEC to develop a sub-regional planning approach to broaden "front country" and "back country" recreational opportunities. Expanded recreation will be balanced with natural resource protection, balancing motorized and non-motorized uses, and strengthening connections to communities.

APA also administers the State's Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act for private lands adjacent to designated rivers in the Park, and the State's Freshwater Wetlands Act within the Park.

APA operates a Visitor Interpretive Center (VIC) at Paul Smiths, Franklin County. This facility serves as the Agency's environmental education and traveler orientation center. In July of 2010, the APA transferred their second VIC in Newcomb to SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF).

Similarly, the Catskill Park was established by statute in 1904 with 576,126 acres. Like the Adirondack Park, it includes both public and private lands and the size of this park has been enlarged to 705,500 acres. Approximately 300,000 acres is in state ownership and is classified as Forest Preserve.

State Nature and Historical Preserve

The State Nature and Historical Preserve provides for the designation of state lands, outside the Forest Preserve counties, that have exceptional beauty, wilderness character, or geological, ecological or historical significance to the State Nature and Historical Preserve. At the present there are 11 properties dedicated to the State Nature and Historical Preserve.

Wildlife Management Areas

The primary purpose of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) is for the production and use of wildlife. DEC manages more than 85 WMAs containing more than 200,000 acres - including 124,000 acres of upland and 53,000 acres of wetland (DEC, 2013).

The WMA program is part of a long term effort to establish permanent access to lands in New York State for the protection and promotion of its fish and wildlife resources. Beginning in the early 1900s with the acquisition of abandoned farm lands and fields, DEC and its predecessor (NYS Conservation Department) worked with the federal government, state government and sportsmen and women to secure these land parcels for public use.

Money used to acquire lands included in the WMA system has been a combination of state and federal funding. The Conservation Fund (begun in 1925) was the first dependable source followed by two federal programs in the 1930s: 1) the Federal Resettlement Administration bought marginal and worn-out farmland and later donated it to the state for wildlife management purposes, and 2) the Pittman-Robertson Act, still in effect today, places an excise tax on guns and ammunition to fund restoration and management efforts for wildlife, including purchase of habitat. In addition, several New York State Bond Acts (1960, 1972 and 1986) also helped expand the WMA system.

WMAs provide unique areas for the public to interact with a wide variety of wildlife species. Since sportsmen and women have funded the acquisition of a large portion of the WMAs through their license fees and the federal tax on guns and ammunition, the emphasis is on game species.

However, while fishing, hunting and trapping are the most widely practiced activities on many WMAs, they are not limited to these activities. Most WMAs also provide good opportunities for hiking, cross-country skiing, bird watching, or just enjoying nature.

WMAs also provide areas for research on various wildlife species. A grouse study conducted on Connecticut Hill WMA is considered the standard reference on ruffed grouse in the Northeast. In addition, habitat management methods and techniques such as mowing, use of controlled burns, and planting of wildlife shrubs and food plots have been established and refined on WMAs.

For most areas, statewide hunting and fishing regulations as well as statewide WMA regulations are applicable. In general, prohibited activities include any use of motorized vehicles including motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles (except on town, county or state highway rights-of-way), overnight mooring or boat storage. No fires are permitted except for cooking, warmth or smudge. Activities prohibited, with exceptions under certain conditions, include camping, swimming, skiing (other than cross-country), picnicking and mechanized boating. In certain cases, however, additional special regulations are also in force. These special regulations are usually reductions in hunting hours, restrictions on the number of people using the area and increased requirements for sportsmen and women to report on the results of their activities (DEC, 2013).

State Forests

State Forest is a generic term used to describe the nearly 780,000 acres of DEC administered land located outside the Forest Preserve and under the direction of the Division of Lands and Forests in DEC. "State Forests" generally include lands classified as Reforestation Areas, Unique Areas and Multiple Use Areas. There are approximately 480 State Forest areas, ranging in size from less than 100 acres to over 9,000 acres. The State Reforestation Law of 1929 and the Hewitt Amendment of 1931 set forth legislation authorizing DEC to acquire land for Reforestation

Areas, which make up approximately 85% of lands classified as State Forests. These lands are to be forever devoted to “reforestation and the establishment and maintenance thereon of forests for watershed protection, the production of timber, and for recreation and kindred purposes.” State Forests are “working forests” and are managed by employing multiple use principles to provide a wide variety of resources, products and opportunities to meet the varied demands of today’s society. The demand for recreational use of State Forests has greatly increased in recent years. Recreational activities are now a major component of State Forest Unit Management Plans and include diverse pursuits such as snowmobiling, horse back riding, hunting, fishing, hang gliding, picnicking, cross-country skiing, bird watching and hiking. The archer, the dog sledder, the rock climber and the orienteering enthusiast also claim the need for a place to enjoy their sport. More than 2,000,000 person-days of hunting take place on State Forests annually, and approximately 570,000 person-days of freshwater fishing are estimated for the lakes, ponds and streams located on State Forests.

State Forests often contain features of unique interest. Cultural resource sites such as old homesteads, cemeteries, Native American sites, and historical sites can provide notable opportunities and experiences for inquisitive visitors. State Forests can also harbor rare and endangered plant communities and ecosystems. These special habitats add emphasis to the stewardship responsibilities of State Forest management. Some of these communities, such as the pine barrens of Long Island and the oak savanna in Monroe County, provide the land manager with the challenge for their restoration and perpetuation and the recreational naturalist with the opportunity to observe the components of the communities.

Wetlands

Wetlands are lands on which water covers the soil or is present either at or near the surface of the soil, all year or for varying periods of time during the year, including during the growing season.

Probably the most recognized wetland is where surface water, such as a pond, lake or stream, slopes up to land; these are known as fringe wetlands. The other common wetland type is where a depression in the land reaches down into the groundwater; these are the famous prairie potholes of the American Midwest, and the vegetated ponds on Long Island. Some wetlands occur where the groundwater emerges at the surface of the ground, usually on a slope; these commonly are known as hillside seeps or slope wetlands. Finally, wetlands can occur where surface water is trapped in shallow depressions by soil that will not allow the water to seep downwards. These wetlands are common on clay soils in the Lake Plains of western New York.

For the purposes of this comprehensive plan, the broadest concept of wetland is used. The plan addresses all wetlands, not just those protected by certain regulatory programs.

Freshwater Wetlands are those areas of land and water that support a preponderance of hydrophytic vegetation that is at a competitive advantage because of the presence of wetlands

hydrology or hydric soils. Freshwater wetlands commonly include marshes, swamps, bogs and fens.

Tidal Wetlands are those areas that border on or lie beneath tidal waters, including those areas now or formerly connected to tidal water, and those areas subject to tides and upon which grow tidal hydrophytic vegetation.

New York State has an active wetlands conservation program. As stated in the Freshwater Wetlands Act (Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law): “It is the public policy in the State of New York to preserve, protect and conserve wetlands and the benefits derived therefrom, to prevent the despoliation and destruction of wetlands, and to regulate use and development of such wetlands to secure the natural benefits of wetlands, consistent with the general welfare and beneficial economic, social and agricultural development of the State.” In addition, the Tidal Wetlands Act (Article 25 of the Environmental Conservation Law) states: “It is declared to be the public policy of this State to preserve and protect tidal wetland, and to prevent their despoliation and destruction, giving due consideration to the reasonable economic and social development of the State.” These policies articulate the balanced approach New York takes in its efforts to conserve its wetlands resources.

New York recognizes that wetlands provide a multitude of functions and benefits for the people of the State and has developed a multifaceted program to protect and manage that resource.

In New York, protection of wetland is a priority.

Values of Wetlands

Wetlands perform numerous functions, such as flood control. During storms wetlands store water and slow the velocity of waters, reducing the peak stream flows which reduces flooding and associated flood damage. These functions in turn provide benefits to the environment and the citizens of the State. For example, the benefit derived flood control is reduced damage to private property, agriculture, infrastructure, commercial businesses and the environment. Following are some of the functions and benefits that are important in New York State:

- **Flood and Storm-water Control:** During storms and periods of heavy rain or spring snow melt, wetlands serve as natural reservoirs for excess water, storing and slowing the movement of water through the watershed. Filling in wetlands often results in increased flooding, both locally and far downstream. Increased flooding results in increased property and infrastructure damage. Large storms can result in billions of dollars in damages.
- **Erosion and Sedimentation Control:** Wetlands vegetation helps to filter sediment by decreasing water velocity. Suspended particles settle in the wetland and do not enter navigational channels, lakes and reservoirs. In much the same manner, wetlands also help prevent erosion of shorelines and valuable agricultural land by serving as buffers between wave or stream activity and adjacent lands.

- **Water Quality Maintenance:** Microorganisms in wetlands break down and use nutrients and can significantly reduce levels of natural and human-induced pollution in water as it filters through the wetland. Chemical processes in the soil also immobilize chemicals and heavy metals. Water leaving a wetland is frequently cleaner than water entering the wetland. Wetlands also protect fresh groundwater supplies in coastal areas by preventing saltwater intrusion.
- **Recharge of Groundwater Supplies:** Wetlands sometimes are helpful in recharging groundwater. This function is especially important where groundwater is the sole-source of drinking water or constitutes the major source of usable water.
- **Discharge of Groundwater:** Wetlands frequently serve as groundwater discharge sites, thereby maintaining the quality and quantity of surface water supplies.
- **Fish and Wildlife Habitat:** Many species of fish and wildlife depend on wetlands for critical parts of their life cycle. By providing breeding, nesting, and feeding grounds and cover, wetlands are recognized as one of the most valuable habitats for wildlife. Young fish find food and shelter in the protective vegetation. Many species of endangered, threatened or special concern fish and wildlife depend on wetlands. Tidal wetlands are vital to the continued health of vertebrate and invertebrate species of the waters of State's marine district. Over two-thirds of the fish, shellfish and crustaceans harvested in the State (including both commercial and recreational harvest) are dependent on wetlands for some portion of their life cycles.
- **Biological Diversity:** There is increasingly concern about local, regional and global biological diversity. Wetlands are important components of the landscape and contribute significantly to the State's overall biological diversity. Wetlands are habitat for many rare and indigenous species of plants and animals and many in themselves represent unique natural communities.
- **Nutrient Production and Cycling:** Wetlands are one of the most ecologically productive systems on earth, converting sunlight and nutrients into food sources for animals. Some tidal wetlands exceed even tropical rain forests in energy conversion. Wetlands also serve as filters for sediment and organic and chemical nutrients. These components are recycled in wetlands, where the nutrients are broken down and reentered into the food web.
- **Recreation:** Hiking, bird watching, hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, photography and camping are some of the recreational uses provided by wetlands. Over 12 million New Yorkers annually participate in these outdoor activities. In a 1991 report to the Legislature on the economic return from hunting, fishing and other uses of wildlife, it was estimated that these activities had a total annual worth of more than \$5 million.
- **Open Space:** In an increasingly developed landscape, open space is gradually more important for maintaining the quality of life in our communities and many public policies

support the protection of open space. Wetlands are extremely important components of open space because they are multi-beneficial and are often the only undeveloped areas along crowded river fronts and coastal regions or in urbanized areas.

- Educational and Scientific Research: Wetlands provide readily accessible outdoor biophysical laboratories, living classrooms and vast training and education resources.

Wetlands can also be an important carbon sink that can affect climate change.

Program Implementation and Coordination: Who is involved in Wetlands Planning and Protection?

In New York, the DEC has the lead responsibility for wetland conservation. Within DEC, several organizational units participate in implementing New York's wetlands protection program. Primary responsibility resides in the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources which has the lead with both tidal and freshwater wetlands. The Division of Lands and Forests has the lead for acquisition activities. The Division of Environmental Permits processes regulatory permits. The Division of Law Enforcement and Legal Affairs support enforcement efforts. The Division of Water administers the Clean Water Act directed or funded programs that afford additional water quality programs from which wetlands benefit.

In addition, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) administers the Article 24 permitting program in the Adirondack Park and administers land use regulations as they relate to wetlands. They have undertaken sophisticated GIS approaches to mapping wetlands in a watershed approach, which provides important tools for planning and protection.

There are additional stakeholders involved with wetlands conservation in New York State. Following is a listing of those involved players, and a brief explanation of their roles.

State Agencies

- New York State Department of State (DOS): New York State Department of State (DOS): administers the coastal management program, including coastal consistency reviews on federal projects, for which wetlands conservation is a consideration. DOS also conducts and supports coastal planning efforts through the preparation of LWRPs. In recent years, DOS has taken a strong role in coastal wetlands restoration.
- New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP): has lead responsibility for developing the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. In cooperation with DEC, OPRHP also jointly produced and updated the State Open Space Conservation Plan. As a significant landowner, OPRHP conserves and manages wetlands on State parklands and has an important role in biodiversity conservation on their public lands.

- New York Attorney General's Office: As the State's legal representative, the New York Attorney General's Office litigates cases in both federal and state courts to ensure that wetlands are afforded the protections available under law. The Attorney General's Office also advocates for wetlands protection in consultation with federal, state and local agencies, and by advancing progressive positions in various legislative and administrative forums.
- New York State Department of Transportation (DOT): Affects wetlands through design and implementation of highway construction and maintenance. DOT has an environmental benefits initiative wherein they undertake positive environmental projects in conjunction with ongoing highway construction and maintenance projects. They have constructed, restored, and provided access to wetlands as part of their award-winning environmental benefit projects.
- New York State Office of General Services (OGS): Administers much of the State's surplus lands and all lands under water not explicitly deeded to private entities.
- New York State Canal Corporation: implements the Canal Recreationway Plan and owns, operates and maintains the New York State Canal System, and leads the state effort to develop the Canalway Trail.

Federal Agencies

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE): Administers Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which regulates the discharge of dredged and fill spoil material into waters of the U.S., including most wetlands. In recent years, the COE has become actively involved in restoration of the nation's waters and wetlands, including efforts on the Hudson River, upper Susquehanna, and Niagara Rivers.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Oversees administration of the Section 404 program. EPA supports state and local wetlands programs through funding a variety of grants that support wetlands research, restoration, education and outreach efforts, watershed planning, monitoring, and water quality maintenance.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): Administers the national wildlife refuge system and the federal endangered species act, including activities to protect critical habitat. DEC and USFWS, along with other partners, cooperatively implement the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, which includes a variety of acquisition, management, and restoration activities. USFWS also supports regulatory reviews under Section 404. Between 1990 and 2003, the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program restored over 12,200 acres of wetlands and 46 miles of riparian habitat on over 1,179 sites through technical assistance and direct restoration. The USFWS also cooperates with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to restore wetlands and other habitats under the conservation provisions of the Farm Security Act. The USFWS maps wetlands under the National

Wetlands Inventory (NWI); most of New York now has digital maps and efforts were recently undertaken to update early NWI maps in the coastal Great Lakes region.

- U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Along with the Farm Services Agency, administers the conservation provisions of the Food Security Act (Farm Bill). Between 1992 and 2005, the NRCS restored over 47,000 acres of wetlands on 1,248 sites through the Wetlands Reserve Program. Through implementation of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, NRCS has helped reduce agricultural nutrient runoff to surface waters and wetlands, thereby greatly improving water quality.
- U.S.D.A. Farm Services Agency: administers certain provisions of the Food Security Act, especially the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The latest iterations of this program, the Continuous Sign-Up CRP (CCRP) and the Enhanced CRP (CREP) have become the primary means of establishing riparian buffers in the State.
- U.S.D.A. Farmer's Home Administration: may place easements on its inventory of repossessed farmland and may forgive loans if the borrower places easements on wetlands.
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS): coordinates and provides comments on permits affecting coastal wetlands. In more recent years, NMFS has participated in coastal wetlands restoration efforts.
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA): supports efforts of state transportation agencies and implements ISTEA as it relates to wetlands and mitigation. FHWA provided a \$500,000 planning grant to NYS DOT and DEC to update and digitize National Wetlands Inventory maps to improve capacity for planning to protect wetlands and other aquatic resources.

Local Government

Because most land use decisions are made at the local level, local governments are very important stakeholders in wetlands conservation. There are approximately 1645 local governments in the State at the county, town, city and village levels. Their involvement in conservation efforts and their effects on wetlands vary greatly across the State. At the local level, the following organizational units may be involved with wetlands:

- planning departments
- tax assessors
- zoning boards and zoning boards of appeals
- soil and water conservation districts
- county cooperative extension
- environmental management councils

- town conservation advisory commissions (or boards)

New York is actively involved with and supports local efforts to encourage anti-sprawl, “smart growth” development in the State with the intent to revitalize urban areas, conserve natural resources (including wetlands) and promote quality of life.

Other Stakeholders

- **Conservation Organizations:** Numerous not-for-profit, nongovernmental conservation organizations exist. Some were formed specifically to address wetlands issues; others include wetlands conservation as part of their mission. It is estimated that over 50 nongovernmental organizations participate in wetlands conservation programs to some extent. Key participants include Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, and local chapters of the Sierra Club and the National Audubon Society.
- **Academic Institutions:** Many academic institutions in the State have faculty teaching about or conducting research on wetlands. Key institutions include Cornell University, State University of New York (SUNY)-College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse, and SUNY School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences at Stony Brook. DEC recently entered into cooperative agreements with a number of SUNY colleges to use college interns to assist with wetlands delineations, compliance inspections, and mapping.
- **Business Sector:** Many businesses own land on which wetlands occur, or affect wetlands as part of their normal operations. The business sector can fund or conduct activities that have a positive affect on wetlands, even outside of requirements or normal operation.
- **Landowners:** Private individual landowners own the vast majority of wetlands in the State. Their activities can have a significant impact on the quality or quantity of wetlands in the State. With the advent of federal and state restoration efforts, many landowners have willingly volunteered to restore wetlands on their property and become good stewards of the resource.
- **Other Citizens:** All citizens of the State benefit from wetlands protection. Many people support conservation organizations because of their support for wetlands. Citizens also provide political support or comments for wetlands programs and for site-specific activities, such as permits or acquisitions.

Protection Strategies

There is a wide variety of programs that affect wetlands in New York. Programs are aggregated according to their basic approach into one of seven “mechanisms”:

Acquisition

Acquisition can include a wide variety of protection strategies. It most frequently is associated with purchase of all rights and title to the land — full fee title acquisition. It also can include acquisition of only some of the rights to the land, usually the right to develop the land, which leaves the property in its undeveloped, natural state. Acquisition also includes leases, conservation easements, donations, bargain sales, and transfers of development rights. It is the variety of means by which to guarantee protection or control of all or some rights to the use of the land.

New York has a proud history of wetlands acquisition. Over 12,000 acres of freshwater wetlands were purchased under the 1972 and 1986 Acquisition Bond Acts and through other state and federal funding sources. DEC also acquired 3,000 acres of tidal wetlands and associated inland buffers. In 1990, a third bond act failed to pass, but prompted development of the State Open Space Conservation Plan. The OSP, was discussed earlier in this chapter, is now the major guiding document for all open space acquisition efforts in the State, including wetlands.

Regulation

Regulation is governmental oversight and control of certain actions that may affect wetlands. It generally entails a review and authorization by a governmental agency before an activity can be undertaken. It includes laws, rules and regulations, plus executive orders.

Wetlands are regulated at three levels in New York. Tidal wetlands are protected under the 1973 Tidal Wetlands Act (Article 25 of the Environmental Conservation Law). The 1975 Freshwater Wetlands Act (Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law) regulates wetlands 12.4 acres (5 hectares) in size or larger, and certain smaller wetlands of unusual local importance. Under both programs, wetlands are mapped, and a regulated buffer zone is also protected. Wetlands are also regulated under Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act, which is implemented by the COE. The 404 program regulates the discharge of dredged or fill materials into waters of the United States, including wetlands. The state has authority to issue 401 Water Quality Certificates for the 404 program. New York state also regulates some wetlands associated with protected streams as waters of the state. A limited number of local governments in the State also have local ordinances to protect wetlands. Some regulate wetlands explicitly, others through land use ordinances that target water resources. Some regulate only those wetlands not protected by State law; others regulate irrespective of State law. Nonetheless, not all wetlands are protected from all negative impacts and losses continue to occur.

Planning

Planning is the proactive process by which to set a vision for a desired future state and to prepare strategies for achieving that future. It analyzes needs, sets goals and establishes ways for meeting

those needs. It is based on both the past and present, but identifies the desired future state. Coordinated, continuous planning should lead to better decision-making.

To be most effective, wetlands protection should be integrated into other land use protection efforts, and not addressed separately. DEC has integrated wetlands into other agency plans, such as the OSP and the Great Lakes Plan, and into other state agency plans, such as this SCORP and the Coastal Resources Plan.

Restoration, Creation and Management

Restoration, creation and management, in general, include hands-on actions taken to manipulate a wetland to create, restore, enhance or protect wetland functions and benefits. Restoration and creation add to the existing resource base, while management actions improve or maintain the quality of existing wetlands.

Restoration means reclaiming a degraded wetland to bring back one or more functions or characteristics that have been partially or completely lost by such actions as filling or draining.

Creation means making a new wetland by flooding or excavating upland.

Management includes:

- Enhancement, which involves altering or manipulating an existing functional wetland to increase selected functions; it often focuses on habitat manipulation for particular species.
- Best management practices, or BMPs, which are used to avoid negative impacts to wetlands while undertaking an unrelated activity such as timber harvest.
- Stewardship, which involves applying a conservation ethic in relating to the land. This often entails more passive management, like leaving a buffer area around a wetland in a pasture or a cultivated field.

New York has a long history of wetlands management. Traditionally they have been focused on management of State-owned lands. In the late 1940s, efforts began on private lands to cooperatively manage for habitat, and over 1000 small marshes were built for waterfowl. Restoration and enhancement efforts on municipally owned lands were funded by the 1972 Environmental Quality Bond Act (EQBA).

More recently, efforts to restore and manage wetlands have grown dramatically. Under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, DEC and the FWS are cooperating with landowners and other organizations to restore drained wetlands on agricultural land in the Northern Montezuma Focus Area. Other restoration efforts are underway in the Lake Champlain basin, the Hudson River, Great Lakes basin, Upper Susquehanna, Upper Chemung, and the Niagara River. There are now programs specifically targeted at wetland restoration, including the NRCS's Wetlands Reserve Program. Other programs include wetlands restoration among the goals and funded projects, including New York's Bond Act, Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve,

Peconic Estuary Program, and the Hudson River Estuarine Management Plan. It is expected that wetlands restoration will continue to be a focus of resources and attention in the upcoming years.

Incentives and Disincentives

Incentives and disincentives create voluntary cooperation in conservation. Incentives are proactive, non-regulatory programs used to encourage voluntary protection. Disincentives are programs that discourage alteration of or impacts to wetlands because they result in the loss of a benefit, such as eligibility for federal funding. Incentives and disincentives usually are financial, but may include recognition, assistance, or good (or bad) public relations.

Incentives and disincentives are highly regarded, but infrequently used. They are generally endorsed in most discussions on improving wetlands conservation. However, since they usually involve financial motivation, incentive programs are difficult to enact or implement. In New York, most incentives are delivered through the Food Security Act conservation programs where landowners are paid an annual rental payment or long-term easement payment for participating in a conservation program, such as the Wetlands Reserve Program.

Research and Inventories

Research and Inventories are the means by which information is gathered to answer pertinent questions. It identifies threats, develops remediation and mitigation techniques, develops details on functions and values of wetlands, and explores means to protect and augment those functions. Research includes traditional data gathering, for empirical research or to answer management or policy questions. It also includes mapping and inventory work, status and trends studies, and monitoring of wetlands.

To better understand the values of wetlands and to manage them better, the State occasionally supports research efforts. This has been augmented since 1990 when EPA began to make State Wetlands Development grants available to the states to increase capacity for wetlands protection. APA, DEC, and other grantees have used these grants to undertake an array of wetlands studies and inventories.

Education, Outreach and Technical Assistance

Education, outreach and technical assistance are the means by which information is provided to users to make decisions, affect behavior and create greater awareness. Education generally is focused on a broader segment of the public and most often has a broader theme, such as the value of wetlands. Outreach efforts are more specific, targeted at an affected group, such as landowners, about a specific topic, such as how to get a permit. Finally, technical assistance is usually very hands-on and technical in nature, such as how to restore a wetland on converted cropland.

Most mechanisms are interconnected by many common threads, and do not operate independently. For example, when we acquire wetlands, we must then manage them. Education is important to get support and involvement for other mechanisms. Technical assistance provides support to landowners to manage their own wetlands. Inventory data, available through a geographic information system, can be used by local governments to plan for wetlands protection. This interdependency will be evident in the discussions of the mechanisms.

Programs are best when developed and implemented in cooperation with all the interested and affected parties. Partnership approaches to implementing wetland programs have increased dramatically in recent years and have been responsible for improved conservation.

Effectiveness of Wetlands Protection Mechanisms

There are no mechanisms in place to directly measure the effectiveness of any conservation programs. DEC conducted a status and trends study in the late 1990s to evaluate changes in the wetlands resource between the mid-1980s and the mid-1990s, but this only indirectly assesses the effectiveness of any programs such as regulation or acquisition. Another effort is currently underway to complete a new update on wetland status and trends. Greater emphasis should be placed on assessing the effectiveness of conservation programs.

Existing Wetland Resources: Inventories

It is estimated that New York has 2.4 million acres of freshwater wetlands and about 25,000 acres of vegetated tidal wetlands. They encompass about eight percent of the land of New York. Wetland types include marshes; hardwood, coniferous and shrub swamps, wet meadows; bogs and fens; coastal marshes; and wetland open water. About 74% of all wetlands occur in the Lake Plains and Adirondack ecological regions, although these areas encompass only about 47% of the State's landmass. Statewide, approximately 80% of the wetlands are larger than 12.4 acres, the threshold for protection in the State Freshwater Wetlands Act. Forested wetlands are the most common, accounting for almost 70% of all wetlands.

There are a number of wetland inventories available in New York.

The National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps are prepared by the USFWS for management purposes. They show all map-able units and include cover type classifications. There are now NWI maps available for almost all areas of the state outside the Adirondack Park. Maps have been digitized where they exist, and can be viewed on the web at <http://wetlands.fws.gov>. Using a planning grant from the FHWA, maps for the Great Lakes coastal area were updated and sections of the Capital District, where maps did not exist, were completed.

The Tidal Wetlands Act requires that all tidal wetlands be mapped. The 1974 inventory is available at <http://twi.ligis.org/>The current inventory shows some 25,000 acres of vegetated tidal wetlands in the marine district. The acreage is classified as follows:

- Coastal fresh marsh — the upper tidal limits of riverine systems. This category accounts for about 5 percent of the vegetated tidal wetlands in the State.
- Intertidal marsh — the area between average high and low tidal elevations. It includes about 60 percent of the vegetated wetlands.
- High marsh — the uppermost tidal wetland zone. It includes about 30 percent of the vegetated wetlands.
- Formerly connected — areas where tidal flow has been restricted by either human or natural causes. It includes about 5 percent of vegetated wetlands.

The Freshwater Wetlands Act also requires that jurisdictional wetlands be mapped. All counties outside the Adirondack Park have been mapped at the scale of 1:24000 and account for 1.2 million acres of wetlands. Inside the Park, Hamilton, Essex, Warren, and Clinton Counties have been finalized. DEC continually amends maps statewide, as resources are available, to keep them updated. Major amendments to wetlands in the New York City drinking water reservoir watersheds were concluded in 2006, adding 7,736 acres of wetlands to the maps. DEC is currently completing draft updated wetland maps for five major watersheds in New York. Maps are available for inspection at all DEC offices and at all local government clerks' offices. Maps have been digitized, and as of fall 2007, the data will be available on DEC's website for use by the public. Digital data on DEC-mapped wetlands is available for those with GIS capabilities through the Cornell University Geospatial Information Repository (CUGIR) at <http://cugir.mannlib.cornell.edu/>.

The APA has conducted intensive wetlands mapping on a watershed basis in the Park. The Upper Hudson, Oswegatchie/Black and St. Regis watersheds are all completed and are available digitally from the APA. The Mohawk and Ausable/Boquet River watersheds will be completed soon. Mapping in the remaining Saranac River watershed and Lake George basin began in the winter of 2007.

Finally, a number of local governments have mapped their wetlands using varying scales, definitions, and methodologies to meet local needs.

New York does not specifically classify wetlands as rare, threatened, or functionally diverse (as per federal MARO Technical Assistance Guide for Meeting the Requirements of the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act). Under Article 24, freshwater wetlands are classified according to their relative functions and values. Wetlands are classified into one of four categories, from Class I, which provide the most important functions or are functionally diverse, to Class IV, which provides fewer benefits. Currently 26 percent of mapped wetlands are Class I, 54 percent are Class II, 17 percent are Class III, and two percent are Class IV. Tidal wetlands are classified only on the basis of their vegetated characteristics; all tidal wetlands in New York are considered critical resources of the State.

New York's Natural Heritage Program, a joint venture with The Nature Conservancy, has a detailed ecological classification system for the State's wetlands. Included in this scheme is a determination of the class's rarity and threat at both the global and state level.

Historic and Contemporary Losses: Statewide Trends

To determine the status and trends of New York's freshwater wetlands resource, DEC conducted a statewide analysis using EPA grant funds. The study looked at the status of the freshwater wetlands resource, changes in the wetlands resource between the mid-1980s and the mid-1990s, and to what causes those changes can be attributed.

While it is estimated that the State has lost over 60% of its wetlands since colonization to such activities as draining, dredging, filling, and polluting, results of that study indicate that after decades of wetlands loss, the State had a net gain of an estimated 15,500 acres of freshwater wetlands between the mid-1980s and the mid-1990s. The State gained a total of an estimated 37,900 acres of freshwater wetlands, but lost approximately 22,400 acres.

Most gains occurred in the Lake Plains, which accounted for the vast majority of increases-- an estimated net gain of 15,200 acres. In the Appalachian Highlands (southern tier), the Adirondack ecozone, and Coastal Plains (Long Island) losses and gains were about equal. In the Hudson Valley, there was a minor net loss of wetlands.

There were seven causes of change identified in the study: agriculture, urbanization, aggregate mining, linear development, beaver activity, modified hydrology (such as increased runoff), and plant succession. Agriculture resulted in a loss of an estimated 11,000 acres (50% of all losses) but reversion of ag fields resulted in a gain of 29,000 acres (76% of all gains) as farmland, drained decades ago, was abandoned and reverted back to wetland. This resulted in a net gain from reverting farmfields not longer in active agriculture of approximately 18,000 acres statewide. Approximately 83% of the gains and 37% of the losses from agriculture occurred in the Lake Plains. The Appalachian Highlands lost more acreage to agriculture but had only minor gains, resulting in a net loss to agriculture of about 2,000 acres.

Developmental activities (urbanization, linear development, and aggregate mining) accounted for the other 50% of wetlands losses, but with virtually no measurable gains in wetlands acreage. Urbanization accounted for a loss of about 8,000 acres, of which 58% occurred in the Lake Plains and 32% occurred in the Hudson Valley. Construction of roads and highways resulted in some losses, primarily in the Lake Plains and Hudson Valley. Aggregate mining (for sand and gravel), which coincides with road construction and urbanization accounted for the loss of about 2,200 acres, 86% of which occurred in the Lake Plains.

The second major cause of gains in wetlands was attributed to "modified hydrology," which includes impacts such as increased runoff, drainage, and altered hydrology resulting from human modification of the land. This resulted in an increase of approximately 8,600 acres or 23% of all

gains in wetlands acreage statewide. Most of the gains in this category occurred in the Lake Plains and Appalachian Highlands.

This study did not attribute significant gains in wetlands acreage to beaver — only a small, and statistically insignificant 100-200 acres. However, beaver caused a change in cover type of almost 8,000 acres, as their damming activities flooded shrub/scrub and forested wetlands, changing them to open water and emergent vegetation.

Finally, the greatest overall dynamics in New York's wetlands resource resulted from natural ecological succession, the process by which fields change to forests. The study noted a change in cover type in almost 120,000 acres of wetlands statewide.

While a net gain of an estimated 15,500 acres of wetlands is wonderful news for New York, there are many concerns this study raises. For example, most net gains occurred in the Lake Plains, and most net loss occurred in the Hudson Valley. Most gains occurred in rural areas, while half the losses resulted from urbanization, and therefore occurred in urban and suburban areas. This has resulted in a considerable geographic shift of wetlands, along with their corresponding services they provide, such as water quality protection and flood attenuation. A landowner living along a stream and who now suffers more flooding from loss of wetlands upstream will be little comforted by more wildlife habitat in the rural surrounding area. Our urbanizing population is also increasingly isolated from the open space and wildlife habitat provided by wetlands.

Similarly, most of the gains in wetlands acreage are from reverting agriculture land and altered hydrology, both of which are causes that cannot be attributed to the multitudes of wetland conservation programs in place through out the State. We can anticipate that abandonment of agricultural land will decline, as will its corresponding gains in reverted wetland. At that time, we may again see net losses of wetland acreage statewide.

In addition, the State is still losing considerable amounts of wetlands - an estimated 22,400 acres in the 10 year period of this study. Over 8,000 acres were lost to urbanization. Of that, an estimated 64% occurred in wetlands larger than 12.4 acres in size. Current estimates indicate that there are over 1,000,000 acres of wetlands in New York that meet the statutory definition to be on the state maps and regulated, but are currently not on the DEC maps. There is a critical need to update the wetland maps so that these wetlands are afforded state protection. Additional studies are needed to determine whether these losses are occurring in wetlands shown on the regulatory maps. The study also indicates there are regional differences in the pressures on the freshwater wetlands resource.

As for tidal wetlands, DEC has observed significant losses of vegetated tidal wetlands, principally *Spartina alterniflora* (Intertidal Marsh), in marsh islands of Jamaica Bay. Examination of historic maps reveals that between 1857 and 1924, the intertidal marsh islands area varied in size without trend, with average changes of up to 10 acres per year. During periods of significant storms,

there were losses of marsh islands. But during quiescent years, the marsh islands appear to be able to rebuild.

From 1924 to 1974, 780 acres of marsh islands were lost due to direct dredging and filling (which were unregulated activities up to 1974) and 510 acres were lost (approximately 10 acres per year) due to other reasons. Since 1974, the study shows that the rate of loss of intertidal marsh islands is accelerating. Between 1974 and 1994, 526 acres of marsh islands were lost at an average rate of 26 acres per year. Between 1994 and 1999, 220 acres were lost at an average rate of 44 acres per year. The vegetated intertidal marsh is being converted to nonvegetated subtidal lands.

The data indicates significant loss of intertidal marsh (especially islands and also along the shoreline) is occurring in Jamaica Bay, but the reasons are subject to further research. Potential contributing factors include sediment budget disruption, sea level rise, dredging, wave energy, erosion and eutrophication. It is most probable that intertidal marsh islands were able to rebuild naturally during the first part of the 1900's because of the extensive shoals and mudflats replenishing sediments to the marsh islands. However, the recent loss of intertidal marsh islands may be due to "drowning" and/or erosion of the intertidal marsh. In many areas, the interior portions of marsh appear to be subsiding or drowning due to lower elevation that could be caused by sediment loss and/or poor marsh peat porosity (water logged, soft and compressed rather than "spongy" like healthy marshes). Sea level rise and higher storm surges may also be playing a role in the loss of wetlands.

In addition, preliminary information suggests that the disappearance of intertidal marshes, at a lesser degree and rate, is occurring in other areas of the marine district (western portions of Long Island Sound and South Oyster Bay). For example, a vegetated marsh island in the southern portion of Manhasset Bay that appears on the 1974 Tidal Wetlands map is now completely covered by water. Because intertidal marsh is critical to estuarine productivity and New York State has lost much intertidal marsh historically, it is essential to give priority attention to the assessment of the problem marine-district-wide, and develop remediation/restoration/research and monitoring strategies where possible and necessary.

NYSDEC, in partnership with EPA, NEIWPCC and TNC, is conducting a tidal wetland trends analysis for Long Island wetlands to assess marsh loss and/or gain from the initial inventory in 1974 to more recent 2005 and 2008 wetland information. Completion of this analysis is slated for fall of 2013. This analysis will also begin to develop a wetland loss matrix for key wetland complexes so we can try and begin to identify causes of marsh loss. Wetlands as a Priority Concern

New York considers wetlands a priority resource, and articulates that concern in statute. The State has comprehensive wetland conservation programs and works with federal and local governmental agencies and with other nongovernmental partners to better protect wetlands.

Through a suite of programs from acquisition and regulation to restoration and education, the State has successfully protected its wetlands resources and will continue to be a leader in preserving, protecting, and conserving the wealth of its wetlands resources.

There is a critical need to amend the outdated and inaccurate freshwater wetland regulatory maps, so that all eligible wetlands are mapped and protected by New York State.

Fish and Wildlife

The State offers unmatched fish and wildlife recreational opportunities. The geography of the State provides a great mix of landscapes and habitats that produce diverse and abundant fish and wildlife populations. Native brook trout and the State trout stocking program attract trout fisherman to the small mountain streams. The sport fishermen may wish to try their luck in the Hudson River for the big striped bass that have returned to the river. The Great Lakes Region offers trophy size coho salmon and hosts black bass fishing tournaments. Big game hunting takes place in two zones the Northern and Southern Zones. Each zone offers a different type of hunting experience. The Southern Zone is managed intensively for deer and hence deer numbers are higher. The Northern Zone presents more of a challenge to the hunter but larger, older deer can be found. The oceanfront beaches on Long Island, the 5,344-foot summit of Mt. Marcy in the High Peaks of the Adirondack Mountains and everything in between, provide productive habitat and places for people to enjoy fish and wildlife.

Wildlife Resources

Recreation resources generally focus on land or water areas and discrete facilities or sites. Wildlife as a recreational resource is less location-specific. Their habitat and movement are independent of property boundaries. Wildlife is viewed more in terms of species and populations than in acreage or sites. In the United States, jurisdiction over wildlife does not correspond to ownership of real property, but is vested in the people of each state. DEC acts as the steward of the people's wildlife in New York State. For migratory species, the ultimate authority is the federal government, with DEC and analogous agencies in other states as major participants and cooperators.

To help illustrate wildlife as a recreational resource, the table in Appendix E identifies some of the recreational values of various species; many of them are listed in species groupings. This material is summarized from "Wildlife Species and Ecological Community Accounts," a 1994 report of DEC's Bureau of Wildlife (BOW).

Figure 7.4 shows the State's major ecological zones on which the wildlife management units are based. It is important to recognize that ecological distinctions determine the distribution of wildlife and the opportunities for associated recreation. This gives a framework for the variety of wildlife-related recreation in New York. It should be kept in mind, however, that this is just meant to provide an indication; the actual variety is much greater.

Current Resources

Rare species occur in various places in the State. Encounters with known rare species are most likely to occur in the Adirondacks and in the coastal low lands of Long Island and New York City and to some extent in the Hudson Valley and the Catskills. Some species, such as the bald eagle, the osprey and the peregrine falcon, are of significant recreational interest.

The waterways and bays in and around New York City, including the Hudson River, the East River, Long Island Sound, Great South Bay and other bays along the south shore of Long Island, the upper and lower New York City bays, the Jamaica Bay Refuge, the Arthur Kill and the Kill Van Kull, can provide city and suburban residents with viewing pleasure for such species as gulls, terns, cormorants, herons, waterfowl and other highly visible, water dependent birds.

The Adirondacks and the Catskills provide wildlife observation, hunting and trapping in a wilderness or wild forest context unlike the rest of the State. The fauna of the Adirondacks in particular is different from the rest of the State, with elements of more boreal ecosystems. For example, there is a small growing moose population. A viable moose population will have obvious wildlife observation and tourism values and might eventually provide limited hunting recreation. Such less common species as spruce grouse, Canada jay, three-toed and black-backed woodpeckers, and loons are enjoyed as part of the wilderness experience.

People who enjoy wetland wildlife would do well to go to the shores and plains south and east of Lake Ontario and along the St. Lawrence River. These areas include major wetland complexes such as Montezuma, between Syracuse and Rochester, and the Iroquois-Oak Orchard-Tonawanda area, between Rochester and Buffalo. Wetland wildlife concentrations are found elsewhere as well, including the Champlain and Hudson Valley and the coast of Long Island.

Observers and hunters of bear will find them in the Adirondacks, the Catskills and in the Allegheny Plateau. Turkey populations have been reestablished in almost all of New York, including Long Island. Deer are plentiful throughout the State, with the highest likelihood of hunting success in western, central and eastern New York south of the Adirondacks. And of course, wildlife, such as songbirds, squirrels and cotton tails, are to be seen in backyards, neighborhood parks and along roads and walkways, contributing to the quality of everyday life and recreation.

Table 7.2, illustrating information on wildlife-related recreation in New York, is from the 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Program Goals

The mission of DEC's Wildlife program is to provide the people of New York with the opportunity to enjoy all the benefits of the wildlife of the State, now and in the future. This mission is embodied in five broad goals: (1) to assure that populations of all wildlife are of

appropriate size to meet all the demands placed on them; (2) to assure the public desire for information is met and to obtain public input into management decisions; (3) to provide sustainable uses of wildlife for an informed public; (4) to minimize the damage caused by wildlife and wildlife users; and, (5) to foster and maintain an organization that efficiently achieves these goals.

Recreation is one of the major aspects of DEC's wildlife program. Achievement of appropriate population sizes, meeting desires for uses and exchanging information with the public are the goals most closely related to recreation. It is inevitable that program objectives will reflect compromises among several goals.

Discussion

Many people want to know that wildlife exists in its potential abundance and diversity. There are both direct and indirect recreational benefits derived from wildlife. Aside from hunting and observation opportunities, many people achieve satisfaction from the mere existence of various species, such as loons and bears in the Adirondacks, even though they may not have direct contact with them.

While engaging in such activities as camping, hiking, walking, skiing, etc., people often encounter wildlife and have the opportunity to observe many species. These incidental encounters often enhance the primary recreation experience. Recreationists often become accustomed to such encounters and eventually expect them. Observation of wildlife also has recreational value when it is a concomitant to every day living, working and traveling.

People observe and study wildlife for enjoyment. This activity includes both actively seeking opportunities and observing wildlife incidental to other activities. Therefore, an abundant and diverse wildlife population, including endangered, threatened and rare species, needs to be perpetuated and restored in order to serve wildlife recreation.

Hunters, trappers and other recreationists, current and future, should have the opportunity and resources to pursue wildlife interests. In some parts of the State, access to land is declining and/or is severely limited. In addition, political and legal challenges must be addressed.

To maximize social acceptability and public use of wildlife resources on private lands, wildlife recreationists need to develop and practice high standards of ethics, courtesy and safety. Training and educational programs to promote understanding and skill development are a high priority.

Income levels, education levels, physical health, residence in urban/suburban/rural areas, background in wildlife activities are all factors influencing people's involvement with wildlife. Programs that provide opportunities to develop skills, participate in wildlife recreational activities, and involve potential users are needed to enhance public wildlife understanding and support for wildlife resource programs.

DEC will continue to be strongly committed to communicating with the public about all phases of its wildlife program and providing wildlife-related recreation. Communication is two-way, with DEC doing its share of listening.

From 1996 through 2001 DEC's BOW set about conducting a comprehensive wildlife management program that provides the people of New York the opportunity to enjoy all the benefits of the wildlife of the State. They accomplished this task through scientifically sound management that incorporated the desires of the public and the biological needs of wildlife with the goal of maintaining sustainable wildlife populations now and in the future.

Fisheries

The State's freshwater resources provide recreational fishing benefits to nearly one million licensed anglers that enjoy over 20 million fishing trips each year. Additionally, hundreds of thousands of young people, under age 16 are introduced to the State's outdoor-recreational opportunities through fishing activities without any licensing requirements. The State's 4 million acres of lakes and ponds and 70,000 miles of rivers and streams support abundant and diverse fish populations that offer a great range of recreational options. Trophy-size salmon, muskellunge and striped bass are available in Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River and the Hudson River respectively. Many waters across the State provide trout, walleye, bass and northern pike fishing of a quality that is notable nationwide, while excellent panfish stocks provide both sport and table fare to all levels of angling expertise. The State also offers quality experiences for all types of angling techniques and preferences. These include boat trolling for salmon, isolated pond fishing for native brook trout, wading for trout in 15,000 miles of stream and float or shore fishing for smallmouth bass in over 50,000 miles of warm-water streams and rivers. In addition, the State has thousands of lakes and ponds that offer many species of game and panfish via ice fishing, shore fishing, rowboat, bass-boat and cabin cruiser access.

DEC's overall fisheries program mission is to maintain the quantity and quality of the State's fisheries resources and recreational benefits for future generations. The following goals and action statements are essential in order to accomplish this mission.

Canal Corporation

Canal Recreationway and Canalway Trail System

Significant progress has been made over the last decade to develop the New York State Canal Recreationway, which spans the 524-mile New York State Canal System, consisting of the legendary Erie, Champlain, Oswego and Cayuga-Seneca Canals. The New York State Canal Corporation, a subsidiary of the New York State Thruway Authority, operates, maintains and promotes the system and has spear-headed the canal revitalization effort throughout New York State.

The Canal Recreationway Plan and subsequent Canal Revitalization Program, adopted in 1996, laid the foundation for Canal System redevelopment efforts with the objective of transforming the canals into a world class recreation resource. Significant public outreach went into the documents through regional canal plans, focus groups and other meetings held to encourage public participation. The fundamental goals of these documents are to:

- preserve the best of the past;
- enhance recreational opportunities; and,
- foster appropriate and sustainable economic development.

The major element of the Canal Recreationway Plan is the development of a network of Canal Harbors and Ports aimed at improving the linkages between the waterway and canal communities.

Canal Harbors were developed at seven canal gateways and other strategic locations. Six of the seven harbors were completed in 2000. The seventh Canal Harbor was completed in 2003.

Completion of the end-to-end Canalway Trail is another major element of the Canal Revitalization effort. The Canalway Trail, which parallels the entire New York State Canal System, will be the longest multiple use trail in the United States. More than 170 miles of trail have been completed since the Canal Corporation began the program in 1995. Approximately 300 miles of trail now exist, primarily along the Erie Canal corridor. The Canalway Trail parallels the Erie, Champlain, Oswego and Cayuga-Seneca canals, creating the spine of a statewide network of trails. Major existing segments are located in the Capital District from Albany to Rotterdam Junction, between Amsterdam and Little Falls, between Rome and Syracuse in the Old Erie Canal State Park and between Newark and Lockport. Other shorter segments exist along the Erie, Champlain and Oswego Canals. It is approximately 75% completed.

The Canalway Trail will link to other important state greenway and trail systems, including the Hudson River Valley Greenway Trail System and the Genesee Valley Greenway Trail, helping to create a network of trails spanning the State. The primary funding source for Canalway Trail development has been the Federal Transportation Enhancements program through ISTEA, TEA 21 and SAFETEA-LU with matching funds provided by the Canal Corporation.

As a result of these investments and initiatives, the Canal has been recognized for its recreational and cultural potential for boating, biking, hiking, snowmobiling and other water and trailway pursuits.

Office of General Services (OGS)

OGS operates under the Public Lands Law to administer state-owned land, including uplands and all ungranted lands under or formerly under the waters of New York State. The Agency issues licenses, permits, leases, easements and occasionally grants to underwater lands; disposes

of uplands determined to be surplus to the needs of the State; and, provides transfers of jurisdiction for state agencies and local agencies for certain specific purposes (including recreational uses) subject to special acts of the State legislature. The latter provision is related to Article 3, Section 34 of the Public Lands Law whereby OGS facilitates the transfer of jurisdiction of state lands to county or local governments for listed purposes such as park, recreation and playground areas. These transfers are subject to reversion to the State should these uses no longer be pursued.

OGS's participation in various programs such as the Hudson River Valley Greenway, and the Heritage Rivers Program, provides the agency with the opportunity to further recreational objectives. One way OGS participates in recreational programs is by providing local communities with rights to lands underwater or filled (previously underwater), for connection and access areas.

OGS is also a member of the ad hoc Interagency Committee for Submerged Cultural Resources. The Committee has participants from OPRHP, DEC, the Department of Education (State Museum), DOS's Coastal Management Program, the Attorney General's Office and the Canal Corporation. This Committee reviews proposals and issues affecting submerged historic, archeological, and cultural resources, predominantly shipwrecks. The Committee established the first dive preserves, including the radeaux Land Tortoise in Lake George, a floating gun platform of the French & Indian War, reputed to be North America's oldest intact warship.

Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA)

The facilities and venues that ORDA manages and maintains are not just for elite winter athletes. They're also a winter vacationer's paradise. ORDA manages and operates the ski centers at Gore Mountain in North Creek, NY and Whiteface Mountain in Wilmington, NY. These facilities are open to the public and operate from mid-November to mid-April.

The public also has the opportunity to experience the bobsled track and luge run at the Olympic Sports Complex in Lake Placid, NY. Also at the Sports Complex, the 31 miles of cross-country ski trails that were used during the 1980 Olympics are available to the public for skiing or snowshoeing. Lastly, ORDA offers public skating from December through March on the Speed Skating Oval used in the 1980 Olympics.

Others

There are various other state agencies that manage open space and/or provide recreation programs. The Health Department encourages recreation activities to improve the health of the citizens of New York. The New York State Museum provides interpretive facilities, programs and kiosks. The Office for the Aging and Office of Children and Family Services also provide programs

Appendix B: Legal Authorization to Develop the New York Statewide Parkland Recreation Plan

Authority of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to develop a statewide park and recreation plan is established in the PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION LAW (Chapter 36-B of the Consolidated laws, 1972, and as amended.) The Law further designates the Commissioner of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation as agent for the administration of the Land and Water Conservation fund and the National Historic Preservation Fund.

Sections of the Law applicable to the above functions, duties and responsibilities are presented below.

Title B - Organization and General Powers, Functions and Duties of Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Article 3 - (3.01 - 3.25) Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; Commissioner

§ 3.09 *General functions, powers and duties.*

The office by and through the commissioner, shall:

3. Encourage, facilitate and coordinate the planning and implementation of parks, recreational and historic preservation activities and programs of state agencies.
4. Cooperate in the planning, organization, development and operation of municipal and private park, recreational and historic preservation projects and programs.
7. Undertake surveys or analyses deemed appropriate for the performance of the functions, powers and duties of the office through office personnel or consultants, or in cooperation with any public or private agencies.
 - 7-a. Promulgate a comprehensive plan for the establishment of a statewide trails system. For the purposes of this subdivision "trails" shall include footpaths, bike ways, snowmobile trails, horse trails, cross country ski trails, roads and other rights-of-way suitable for hiking, strolling, cycling, horseback riding, skiing and other means of motorized and non-motorized travel for recreational purposes and shall include combinations and systems of trails, including connecting and side trails, and trails leading to scenic and recreational areas. The commissioner, with the approval of the director of the budget, may, within the appropriations made available by the legislature, purchase such abandoned railroad rights-of-way as can be used in the comprehensive plan, and make improvements where necessary, in order to make them suitable and available for use as trails.

11. When designated by the governor, act as the state agent for the receipt and administration of any federal grant or advance of funds for the assistance of any project, program or activity related to the functions, powers and duties of the office, where the designation of a state agent is required under federal law or regulation, regardless of whether the project, program or activity is undertaken by the office or another person.

§ 3.15 Statewide park and recreation plan.

1. The office shall formulate, maintain and from time to time revise a statewide park and recreation plan.
2. The office shall submit such plan and periodic revisions of such plan to the department of state and to the governor. The department of state shall review such plan and such revisions and shall submit a report thereon, together with such recommendations as it may deem appropriate, to the governor. Such plan and revisions shall become effective upon approval by the governor and shall serve thereafter as a guide for the development, protection and management of parks and recreation facilities.
 - 2-a. Such plan and revision shall include the results of a survey of local park and recreation programs throughout the state that identify local park or recreation services which are unique, innovative or budget-effective and which may be readily adaptive to other localities. The findings from each such survey shall be maintained by the office until such subsequent revision and shall be readily available to local governments and their parks and recreation agencies.
 - 2-b. Such plan shall describe the existing natural, ecological, historic, cultural and recreational resources within the state park, recreation and historic site system. It shall also identify any threats to the quality of these resources and the types of actions that will be taken to eliminate or substantially reduce such threats.
3. In formulating such plan and any such revisions, the office may:
 - (a) Conduct one or more public hearings;
 - (b) Consult with and cooperate with
 - (i) officials of departments and agencies of the state having duties and responsibilities concerning parks and recreation;
 - (ii) officials and representatives of the federal government, of neighboring states and of interstate agencies having duties and responsibilities relating to parks and recreation in this state;
 - (iii) officials and representatives of local government in the state;
 - (iv) officials and representatives of science, industry, education
 - (v) persons, organizations and groups, public, or private, utilizing, served by, interested in or concerned with parks and recreation of the state; and

- (c) Request and receive from any department, division, board bureau, commission or other agency of the state or any political subdivision thereof or any public authority such assistance and data as may be necessary to enable the office to carry out its responsibilities under this section.

Title C - Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Article 13 - (13.01 - 13.30) General Provisions

§ 13.23 Land and water conservation fund; state agent.

1. Office designated as state agent. The office is hereby designated to represent and act for the state in dealing with the federal secretary of the interior and other appropriate federal officers, agencies and authorities in connection with the federal land and water conservation fund act of nineteen hundred sixty-five and acts amendatory or supplemental thereto.
2. Powers of the office as state agent. The office, as agent of the state as herein provided, is hereby authorized and empowered:
 - (a) On behalf of the state or any agency thereof, to apply to any appropriate agency or officer of the federal government for participation in or the receipt of federal aid pursuant to such federal act, and to make such agreements with the federal government or any appropriate agency or officer thereof, not inconsistent with law, as may be necessary as a condition precedent to receiving such federal aid for a project, provided that the office shall not make a commitment or enter into any agreement pursuant to this paragraph until the director of the budget certifies that sufficient funds are available for meeting the state share, if any, of the cost of the project.
 - (b) On behalf of any municipality eligible under federal law or regulation, to enter into and administer such agreements with the federal government or any appropriate agency or officer thereof as may be necessary as a condition precedent for receiving such federal aid for a project, provided that such municipality give necessary assurances to the office, in the form of a written agreement, that such municipality has available sufficient funds to meet its share of the cost of the project, and that the project will be operated and maintained at its expense for the required public use.
3. Custody and payment of funds.
 - (a) The department of taxation and finance is hereby designated as the custodian of all federal funds allotted to the state pursuant to such federal act, and such funds shall be payable only on the audit and warrant of the state comptroller on the certificate of the commissioner, or the commissioner of environmental conservation for projects undertaken by the department of environmental conservation, in accordance with a certificate of approval of availability issued by the director of the budget.

- (b) An agreement with a municipality pursuant to paragraph (b) of subdivision two of this section may provide for an advance in the first instance, when funds are appropriated and available therefor, of an amount equal to the federal share of the cost of a local project subject to full reimbursement being made to the state by the federal government. Whenever the federal government shall subsequently disallow or disapprove any portion or all of the federal aid advanced by the state, such municipality shall reimburse the state in full for all expenditures advanced by the state which have not theretofore been reimbursed by the federal government. If such municipality shall fail to repay the state within one year after notice of such disapproval or disallowance, the state comptroller shall cause to be withheld from state assistance to which such municipality would otherwise be entitled, an amount sufficient to reimburse the state in full, and shall credit the same to the capital construction fund in repayment of such advance.
- (c) In the event that any appropriations are made to the office or the department of environmental conservation from the capital construction fund for the payment in the first instance by the state of the federal share of the cost of a project, the state comptroller shall be authorized to receive from the federal government an amount of money equal to the amounts of money expended by the state from such appropriations made for such first instance payments and to deposit the same to the credit of the capital construction fund so that the state shall be reimbursed for the full amount of any and all such first instance payments from such appropriations.
4. Allocation of monies. The monies allocated to the state pursuant to such federal act, during each federal fiscal year, shall be apportioned by the commissioner of parks, recreation and historic preservation, with the approval of the director of the budget, between the state and its political subdivisions as the need may appear, provided that the projects of the political subdivisions qualify for federal assistance pursuant to such federal act and any rules and regulations which may be adopted by the commissioner.

Article 19 - (19.01 - 19.11) Historic Sites

§ 19.03 Powers, functions and duties; commissioner.

In addition to the powers, functions and duties provided for in section 3.09, the commissioner shall:

1. Act as the liaison officer on historic preservation matters pursuant to the provisions of any applicable federal law or regulation.
2. Develop and maintain a statewide comprehensive survey and plan for historic preservation.
3. Be authorized to establish and maintain a state register of historic sites and objects.
4. Cooperate with the department of education and the New York state freedom trail commission in the performance of their duties in connection with the freedom trail and underground railroad.

New York State Legislature, Laws of New York: <http://leginfo.state.ny.us:82/INDEX1.html> : Accessed for revisions and updates January 9, 2002.

Appendix C: Wildlife as a Recreation Resource

Species or Group of Species	Types of Recreation					Other
	Knowledge of Presence	Incidental to Other Activity	Observation/Study	Hunting	Trapping	
INVERTEBRATES						
Buck Moth	x		x			
Chittenango ovate amber snail	x	x				
Karner blue butterfly	x	x	x			
Uncommon freshwater mussels	x		x			
Uncommon butterflies and moths		x	x			Collecting
Common butterflies and moths		x	x			Collecting
Uncommon dragonflies and damselflies	x		x			Use for fishing bait
Other vulnerable invertebrates	x		x			
REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS						
Common reptiles and amphibians	x	x	x			
Introduced reptiles			x			
Other endangered and threatened reptiles and amphibians	x	x	x			
Sea turtles	x	x	x			
Uncommon reptiles and amphibian	x	x	x			
BIRDS						
American bittern	x		x			
Black duck	x	x	x	x		Banding
Crow	x	x	x	x		
Woodcock	x		x	x		
Bald eagle	x	x	x			National symbol
Black skimmer	x	x	x			
Black tern	x	x	x			
Brant		x	x	x		
Canada Goose	x	x	x	x		Income for guides
Canvasback	x	x	x	x		
Nighthawk	x	x	x			

Raven	x		x			
Snipe	x		x	x		
Common tern	x	x	x			
Cormorants	x	x	x			
Cuckoos	x	x	x			
Bluebird	x	x	x			Nestbox construction
Fish Crow			x			
Golden eagle	x	x	x			
Grassland sparrow	x	x	x			
Gray partridge		x		x		Privately stocked birds on shooting preserves
Grebes		x	x			
Hérons and ibis	x	x	x			
Least bittern	x	x	x			
Least tern	x	x	x			
Loggerhead shrike	x		x			
Loons	x	x	x			Symbol of wilderness
Mallards	x	x	x	x		Income, shooting, preserve, banding
Mourning dove	x	x	x	(x)		(Hunting not legal in NY)
Mute swan		x	x			
Nesting gulls		x	x			
Bobwhite	x	x	x	x		Privately stocked birds on shooting preserves
Northern harrier	x	x	x			
Osprey	x	x	x			
Owls	x	x	x			Nestbox programs
Peregrine falcon	x	x	x			Falconry
Piping plover	x	x	x			
Red shouldered hawk	x	x	x			
Ringnecks duck and common goldeneye		x	x	x		Wilderness indicator in breeding season
Ring-necked pheasant		x	x	x		Breeding, shooting, preserve, income, rearing, recreation
Roseate tern	x	x	x			
Ruffed grouse	x	x	x	x		
Sedge wren	x		x			
Spruce grouse	x	x	x			Boreal indicator
Swallows	x	x	x			Mosquito reduction
Turkey vulture	x	x	x			
Upland sandpiper	x		x			

Wild turkey	x	x	x	x		Guide income
Wood duck	x	x	x	x		Fly tying, taxidermy, nestboxes
Brushland/forest edge nesting birds - 39 species	x	x	x			
Coot, moorhen and rails - 8 species	x		x	x		
Forest interior nesting birds - 30 species	x	x	x			
Miscellaneous bird species - 19 species	x	x	x			
Non-resident raptors - 8 species	x	x	x			
Oceanic birds - 15 species	x	x	x			
Open field nesting birds - 5	x	x	x			
Other ducks and mergansers - 16 species	x	x	x	x		Banding
Other gulls - 10 species	x	x	x			
Other permanent resident raptors - 6 species	x	x	x			
Tundra swan, snow goose	x	x	x	x		
Other terns - 5 species	x	x	x			
Rare nesting species in northern hardwood and spruce-fir forests - 14 species	x	x	x			Wilderness indicator
Sea ducks - 7 species	x	x	x	x		
Shore birds - 37 species		x	x			
European starling, house sparrow, rock dove	x	x	x			Observation and feeding in highly urban conditions, homing pigeons
Urban/Suburban nesting birds - 11 species	x	x	x			
Wetland riparian nesting birds - 16 species	x	x	x			
MAMMALS						
Allegheny woodrat	x		x			
Beaver	x	x	x		x	Wildlife impoundments, fur income, recreational trapping
Black bear	x	x	x	x		Taxidermy, trophies, bear parts (except meat)
Bobcat	x	x	x	x	x	Taxidermy, fur income, recreational trapping
Cottontails	x	x	x	x		Dog field trails

Dolphins - 9 species	x	x	x			
Eastern coyote	x	x	x	x		Fur income
Fisher	x	x	x		x	Fur income
Foxes	x	x	x	x	x	Fur income, folk lore
Harbor porpoise	x	x	x			
Indiana bat	x		x			
Lynx	x		x			Closed to hunting and trapping.
Marten	x	x	x		x	Fur income, recreational trapping
Mink	x	x	x		x	Fur income, recreational trapping
Moose	x	x	x	(x)		Drama of large size, tourist income, (Hunting not legal in NY)
Muskrat	x	x	x	x	x	Fur income, recreational trapping, young trappers
Porcupine	x	x	x			Indian crafts
Raccoon	x	x	x	x	x	Fur income, recreational trapping
River otter	x	x	x		x	Fur income, recreational trapping
Seals	x	x	x			
Small-footed bat	x		x			
Striped skunk	x	x	x	x	x	Fur income, recreational trapping
Squirrels	x	x	x	x		
Varying hare	x	x	x	x		
Virginia opossum	x	x	x		x	Only North American marsupial, fur income, recreational trapping
Weasels	x		x		x	Fur income, recreational trapping
Endangered whales	x	x	x			Emotional symbols
White-tailed deer	x	x	x	x		Hunters benefit state economy, trophies, ecosystem protection
Woodchuck	x	x	x	x		
Other bats - 7 species	x	x	x			
Northern flying, red, southern flying, squirrels and eastern chipmunk	x	x	x			

Other whales - 6 species	x	x	x			
Native mice, voles and lemmings- 9 species	x	x	x			
Shrews and moles - 10 species	x	x	x			

Appendix D: State Parks, Historic Sites, and Other Properties

Region	Unit	County(ies)	Unit Type
Allegany	Barcelona Lighthouse	Chautauqua	Historic Site
	Allegany Reservoir	Cattaraugus	Marine Park
	Allegany	Cattaraugus	Park
	Lake Erie	Chautauqua	Park
	Long Point (on Lk. Chaut.)	Chautauqua	Park
	Midway	Chautauqua	Park
Central	Fort Ontario (NR)	Oswego	Historic Site
	Herkimer Home (NR)	Herkimer	Historic Site
	Hyde Hall (NHL/NR)	Otsego	Historic Site
	John Burroughs Memorial(NHL/NR)	Delaware	Historic Site
	Lorenzo (NR)	Madison	Historic Site
	Oriskany Battlef.(NHL/NR)	Oneida	Historic Site
	Steuben Memorial	Oneida	Historic Site
	Canadarago Boat Marine Park	Otsego	Marine Park
	Mexico Point Marine Park	Oswego	Marine Park
	State Park at the Fair	Onondaga	Park
	Battle Island	Oswego	Park
	Betty & Wilbur Davis	Otsego	Park
	Bowman Lake	Chenango	Park
	Chenango Valley	Broome	Park
	Chittenango Falls	Madison	Park
	Clark Reservation	Onondaga	Park
	Delta Lake	Oneida	Park
	Gilbert Lake	Otsego	Park
	Glimmerglass	Otsego	Park
	Green Lakes	Onondaga	Park
	Helen L. McNitt	Madison	Park
	Mexico Point	Oswego	Park
	Old Erie Canal	Madison/Oneida/Onondaga	Historic Park
	Oquaga Creek	Broome/Delaware	Park
	Pixley Falls	Oneida	Park
	Robert V. Riddell	Otsego	Park
Sandy Island Beach	Oswego	Park	
Selkirk Shores	Oswego	Park	

Region	Unit	County(ies)	Unit Type
Central	Verona Beach	Oneida	Park
	Hudson-Mohawk Trail	Herkimer	Trail
	Lehigh Valley Trail	Madison	Trail
Finger Lakes	Ganondagan (NHL/NR)	Ontario	Historic Site
	Parrot Hall	Ontario	Historic Sites
	Allan H. Treman Marine Park	Tompkins	Marine Park
	Canandaigua Lake Marine Park	Ontario	Marine Park
	Deans Cove Boat Launch	Seneca	Boat Launch
	Honeoye Marine Park	Ontario	Marine Park
	Lodi Point Marine Park	Seneca	Marine Park
	Sterling Conservation Easement	Cayuga	Other
	Beechwood	Wayne	Park
	Bonavista	Seneca	Park
	Buttermilk Falls	Tompkins	Park
	Cayuga Lake	Seneca	Park
	Chimney Bluffs	Wayne	Park
	Fair Haven Beach	Cayuga	Park
	Fillmore Glen	Cayuga	Park
	Harriet Holister Spencer Recreation Area	Ontario	Park
	Indian Hills	Steuben	Park
	Keuka Lake	Yates	Park
	Long Point (Cayuga Lk)	Cayuga	Park
	Mark Twain	Chemung	Park
	Newtown Battlefield Reservation (NHL/NR)	Chemung	Park
	Pinnacle	Steuben	Park
	Robert H. Treman (NR)	Tompkins	Park
	Sampson	Seneca	Park
	Seneca Lake	Ontario/Seneca	Park
	Sonnenberg	Ontario	Historic Park
	Stony Brook	Steuben	Park
	Taughannock Falls	Tompkins	Park
	Two Rivers	Tioga	Park
	Watkins Glen	Schuyler	Park
Black Diamond Trail	Tompkins	Trail	
Catharine Valley	Schuyler/Chemung	Trail	
Genesee	Conesus Lake Marine Park	Livingston	Marine Park

Region	Unit	County(ies)	Unit Type
Genesee	Irondequoit Bay Marine Park	Monroe	Marine Park
	Oak Orchard Marine Park	Orleans	Marine Park
	Canal Park - Lock 32 (Pittsford)	Monroe	Other
	Genesee River	Monroe	Other
	Issac Property (Irondequoit Bay)	Monroe	Other
	Braddock Bay	Monroe	Park
	Darien Lakes	Genesee	Park
	Hamlin Beach	Monroe	Park
	Lakeside Beach	Orleans	Park
	Letchworth	Liv/Wyo	Park
	Silver Lake	Wyoming	Park
	Lake Ontario Parkway	Monroe/Orleans	Parkway
	Genesee Valley Greenway	Monroe	Trail
Long Island	Walt Whitman Birthplace (NR)	Suffolk	Historic Site
	Amsterdam Beach	Suffolk	Park
	Ploch Property	Suffolk	Other
	A.E. Smith/Sunken Meadow	Suffolk	Park
	Bayard Cutting Arboretum (NR)	Suffolk	Park
	Belmont Lake	Suffolk	Park
	Bethpage	Suffolk/Nassau	Park
	Brentwood	Suffolk	Park
	Brookhaven	Suffolk	Park
	Caleb Smith Park Preserve (NR)	Suffolk	Park Preserve
	Camp Hero	Suffolk	Park
	Captree	Suffolk	Park
	Caumsett State Historic Park (NR)	Suffolk	Historic Park Preserve
	Cold Spring Harbor	Suffolk	Park
	Connetquot River (NR)	Suffolk	Park Preserve
	Gilgo	Suffolk	Park
	Hallock (Jamesport)	Suffolk	Park Preserve
	Heckscher	Suffolk	Park
	Hempstead Lake	Nassau	Park
	Hither Hills	Suffolk	Park
	Hither Woods	Suffolk	Park
Jones Beach	Nassau	Park	
Montauk Downs	Suffolk	Park	
Montauk Point	Suffolk	Park	

Region	Unit	County(ies)	Unit Type
Long Island	Napeague	Suffolk	Park
	Nissequogue River	Suffolk	Park
	Orient Beach	Suffolk	Park
	Planting Fields Arboretum (NR)	Nassau	Historic Park
	Robert Moses	Suffolk	Park
	Sag Harbor	Suffolk	Park
	Shadmoor	Suffolk	Park
	Trail View	Nassau/Suffolk	Park
	Valley Stream	Nassau	Park
	Wildwood	Suffolk	Park
	Bay Parkway	Nassau	Parkway
	Bethpage Parkway	Nassau	Parkway
	Heckscher State Parkway	Suffolk	Parkway
	Loop Parkway	Nassau	Parkway
	Meadowbrook Parkway	Nassau	Parkway
	Montauk Parkway	Suffolk	Parkway
	Northern State Parkway	Nassau/Suffolk	Parkway
	Ocean Parkway	Nassau/Suffolk	Parkway
	Robert Moses Parkway & Cause.	Suffolk	Parkway
	Sagtikos Parkway	Suffolk	Parkway
Southern State Parkway	Nassau/Suffolk	Parkway	
Sunken Meadow Parkway	Suffolk	Parkway	
Wantagh Parkway	Nassau	Parkway	
New York City	East River	Kings	Park
	Bayswater Point	Queens	Park
	Clay Pit Ponds	Richmond	Park Preserve
	FDR Four Freedoms	New York	Park
	Gantry Plaza	Queens	Park
	Hudson River	New York	Park
	Riverbank	New York	Park
	Roberto Clemente	Bronx	Park
Niagara	Darwin Martin House	Erie	Historic Site
	Old Fort Niagara (NHL/NR)	Niagara	Historic Site
	Big Six Mile Creek Marina	Erie	Marine Park
	Strawberry Is.	Erie	Park
	Amherst	Erie	Other
	Beaver Island	Erie	Park
	Buckhorn Island	Erie	Park

Region	Unit	County(ies)	Unit Type
Niagara	Buffalo Harbor	Erie	Park
	DeVeaux Woods	Erie	Park
	Devil's Hole	Niagara	Park
	Earl W. Brydges Artpark (NR)	Niagara	Park
	Evangola	Erie	Park
	Fort Niagara	Niagara	Park
	Four Mile Creek	Niagara	Park
	Golden Hill (NR)	Niagara	Park
	Joseph Davis	Niagara	Park
	Knox Farm	Niagara	Park
	Niagara Reservation (NHL/NR)	Niagara	Park
	Reservoir	Niagara	Park
	Whirlpool	Niagara	Park
	Wilson-Tuscarora	Niagara	Park
	Woodlawn Beach	Erie	Park
	Robert Moses Parkway	Niagara	Parkway
	South Parkway	Erie	Parkway
	West River Parkway	Erie	Parkway
Niagara Gorge Trail	Erie	Trail	
Palisades	Fort Montgomery (NHL/NR)	Orange	Historic Site
	Knox Headquarters (NHL/NR)	Orange	Historic Site
	National Purple Heart Hall of Honor	Orange	Historic Site
	New Windsor Cantonment(NR)	Orange	Historic Site
	Senate House (NR)	Ulster	Historic Site
	Stony Point Battlefield (NHL/NR)	Rockland	Historic Site
	Washington Headq. (NHL/NR)	Orange	Historic Site
	Bear Mountain (NHL/NR)	Orange/Rockland	Park
	Blauvelt	Rockland	Park
	Bristol Beach	Ulster	Park
	Franny Reese Preserve	Ulster	Park
	Goose Pond Mountain	Orange	Park
	Harriman	Orange/Rockland	Park
	Haverstraw Beach	Rockland	Park
	High Tor	Rockland	Park
	Highland Lakes	Orange	Park
	Hook Mountain	Rockland	Park
Iona Island (NRL/NR)	Rockland	Park	

Region	Unit	County(ies)	Unit Type
Palisades	Lake Superior	Sullivan	Park
	Minnewaska	Ulster	Park Preserve
	Nyack Beach	Rockland	Park
	Palisades (NHL/NR)	Rockland	Park
	Rockland Lake	Rockland	Park
	Schunnemunk	Orange	Park
	Sterling Forest	Orange	Park
	Storm King (NR)	Orange	Park
	Tallman Mountain (NHL/NR)	Rockland	Park
	Long Mountain Parkway	Orange	Parkway
	Palisades Interstate Parkway	Rockland	Parkway
	Perkins Memorial Parkway	Rockland	Parkway
Saratoga/Capital District	Bennington Battlef. (NHL/NR)	Rensselaer	Historic Site
	Crailo (NHL/NR)	Rensselaer	Historic Site
	Crown Point (NHL/NR)	Essex	Historic Site
	Grant Cottage (NR)	Saratoga	Historic Site
	Guy Park (NR)	Montgomery	Historic Site
	John Brown Farm (NR/NHL)	Essex	Historic Site
	Johnson Hall (NHL/NR)	Fulton	Historic Site
	Rexford Aqueduct	Saratoga/Schenectady	Historic Site
	Schoharie Crossing (NHL/NR)	Montgomery	Historic Site
	Schuyler Mansion (NHL/NR)	Albany	Historic Site
	Susan B. Anthony	Washington	Historic Site
	Athens Boat Launch	Greene	Boat Launch
	Coxsackie Boat Launch	Greene	Boat Launch
	Saratoga Lake Marine Park	Saratoga	Marine Park
	Albany Pine Bush Preserve	Albany	Other
	Cherry Plain	Rensselaer	Park
	Grafton Lakes	Rensselaer	Park
	Hudson River Islands	Columbia/Greene	Park
	John B. Thacher	Albany	Park
	Lake Lauderdale	Washington	Park
	Max V. Shaul	Schoharie	Park
	Mine Kill	Schoharie	Park
	Mohawk River	Schenectady	Park
	Moreau Lake	Saratoga	Park
Peebles Island(NR)	Saratoga	Park	
Saratoga Spa(NR/NHL)	Saratoga	Park	

Region	Unit	County(ies)	Unit Type
	Schodack Island	Rensselaer/Greene/Columbia	Park
	Thompson's Lake	Albany	Park
	Hudson-Mohawk Trail	Albany/Schenectady/Montgomery	Trail
	Washington Co. Trail	Washington	Trail
Taconic	Clermont (NHL/NR)	Columbia/Dutchess	Historic Site
	Clinton House (NR)	Dutchess	Historic Site
	John Jay Homestead (NHL/NR)	Westchester	Historic Site
	Olana (NHL/NR)	Columbia	Historic Site
	Philipse Manor Hall (NHL/NR)	Westchester	Historic Site
	Staatsburgh(NR)	Dutchess	Historic Site
	Hudson Boat Launch	Columbia	Boat Launch
	Hart's Brook Nature Preserve & Arboretum	Westchester	Other
	Peter Jay	Westchester	Other
	Quiet Cove Riverfront Park	Dutchess	Park
	Taxter Ridge	Westchester	Other
	Clarence Fahnestock	Putnam	Park
	Donald J. Trump	Putnam/Westchester	Park
	Franklin D. Roosevelt	Westchester	Park
	Hudson Highlands (NR)	Dutchess/Putnam	Park Preserve
	James Baird	Dutchess	Park
	Lake Taghkanic	Columbia	Park
	Margaret Lewis Norrie	Dutchess	Park
	Ogden & Ruth Livingston Mills	Dutchess	Park
	Old Croton Aqueduct(NHL/NR)	Westchester	Historic Park
	Rockefeller Park Preserve	Westchester	Park Preserve
	Taconic	Columbia/Dutchess	Park
	Walkway Over the Hudson	Dutchess/Ulster	Historic Park
	Wonder Lake	Putnam	Park
Appalachian Trail	Dutchess	Trail	
Harlem Valley Rail Trail	Columbia/Dutchess	Trail	
Thousand Islands	Sackets Harbor (NR/UCP)	Jefferson	Historic Site
	Black Lake Boat Launch	St. Lawrence	Boat Launch
	Chaumont Boat Launch	Jefferson	Boat Launch
	Great Chazy Boat Launch	Clinton	Boat Launch
	Point Au Roche Boat Launch	Clinton	Boat Launch
	Stony Creek Boat Launch	Jefferson	Boat Launch
	Wilson Hill Boat Launch	St. Lawrence	Boat Launch

Region	Unit	County(ies)	Unit Type
Thousand Islands	Burnham Point	Jefferson	Park
	Canoe Picnic Point	Jefferson	Park
	Cedar Island	St. Lawrence	Park
	Cedar Point	Jefferson	Park
	Coles Creek	St. Lawrence	Park
	Crab Island	Clinton	Park
	Croil Island	St. Lawrence	Park
	Cumberland Bay	Clinton	Park
	DeWolf Point	Jefferson	Park
	Eel Weir	St. Lawrence	Park
	Galop Island	St. Lawrence	Park
	Grass Point	Jefferson	Park
	Higley Flow	St. Lawrence	Park
	Jacques Cartier	St. Lawrence	Park
	Keewaydin	Jefferson	Park
	Kring Point	Jefferson	Park
	Long Point	Jefferson	Park
	Macomb Reservation	Clinton	Park
	Mary Island	Jefferson	Park
	Point Au Roche	Clinton	Park
	Robert Moses	St. Lawrence	Park
	Robert Wehle	Jefferson	Park
	Rock Island(NR)	Jefferson	Park
	Southwick Beach	Jefferson	Park
	St. Lawrence	St. Lawrence	Park
	Waterson Point	Jefferson	Park
Wellesley Island	Jefferson	Park	
Westcott Beach	Jefferson	Park	
Whetstone Gulf	Lewis	Park	
Black River Trail	Jefferson	Trail	

NR – National Register of Historic Places

NHL – National Historic Landmark

UCP – NYS Urban Cultural Park

Appendix E: State Nature and Historical Preserves

Name	Town	County
Squaw Island	Canandaigua	Ontario
Showy Lady Slipper Parcel	New Hudson	Allegany
Parish Gully	Italy	Yates
Clark Gully	Middlesex and Italy	Yates
Cicero Swamp	Cicero	Onondaga
Labrador Hollow	Fabius/Truxton	Onondaga/Cortland
Reinstein Woods	Cheektowaga	Erie
Bog Brook	Southeast and Patterson	Putnam
The Oak Brush Plains State Preserve	Babylon and Huntington	Suffolk
David A. Sarnoff Pine Barrens	Southampton	Suffolk
Rocky Point Natural Resource Management Area	Brookhaven	Suffolk
Albany Pine Bush Preserve	City of Albany; Colonie and Guilderland	Albany
Camillus Forest Unique Area	Camillus	Onondaga
Zoar Valley Unique Area	Otto and Persia/Collins	Cattaraugus/Erie

Appendix F: Statewide Programs

New York State provides a variety of recreation experiences, ranging from the playgrounds of New York City to the wilderness areas of the Adirondacks. This is a dynamic system comprised of “people”, “resources”, and “recreation”. Each element has an influence on the other two. For instance, the composition of the population will impact the need for recreation, the quality of the resource will determine the availability of recreation opportunities and the type and extent of recreation can affect resource quality and the quality of life for people. For Example, the improved water quality of a lake or river, will provide recreational opportunities, that will influence where people, live, work and play. Therefore, recreation opportunities, open space and resources are all influenced by, and a factor to be considered, within various agency programs and initiatives.

New York State’s vast number of lakes, rivers and streams and oceanfront provide recreation resources that continue to be major destination locations. Participation in water related activities is often constrained by limited public access and unsuitable water quality. The State has initiated many programs to help improve water quality and increase access to the major waterbodies such as the Great Lakes, Hudson River, Long Island Sound, the Peconic and Hudson River Estuaries, and Lake Champlain. The quality of life in these areas has improved and recreational opportunities increased resulting in an overall economic benefit to the communities.

In addition to the land and water resources, cultural resources help define the character of the State and our past. New York has a rich and diverse array of cultural resources and it is becoming more important to relate several historic sites together, whether through a trail or corridor. These heritage corridors are able to tell a more complete and valuable story of past events and honor the history of the State.

Recreation and open space play a vital role in maintaining the mental and physical health of our citizens and also supports the economy of the State. This is apparent by the level of participation in recreation activities and sporting events. There is also an increasing awareness of the needs of all the populations. Facilities that are accessible to persons with disabilities are no longer the exception but are integrated within the design of new and rehabilitated facilities.

This appendix lists various agency programs and initiatives that have an impact on or are impacted by the quality of the recreational and open space resources or experiences they provide. This will include programs traditionally associated with recreation and others that may not be readily apparent. More information about each program can be obtained from the website addresses provided.

Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

NYS Snowmobile Program

The New York State Snowmobile Program was legislated in response to the public’s demand for places to ride snowmobiles. In 1985, the State Legislature mandated that the New York State Office of Parks and Recreation (OPRHP) be given the responsibility to plan for the development and oversight of a statewide snowmobile program. It is the goal of the Snowmobile Unit to promote the maintenance of a

safe and enjoyable statewide snowmobile trail system that works in harmony with the state's natural resources while promoting economic development and tourism.

<http://nysparks.com/recreation/snowmobiles>

Heritage Programs

New York State has a rich and varied cultural heritage. There are many sites to be interpreted and stories to be told. The importance of our heritage is being recognized on the federal, state and local levels through preservation, interpretation, designation and programming. There is also a link between preserving our heritage, revitalizing communities, and tourism that can benefit all citizens of New York.

New York State Designated Heritage Areas and Corridors

<http://nysparks.com/historic-preservation/heritage-areas.aspx>

Albany - (518) 434-0405 or 1-800-258-3582. <http://albany.org/>

Buffalo - (716) 852-2356 or 1-800-BUFFALO. <http://www.buffalocvb.org/>

Concord Grape Belt - <http://www.concordgrapebelt.org>

Harbor Park (New York City) - (212) 344-3491. <http://thebattery.org/>

The Heights (New York City) - (212) 694-8824. <http://myharlem.org/>

Kingston - (800) 331-1518. For Rondout, call (845) 331-7517. For Uptown, call (845) 331-9506.
<http://ci.kingston.ny.us/>

Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor - call (518) 673-1045. <http://mvhcc.org/>

North Shore (Long Island) - (516) 922-8605. <http://linorthshoreheritagearea.com/>

Ossining - (914) 941-3189. <http://www.hudsonriver.com/rivertowns/ossining.htm>

RiverSpark (Hudson-Mohawk) - (518) 270-8667 or (518) 237-7999. <http://riverspark.org/>

Rochester - High Falls (Natural Environment) - (585) 325-2030. <http://centerathighfalls.org/>

Sackett Harbor - (315) 646-2321. <http://sacketsharborny.com/home.html>

Saratoga Springs - (518) 587-3241. <http://www.saratogatourism.com/vcstuff/vchome.html>

Schenectady - (518) 382-5147, ext. 5128. <http://www.sayschenectady.org/>

Seneca Falls - (315) 568-2703. <http://www.senecafalls.com/history-heritage.php>

Susquehanna - Binghamton (607) 772-0660, ext.255 or Endicott (607) 757-5355.
http://www.roberson.org/visitors/binghamton_visitor_center.asp
<http://www.endicottny.com/Visitor%20Center/visitorcenter.htm>

Syracuse - (315) 471-0593. <http://eriecanalmuseum.org/urban.asp>

Western Erie Canal Heritage Corridor - (585) 546-7029. <http://eriecanalheritage.com>

Whitehall - (518) 499-1155 or (518) 499-0716. <http://www.museumsusa.org/museums/info/1155278>

Boating Programs

With the number of boaters increasing, there is a need to continue boater safety, education and enforcement programs to ensure the enjoyment of all boaters on New York State waters. OPRHP is the designated agency responsible for ensuring the coordination of the State's boating safety and enforcement programs. <http://nysparks.com/recreation/boating/>

Sports and Athletics

Sports and athletic competition help keep citizens, both young and old, physically active and provide those not participating an invigorating means of entertainment. The goal of the sports and athletic programs is to provide a broad variety of organized opportunities for recreation and competition at a variety of levels complementary with local or regional efforts. <http://www.empirestategames.org/>

Department of Environmental Conservation

Wild and Scenic Rivers Program

National Legislation

In 1968 the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was passed by Congress in an effort to create a national system of protected rivers. New York State only has one river designated as part of the National system, that river is the Delaware (Upper) River. The Delaware (Upper) was designated in 1978 as a Wild and Scenic River for the portion between Hancock, NY and Sparrow Bush, NY; the designation is listed as both scenic (23.1 miles) and as recreational (50.3 miles). <http://www.rivers.gov/>

Nationwide River Inventory (NRI)

The NRI is an inventory managed by the National Park Service of river segments that are potentially eligible to be designated as part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers program. New York State has a total of 184 river segments identified as eligible river segments and listed on the inventory.

<http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/nri/index.html>

State Legislation

The NYS Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System was enacted in 1972 to preserve, protect, and enhance these unique rivers and their immediate environs in a free flowing condition and in a natural state. The program is administered by DEC outside the Adirondack Park and on State lands within the Park. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/32739.html>

Water Access/Water Recreation

Great Lakes

New York State borders two Great Lakes. Approximately 40% of New York's lands are within the Great Lakes watershed and more than 20% of its population resides within the basin. Recreation and tourism continue to be a major contributor to the economy of the Great Lakes region. As responses from the urban areas of Buffalo and Rochester demonstrate, increasing demand for swimming, boating and fishing opportunities are placing more pressure on management agencies to "clean up", maintain water levels, protect wildlife habitat areas, restore fish and wildlife populations, and provide more public access for improved public uses of the Lakes and their resources. Recreational use of the Great Lakes waters is often listed as an impaired use. With the anticipated expansion of recreational interests, greater demands will be placed upon existing facilities and resources in the Great Lakes region, many of which are not in sufficient supply or condition to satisfy these increasing needs.

The following organizations and programs recognize the importance of the Great Lakes to the economic vitality of New York State and the role of recreational use and water access as part of the regional economy. OPRHP and DEC work with and participate in these programs to ensure public recreation and access issues to the Great Lakes are addressed. For more information on Great Lakes initiatives visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/25562.html>

Council of Great Lakes Governors

New York's Governor, along with the other seven Great Lakes governors comprises the Council of Great Lakes Governors. The mission of this council is: "To encourage and facilitate environmentally responsible economic growth." This is accomplished by establishing a cooperative effort between the public and private sectors among the eight Great Lakes states and with the Canadian Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. Through the Council, Governors work collectively to ensure that the entire Great Lakes region is both economically sound and environmentally conscious in addressing today's problems and tomorrow's challenges. <http://www.cglg.org/>

The Great Lakes Commission

The Great Lakes Commission (Commission) is a binational agency that promotes the orderly, integrated and comprehensive development, use and conservation of the water and related natural resources of the Great Lakes Basin and the St. Lawrence River. The Commission was established by joint legislative action of the Great Lake States in 1955 and was granted congressional consent in 1968. The Commission is comprised of representatives from the eight Great Lake States and associate members from the Canadian Provinces of Ontario and Quebec (<http://www.glc.org/>)

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) was established by the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries between Canada and the United States in 1955. The Commission has two major responsibilities: (a.) to develop coordinated programs of research on the Great Lakes, and, on the basis

of the findings, to recommend measures which will permit the maximum sustained productivity of stocks of fish of common concern; and (b.) to formulate and implement a program to eradicate or minimize sea lamprey populations in the Great Lakes. <http://www.glf.org/>

New York State's Great Lakes Basin Advisory Council

The Great Lakes Basin Advisory Council (Council) was established by statute (ECL Section 21-0917) in 1988. The Council was formed to assist the State in its effort to protect the environmental, social and economic health of the Great Lakes Region. The Council functions as a link between state and local governments, private sector businesses, academic community and the public. (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/25585.html>)

Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs)

The development of Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs) stem from the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement originally signed by the United States and Canada in 1972 and amended in 1978 and 1987. In the 1987 amendment, the two governments agreed to develop Lakewide Management Plans that will “restore and maintain the chemical, biological and physical integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes Basin” (Great Lakes Information Network, 2007). The LaMPs are intended to (1) identify critical pollutants that affect beneficial uses of the waters of the Great Lakes and (2) promote ecosystem-based management approaches to restoring the basin’s integrity. <http://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/lamp/>

Remedial Action Plans

The Water Quality Agreement outlines a process for bringing the “areas of concern” into compliance. This process involves the development of a Remedial Action Plan (RAP). The purpose of the RAP is to develop strategies and consensus approaches to restoring beneficial uses that have been impaired within specific areas of concern. <http://epa.gov/glnpo/aoc/rap.html>

Great Lakes Action Agenda

The Great Lakes Action Agenda is a draft plan to support programs and partnerships involving state and federal agencies, municipalities, academic institutions, non-profits, and other stakeholders in New York's Great Lakes basin. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/91881.html>

Finger Lakes

The Finger Lakes region of central New York is characterized by a dozen lakes whose watersheds include a variety of valuable natural resources, including water, fish and wildlife habitat, wetlands, and forest. The lakes and their watersheds are used extensively for agriculture, recreation, and tourism, highlighting the link between resource protection and the regional economy.

In an effort to foster cooperation on waterbody management and better guide efforts aimed at protecting and improving the water quality in the Finger Lakes, our office has encouraged communities to develop a planning process that is focused on watersheds and not political boundaries. Attention has centered on the local development and implementation of watershed management plans for Cayuga Lake, Conesus

Lake, and Canandaigua Lake. Because the watershed plans must establish a consensus among state and local government on future actions needed to protect water quality, the completion of each plan involved an extensive outreach and education process. Currently, the collaborative effort concentrates on implementation, which is being overseen by a partnership comprised of the local governments within each watershed, state agencies, and advocacy organizations involved in lake protection.

<http://www.dos.ny.gov/opd/programs/WFRevitalization/fingerlakes.html>

Hudson River

The Hudson River flows 315 miles from the Adirondack Mountains to New York Harbor. The Hudson River is used by half of the residents of New York State for water supply, waste disposal, power generation and recreation. The 150-mile estuarine section extends from the federal dam at Troy to New York City Harbor. With improvements in its water quality there has been an increased interest in the vast recreation potential of the river. However, public access to the Hudson is severely limited by private ownership, topography and high speed rail lines that run parallel to the river. There are 1081 recreational facilities within the towns along the lower Hudson River. Of this total, only 43 are State-owned and can thus expect to provide some guaranteed long-term public access.

Hudson River Valley Greenway

<http://www.hudsongreenway.ny.gov/AbouttheGreenway/OverviewandMission.aspx>

The Hudson River Estuary Program

The Hudson River Estuary Program was established in 1987 in response to Section 11-0306 of the Environmental Conservation Law, the Hudson River Estuary Management Act. The program is a regional partnership designed to protect, conserve, restore and enhance the estuary, associated shorelands as well as related upland resources. DEC serves as manager of the program in collaboration with OPRHP, DOS, OGS, DOT, the Metro-North Railroad, the Hudson River Valley Greenway, the Hudson River Foundation, Cornell University, and New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPP), Soil and Water Conservation Districts and a citizen advisory committee along with municipal governments (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4920.html>).

Marine Coast

New York State has over 2,000 miles of marine coastline and one million plus acres of marine surface waters. The marine district, which includes New York City, Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester Counties, is home to 10 million people or 60% of our State's population. Development pressures have been progressing at such a rapid rate that significant remaining access to the waterfront is being lost. Programs such as the Open Space Plan and the DOS's Coastal Management Program (<http://www.dos.ny.gov/communitieswaterfronts/>), provide methods and funding sources to provide access and to protect and preserve diminishing, recreational coastal resources.

Marine Recreational Fishing/Artificial Reef Program

DEC's Bureau of Marine Resources is responsible for the management of living marine resources and their habitats within the Marine and Coastal District of New York State.

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/796.html>

Invasive Species

Invasive Species Council

The Invasive Species Council (Council) is a statutory body that was created in 2008 by Title 17, Section 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL). The Council was created to coordinate among multiple State entities and partners in addressing the environmental and economic threats of invasive species.

The legislation defines invasive species as "a species that is: (a) non-native to the ecosystem under consideration; and (b) whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health." <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6989.html>

Environmental Justice

Promoting outdoor recreational opportunities is essential to the quality of life, health and enjoyment of New York's diverse communities. Unfortunately, many communities, especially minority and low-income communities and subsistence fishing communities, have inadequate access to these opportunities. This section includes several recommendations to address this inequity.

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. Environmental justice principles recognize that some communities, especially minority and low-income communities are disproportionately exposed to negative environmental impacts, have been historically absent from environmental decision-making affecting their community, and may not receive equitable benefits of environmental programs.

Environmental justice efforts focus on improving the environment in these communities.

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/public/333.html>

Department of State

Office of Planning and Development

The Office of Planning and Development in the Department of State (DOS) works in partnership with local governments, community-based organizations, business leaders, academia, neighborhood associations, and state and federal agencies to further local and regional economic growth while managing coastal and inland waterway resources. Office programs address waterfront redevelopment; expansion of visual and physical public access to the water; protection of natural and cultural resources, including habitats, water quality, historic and scenic resources; and, provision for water-dependent uses, including recreational boating, fishing and swimming. The Department provides both financial and technical assistance to proactively address issues affecting communities.

<http://www.dos.ny.gov/opd/>

Department of Transportation

Bike and Pedestrian Program

Passage by Congress of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), recognized the increasingly important role of bicycling and walking in creating a balanced, intermodal transportation system. Subsequent federal transportation bills including the 2001 Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFTEA-LU) have all reaffirmed the importance of promoting and facilitating the increased use of non-motorized transportation modes to the nation's and New York's overall health, economy and transportation choices. It is the goal of the NYS DOT to continue to encourage bicycling and walking as safe, healthy, efficient and cost effective modes of transportation.

<https://www.dot.ny.gov/display/programs/bicycle>

Transportation Enhancement Program

The Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) was created in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Act of 1991 (ISTEA), and continued in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

Through the Transportation Enhancement Program, Congress provided innovative opportunities to improve the transportation system through the implementation of a specific list of activities intended to benefit the traveling public, increase transportation choices and access, enhance the built and natural environment, and provide a sense of place. Transportation enhancement activities offer communities funding opportunities to help expand transportation choices such as bicycle and pedestrian facilities, scenic routes, beautification and other investments that increase recreation, accessibility, and safety for everyone beyond traditional highway programs. <https://www.dot.ny.gov/programs/tep>

Scenic Byways Program

Since 1992, the New York State Scenic Byways Program, managed by the Department's Environmental Analysis Bureau has revitalized individual and community interest in the State's scenic, natural, recreational, cultural and historic resources. Since its inception, the Scenic Byways Program has facilitated partnerships among State agencies and local and county organizations, private citizens, business owners, and not-for-profit organizations. The Program fosters extensive public involvement and encourages local communities to manage these resources and to enhance tourism and recreation.

<https://www.dot.ny.gov/display/programs/scenic-byways>

Canal Corporation

The NYS Canal Corporation, a subsidiary corporation of the New York State Thruway Authority, is responsible for the operation, maintenance and promotion of four historic operating canals that span 524 miles across NYS.

The Canal System links the Hudson River, Lake Champlain, Lake Ontario, the Finger Lakes, and the Niagara River with communities rich in history and culture.

The Canal Corporation has transformed the Canal System into a world class recreationway and emerging commercial waterway, with clustered development to foster recreation, tourism and economic development, while preserving the natural and historical environment of the System and its adjacent communities. <http://www.canals.ny.gov/index.shtml>

Department of Health

<http://www.health.ny.gov/>

Health

Recreation resources provide an important opportunity for people to be physically active, which can lead to significant improvements in health. Being physically active on a regular basis can contribute to a decrease in the risk of numerous debilitating diseases and conditions, including heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, some forms of cancer, osteoporosis, obesity, depression, arthritis, and possibly Alzheimer’s disease. In fact, obesity has now reached epidemic proportions in New York State and across the nation. According to the Department of Health, obesity is now the second leading cause of preventable death in NYS and will soon overtake tobacco use as the leading cause of death in the state.

Overweight and obesity in New York State affects all people regardless of gender, age, race or ethnicity. It is a preventable condition that affects quality and length of life. Overweight and obesity are contributors to many preventable chronic health conditions including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, some cancers, arthritis, asthma and disability.

The “Prevention Agenda 2013-2017: New York State’s Health Improvement Plan” will serve as a new beginning for all New Yorkers. The goals and objectives address how we recognize and react to changes in our weight status; the strategies suggest and encourage ways for us as individuals, as families, as a community, to respond to how and what we eat and ways in which we can be more physically active throughout life. It will shape our thinking and our response not only as individuals and families, but also for settings we find ourselves in, such as our communities, workplaces, schools and health care environment, so that all can work together to achieve healthy weights through healthy daily living.

http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/prevention_agenda/2013-2017/

Water Quality and Safety

As discussed in Chapter 3, New York State has over 3,000 bathing facilities including: bathing beaches on lakes, ponds, rivers and the ocean; swimming pools (including kiddie pools, diving pools, wave pools and others); and spray grounds. The New York State Department of Health is responsible for assuring that all public swimming facilities in the state are operated in a safe manner and that these facilities meet State and Federal standards for safe recreational use. All public bathing facilities in the state must be supervised by qualified lifeguards and meet state water quality and safety standards.

http://www.health.ny.gov/guidance/oph/ceh/health_and_safety/#pools_beaches

Office for the Aging

The New York State Office for the Aging (OFA), through its network of 59 Area Agencies on Aging, has initiated and continue to manage a number of health promotion, disease prevention, and recreation programs and services for active, healthy living for older adults across New York State that fit in with the SCORP. <http://www.aging.ny.gov/>

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Harbors of Refuge

A number of harbors of refuge along the shores of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario were identified by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE). These lakes are often subject to sudden squalls and high winds creating waves and wakes in excess of 10 feet. Harbor of refuge is a term that refers to a harbor that provides services specifically to accommodate transit craft rather than as a home port for local craft (OPRHP, 1980). Initially, the COE recommended that harbors of refuge occur every 30 miles. It was determined, however, for smaller craft navigating the Great Lakes that shorter intervals were more appropriate. Harbors of refuge have been established at Barcelona, Dunkirk, Cattaraugus Creek, Sturgeon Point and Buffalo Harbors on Lake Erie and Wilson-Tuscarora State Park, Olcott Harbor, Golden Hill State Park, Oak Orchard Marine Park, Braddock Bay, Irondequoit Bay State Park, Port Bay, Little Sodus Bay, Mexico Point State Park, Port Ontario, Henderson Harbor and Sackets Harbor on Lake Ontario.

In 1982, OPRHP and DEC prepared a “Strategic Plan for Economic Development through Expansion of Waterway Access to the Great Lakes Report”. The report identified the scope of work, expenditures and benefits that would be involved with the expanded access opportunities on the Great Lakes. Many of the projects have been implemented but there are more opportunities to be considered as recognized in the New York State 25-Year Plan for the Great Lakes. This is supported by the results of the “1990 Statewide Survey of Boating Use at Public Waterway Access Sites in New York State” that identified Lake Erie and Lake Ontario within the top five water bodies in the State in which boaters identified as needing to expand public access.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, is an independent agency that regulates the interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas, and oil. FERC also reviews proposals to build liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals and interstate natural gas pipelines as well as licensing hydropower projects.

<http://www.ferc.gov/default.asp>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Lake Champlain Basin Program

The Lake Champlain Basin stretches from the peaks of the Adirondacks in New York to the Green Mountains of Vermont and north into Quebec, Canada. The Basin is a unique and historically significant natural resource that attracts thousands of residents and visitors each year to participate in diverse recreational opportunities. Increased use, competing and conflicting uses, and development continues to pressure the Lake's natural and recreational resource. The Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) is a Congressionally-designated initiative to restore and protect Lake Champlain and its surrounding watershed. The program works with partners in New York, Vermont, and Québec to coordinate and fund efforts to address challenges in the areas of phosphorus pollution, toxic substances, biodiversity, aquatic invasive species, and climate change. <http://www.lcbp.org/>

Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act (BEACH Act)

To improve water quality testing at the beach and help beach managers better inform the public when there are water quality problems, Congress passed the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act (BEACH Act) in October 2000. This Act authorizes EPA to award grants to eligible state, tribes and territories to develop and implement beach water quality monitoring and notification programs at coastal and Great Lakes beaches. <http://water.epa.gov/type/oceb/beaches/>

National Park Service

National Heritage Areas and Corridors

National heritage areas and corridors represent a relatively new, but growing, approach to conserving America's rich culture and history. The first national heritage corridor was designated by Congress in 1984. Today there are thirty-seven heritage areas or corridors around the country. Three of the most recently designated areas are located within New York State — the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area (designated in 1996), the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor (designated in 2000) and the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (designated in 2006).

All national heritage areas and corridors must complete a management plan that sets forth its goals, objectives, programs and management entity. This plan is approved by the Secretary of the Interior, and requires local input, review and approvals prior to completion. The role of the National Park Service, depending on the enabling legislation, may include providing technical, planning, and staff assistance, funding, and review and approval of the management plan. <http://www.nps.gov/history/heritageareas/>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) System

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System is a network of protected areas established for long-term research, education and stewardship. This partnership program between NOAA and the coastal states protects more than one million acres of estuarine land and water, which provides essential habitat for wildlife; offers educational opportunities for students, teachers and the public; and serves as living laboratories for scientists (<http://www.nerrs.noaa.gov/>).

There is one reserve in New York State located along the Hudson River Estuary. Four distinct tidal wetland sites encompassing nearly 5,000 acres along 100 miles of the Hudson River Estuary were designated the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve in 1982, as field laboratories for estuarine research, stewardship and education (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4915.html>).

Sea Grant

Sea Grant is a nationwide network (administered through NOAA), of 30 university-based programs that work with coastal communities. The National Sea Grant College Program engages this network of the nation's top universities in conducting scientific research, education, training, and extension projects designed to foster science-based decisions about the use and conservation of our aquatic resources. Sea Grant's mission is to enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal, marine and Great Lakes resources in order to create a sustainable economy and environment. Environmental stewardship, long-term economic development and responsible use of America's coastal, ocean and Great Lakes resources are at the heart of Sea Grant's mission. <http://seagrants.noaa.gov/Home.aspx>

U.S. Geological Survey

The Nonindigenous Aquatic Species (NAS) information resource for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) was established as a central repository for accurate and spatially referenced biogeographic accounts of nonindigenous aquatic species. The program provides scientific reports, online/real-time queries, spatial data sets, regional contact lists, and general information. The data is made available for use by biologists, interagency groups, and the general public. The geographical coverage is the United States. <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/default.aspx>

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

The USDA/APHIS Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) works to ensure the early detection of harmful or economically significant plant pests and weeds in a nationally directed survey program through the CAPS network. The program works with State and university cooperators through national, regional, and State level committees to prioritize survey projects and provides funds for State cooperators to conduct the agreed-upon surveys. The program also trains and equips State cooperators to conduct national surveys. http://www.aphis.usda.gov/about_aphis/ The New York State Department

of Agriculture and Markets is the State's coordinator of the CAPS program. Additional information is available at <http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/CAPS/index.html>.

Statewide Programs

Accessibility

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), along with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Title V, Section 504, have had a profound effect on the manner by which people with disabilities are afforded equality in their recreational pursuits. The ADA is a comprehensive law prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities in employment practices, use of public transportation, use of telecommunication facilities and use of public accommodations. Title II of the ADA applies to public entities and requires, in part, that reasonable modifications must be made to its services and programs, so that when those services and programs are viewed in their entirety, they are readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities.

Universal Access Program

Public recreation agencies should consider developing a Universal Access Program. DEC for example has made significant strides in developing such a program.

The Department of Environmental Conservation welcomes all visitors to explore outdoor recreation on state lands and is committed to providing an ever-increasing range of accessible opportunities. Currently, visitors to DEC's accessible facilities can enjoy fishing, boating, hunting, picnicking, horseback riding, hiking, visiting historic assets, wildlife observation and camping at DEC campgrounds as well as primitive areas. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/34035.html>

Access Pass

An Access Pass program provides free use of parks, historic sites, and recreational facilities operated by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Qualified persons with permanent disabilities can obtain a pass for free use of facilities operated by these offices, for which there is normally a charge such as for parking, camping, green fees and swimming. The pass, however, is not valid at any facility within a park operated by a private concern under contract to the State, or for a waiver of fees such as those for seasonal marina dockage, for a group camp, for reservations of a picnic shelter, for performing arts programs, for campsite/cabin amenities, for consumables, or for fees related to campsite/cabin reservations and registrations. <http://www.nysparks.com/admission/access-pass/>

Golden Park Program

A Golden Park Program provides free vehicle access to state parks and arboretums, fee reduction to state historic sites and fee reduction for state-operated swimming, golf, tennis and boat rental for resident 62 years of age or older on any weekday (except holidays). <http://www.nysparks.com/admission/golden-park-program.aspx>

Empire Passport

The Empire Passport provides unlimited day use vehicle entry to most of New York's State parks and recreational facilities for a one time purchase price. The Passport can be used from April 1 to March 31 of the following year and provides access to most of the 179 state parks, 55 Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) forest preserve areas, as well as to boat launch sites, arboretums and park preserves. A second passport for the same household can be purchased at a reduced rate, which may be used on a second vehicle, boat or motorcycle. <http://www.nysparks.com/admission/empire-passport/default.aspx>

Appendix G: CFA Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated to assess the degree to which they meet the elements of each criterion below. A successful grant proposal is not expected to meet all of these criteria.

I. Poverty Level (0-5 predetermined, based on ZIP Code)

Points are predetermined, based on the ZIP Code of the project location. The Poverty Table utilized is located at <http://nysparks.com/grants/consolidated-funding-app.aspx>. Also note if this ZIP Code meets the threshold for 75% funding.

II. Resource Impact (up to 25 points)

For Parks Projects:

A1. Community Impact (0-10) Points are based on the importance of the project to the community (physical or social) in terms of economic stimulus, impetus to community renewal, revenue generation, visual appeal (downtown anchor) or provide health and vitality to the community. If not funded, how would this impact the community?

A2. Local Commitment and Need (0-15) Points are based on community involvement in the concept of the project, as evidenced by documentation of public meetings, involvement of a recreation committee, friends group or community interest group, etc. Consider additional points if the project meets the needs for an aging population, encourages participation by youth and teens, responds to population and social changes in the community, and/or provides new access and/or ensures open and reasonable access to a property. Evidence of need can include documentation of: number of similar facilities in the service area; level of use of existing facility and anticipated level of use of proposed facility; condition of facilities; emergencies, mandates or development pressure.

For Historic Preservation Projects:

B1. Level of Significance (0-10) Points are awarded based on the level and area(s) of significance recorded for the property in the State/National Register nomination (or in the National Historic Landmark documentation), and consideration of the significance of the specific feature(s) of the property to be addressed in the proposed project (e.g., a primary contributing resource versus a secondary contributing resource).

B2. Severity/Immediacy of Threat (0-15) Points are awarded based on the type (e.g., deterioration, damage, demolition, inappropriate development), extent (e.g., isolated, wide-spread, accelerated), severity, immediacy, and degree (e.g., recent, on-going, imminent) of threat to the property from negligence, development pressure, inappropriate treatment, etc.

For Heritage Area Projects:

C1. Addresses current Heritage Area programs (0-10) Points are awarded based on how well the project fits into current programs/projects/plans of the Heritage Area, as documented by the applicant, the Heritage Area director, and other community sources. At minimum, the project should

be consistent with the Heritage Area Management Plan; at maximum, the project would be essential to the success of the Heritage Area's highest priority programs.

C2. Addresses Heritage Area goals (0-15) At a minimum a HAS project will address one of the HA goals (preservation/conservation, education/interpretation, recreation, and economic revitalization), but a typical HAS project addresses two or more. Therefore, points should reflect both the number of goals met and how well they are met.

For Acquisition Projects:

D1. Environmental and Recreational Contribution (0-10) Protection of watershed, aquifer, animal or plant species, significant natural communities, or other natural and cultural resources, wetlands, shorelines, unique areas biodiversity, wildlife habitats, forested wildlife, flood plains, corridors. Provide access to water or public fishing rights, trails or greenways, increased land for active recreation in existing or new parklands, buffer/protection to a listed historic resource, property that serves or benefits Heritage Area System visitors and users, a recognized brownfield site for park development.

D2. Surrounding Area Contribution and Impact and Protection of Historic Resources (0-15) Consolidate public ownership by eliminating gaps in ownership between two or more parcels of public land, proximity to urban areas, providing a linkage between parks, trails or designated open space, economic stimulus or community renewal, local revenue generation, visual appeal (downtown anchor) or impetus to community health and vitality, diversity of population served. Significance of resource (national; state or local, contributing element in a district), preserves significant view shed, contributes to existing preservation efforts or established Heritage Area System goals, heritage tourism, or economic development initiative, working landscape, scenic easement, contributes to the economic vitality of the area (i.e., façade easements), provides for the long term preservation of the resource, immediate threat of a listed property.

III. Planning Initiatives (up to 10 points)

For Parks Projects:

A1. Statewide Index of Need (0-5): (predetermined by SCORP)

A2. Consistent with Plans (0-5): In determining whether the project relates or contributes to documented plans (examine documents cited and submitted), such as:

- NYS Open Space Conservation Plan as a priority project
- Heritage Area Management Plan
- LWRP
- Recognized local Open Space Plan
- Community participation in the CLG program
- Other state or federal plans
- Local plans adopted or reaffirmed within the last 5 years
- Project implements a prior Planning grant

For Historic Preservation and Heritage Area Projects:

B1. Community Support: In determining whether the project demonstrates community support,

examine evidence submitted regarding community support and involvement, including efforts to publicize and/or engage the community in project planning, such as:

- letters of support, especially those from people directly impacted by the project
- official project endorsements/partnerships
- press releases/announcements/publicity
- plans for public outreach or fundraising campaign
- news articles
- records of public meetings (including project-specific meetings (such as press event), official government reviews (e.g., Community Board, Planning Board, etc.) and presentations to a group such as a neighborhood association or interest group

B2. Consistent with Plans: In determining whether the project relates or contributes to documented plans (examine documents cited and submitted), such as:

- New York State Historic Preservation Plan
- Other state/federal/local plans, such as Heritage Area Management Plan, LWRP, Preserve America designation, etc.
- Community comprehensive or master plans
- Local historic preservation ordinance/designations
- Community participation in the CLG program
- Project implements a prior Planning grant

For Acquisition Projects:

C1. Community Support: Demonstration of local participation in and commitment to the project, such as:

- Clear consensus by the local community showing a need to purchase and finance
- Evidence the project is supported by local elected officials and community groups, such as Land Trusts, environmental councils, preservation boards, friends groups, local activists
- Documentation of meetings and involvement (e.g., newspaper articles, meeting notes, letters of support)

C2. Consistent with Plans: In determining whether the project relates or contributes to documented plans (examine documents cited and submitted), such as:

- NYS Open Space Conservation Plan as a priority project
- New York State Historic Preservation Plan
- Heritage Area Management Plan
- LWRP
- Recognized local Open Space Plan
- Community participation in the CLG program
- Other state or federal plans
- Local plans adopted or reaffirmed within the last 5 years
- Project implements a prior Planning grant

IV. Reasonableness of Cost (0-20)

Project planning, administrative structures and budget demonstrate fiscal prudence and readiness to proceed. Is there a logical justification for all expenses? Does the budget narrative include an explanation for each budget line and clearly support the applicant's need for additional financial resources to achieve project outcomes? Does the budget include the required matching funds? Does the proposal describe how the grant

recipient will monitor expenditures during the life of the project to ensure that the project stays on schedule and within budget?

A. Budget

- Budget in the application is complete, detailed, computed correctly and contains no extraneous or ineligible expenses.
- The budget is based on a cost estimate from a reliable source.
- Matching funds are on hand and/or application evidences a reasonable expectation that matching funds will be available as and when needed.

B. Readiness

- Necessary project planning and document preparation has been completed.
- Qualified project professionals, properly procured/hired, are on hand.
- Proposed project/work is appropriate and conforms to accepted professional standards.
- Application evidences viable strategy and resources for implementing/operating and maintaining the project in the future.

C. Feasibility

- Administrative structures are in place to handle grants.
- Applicant has proven experience in projects of similar scale and/or scope
- Timeframe presented in application is reasonable to accomplish all aspects of the work and grant administration (including any necessary fundraising).

V. OPRHP Commissioner Priorities (0-10)

A. Green improvements – that restore, improve and maintain park lands, historic properties and heritage area resources and infrastructure, and in doing so promote sustainability, increase energy conservation and/or efficiency and decrease long term maintenance and management costs.

B. Enhanced access, connections, resources – that enhance the public’s access to parks and their environmental and recreational resources (including landscape and trail improvements to facilitate connections and special features or signage to improve programming and interpretation), create physical and functional connections among, or provide or enhance public access to, already-protected state and local lands, historic sites, greenways, trails and waterways to bring visitors back.

C. Partners to State Parks – projects undertaken by partner groups in State Parks and Historic Sites. A letter from the Regional Director and Capital Facilities Manager must be submitted with the application.

VI. Regional Economic Development Council Assessment (0-20)

VII. Statewide Assessment “Commissioner Points” (0-10)

A. Geographic Distribution Consideration may be given to projects in areas that have or have not received funding in recent cycles or where funding is not commensurate with the population of the area. This will be based on the proximity to other funded sites and the diversity of projects being funded on a regional and local basis, as well as the service area of the developed or planned facilities.

B. Maximize Use and Accessibility Consideration may be given to projects where funding will allow underutilized facilities to be accessed or to develop underutilized resources for public use. This will be based

on the resources offered by the facility, the use of those resources and whether the proposed project will help the facility expand and enhance its public use

C. Special Engineering, Environmental, Preservation Benefits Consideration may be given to develop particularly significant resources and facilities or to develop innovative approaches to preserve valuable resources. This will be based on the type of resource being developed or rehabilitated; its rarity on a local, regional, statewide and national basis; the ability of an innovative technology to address an emergency or mitigate future problems; how well a technology can be “exported” for use on other properties and resources; and how/if the project will allow public access that would not otherwise be available.

D. Past Performance Consideration may be given to how timely an applicant completed previous projects, including its reporting requirements; how successful it was in outreach, especially to minority- and woman-owned businesses; the ongoing upkeep and maintenance of the property; and its, cooperation in allowing OPRHP to complete inspections and other follow-up activities.

TOTAL (0-100)

VIII. PROJECT IN A HUDSON RIVER GREENWAY COMPACT COMMUNITY (5 percent bonus)

Award points if the proposed project is located in a Hudson River Valley Greenway Compact Community, (see <http://www.hudsongreenway.ny.gov/Planning/Compact.aspx> or to the Greenway map at [http://www.hudsongreenway.ny.gov/Libraries/PDF s/Greenway Map01-20-12.sflb.ashx](http://www.hudsongreenway.ny.gov/Libraries/PDFs/Greenway%20Map01-20-12.sflb.ashx)) and application documents that the project is consistent with the Greenway criteria of natural and cultural resource protection, regional planning, economic development, heritage and environmental education, and/or public access to the Hudson River.