



# Chapter 9 - Implementation

## State and Federal Funding

The provision of recreation facilities and the protection of open space requires looking at the big picture of the State facilities and balancing the past, present and future of development throughout the Parks System. Looking at the past shows the many facilities and open spaces which were acquired years ago that are now worn out, not designed to meet today's needs or have met and exceeded their life expectancy. In the present there is work to be done to manage the maintenance of existing facilities and resources. To prepare for the future, it is important to predict the need to: develop new facilities; protect and maintain natural, cultural and open space resources; and, meet present and future generations' needs for natural, cultural and open space resources. To achieve this balance of management a partnership of all segments of the population is required — individuals, interest groups, private industry, and all levels of government.

The federal and state governments are the primary sources for funding of open space and recreation projects. In most cases, the State functions as the administering agent for federal funds. As might be expected, the need for funding generally exceeds the funds available. As the demand for open space and recreation resources increases, the resource base available to provide new opportunities is decreasing which is why it is imperative to search out funding opportunities for specific projects.

SCORP provides a statewide policy framework that serves as the basis of the State's action program and the Open Project Selection Process (OPSP) that supports the Land and Water Conservation Fund. These and programs described in the Plan are the key elements of the State's implementation strategy. The action program consists of actions from previous chapters being proposed and implemented under specific action strategies and ultimately under the ten major policy directions. The OPSP directly translates the statewide policies and action strategies into a quantitative project review formula for the allocating of funds and thus provides a direct link to the assessment and policy process. Similar to the OPSP for LWCF, SCORP incorporated within the evaluation system for the Recreational Trail Program, Environmental Protection Fund and Open Space Plan.

The following is a list of available funding programs for projects that help to implement the goals of SCORP.

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**Table 9.1 - State and Federal Funding Programs**

| Funding Programs                                     | Agency | Eligibility |                       |        |            |            | Action      |                 |              |             |                       | Project Elements |        |                                 |                         |                          |
|--|--------|-------------|-----------------------|--------|------------|------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
|  |        | State       | Municipalities/ Local | Tribal | Non-Profit | Individual | Acquisition | Planning/Design | Construction | Maintenance | Historic Preservation | Trail            | Marine | Wildlife/ Open Space Protection | Recreational Facilities | Historic Sites/ Cultural |
| Land and Water Conservation Fund                     | NPS    | x           | x                     | x      |            |            | x           | x               | x            |             |                       | x                | x      | x                               | x                       |                          |
| SAFETEA-LU   | FHWA   |             |                       |        |            |            |             |                 |              |             |                       |                  |        |                                 |                         |                          |
| Recreation Trails Program                            | FHWA   | x           | x                     | x      | x          |            | x           | x               | x            | x           |                       | x                |        |                                 |                         |                          |
| Transportation Enhancements                          | FHWA   | x           | x                     |        |            |            |             | x               | x            |             |                       | x                |        |                                 |                         | x                        |
| Sport Fish Restoration                               | FWS    | x           |                       |        |            |            |             | x               | x            | x           |                       |                  | x      |                                 |                         |                          |
| Boating Infrastructure Grant Program                 | FHWA   | x           |                       |        |            |            |             | x               | x            | x           |                       |                  | x      |                                 |                         | x                        |
| Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality                | FHWA   | x           | x                     |        |            |            |             | x               | x            | x           |                       | x                |        |                                 |                         | x                        |
| Highway Safety                                       | NHTSA  | x           | x                     |        | x          |            |             | x               |              |             |                       | x                |        |                                 |                         | x                        |
| Safe Routes to School                                | FHWA   | x           |                       |        |            |            |             | x               | x            |             |                       | x                |        |                                 |                         | x                        |
| Alternative Transportation in Parks and Public Lands | FHWA   | x           |                       |        |            |            |             | x               | x            |             |                       | x                |        |                                 |                         |                          |
| Farm Bill 2002                                       | NRCS   | x           | x                     | x      | x          | x          | x           |                 |              |             |                       |                  |        | x                               |                         |                          |
| Forest Legacy Program                                | NRCS   | x           |                       |        |            |            | x           |                 |              |             |                       |                  |        | x                               |                         |                          |
| Wetland and Conservation Reserve Programs            | NRCS   |             |                       |        |            | x          | x           | x               |              |             |                       |                  |        | x                               |                         |                          |
| Conservation of Private Grazing Lands Programs       | NRCS   |             |                       |        |            | x          |             |                 |              |             |                       |                  |        | x                               |                         | x                        |
| Environmental Quality Incentives Program             | NRCS   |             |                       |        |            | x          |             |                 |              |             |                       |                  |        | x                               |                         |                          |
| Farmland Protection Program                          | NRCS   | x           | x                     | x      |            |            | x           |                 |              |             |                       |                  |        | x                               |                         |                          |
| Pittman-Robertson                                    | FWS    | x           |                       |        |            |            |             |                 |              |             |                       |                  |        | x                               |                         | x                        |
| Recreational Boating Safety                          | USCG   | x           |                       |        |            |            | x           |                 | x            | x           |                       |                  | x      |                                 |                         |                          |
| Steps to a Healthier US Grants                       | CDC    | x           | x                     | x      |            |            |             | x               |              |             |                       |                  |        |                                 |                         | x                        |
| Special Recreation Program                           | DOE    | x           | x                     |        | x          |            |             | x               | x            | x           |                       | x                |        |                                 | x                       | x                        |
| North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants      | FWS    |             | x                     |        | x          | x          | x           |                 |              |             |                       |                  |        | x                               |                         |                          |
| State Wildlife Grant Program                         | DEC    | x           |                       |        |            |            |             |                 |              |             |                       |                  |        | x                               |                         |                          |
| Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program      | NOAA   | x           |                       |        |            |            | x           | x               | x            |             |                       |                  | x      | x                               |                         |                          |
| Certified Local Government Grants Program            | OPRHP  |             | x                     |        |            |            |             | x               |              |             | x                     |                  |        |                                 | x                       | x                        |
| Save America's Treasures Program                     | NPS    | x           | x                     | x      | x          |            |             |                 |              |             |                       | x                |        |                                 | x                       |                          |
| Forest Stewardship Program                           | USDA   | x           |                       |        |            | x          |             |                 |              |             | x                     |                  |        | x                               |                         |                          |

Table 9.1 - State and Federal Funding Programs (Continued)

| Funding Programs                           | Agency                            | Eligibility |                       |        |            |            | Action      |                 |              |             |                       | Project Elements |        |                                 |                         |                          |                                  |   |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------|------------|------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
|  |                                   | State       | Municipalities/ Local | Tribal | Non-Profit | Individual | Acquisition | Planning/Design | Construction | Maintenance | Historic Preservation | Trail            | Marine | Wildlife/ Open Space Protection | Recreational Facilities | Historic Sites/ Cultural | Interpretive/ Education/Research |   |
| Environmental Protection Fund              | Various                           | x           | x                     |        |            |            | x           | x               | x            | x           | x                     | x                | x      | x                               | x                       | x                        | x                                |   |
| Parks Program                              | OPRHP                             | x           | x                     | x      | x          |            | x           | x               | x            |             | x                     | x                | x      | x                               | x                       | x                        | x                                |   |
| Historic Preservation Program              | OPRHP                             | x           | x                     | x      | x          |            | x           | x               | x            |             | x                     |                  | x      | x                               | x                       | x                        | x                                |   |
| Heritage Areas Program                     | OPRHP                             | x           | x                     | x      | x          |            | x           | x               | x            |             | x                     |                  | x      | x                               | x                       | x                        | x                                |   |
| Acquisition                                | OPRHP                             | x           | x                     | x      | x          |            | x           | x               | x            |             | x                     | x                | x      | x                               | x                       | x                        | x                                |   |
| Zoos, Botanical Gardens, Aquariums         | OPRHP                             | x           | x                     |        | x          |            |             |                 |              |             |                       |                  | x      |                                 |                         |                          | x                                |   |
| Snowmobile Trail Grant Program             | OPRHP                             |             | x                     |        |            |            |             | x               | x            | x           |                       |                  |        |                                 |                         |                          |                                  |   |
| Local Waterfront Revitalization Program    | DOS                               |             | x                     |        |            |            |             | x               | x            |             |                       | x                | x      | x                               |                         |                          |                                  |   |
| Hudson River Estuary Grant Program         | DEC                               |             | x                     |        | x          |            |             | x               |              |             |                       | x                | x      | x                               |                         |                          | x                                |   |
| Invasive Species Eradication Grant Program | DEC                               | x           | x                     |        | x          |            |             | x               | x            |             |                       |                  | x      | x                               |                         |                          |                                  |   |
| Brownfield Opportunity Area                | DOS/ DEC                          |             | x                     | x      | x          |            |             | x               |              |             |                       |                  |        |                                 |                         |                          |                                  |   |
| Biodiversity Research and Stewardship      | BRI                               | x           |                       |        | x          | x          |             |                 |              |             |                       |                  |        |                                 |                         |                          | x                                |   |
| NYS Great Lakes Protection Fund            | DEC                               |             | x                     |        |            | x          |             | x               | x            |             |                       |                  | x      | x                               |                         |                          |                                  |   |
| Habitat/Access Funding Grants              | DEC                               |             | x                     |        | x          | x          |             | x               | x            | x           |                       |                  |        | x                               |                         |                          |                                  |   |
| Other                                      | Hudson River Valley Greenway      | HRVG        |                       | x      |            | x          |             |                 | x            | x           |                       |                  | x      |                                 |                         | x                        |                                  | x |
|  | Architecture, Planning and Design | NYSCA       |                       | x      |            | x          |             |                 | x            |             |                       | x                |        |                                 |                         | x                        |                                  |   |
|  | Capital Projects                  | NYSCA       |                       | x      |            | x          |             |                 |              |             | x                     | x                |        |                                 |                         | x                        |                                  |   |
|  | Preserve New York Grant Program   | PLNY        |                       | x      |            | x          |             |                 | x            |             |                       |                  |        |                                 |                         | x                        |                                  |   |
|  | Lake Champlain Basin Program      | LCBP        | x                     | x      |            | x          |             |                 | x            | x           |                       |                  |        | x                               | x                       |                          | x                                | x |
|  | National Trails Fund              | AHS         |                       |        |            | x          |             |                 |              |             | x                     |                  | x      |                                 |                         |                          |                                  |   |
| Capacity Building Grants                   | PTNY                              |             |                       |        | x          |            |             | x               |              |             |                       |                  |        |                                 |                         |                          |                                  |   |

USCG= United States Coast Guard

FHWA= Federal Highway Administration

DOE= Department of Education

AHS= American Hiking Society

HRVG= Hudson River Valley Greenway

NPS= National Park Service

FWS= US Fish and Wildlife Services

DOS= Department of State

PTNY= Parks & Trails New York

NRCS=Natural Resources Conservation Services

OPRHP= Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

NYSCA= New York State Council on the Arts

PLNY= Preservation League of New York

NOAA= National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

LCBP= Lake Champlain Basin Program

USDA= US Department of Agriculture

DEC= NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

BRI = Biodiversity Research Institute

# Federal

## Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (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.

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 grant-in-aid program requires at least 50% of total project cost as a local match with LWCF.

Between 1965 and 2006, \$3.6 billion has been provided for the LWCF, which has helped support 40,000 local park projects, including the protection of 2.6 million acres of open space.

At its high point in 1979, the 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; all awards must be matched with 50 percent of the total project cost.

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 9.2 - New York State LWCF Appropriations**

|        |            |
|--------|------------|
| 1989 - | \$ 758,549 |
| 1990 - | 957,052    |
| 1991 - | 1,632,851  |
| 1992 - | 1,090,278  |
| 1993 - | 1,365,492  |
| 1994 - | 1,323,714  |
| 1995 - | 1,313,382  |
| 1996 - | 0          |
| 1997 - | 0          |
| 1998 - | 0          |
| 1999 - | 0          |
| 2000 - | 1,881,460  |
| 2001 - | 4,518,431  |
| 2002 - | 7,085,103  |
| 2003 - | 4,823,954  |
| 2004 - | 4,543,804  |
| 2005 - | 4,462,762  |
| 2006 - | 1,382,142  |

In addition to stateside funding, Congress authorized and appropriated a total of \$17.5 million from the federal LWCF for the acquisition of Sterling Forest.

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. 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.

Efforts have been underway nationally since 1997 to restore stateside funding from the LWCF, led by the efforts of many states in partnership with various organizations including the National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers (NASORLO), National Association of State Park Directors (NASPD), and the Americans for Our Heritage and Recreation Campaign (AHR).

## SAFETEA-LU

On August 10, 2005 the President signed the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) into law. This act was a reauthorization of the 1998 Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) which replaced the 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA). ISTEA was the beginning of a change in the focus of transportation funding away from exclusively being for roadways. With the passage of this act there were changes in the types of infrastructure improvements which were able to receive financing from government; there were a number of programs initiated by ISTEA which have been reauthorized by the passing of SAFETEA-LU. These programs have been beneficial for the increased provision of bike and pedestrian infrastructure throughout the country and the NYS Park System.

SAFETEA-LU is working to manage the different challenges which are facing the nation's transportation systems. Some of the problems addressed in the SAFETEA-LU Act include efforts to improve safety, reduce traffic congestion, increase intermodal connectivity and protect the environment. The Act has been financed with \$244.1 billion over 5 years (2005-2009) making it the largest surface transportation investment in our Nation's history. Listed below are the SAFETEA-LU programs that apply to parks, recreation and open space protection for the implementation of SCORP (US DOT, 2007).

## **Recreation Trails Program**

With the passage of SAFETEA-LU, the Recreation Trails Program (RTP) was reauthorized. The U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration administers the 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 recreationally used motor fuel. OPRHP administers the program for the State.

Funds are available to state, municipalities, tribal governments and private organizations. Since 1993, \$11.5 million have funded 226 projects nationally (US DOT, 2007).

## **Transportation Enhancements**

Transportation Enhancements (TE) is a federally subsidized program for community-based projects that expand travel choices; it was first created by ISTEA and subsequently reauthorized by

TEA-21 and SAFETEA-LU. The funding comes from the Highway Trust Fund and can go to projects which will increase the number and safety of bicycle and pedestrian facilities; the federal government will typically pay for 80% of the cost of a Transportation Enhancement project.

State, county, city and municipalities are eligible to receive TE funding. Other organizations, like non-profits, can partner with local governments to pursue a project that can be funded through the TE program. To receive funding the project must be related to surface transportation and be one of 12 eligible TE activities to receive funding. NYSDOT has a TE representative who is able to answer questions about the program and who is also in charge of choosing which projects will receive the available funding (National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse, 2007).

## **Boating Infrastructure Grant Program**

The Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program was created under TEA-21 and reauthorized by SAFETEA-LU in 2006. \$12.8 million has been allocated for Fiscal Year 2008 for states to renovate or maintain transient tie-up facilities for recreational boats 26 feet or more in length. In 2006, NYS received \$345,741 in Boating Infrastructure Grants. (US Fish and Wildlife Service, 2007)

The distribution of funds is divided into two tiers:

- Tier I grants award a maximum of \$100,000 to each state for any one eligible proposal.
- Tier II funds are awarded on a nationally competitive basis. Each individual project is scored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior (DOI) according to a determined point schedule. This schedule was established to encourage public and

private partnerships. Projects are ranked according to their location, surrounding sites and availability of transient facilities (those that accommodate vessels for not more than 10 days). The DOI will pay up to 75% of the cost for an approved project, leaving the applicant to match the remaining 25%.

Eligible projects may include:

- Construction, renovation, and maintenance of either publicly or privately owned boating infrastructure tie-up facilities;
- Performing onetime dredging, to provide transient vessels safe channel depths between tie-up facilities and maintained channels or open water;
- Installation of navigational aids, limited to giving transient vessels safe passage between tie-up facilities and maintained channels or open water;
- Grant administration costs for approved projects;
- Funding preliminary costs including conducting appraisals and preparing cost estimates; and
- Producing information and education materials such as charts, cruising guides, and brochures.

To date the State has received five grants totaling \$645,741 which will fund transient dock improvements at Beaver Island Marina, the installation of transient docks, the replacement of bulkheads and installation of electricity at Wellesley Island, the dredging and installation of transient docks at Treman and Sampson State Parks, the reconstruction of docking areas in Cocksackie and transient slips and support facilities at Eagle Creek.

## **Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program**

Reauthorized by SAFETEA-LU in 2006, CMAQ is designed to fund transportation projects that help to attain

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and/or maintain the national ambient air quality standards for ozone, carbon monoxide and particulate matter. Since this program is part of the transportation act, transportation projects which will reduce congestion and improve air quality in areas which are not in compliance with the Clean Air Act are given priority. The program will provide for bike and pedestrian projects that are not exclusively for recreation, but which will also reduce vehicle trips, therefore reducing congestion and benefiting air quality. (FHWA, 2007) CMAQ is administered by the US DOT and national funding equals \$8.6 billion between 2005 and 2009 (US DOT, 2006).

## **Safe Routes to School**

Created in 2006 as part of SAFTEA-LU, Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a program to increase the number of students who walk or bike to school. The program has been funded nationally for \$612 million through 2011, and each State will get at least \$1 million a year. This money can be used for infrastructure-based projects or awareness campaigns, education and other non-traditional expenses. This program is geared towards routes to school, so eligible projects must be located along school routes and be accessible to students. (National Recreation and Park Association, 2007) A major goal of the program is to increase bicycle, pedestrian, and traffic safety. Local and regional governments, schools and community non-profit organizations are eligible to apply (DOT, 2007).

The Safe Routes to School Program is a federal reimbursement program, not a grant program. Applicants are not required to share in the cost of their project. All SRTS projects must have a minimum cost of at least \$25,000. Maximum project cost for non-infrastructure projects is \$150,000 and for infrastructure projects \$400,000. Maximum combined project cost is \$550,000.

## **Highway Safety**

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) administers this program which was created with the Highway Safety Act of 1966 and reauthorized under SAFETEA-LU. The Program, referred to as State and Community Highway Safety Programs, provides funding for the implementation of programs that address a wide range of highway safety problems that are related to human factors and the roadway environment with the goal of reducing crashes, fatalities and injuries resulting thereof.

The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee coordinates traffic safety activities in the New York State and administers and distributes these federal highway safety funds through a grant program. State agencies, Local governments and Non-Profit agencies are eligible to receive grant funding. Examples of eligible funding include pedestrian safety projects, bicycle safety programs, occupant protection and child safety seat education, and traffic enforcement. Information on the program is available at [www.safeny.com](http://www.safeny.com).

## **Alternative Transportation in Parks and Public Lands**

Also known as Transit in the Parks, this program is authorized under SAFETEA-LU in support of transportation projects in and surrounding parks and public lands. The program is administered by the Department of Transportation and provides 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 is to reduce automobile traffic near the federal lands to reduce congestion and improve air quality.

Between 2006 and 2009, there will be \$98 million allocated nationally

towards this program (FTA, 2007). Following the reauthorization in 2006, bicycle, pedestrian and non-motorized projects have been included in the definition of alternative transportation. There are a number of federal lands throughout New York State, so this program provides an opportunity to build or improve alternative transportation and connectivity of the State and Federal park system (US DOT, 2007).

## **Sport Fish Restoration Program**

The federal Sport Fish and Restoration Act, commonly known as the Dingell-Johnson Program, was amended by the Wallop-Breaux in 1984 and most recently reauthorized by SAFETEA-LU. This program is funded by the collection of excise taxes on fishing tackle, imported yachts and motor boat fuels. Funds are returned to the states by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for use in fisheries management and research programs. As part of this act, a program called the National Outreach and Communications Program was authorized to increase citizen participation in angling and boating and also reminds boaters of the importance of clean aquatic habitats.

The State receives about \$4.9 million annually which currently is committed to the following projects: development and management of the State's freshwater and marine fisheries resources, habitat protection, boating access, and Lake Champlain. The money generally supports staff, non-personal service costs and design and maintenance for boating access facilities (US Fish and Wildlife Service, 2007).

## **The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002**

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, also known as the Federal Farm Bill, was reauthorized

and focuses on conservation and environmental issues, as well as protection of open spaces and environmental quality. The Act authorizes a number of programs which include funding that will be beneficial to the State's Open Space Program, these are listed below. The Federal Farm Bill is currently under revision.

## **Forest Legacy Program**

The Forest Legacy Program was established as federal law in the forestry title of the 1990 Farm Bill. It is designed 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 cooperation with participating states.

Under the state grant option, the State is using Forest Legacy funds to enhance the State's Working Forest program. Projects that have been undertaken using Legacy funds include the Taconic Ridge, Sterling Forest and the New York City Watershed in the Catskills. There is strong emphasis in the program on purchase of conservation easements from landowners who volunteer it for the program. To the extent feasible, the federal share does not exceed 75%, and states and other participating entities provide the remaining 25%, according to Forest Service guidelines.

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. The existence of an imminent threat of conversion would be a primary consideration

for eligibility and the land should possess strong environmental values.

All such easements acquired must meet the conservation objectives and goals contained in the Open Space Plan; these easements will limit subdivision of the land and provide for permanent forest cover subject to commercial harvesting of timber and timber products while remaining in compliance with State laws and regulations. All residential uses will be prohibited as well as all significant surface disturbing mining and drilling and any commercial and industrial uses. Silvicultural activities and associated natural resource management activities will be permitted.

National attention in this program has grown in the past four years due to the addition of the New York City Watershed as a Legacy area of concern.

The need for Legacy funding is increasing. A substantial amount of productive forestland is for sale in the State; purchase of easements over this land is desirable to retain it in forest use. To accomplish this goal an annual national appropriation of at least \$60 million is needed to make the Forest Legacy Program effective. The State would qualify for a share of this and proceed according to the guidelines and needs identified in this Plan and the Conserving Open Space Plan. As of 2006, 44,669 acres have been protected and \$10 million secured for various forest land conservation projects in New York State (USDA, 2007)

## **Reserve Programs**

The federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) was established in the 1985 Food, Agriculture and Conservation and Trade Act and continues under the 2002 Farm Bill. This program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Under CRP, landowners who enter contracts to set aside highly erodible, environmentally sensitive cropland, as well as implement

a conservation plan for the land, receive annual payments for 10 to 15 years. Even after the contract expires, farmers must comply with the conservation plan provisions.

The Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) was added to the Farm Bill in 1990 and reauthorized under the 2002 Farm Bill. The WRP provides financial incentives for restoration and protection of up to one million acres of wetlands. Technical assistance is also provided to help develop restoration and management plans. There are three contract options available to landowners: permanent easement, 30-year easement, or restoration agreement. For permanent easements, 100% of all eligible costs and the appraised agricultural value of the land are paid. For 30-year easements, 50-75% of eligible costs and the appraised land value are paid. On restoration agreement, no easement is purchased, but 75% of restoration costs are paid by the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the landowner agrees to maintain compatible practices for 15 years. Almost \$6 million has been allocated for technical and financial assistance to New York State for fiscal year 2007 through the WRP (USDA NRCS, 2007).

The 2002 Federal Farm Bill amended the Food Security Act of 1985 to authorize the Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP). The GRP helps landowners restore and protect grassland, pastureland, shrub land and certain other lands and provides assistance for rehabilitating grasslands, including management of invasive species. (USDA, 2006)

## **Conservation of Private Grazing Lands Programs**

Congress enacted the Conservation of Private Grazing Lands Program

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(CPGLP) provision to provide technical, educational, and related assistance to landowners and operators on the nation's 642 million acres of private grazing lands. Funding was authorized by the Department of Agriculture at \$20 million in 1996, increasing to \$60 million by the third year. Currently no money has been appropriated for CPGLP for this year. To help reverse the deteriorating trends on roughly 60% of U.S. rangeland and about 46% of permanent pasture, conservation districts recommend maintaining the funding authorization for CPGLP at \$60 million annually (USDA NRCS, 2007).

## **Environmental Quality Incentives Program**

The EQIP was reauthorized as part of the 2002 Farm Bill to provide financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who are working to promote agricultural production and environmental quality. One of the main priorities of the program is the protection, restoration, development or enhancement of at-risk species' habitats (USDA NRCS, 2007).

## **Farmland Protection Program**

The passage of Farm Bill 2002 reestablished the Farmland Protection Program (FPP). The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) administers the program under the NRCS. The program provides cost-share assistance to states, tribes, and units of local government for the acquisition of conservation easements or other interests in prime, unique, or other productive soil for the purpose of limiting nonagricultural uses on that land. For fiscal year 2007, \$48 million had been allocated nationally to purchase conservation easements (USDA NRCS, 2007).

## **Other U.S. Department of Agriculture Funding**

## **Programs – Stewardship/Invasive Species**

A number of other funding mechanisms for stewardship of land, including invasive species control, are provided through USDA programs, some of which are in cooperation with other agencies and organizations. The Cooperative Forest Health Management Program provides assistance to Cooperative Weed Management Areas, States and non-profit organizations for management of invasive plants/weeds, plant pathogens/diseases and insects on State and private forested lands. The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) provides both technical assistance and up to 75 percent cost-share assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. A voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land, it includes funding to control invasive species. The Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) program provides services to eligible entities including State and local government. This assistance is for planning and implementing conservation practices that address natural resource issues. It helps people voluntarily conserve, improve and sustain natural resources. Technical assistance is for planning and implementing natural resource solutions to reduce erosion, improve soil health, improve water quantity and quality, improve and conserve wetlands, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, improve air quality, improve pasture and range health, reduce upstream flooding, improve woodlands, and address other natural resource issues. (USDA, 2006)

## **Pittman-Robertson Program**

The federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, commonly known as the Pittman-Robertson program, was signed into law in 1937 and is administered by the Department of the Interior. It is funded by an 11 percent excise

tax on rifles, shotguns and archery equipment and a 10 percent tax on handguns. This money is apportioned to the states and is earmarked for wildlife conservation and hunter education. The State's share of about \$5 million annually is currently committed to: habitat protection, sportsmen education and wildlife management (NYS DEC and OPRHP, 2006).

## **Recreational Boating Safety**

Administered by the United States Coast Guard, the Recreation Boating Safety (RBS) grant program was established in 1971 and is funded by a motorboat fuel tax. It was originally established to create more uniformity throughout the boating community on safety guidelines and facilities. This fund can be used for a number of different things including providing facilities, equipment and supplies for safety education. It can also be used for providing public information on boating safety, maintaining waterway markers, and acquiring, constructing or repairing public access sites used by recreational boaters.

The State can receive up to 50% of the funds for their recreational boating safety program from the Coast Guard grant program. The rest of the money must come from other sources; for example general state revenue, undocumented vessel numbering and license fee or state marine fuel tax (US Coast Guard, 2007).

## **Steps to a Healthier US Grants**

Started in 2003, the Steps to a Healthier US Grant program has provided funding to over 40 communities nationwide with \$103 million. This grant program is administered by the US Department of Health and Human Services to provide funding to communities for chronic disease prevention

and health promotion in an effort to address obesity, diabetes and asthma. Four communities in NY have received funding from the program, including Binghamton, Jamestown, Fort Drum and Ramapo (US Department of Health and Human Services, 2007).

## Special Recreation Program

Administered by the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, this program is available to states, public agencies and non profit private organizations. Projects that will provide individuals with disabilities with recreational activities as well as experiences to aid in their future employment, mobility, socialization, independence and community integration are eligible for funding from the Special Recreation Program. The program has over \$1 million to fund different projects for three years, at which time the receiving organization needs to prove that they will be able to follow through with the program without assistance (US Department of Education, 2007).

## North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants

This program was created in 1989 to promote the conservation of wetlands as well as to benefit the associated migratory birds and other wildlife in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The program is administered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and there are different levels of funding available. All of the grants are matching and are provided to organizations and individuals who have created partnerships based on the conservation of these wetlands with the goal of protecting the wildlife that migrate throughout the year. The diverse wildlife that migrates to these different wetlands throughout the continent is important to the State park system because of the many recreational activities

that they create, including bird watching (US Fish and Wildlife, 2007).

## State Wildlife Grant Program

In fall 2001, federal legislation established a new State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program that provided funds from offshore oil and gas leasing to state wildlife agencies for conservation of fish and wildlife species in greatest need of conservation and their associated habitats. This funding was a direct result of 'Teaming with Wildlife' efforts sustained for more than a decade by fish and wildlife conservation interests across the country. This program is unique in that it provides funds for species not traditionally hunted or fished. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service appropriates the funds to the states via a formula based on land area and population size.

The first year of the program (SWG '02) provided \$3.7 million for projects in New York State, the second year provided \$2.8 million (SWG '03), and the third year provided \$2.9 million (SWG '04). The apportionment for New York for the fourth year (SWG '05) is also \$2.9 million. Twenty-eight projects were approved for funding in the first year (SWG '02) and in the second year (SWG '03), 18 projects received funding by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The proposed projects are diverse, covering all animal groups, all areas of the state, and ranging in scale from ecosystems to subspecies. The projects vary in length from one to five years, and include baseline surveys, research, conservation planning, and habitat protection.

The New York Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) was accepted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in May of 2006. New York's Strategy addresses species of greatest conservation need, critical habitats, stressors/impacts to natural resources, research, survey, and restoration needs, and priority conservation

actions. As such, the strategy is the primary vehicle for biodiversity conservation in New York for years to come, and will determine projects to be funded under the SWG program (NYS DEC and OPRHP, 2006).

## The Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP)

With completion of the expanded Open Space Conservation Plan which includes the State's CELCP plan, New York is eligible to compete for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration funds for the acquisition of coastal and estuarine lands. Federal grants awarded under this program must be matched with non-federal funds on a 1:1 basis. Non-federal match may be state, local, non-governmental or private sources of cash, the value of in-kind services, the value of donated lands or interests therein, services such as on-site remediation or restoration, or donated labor or supplies, provided that contributions are necessary and reasonable. Lands acquired through CELCP funds must be purchased within eighteen months of the grant start date. Costs for services must be incurred within the grant period.

Through 2008, New York State has received nearly \$11.8 million in federal CELCP funds for land acquisition (DOS, 2008).

## Certified Local Government Grant Program

The Certified Local Government Grant program is a matching grant program for the expansion and maintenance of the National Register of Historic Places and support of historic preservation activities. Eligible activities include survey, inventory, training for municipal officials, public education programs and others. The funding comes from the National Park

## **Implementation**

Service, administered by OPRHP and only Certified Local Governments are eligible. Past grant awards have ranged from \$1,200 to \$29,000, with most in the \$5,000 to \$15,000 range. The total amount of available funding varies each year with the federal allocation (OPRHP, 2007).

## **Save Americas Treasure's Program**

Administered by the National Park Service, this program allocates funding for the preservation and/or conservation work on nationally significant intellectual and cultural artifacts and historic structures and sites. The sites and collections must already be designated as having national significance before the application process begins. To find out if your site is designated, use the National Park Service website ([www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)).

This is a 1 to 1 matching grant program for federal, state, tribal and non-profit organizations. In 2006, four projects in New York State were funded through this program totaling over \$485,000. These projects included the preservation of artifacts that are part of the World Trade Center/ September 11, 2001 Collection located at the NYS Museum, and the conservation of the nations oldest collection of drawings and watercolors at the NYS Historical Society (US Department of Interior, 2007).

## **Forest Stewardship Program**

Administered by the U.S.D.A., the Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) helps nearly 500,000 nonindustrial private forestland (NIFP) owners - who own 85% of New York's forestland - better manage and use their forest resources. Under FSP, every state has developed and is implementing a comprehensive management program to ensure that private forestlands are managed under stewardship plans. A companion

program, the Forest Land Enhancement Program, authorized by the 2002 federal Farm Bill will provide an opportunity for owners to obtain financial and technical assistance to implement projects recommended in Stewardship plans (NYS DEC and OPRHP, 2006).

## **Other Federal Funding Mechanisms**

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt organization chartered by Congress in 1984 to sustain, restore and enhance the Nation's fish, wildlife, plants, and habitats. Through leadership conservation investments with public and private partners, NFWF is dedicated to achieving maximum conservation impact by developing and applying best practices and innovative methods for measurable outcomes. Since its establishment, NFWF has awarded nearly 9,500 grants to over 3,000 organizations in the United States and abroad and leveraged – with its partners – more than \$400 million in federal funds into over \$1.3 billion for conservation. (NFWF, 2008)

The Native Plant Conservation Initiative is administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. It supports on-the-ground conservation projects that protect, enhance, and/or restore native plant communities on public and private lands. Grants of federal dollars are provided to non-profit organizations and agencies at all levels of government. Projects typically fall involve: protection and restoration; information and education; and/or inventory and assessment. (NFWF 2008)

The Pulling Together Initiative is administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in partnership with the USFWS, Bureau of Land Management, the USDA Forest Service, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and the NRCS. Proposals are solicited from non-profit organizations and government

agencies interested in managing invasive and noxious plant species. It provides a means for Federal agencies to be full partners with State and local agencies, private landowners, and other interested parties in developing long-term weed management projects within the scope of an integrated pest management strategy. (NFWF, 2008)

## **State**

### **Environmental Protection Fund**

In 1993, the Legislature enacted the Environmental Protection Act. The Act created, for the first time in the State's history, a permanently dedicated Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) to meet many of the State's pressing environmental needs. Some of these needs include: the acquisition of priority projects identified in the Conserving Open Space Plan; work on the identification, research and conservation of the State's biological diversity administered by the BRI; 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.

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 proceeds resulting from a portion of the existing real estate transfer tax, refinancing of state and public authority obligations, sale of surplus State lands, sale or lease of

State-owned underwater lands and revenues from a conservation license plate program dedicated to open space conservation land projects.

The proposed “Bigger Better Bottle Bill” would create a larger revenue source for the Environmental Protection Fund through two main amendments. First, noncarbonated beverage containers would become eligible for bottle return deposits and secondly the creation of a system for beverage companies to return any unclaimed bottle deposits to the fund. The increase in available funding through the EPF will have many benefits for the implementation of SCORP goals.

Listed below are the main grant programs which are funded through the Environmental Protection Fund. The Parks, Historic Preservation, Heritage Areas, Acquisition, Zoos, Botanical Gardens and Aquariums and Snowmobile Trail Grant programs are all administered by the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. More information can be found at the agencies website ([www.nysparks.state.ny.us](http://www.nysparks.state.ny.us)). The other programs are administered as indicated.

## **Parks Program**

A matching grant program for the acquisition or development of parks and recreational facilities for projects to preserve, rehabilitate or restore lands, waters or structures for park, recreation or conservation purposes. Funds may be awarded to municipalities or not-for-profits with an ownership interest, for indoor or outdoor projects and must reflect the priorities established in SCORP.

Between the years of 2001 and 2006, this program received over 1,400 applications from across the state. With \$46,552,137, OPRHP and the Environmental Protection Fund were able to finance 298 projects.

## **Historic Preservation Program**

A matching grant program to improve, protect, preserve, rehabilitate or restore properties listed on the National or State Registers of Historic Places. Funds are available to municipalities or not-for-profits with an ownership interest.

This program has been able to help fund 249 projects since 2001, costing over \$41 million.

## **Heritage Areas Program**

The Heritage Area Program is a matching grant program for projects that are working to preserve, rehabilitate or restore lands, waters or structures, identified in a management plan approved by the Commissioner. Projects must fall within a New York State Designated Heritage Area.

Between 2001 and 2006, over \$6 million in financial assistance has been awarded to 41 projects.

## **Acquisition**

A matching grant program for the acquisition of a permanent easement or fee title to lands, waters or structures for use by all segments of the population for park, recreation, conservation or preservation purposes. This program should be used for all three program areas where acquisition is of more importance than development.

## **Zoos, Botanical Gardens and Aquariums**

The Zoo, Botanical Gardens and Aquariums is a program for the funding of collections care or special projects at municipal or not-for-profit institutions. Eligible institutions house, care for and interpret for the public, systematically organized collections of living things.

## **Snowmobile Trail Grant Program**

Administered by OPRHP, this program is designed to allocate money to local government sponsors that develop and maintain snowmobile trails throughout New York State’s Snowmobile Trail System. The fund provides 70% in the beginning as a grant-in-aid program and will reimburse the grantee the rest after the project has been completed. Application must be received by September 1st to be eligible.

## **Local Waterfront Revitalization Program**

Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Grants are available through the Department of State to communities for the preparation and implementation of Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP). DOS provides grants to waterfront municipalities for a variety of planning, design and construction projects to protect and revitalize waterfront resources, including:

- Community visioning and development of revitalization strategies;
- Completing or implementing LWRP or HMP;
- Preparing or implementing a waterbody /watershed management plan;
- Urban waterfront redevelopment;
- Creating a blueway trail;
- NYSCRIP signage programs.

Since 2003, 439 grants totaling \$88 million have been awarded to waterfront communities through the Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program.

## **Hudson River Estuary Grants Program**

Administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation and funded by the Environmental Protection Fund, the Hudson River Estuary Grants provide financial assistance to municipalities

## **Implementation**

and non-profits within the Estuary Watershed Boundaries. The financial assistance can help communities fulfill the goals set forth by the Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda within five categories. The actions that can be funded include: Community Interpretive Centers and Education, Open Space: Natural Areas and Scenic Resources, Community-based Habitat Conservation and Stewardship, Watershed Planning and Implementation and Hudson River Access: fishing, boating, swimming, hunting, hiking, or river watching. Since 1999 when the funding began, almost \$10 million has been allocated to 301 applicants within the watershed boundaries (DEC, 2007).

## **Invasive Species Eradication Grant Program**

Administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation, this program is providing grants to eradicate invasive species. The two parts of this program include terrestrial and aquatic species eradication. Invasive species were defined within Chapter 7 under DEC, "Invasive Species".

The funding is allocated to projects which are proposing removal of plants or animals that meet the definition of an invasive or nuisance species from a waterbody or wetland of New York State. This matching grant program is funded by the Environmental Protection Fund to municipalities and non-profits, and the 2006/2007 budget cycle included \$1,000,000 for these types of projects statewide (DEC, 2007).

## **Brownfield Opportunity Area**

Funded through the Environmental Protection Fund and administered by a partnership between Department of State and the Department of Environmental Conservation, this program is focused on providing funds for the study and planning of areas for

the redevelopment of brownfield sites. A brownfield is a parcel of land where redevelopment is complicated by the presence or potential presence of environmental contamination. Brownfield sites have been redeveloped into recreation sites all around the country and they can provide much needed open space to often underserved areas.

The funds will cover 90% of the costs for pre-nomination studies, nomination studies and implementation strategies. The rest of the cost of the studies and plans must be provided by the local share. Financial assistance is available to municipalities and community based organizations as long as they were not responsible for the environmental conditions at the site (DOS, 2007).

## **New York State Great Lakes Protection Fund**

In 1989 the multistate Great Lakes Protect Fund was created through the contribution of 7 of the 8 Great Lake States to be used as a source of funds for research and projects that would protect and conserve the Great Lakes ecosystem. The statewide program called NYS Great Lakes Protection Fund was created in 1990 and allows NY access to a portion of the interest that is earned from endowment. The fund is administered by DEC with input from the New York State Great Basin Advisory Council. This fund contributes to two programs, "small" and "large" grants.

The small grant program provides seed money to projects in the region that promote collaboration between government, academia, industry and environmental groups. The small grant program funds can be used for individual projects or to get started on a larger project that may require funding from other sources as well. The small grants award process is administered by the Great Lakes Research Consortium.

The large grant program is awarded approximately every three years and provides money to larger projects that are consistent with the Great Lakes Protection Fund Agreement. Eligible projects will create communications between all the different interested groups, result in action that will lead to improvement of environmental quality in the region, and promote approaches to understanding the ecosystem (DEC, 2007).

## **Habitat/Access Funding Grants**

The Habitat/Access Funding Grant is a program, administered by DEC, to assist municipalities, non-profits and individuals in doing small scale projects that will benefit fish and wildlife resources. The fund has \$100,000 to provide for the improvement of fish and wildlife habitat management and public access to sites for hunting, fishing, trapping and other fish and wildlife recreational activities statewide (DEC, 2007).

## **Sources of Funding for State Grant Programs**

### **Habitat/Access Stamp**

Legislation signed in 2002 created a new Habitat/Access Stamp that is available to people who want to support the Department of Environmental Conservation's efforts to conserve habitat and increase public access for fish and wildlife related recreation. The 2006-2007 stamp may be purchased for \$5.00 donation at license issuing outlets and online beginning August 14, 2006 (DEC, 2007). By law, all monies raised through purchases of the Habitat/Access Stamp must be deposited in the State's Conservation Fund in the Habitat

Account. Habitat/ Access Grants are awarded annually to fund projects that improve fish and wildlife habitat and public access for hunting, fishing, trapping and other fish and wildlife related recreation (NYS DEC and OPRHP, 2006).

## **Tax Contributions**

Since 1982 New Yorkers have been able to donate money through their state income taxes to the "Return a Gift to Wildlife Program."

The revenues are used for a variety of projects that benefit fish and wildlife. Annually the fund receives over \$450,000 and this money is able to wholly or partially fund projects. The projects funded by RAGTWP have been able to benefit endangered species restoration, protection and habitat management, help implement comprehensive surveys and inventories of many species and their habitats and also provide wildlife education programs.

## **Legal/Enforcement Settlements and Natural Resource Damage Remediation**

As a part of settlements the DEC reaches with various parties in enforcement contexts, funds may be provided for open space conservation. An example of funds being directed to the EPF include the Northville settlement funds which were dedicated for Long Island Pine Barrens purchases. Such funds can arise from settlements in any type of enforcement action, including natural resource damage remediation actions, as well as in other settlement contexts.

## **Conservation License Plate**

The 1993 EPF legislation authorized the creation of a conservation license plate with \$25 from each sale dedicated to the open space portion of the

EPF. Roger Tory Peterson, the foremost naturalist of the 20th century, graciously donated a bluebird painting which was used as the basis of the State's beautiful bluebird license plate. More than 9,700 plates have been sold since the inception of the program in late 1995.

## **Conserve Habitat License Plate**

Beginning in 2005, "Conserve Habitat" custom license plates became available for purchase, with \$25 from each sale dedicated to improve habitat and to increase habitat access throughout the state. Revenues will be deposited in a special account within the Conservation Fund, and be overseen by DEC. The habitat account is used solely to protect, restore, and manage habitat, and to develop public access for fish- and wildlife-related recreation and study. A ruffed grouse in flight was selected to illustrate the "Conserve Habitat" plate (NYS DEC and OPRHP, 2006).

## **Gifts and Donations**

Gifts and donations are a key way that individuals and businesses can contribute directly to the conservation of open space. Gifts and donations of land, in fee or easement, can be made to qualified not-for-profit organizations and local, state and federal governments. Gifts of funds for acquisition of lands can also be made, and can be targeted to specific acquisition proposals. Some private foundations have been particularly active and important in land conservation in the State. Foundation funding may continue to be an important source of conservation funds in the future.

The Natural Heritage Trust is a public benefit corporation of the State of New York that can accept private sector gifts and funds for the preservation, protection and enhancement of the natural and historic resources for parks,

recreation and historic preservation purposes. This provides an opportunity for OPRHP and DEC to promote public/private cooperation.

OPRHP's Bureau of Historic Sites, acting on behalf of the Commissioner accepts gifts of artifacts for the State Historic Sites. These gifts come from individuals and organizations (e.g. friends groups) and most often are from descendants of the original owners of State Historic Sites (e.g. Livingston furnishings that originated at Clermont). The Bureau of Historic Sites has a formal procedure for reviewing and accepting gift offers.

## **Other Grant Programs**

### **Hudson River Valley Greenway**

To provide technical and financial support to municipalities and not-for-profit corporations, the Hudson River Valley Greenway created a grant program in 1992. The municipalities and not-for-profits that are located in the geographic area of the Greenway (the surrounding counties) are eligible for the grant funding if their projects are working towards full implementation of the Draft Greenway Trail Plan. In 2008 there were 13 grants awarded totaling \$59,000 through this grants program capital including improvements to provide access through a VA hospital to link trails in three towns in Dutchess County.

### **New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA)**

Funding is available from NYSCA for Architecture, Planning and Design program. Non-profit organizations and local governmental agencies in NYS are eligible to receive assistance in engaging the services of an architect or

## **Implementation**

planning, design or historic preservation professional. Over \$1 million was allocated throughout the State for FY 2007 through the Architecture Planning and Design program.

There is also money available from NYSCA for Capital Projects; eligible projects include the improvement, expansion, or rehabilitation of existing buildings owned or leased by nonprofit cultural institutions receiving programmatic funding from the Council. For FY 2007, this program funded 23 projects with over \$800,000 (NYSCA, 2007).

## **Preserve New York (PNY) Grant Program**

Administered jointly by the NYSCA and the Preservation League of New York, the PNY program is eligible to municipalities and not-for-profit organizations with 501(c) (3) status. The three projects that are able to be funded through the PNY program are historic structure reports, historic landscape reports and cultural resource surveys. Awards for projects typically range between \$3,000 and \$10,000. For FY 2006, 11 projects were selected through 9 counties in New York State and they totaled over \$80,000 (Preservation League, 2007).

## **Lake Champlain Basin Program**

The Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP), created in 1990 and reauthorized in 2002, is a partnership that is working to implement the region's comprehensive plan, Opportunities for Action: An Evolving Plan for the Future of the Lake Champlain Basin. The execution of the plan will protect and improve the environmental quality and economic benefits of the Champlain Basin region. The Plan addresses a number of different regional issues including water quality, toxic substances, living natural resources, recreation and cultural heritage resources, economics,

monitoring, data management, strong education and outreach programs and the active involvement of local communities. The LCBP provides funds and services to groups that are working towards these goals.

The partnership of the LCBP includes the State of New York, State of Vermont, Province of Quebec, US EPA, the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, other federal and local government agencies, and many local public and private groups. Since 1992, The LCBP has awarded \$3.07 million to 608 projects in New York and Vermont. New York has received \$ 1.18 million for 243 projects since 1992. Most of the funding for the grants comes from the US EPA.

There are two main grant types available:

- 1) Local Implementation Grants
  - Annual Priority Grant- funding in the range of \$5,000 to \$20,000 given to larger projects that focus on any of the priorities from Opportunities for Action
  - Partnership Program Grant- up to \$5,000 for projects emphasizing community partnerships and collaborative efforts
  - Organizational Support Grant- provides grants up to \$4,000 to help groups improve their organizational functions
  - Education Grant- up to \$7,500 to groups to provide information to students and/or adults about the issues prioritized in the Lake Champlain Plan.
- 2) Technical Assistance Programs TAP provides assistance to groups working on Cultural Heritage Programs. The grants provide up to \$1,000 to municipal and nonprofit organizations performing: conditions, archaeological and engineering assessments; design assistance; museum mentoring;

property interpretation; and state and national Register nominations (Lake Champlain Basin Program, 2007).

## **National Trails Fund**

The National Trails Fund, administered by the American Hiking Society, is the only privately supported program that funds grassroots organizations exclusively. The fund was created in 1997 and has provided a total of \$290,000 to 73 different trail projects nationwide since then. This fund provides money to secure access, get volunteers and purchase tools and materials for projects that will have hikers as the primary user group.

In 2006 the National Trails Fund provided for a project in Idlewild Park, which is a 224 acre wetland park that is not managed by NYC Department of Parks and Recreation but by the Eastern Queens Alliance. The fund went to build the first portion of the trail as well as purchasing and installing interpretive signs for self-guided tours (American Hiking Society, 2007).

## **Capacity Building Grants**

Parks & Trails New York's Capacity Building Grants program for park and trail groups provides grants of up to \$3,000 to strengthen not-for-profit organizations that are working to build and protect parks and trails in communities across the state.

Through this grant program Parks & Trails New York intends to help New York not-for-profits better fulfill their missions; improve their reach, effectiveness, and impact; leverage more resources, and increase community support for and involvement in park and trail planning, development, and stewardship. Funds can be used to assist with activities associated with organizational start-up and development; training; communications; and

volunteer recruitment and management (PTNY, 2008).

## Funding through Health Programs

Several state and national organizations have funding that may be used to develop and promote recreational facilities. On a national level, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation ([www.rwjf.org](http://www.rwjf.org)) is beginning to provide support to communities for improving opportunities for physical activity. The Centers for Disease Control ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) provides funding to state health departments for promoting physical activity and support for Active Community Environments. In New York State, the Healthy Heart Program provides grants to community groups for a variety of activities aimed at making it easier for people to be more physically active and improve their eating habits. Residents can contact the State's Department of Health (DOH) for more information on these programs.

## Grant Allocation

SCORP provides the foundation for the allocation of state and federal funds for recreation and open space projects. The policies, needs assessment, programs and initiatives 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 and the EPF grants for municipal and not-for-profit projects, RTP grants and various acquisition categories consistent with the Conserving 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. The SCORP's forecasts of need for recreation facilities combined with natural resource and recreation service objectives are reflected in the criteria comprising these systems. Factors include physical, recreational, social, economic, and environmental. The numeric ratings of the priority systems provide the method for comparative analysis of the many diverse projects evaluated. OPRHP administers grant programs that provide matching funds to municipalities and state agencies for the creation, operation, expansion, and rehabilitation of parks, facilities and programs. The importance of these initiatives requires that the most objective measures possible be used in the distribution of these funds. Many steps are taken in the SCORP assessment and policy process to assure meaningful public participation and technical evaluation.

Considerable public input is utilized in the development and revision of the State's rating systems. The LWCF, OPSP and the SCORP program provide sound bases for the priority rating systems. A strong public participation process was utilized in developing a system for the EPF and RTP grants.

Outreach and implementation occurs principally at the regional level. Field representatives work with municipalities and not-for-profit organizations in developing applications and providing initial review. 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. Appendix H is a copy of the OPSP rating form.

# Partnerships

Partnerships among governmental agencies and with the private sector, not-for-profit organizations and volunteers are an important tool in the acquisition, development, operations and maintenance of recreation facilities. Significant strides have been made to foster new partnerships and to provide guidance to agencies considering partnerships. The primary intent of partnerships is to assist public agencies in meeting their missions of providing quality and safe recreation while protecting the natural and cultural resources as well as improving the delivery of services.

First and foremost, it is important to maintain the resource stewardship mandate for resource agencies. Partnerships must be compatible with this mandate to maintain the integrity of the recreational and cultural system. 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.

## Types of Partnerships

There are various types and forms of partnerships. These need to be tailored to the needs for a park, historic site or other recreation/open space area. The following is a listing of some of the types of partnerships:

**Acquisitions** - A not-for-profit organization, in some cases, has the ability to advance acquisitions with a landowner quicker than a governmental entity. The not-for-profit organization then holds the property until the governmental body can

## Implementation

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 property 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. Agreements within OPRHP have terms of 5 to 20 years. Some agreements within OPRHP have been in place for more than 30 years.

**Friends Groups** - An agency can enter into an agreement with a not-for-profit organization to form Friends Groups to support a specific site.

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

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

**Sponsor** - It is common to have events conducted at public facilities sponsored by various organizations. Some events advance the goals of the organization while providing additional activities for 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 Resource Program** - These are programs directed at a specific resource such as a beach or trail. 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. Examples of such partnerships are provided in Chapter 4, Stewardship and Chapter 7, DEC "Invasive Species".

## 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. OPRHP with the assistance of a working group comprised of representatives from various recreation, environmental and cultural organizations developed a set of public/private partnership guidelines. Although these are specific to OPRHP, they could apply to other public agencies. The guidelines flow from the Agency's mission statement to the goals and objectives identified in SCORP. The guidelines are:

- Partnership activities shall provide a public benefit consistent with the Agency's mission, goals and objectives.
- Partnership activities shall be compatible with the involved park and shall take into account the protection of the park's recreational, natural, historic and cultural resources.

- Partnership activities being considered for a specific park/historic site shall be evaluated within the context of ongoing management and planning for that property.
- Generally, partnership activities should be self-sufficient. Any increased maintenance and operational responsibility to the Agency shall be evaluated within the context of the Agency's budget and the enhanced delivery of services.
- Partnership activities shall be within the determined carrying capacity of parks/historic sites, their facilities and landscapes.
- Partnership activities shall provide reasonable public access, use and enjoyment.
- Partnership recognition shall be commensurate with the enhancement to the park and compatible with the park's resources.
- Partnership activities that increase scientific understanding of the ecological resources in State Parks for both stewardship and educational programs will be encouraged.

## Goals

- Encourage the development of partnerships that are compatible with mission of the Agency and with the natural, recreational, cultural and historic resources of the site.
- Utilize the partnership guidelines to assist in the development and implementation of partnerships.
- Encourage partnerships at all levels of the park and historic site systems.
- Seek new and innovative partnerships.
- Review existing partnerships on a routine basis to assure they are meeting the Agency's goals and objectives and are serving the public in an appropriate manner.

## Accomplishments

There are a number of partnerships that exist throughout the State.

Numerous examples can be given for each type of partnership mentioned above. Over the past five years, OPRHP has made considerable strides in advancing partnerships with the private sector, not-for-profit organizations and other governmental agencies. To provide overall guidance, the Agency invited a consortium of individuals and interest groups to assist in the development of public-private partnership guidelines. Within this framework, OPRHP entered various partnerships to conserve open space and expand park lands, to improve recreational opportunities, and others to protect and interpret natural and cultural resources.

In May of 2000, the Theodore Roosevelt Nature Center at Jones Beach State Park on Long Island was officially opened. This state-of-the-art environmental education center, located along the Atlantic Ocean only 30 minutes from New York City, was created through a public-private partnership, with \$450,000 in state and federal funding, \$350,000 in contributions from the Ford Motor Company and the donation of a geothermal system and photovoltaic roof system for heat, air conditioning and power from the Long Island Power Authority estimated at \$300,000. This investment in energy efficient systems will save OPRHP more than \$20,000 in annual energy costs while being environmentally friendly. The center offers diverse indoor and outdoor exhibits where visitors can learn about the Long Island coastal environment and its unique plants and wildlife. The center also provides classroom and laboratory space for school groups to have a true hands-on experience. The most critical element of this partnership was not only the chance to provide an environmental education center at almost no public or state cost, but that the facility was once a bathhouse that had been closed for over 10 years due to budget reductions. This adaptive reuse enabled infrastructure to be saved and dedicated to environmental education that is so critical to today's world.

At Niagara Reservation State Park, home of Niagara Falls, the observation tower, which provides public access to the mighty Niagara River gorge and "Maid of the Mist" boat ride, which takes visitors to the face of the falls, was outdated and no longer capable of accommodating the more than eight million international visitors. The modernization of this tower could not have been accomplished within OPRHP's existing budget yet is critical to accommodating ongoing and future tourism demand. The estimate to reduce the height of the tower to provide less visual intrusion in the natural surroundings, provide high-speed elevators, remove lead-based paint and re clad the structure is \$23 million. Through partnerships OPRHP will be able to accomplish this goal and provide a facility the entire country will be proud to have international visitors experience. The concessionaire who provides the boat ride will contribute \$5 million and receive additional operational benefits; the New York State Power Authority (NYPA) will contribute \$5 million; grants have been awarded for \$5 million; \$3 million will come from the Bond Act, and \$5 million will come from State Park revenues.

The United States Golf Association (USGA), has committed over \$2.7 million towards renovating and restoring the Black Course at Bethpage State Park in preparation for the 2002 U.S. Open. This will be the first time ever that this historic sporting event will be played at a truly publicly owned golf course.

Open Space Institute (OSI), Scenic Hudson and the Trust for Public Land are some of OPRHP's many partners on land acquisitions. OSI assisted OPRHP in acquiring over 3,200 acres of shoreline and mountains along the Hudson River that expanded Moreau Lake State Park in the Capital District Region.

Former U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey provided a generous gift of \$1.75 million for the construction

of a Visitor Center at Sterling Forest® State Park in the Palisades Region. This private donation highlights an unprecedented purchase of approximately 17,500 acres of important watershed and valuable wildlife habitat by the States of New York and New Jersey, the Federal government, the Palisades Interstate Park Commission and numerous private partners. The public, schools and the scientific community will use the Visitor Center at Sterling Forest® State Park as its laboratory to form an understanding of this expansive, critical wildlife habitat and unique natural resource. The Lila Acheson and Dewitt Wallace Fund for the Hudson Highlands and the Doris Duke Foundation each contributed \$5 million, for a total of \$10 million, towards the purchase of Sterling Forest® State Park.

Fred and Martha Schroeder of East Greenbush donated a major gift of \$400,000 to help fund the construction of the Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center at Thompson Lake State Park, emphasizing children's activities, environmental education and protection and outdoor recreation, on land within the Helderberg Escarpment. The Schroeder's also established an endowment of \$350,000 for operation and maintenance of the facility.

Betty and Wilbur Davis donated 190+/- acres of land near Cooperstown which is now known as Betty and Wilbur Davis State Park. The Davis' also donated over \$600,000 to be used to develop the park, and establish and endowment to permanently support the park.

OPRHP has entered into a five-year agreement with the Natural Heritage Program that will result in the first comprehensive survey of the biological resources in the State Park System. This information will be critical to the evaluation of the environmental sensitivity of state park land and will be a valuable tool in determining the feasibility of and appropriateness of proposed projects.

## *Implementation*

### **Actions**

- Over the next five years the use of partnerships should be encouraged.
- Existing partnerships that have proven successful should be continued, those with less favorable results should be eliminated, and new approaches should be tried.
- Each site has to consider its resources and needs and the types of partnerships that are appropriate.