

# Chapter 3 - Trends, Issues and Needs

The 21<sup>st</sup> century has brought many challenges in meeting the recreation needs and desires of the citizens of New York State and its visitors. The State is part of a dynamic system that is constantly changing. As the population composition, land use and environmental conditions change so do the types and demand for recreation activities and available resources. To project future demand for recreation, all the factors need to be considered. This includes an assessment of existing recreation supply, participation rates, demand, demographics, and issues and trends.

## Population Trends

New York State is the third most populous state in the United States with a U.S. Census population of 18.9 million in 2000 and a projected population of 19.2 million in 2005. (Population projections are based on data that was available from the Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research in late 2005). The population level will remain fairly level through the year 2025 by which time it is estimated to be 19.9 million.

The population of New York State will increase by 3.3% for the period 2005 to 2025, a fairly small increase, especially considering it takes place over the course of 20 years. However, changes in the composition of the population are substantial. These changes are a result of the large number of immigrants from abroad; a net out-migration especially among younger New Yorkers; an increase in racial diversity; and the increased proportion of the elderly population resulting from both the continuing increase in life expectancy and, most importantly, the aging of the baby boomers. In particular, the number of residents over the age of 60

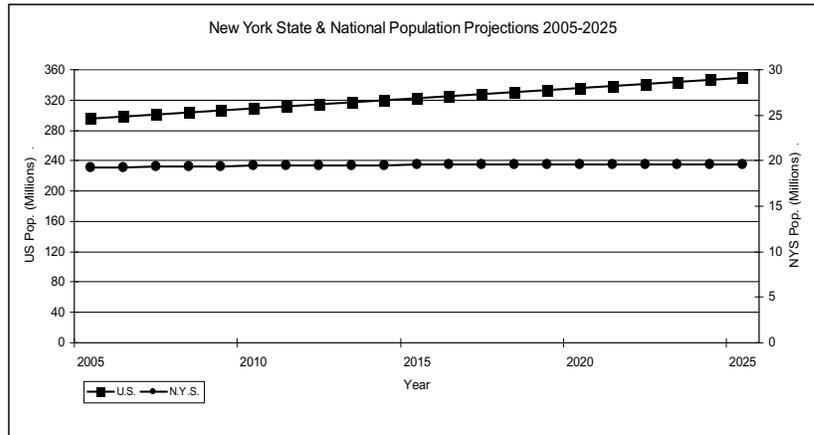


Figure 3.1 - NY vs. US Population Growth

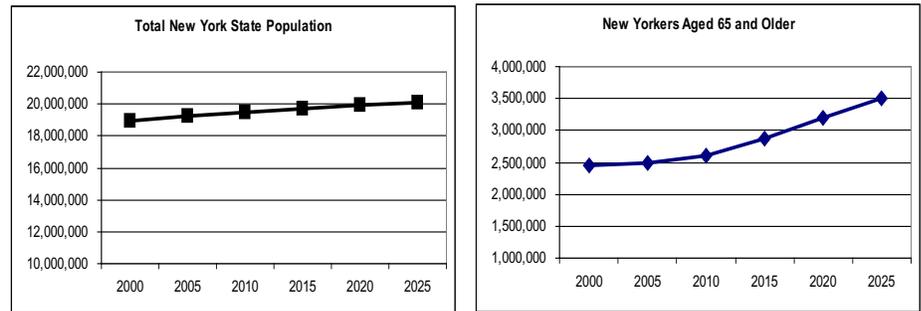


Figure 3.2 - New York State's Aging Population

is projected to increase by 52.6%. These changes, more than the change in total population will have the greatest effect on recreation patterns.

## Aging

The baby boom generation (those born from 1946 to 1964) will transition from being the most elderly part of the workforce to retirement. By 2025, the youngest baby boomer will be 61 years old. For recreation providers, this means a trend away from activities typically associated with youth: team sports, court games and other high physical activities and a growth of other activities such as golf, relaxing in the park, walking, and other passive activities. Although New York's population is increasing slightly over the projected period, the number of senior citizens is

increasing dramatically. This will have a dramatic effect on the quantity and types of outdoor recreation taking place within New York State.

The increased elderly population will result in changes in the way New Yorkers use their leisure time and the amount of leisure time New Yorkers have available. This will require changes to the recreation infrastructure of OPRHP facilities, other government facilities and the private sector as well.

The changes to the state's population will require OPRHP to adapt to its new clientele. Attendance is expected to increase. Much of the increase may occur during the week when many of OPRHP's services are provided free or at reduced cost to seniors. However, this increase in attendance (as any increase in the use of facilities, trails, etc.) will

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**Table 3.1 - The 10 Most Popular Activities Among New York Residents Age 60 or Greater.**

Rank	Activity	Percent Participating
(1)	Relaxing in the park	73.7%
(2)	Visiting Historic Sites	61.9%
(3)	Walking for pleasure	57.0%
(4)	Gardening	38.7%
(5)	Swimming	25.5%
(6)	Boating	22.5%
(7)	Bicycling	20.5%
(8)	Bird Watching	20.2%
(9)	Fishing	13.4%
(10)	Camping	14.5%

Source: General Public Recreation Survey, 2004

cause increased impacts on the environment and the aging recreation facility infrastructure. An aging population will also require greater adherence to ADA standards in order to be able to enjoy these facilities and services. Further, additional training of OPRHP staff to work with the aged will be required.

Based on the 2004 General Public Recreation Survey, the ten most popular activities, with participation rates, among New Yorkers, age 60 or greater are shown in Table 3.4.

In addition, there are a large number of activities in which older adults can be expected to participate. These include activities in the following categories:

- Work (full or part-time job)
- Political causes
- Sleeping, eating, exercising
- Shopping
- Travel
- Gardening and flower arranging
- Arts and crafts
- Media entertainment such as the internet, radio, and television
- Religious practices that are purposeful, traditional, and ritualistic
- Education or training
- Cooking
- Housekeeping chores (Successful Aging, 2007).

In terms of a leisure-time activity, internet usage is expected to grow significantly as the population ages (see Table 3.2).

**Table 3.2 - Internet Usage Among New York Residents Age 50 or Greater.**

Older Adults and Seniors Online in the US (% of population in each group)		
Year	Percentage of Users	
	Age	
	50-64	65+
2003	61.0	23.9
2004	63.2	25.8
2005	65.9	27.7
2006	68.3	30.0
2007	70.9	32.2
2008	73.7	34.1

Source: Department of Commerce, May 2005

As the population ages, these activities will become more important in terms of the total recreation picture in New York State.

The charts in Figure 3.3 show the age/sex breakdown for New York State in the years 2007 and 2030. The most notable change is the movement of the baby boomers, born between 1946 and 1964 from the age group 43 to 62 years old to 66 years old and older. This effect exists for all counties in the State.

## Youth

While there has been a focus on research devoted to meeting the recreation needs of senior citizens because of the aging of the population, there is

also a need to improve the quality and quantity of recreational experiences of younger New Yorkers as well.

Today's youth are spending less time participating in outdoor recreational activities. This is a factor in the rise of obesity and associated health concerns. There is a need to increase the public's awareness and value of connecting children and nature toward a goal of improving the knowledge of our state's natural resources and health and welfare of the present and future generation of our youth.

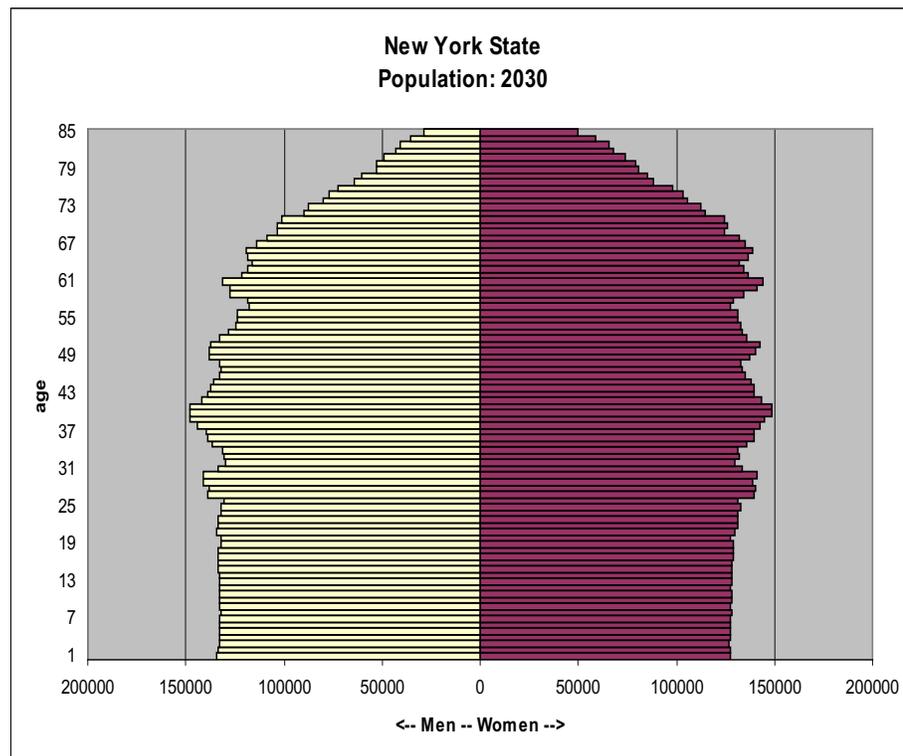
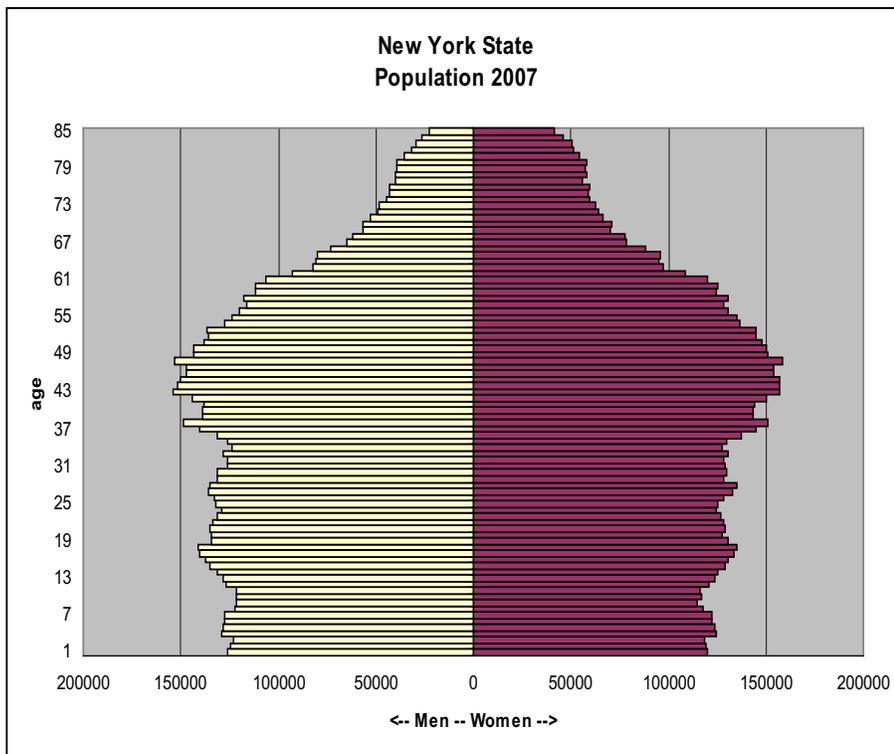
Finally, the rewards of participation in recreation by youths can last a lifetime, providing not only physical, but emotional and psychological benefits as well.

## Connecting Children and Nature

Children today are less connected to the natural world than ever before. They spend half as much time outdoors than they did 20 years ago and the effects of sedentary indoor lifestyles have become increasingly evident as the childhood obesity rate has more than doubled and the adolescent obesity rate has more than tripled. Associated with obesity is a decreased life expectancy and higher risk of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and joint problems.

Meanwhile, studies show that children who play and learn outside have less stress, fewer sleep disorders, a more positive outlook on life, improved test scores, and greater conflict resolution skills, are more creative, motivated, and physically fit, and develop stronger immune systems. Research has also found that exposure to nature helps reduce the severity of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, diagnosed in over two million U.S. children (White, 2008).

Richard Louv began a nationwide movement in 2005 with the publication



Source: New York Office for the Aging.

**Figure 3.3 - New York State's Changing Population**

of his book about the disconnection between children and nature, *Last Child in the Woods*. In his book, Louv describes a concept he coined called "nature deficit disorder" as "not an official diagnosis but a way of viewing the problem... diminished use of the senses, attention difficulties, and higher rates of physical and emotional illnesses". The World Future Society ranked nature deficit disorder as the fifth-most-important trend of 2007 and the years to come (Charles et al, 2008).

The No Child Left Inside Coalition, representing more than 300 environmental, educational, business, public health, outdoor recreation and conservation groups nationwide, was created in 2006 to help connect children with nature and to advocate for environmental education and funding. Another initiative spearheaded by Louv, the National Forum on Children and Nature was launched in 2007 and is supported by The Conservation Fund. The Forum will select and fund 20 nationally significant demonstration projects in four key areas of health, education, the built environment, and media/culture.

Reasons for our children's nature deficit are many, but particularly strong is the parental perception that nature is unsafe, including fears of strangers, getting lost, unfamiliar plants and animals, insect bites, traffic hazards, and other causes of physical injury. Other reasons are lack of awareness of opportunities, cost, lack of time, transportation difficulties, liability concerns, and competition with structured sports and electronic media. But with increasing attention focused on the problem, solutions are plentiful. One solution in particular, greater access to parks, is associated with more physical activity and less sedentary behavior among youth according to a 2006 study published in *Psychological Science* (Krisberg, 2007).

With public attendance dropping sharply at many state and national parks, the National Association of State

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Park Directors and the National Park Service agreed on a joint "Children and Nature Plan for Action" in September of 2007. This initiative calls for state and national parks to work collaboratively to increase public awareness of the value of connecting children and nature, discuss common issues and solutions, share information about opportunities, engage other agencies and organizations in shared technology, programs, and activities, and promote a national campaign to highlight the importance of connecting children and nature.

## **Urban Areas**

There are 61 cities in New York State. Not including New York City, 2 million people live in these cities. However, most of the cities, particularly those in the "rust belt" (that portion of America most affected by the decline of manufacturing) are losing population. However, with the aging of population and change in living styles by the younger working class, there is renewed interest in residing in urban areas that provide services and cultural opportunities. Revitalization of these areas should be guided by smart growth principles. Past development and transportation practices will need to be revisited to make communities more walkable and pedestrian friendly.

## **Universal Accessibility**

Approximately 20.6% of the New York State population above the age of 5 is considered to have a disability. Providing recreational opportunities to this segment of the population will require existing and future recreation facilities to be universally accessible.

## **Composition of the Population**

The population of New York State will increase very slightly over the next twenty years, but the composition of this population will be quite different from what it is today. Higher birth-rates among minority populations as well as immigration will continue to increase ethnic diversity. The recreation preferences of minority groups can be different from those of the previously more dominant ethnic groups. Facility design, signage and public awareness will need to consider the populations being served.

Research has shown that on the federal level, minority groups are under-represented among the visitors to national parks. A number of reasons for this have been proposed. One is that both majority and minority groups have an equal affinity to experience the outdoors but, with other things being equal, minority groups having less income, have less money available to spend on recreation. Another theory holds that there are historic and cultural reasons why minority groups may not wish to participate in traditional recreational activities to the extent that the majority does.

## **Leisure Time**

Recent research has shown a decrease in the number of hours devoted to work over the past generation. However, it has been noted that passive, indoor activities such as watching television have increased at an even greater rate, thus decreasing the availability of the increased leisure time for outdoor activities. One possible cause of the lack of free time for recreation is that although more leisure time has become available, it is becoming available in

smaller pieces rather than large contiguous blocks favorable to family outings and the like. It has also been noted that the time devoted to outdoor recreation has increasingly been occurring during peak hours causing increasing pressure on limited resources.

In the report "New York State Strategic Plan for Overweight and Obesity Prevention", released in December 2004, the New York State Department of Health emphasizes the importance of physical activity during leisure time for the promotion of health. The report states that New Yorkers' most frequently mentioned physical activities during leisure time are: walking, running, weight-lifting, gardening and bicycling. The report also stresses the importance of accessibility to places for physical activity. Further, in dealing with strategies and objectives, the report states, as a goal:

*Increase the number of facilities or places for physical activity (e.g. parks, playgrounds, gyms, community centers, schools, etc.) open for community use.*

Despite the reports indicating an increase in leisure time, time was the number one reason cited by individuals in the 2004 General Public Recreation Survey for not participating in as much outdoor recreation as they wished. This was true across all age groups except for the elderly, who for the most part were either retired or working part-time.

## **Social Conditions**

There continues to be a decrease in the average household size and an increase in single parent households. This has an impact on the amount of leisure time. The economic gap between the affluent and the poor continues to increase. As a result activities with high entry costs, such as golf and

downhill skiing, will decrease in total participation.

## Energy

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

## Climate Change

As Chapter 6 describes climate change will undoubtedly impact the landscape, environmental resources and recreational activities. The composition of the fauna and flora will change. The warming of the climate will impact both winter and summer activities. The potential rise in sea level will impact water related facilities and ecosystems. These and other impacts will need to be considered in the future location and design of recreational facilities.

# Where the public stands on recreation and conservation issues

As part of the 2004 General Public Recreation Survey, the public was asked its opinion on issues related to recreation and conservation. Given nine statements, the respondents indicated the degree to which they agreed or disagreed. A similar set of questions was asked, in 2005, of the municipal officials throughout the state. Both groups showed support, in varying degrees for all these issues as indicated by the ranking of the issues from 1 highest to 9 lowest.

**Table 3.3 - Issues Regarding Recreation in New York State**

Issue	General Public	Municipal Officials
More money should be spent on public park maintenance and repair.	1	1
More land should be purchased by government to preserve open space.	2	8
Government should increase/create additional public access to water resources such as lakes, streams, beaches and oceanfronts.	3	4
Federal financial assistance to support state and local recreation development and land acquisition should be increased.	4	3
Government should increase spending for development of recreation facilities, e.g. pools, marinas, trails, campgrounds, etc.	5	3
Public/private partnerships should be considered to expand and develop recreational facilities.	6	2
More land should be purchased by government for recreation.	7	7
Government should preserve more open space by means other than acquisition, e.g. easements, zoning, etc..	8	6
Patrons should help support programs and services that have been provided through government subsidies in the past.	9	n.a.

# Recreation Supply

There are over 14,000 public and private recreation sites within New York State. OPRHP’s facilities inventory maintains information on the location of each of these sites and the number and types of recreation facilities each provides.

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

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

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

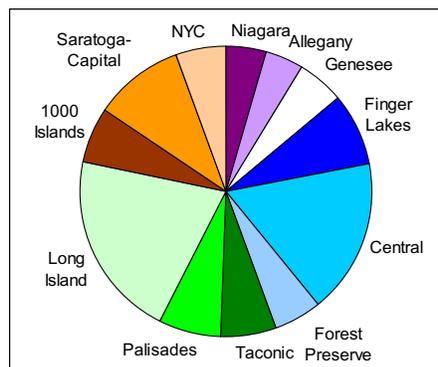


Figure 3.4 - OPRHP State Park Regions

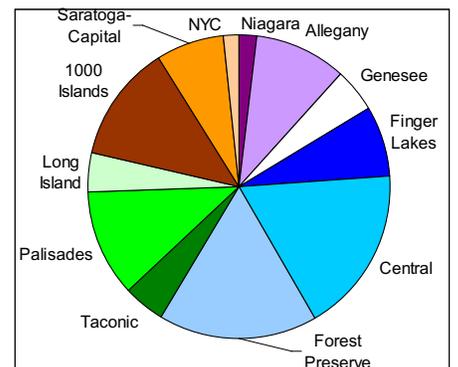
Table 3.4 -Recreation Facilities in New York State by OPRHP Region

The table to the right includes only sites presently on the Outdoor Recreation Inventory. Note that not all sites reported acreage. The state acreage figure in the chart below includes DEC acreage within the Adirondack and Catskill Parks.

Region	Number of Sites	Acreage
Niagara	397	43,106
Allegany	370	220,553
Genesee	480	106,866
Finger Lakes	738	166,243
Central	1,536	399,333
Forest Preserve	495	383,487
Taconic	535	100,657
Palisades	644	251,360
Long Island	1,867	98,210
1000 Islands	547	276,942
SaraCap	902	163,139
NYC	509	39,421



Number of sites by Region



Acreage of sites by Region

Figure 3.5 - Number and Acreage of Sites by Region

# Recreation Demand

The demand for recreation facilities is derived from the 2004 General Public Recreation Survey that addressed levels of participation and attitudes toward recreation/open space issues. This was supplemented through a survey of the local governmental park professionals which focused on facility needs, issues and trail concerns.

The 2004 General Public Recreation Survey was directed at a geographically stratified selection of households residing in New York State for at least 18 months. The survey is an component of the process because it is one of the few opportunities to receive input from the entire citizenry, rather than special interest groups, park visitors, activity club members and the like. Findings from the survey were analyzed and

demographic variables were assessed as to their influence on recreation choices. The results of this analysis were used together with U.S. Census data to make projections for current and future levels of recreation by activity and county within New York State.

Relaxing in the park continues to be the recreation activity enjoyed by most New York residents. This is followed by walking/jogging, visiting museums/historic sites, swimming and biking. However, the walking/jogging experiences the highest total of activity days followed by relaxing in the park, swimming, visiting museums/historic sites, and biking.

As mentioned previously, in 2005 the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation collected data from approximately 2,300 individuals on participation in outdoor activities and attitudes toward environmental and recreational issues.

As part of the General Public Recreation Survey, New Yorkers were asked what recreation facilities they felt were needed within 30 minutes of their home. Similarly, also in 2005, park professionals and local government officials were asked about the need for recreation facilities in their community. The results, while similar, did show some differences, notably the absence of swimming facilities from the park professional's list of needed facilities, this need having been rated #1 by the public. A possible explanation for this being the large capital investment, ongoing operational costs and liability concerns that swimming pools involve.

**Table 3.5 - Participation 2005 and 2025**

Activity	2005 Participants	% pop 2005	2025 Participants	% pop 2025	Growth	% Growth
Relaxing in Park	12,495,807	78.03%	12,994,075	77.79%	498,268	3.99%
Walking	10,259,380	64.06%	10,704,563	64.09%	445,183	4.34%
Swimming	7,193,165	44.92%	7,201,111	43.11%	7,946	0.11%
Biking	5,148,247	32.15%	5,304,582	31.76%	156,335	3.04%
Historic Sites	9,279,275	57.94%	9,776,268	58.53%	496,993	5.36%
Boating	4,296,624	26.83%	4,327,552	25.91%	30,928	0.72%
Fishing	2,917,010	18.22%	2,883,353	17.26%	-33,657	-1.15%
Hiking	3,084,106	19.26%	3,080,203	18.44%	-3,903	-0.13%
Field Sports	3,015,000	18.83%	2,969,291	17.78%	-45,709	-1.52%
Court Games	3,947,521	24.65%	3,943,761	23.61%	-3,760	-0.10%
Tennis	1,734,461	10.83%	1,751,914	10.49%	17,453	1.01%
Golfing	2,031,215	12.68%	2,044,693	12.24%	13,478	0.66%
Camping	4,314,756	26.94%	4,261,150	25.51%	-53,606	-1.24%
Hunting	1,003,858	6.27%	1,027,296	6.15%	23,438	2.33%
ATV	1,029,832	6.43%	992,248	5.94%	-37,584	-3.65%
Local Winter	4,956,576	30.95%	4,954,269	29.66%	-2,307	-0.05%
Downhill Skiing	1,252,905	7.82%	1,223,477	7.32%	-29,428	-2.35%
X-Country Skiing	1,084,119	6.77%	1,105,715	6.62%	21,596	1.99%
Snowmobiling	762,384	4.76%	722,935	4.33%	-39,449	-5.17%

**Table 3.6 - Activity Days 2005 and 2025**

	2005	per participant	2025	per participant	Activity Growth	Day % Growth
Walking	347,294,417.00	33.85	366,896,973	34.27	19602556	5.64%
Field Sports	33,723,802.00	11.19	33,582,420	11.31	-141382	-0.42%
Golfing	22,215,328.00	10.94	22,521,577	11.01	306249	1.38%
Biking	51,482,470.00	10.00	53,047,831	10.00	1565361	3.04%
Court Games	36,507,669.00	9.25	36,759,810	9.32	252141	0.69%
Relaxing in Park	104,170,358.00	8.34	109,449,427	8.42	5279069	5.07%
Swimming	60,966,850.00	8.48	60,309,198	8.37	-657652	-1.08%
Hunting	7,702,896.00	7.67	7,790,958	7.58	88062	1.14%
Hiking	20,821,392.00	6.75	21,068,539	6.84	247147	1.19%
ATV	6,634,812.00	6.44	6,376,121	6.43	-258691	-3.90%
Historic Sites/Mus.	54,959,437.00	5.92	58,611,800	6.00	3652363	6.65%
Fishing	16,763,916.00	5.75	16,470,258	5.71	-293658	-1.75%
Boating	24,665,177.00	5.74	24,618,653	5.69	-46524	-0.19%
Camping	24,156,268.00	5.60	23,667,935	5.55	-488333	-2.02%
Tennis	8,140,674.00	4.69	8,245,728	4.71	105054	1.29%
Downhill Skiing	6,400,664.00	5.11	6,366,777	5.20	-33887	-0.53%
X-Country Skiing	4,456,481.00	4.11	4,531,456	4.10	74975	1.68%
Local Winter	19,386,352.00	3.91	19,164,445	3.87	-221907	-1.14%
Snowmobiling	2,109,036.00	2.77	2,003,940	2.77	-105096	-4.98%

**Table 3.7 - Recreational Facilities Needed**

Expressed Need	General Public	Park Professionals
In the columns to the right, the top five facility needs expressed by each group are listed in order of need.	Swimming Pools/Beaches	Trails
	Trails	Facilities for picnicking
	Facilities for picnicking	Nature study facilities
	Playgrounds	Fields for sports
	Open Space	Fishing access points



# Activity Analyses

## Swimming

Of the activities studied in the 2004 General Public Recreation Survey, swimming was the third most popular when measured by activity days and fourth most popular in terms of number of participants. This activity is most popular in the southern areas of the state, where a longer season combined with more available facilities make it the recreation of choice for many people.

When asked what type of recreation facility was needed within 30 minutes of their homes, respondents mentioned swimming facilities more than any other type of facility although trail access was a close second.

Swimming is very popular in the southern areas of the state, including New York City and Long Island. Based on information from the Outdoor Recreation Facilities Inventory, the 2

county Long Island region has almost 1/4 of the New York's developed beach and approximately 1/6 of the state's pool area.

Over the next 20 years, the number of swimmers and frequency of swimming will change little.

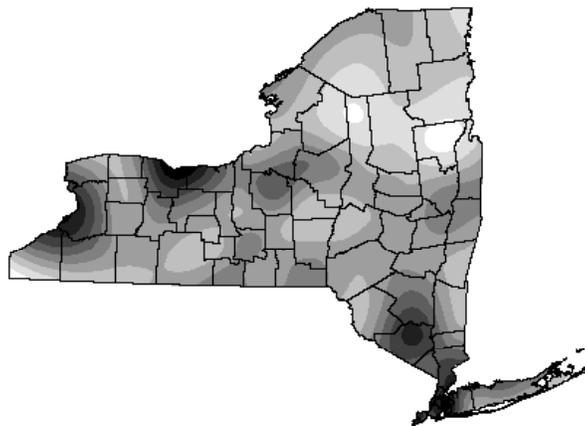
**Table 3.8 - Swimming Facilities by Operator**

Operator	Places with Swimming		Places with Beaches		Beach Linear Ft.		Places with Pools		Pool Sq. Ft. (est).	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
State	173	5.1%	103	6.3%	97,423	17.3%	23	1.7%	386,077	10.3%
County	63	1.9%	37	2.3%	23,085	4.1%	12	0.9%	98,804	2.6%
City/Village	439	12.9%	120	7.4%	72,507	12.9%	239	17.7%	1,118,407	29.9%
Town	445	13.1%	264	16.2%	92,129	16.4%	146	10.8%	494,676	13.2%
Federal	3	0.1%	1	0.1%	9,990	1.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
School District	45	1.3%	1	0.1%	100	0.02%	30	2.2%	97,325	2.6%
Non-Profit	167	4.9%	91	5.6%	22,601	4.0%	59	4.4%	99,106	2.7%
Private	401	11.8%	191	11.7%	39,542	7.0%	195	14.4%	475,568	12.7%
Commercial	1669	49.0%	823	50.5%	204,797	36.4%	646	47.9%	969,646	25.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3405</b>		<b>1631</b>		<b>562,174</b>		<b>1350</b>		<b>3,739,609</b>	

Source: New York State OPRHP Outdoor Recreation Facilities Inventory  
(This source applies to this and all following similar tables in this chapter)

**Table 3.9 - Swimming Facilities by State Park Region**

Region	Places with Swimming		Places with Beaches		Linear Ft. of Beach		Places with Pools		Pool Sq. Ft. (est).	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Niagara	145	4.3%	42	2.6%	21,890	3.9%	72	5.3%	240,518	6.4%
Allegany	148	4.3%	97	5.9%	26,180	4.7%	29	2.1%	46,272	1.2%
Genesee	164	4.8%	75	4.6%	36,445	6.5%	79	5.9%	168,187	4.5%
Finger Lakes	219	6.4%	107	6.6%	36,915	6.6%	70	5.2%	174,441	4.7%
Central	436	12.8%	156	9.6%	58,556	10.4%	212	15.7%	614,524	16.4%
Forest Preserve	462	13.6%	346	21.2%	75,032	13.3%	77	5.7%	111,915	3.0%
Taconic	239	7.0%	100	6.1%	17,305	3.1%	102	7.6%	232,654	6.2%
Palisades	365	10.7%	134	8.2%	32,251	5.7%	200	14.8%	432,282	11.6%
Long Island	526	15.4%	295	18.1%	135,970	24.2%	216	16.0%	628,744	16.8%
Thousand Islands	245	7.2%	152	9.3%	58,264	10.4%	36	2.7%	68,386	1.8%
Saratoga-Capital District	405	11.9%	113	6.9%	23,526	4.2%	225	16.7%	537,737	14.4%
New York City	51	1.5%	14	0.9%	39,840	7.1%	32	2.4%	483,949	12.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3405</b>		<b>1631</b>		<b>562,174</b>		<b>1,350</b>		<b>3,739,609</b>	



*(On this and following maps, darker areas indicate greater need)*

**Figure 3.6 - Need for Swimming Facilities**

*Trends, Issues and Needs*

**Day Use Activities**

This category includes picnicking, relaxing in the park and playground use. Requiring minimal physical exertion and almost no equipment costs, these activities can be enjoyed by the young and old, rich and poor. It is therefore no

surprise that the number of participants for picnicking/day use/relaxing in the park is the largest of all the activities studied for this report – almost ¾ of the State’s population.

Because of the reasons mentioned above, the level of participation in this

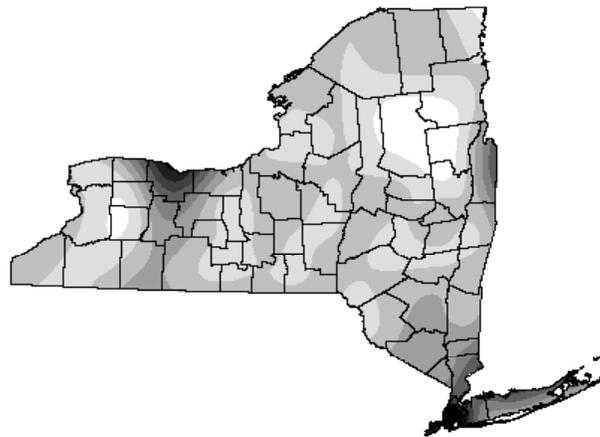
activity is not sensitive to the overall aging of the population. The projections indicate that there will be almost 4% more people engaging in this activity in 2025 and the total number of activity days will increase by 5%. The percent increase in activity days is second only to that of “visiting museums/historic sites” and “walking/jogging”.

**Table 3.10 - Day Use Facilities by Operator**

Operator	Places with Picnicking		Picnic Tables # (est.)		Places with Tennis		Places with Basketball	
State	292	5.9%	41,044	39.6%	33	1.8%	40	2.2%
County	188	3.8%	21,931	21.2%	55	3.0%	28	1.6%
City/Village	1,238	25.0%	10,193	9.8%	538	29.4%	496	27.8%
Town	998	20.1%	9,240	8.9%	385	21.0%	375	21.0%
Federal	6	0.1%	48	0.0%	1	0.1%	-	0.0%
School District	658	13.3%	132	0.1%	330	18.0%	528	29.6%
Non-Profit	138	2.8%	1,289	1.2%	35	1.9%	41	2.3%
Private	189	3.8%	2,476	2.4%	142	7.8%	41	2.3%
Commercial	1,246	25.2%	17,285	16.7%	311	17.0%	233	13.1%
Total	4,953	100.0%	103,638	100.0%	1,830	100.0%	1,782	100.0%

**Table 3.11 - Day Use Facilities by State Park Region**

Region	Places with Picnicking		Picnic Tables # (est.)		Places with Tennis		Places with Basketball	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Niagara	275	5.6%	16,164	15.6%	133	7.3%	91	5.1%
Allegany	179	3.6%	2,512	2.4%	32	1.7%	25	1.4%
Genesee	232	4.7%	8,808	8.5%	77	4.2%	57	3.2%
Finger Lakes	406	8.2%	8,576	8.3%	73	4.0%	116	6.5%
Central	838	16.9%	13,635	13.2%	289	15.8%	373	20.9%
Forest Preserve	360	7.3%	6,330	6.1%	106	5.8%	42	2.4%
Taconic	370	7.5%	7,912	7.6%	199	10.9%	169	9.5%
Palisades	353	7.1%	9,358	9.0%	122	6.7%	104	5.8%
Long Island	816	16.5%	11,558	11.2%	385	21.0%	434	24.4%
Thousand Islands	327	6.6%	7,695	7.4%	94	5.1%	100	5.6%
Saratoga-Capital District	560	11.3%	8,889	8.6%	197	10.8%	247	13.9%
New York City	237	4.8%	2,201	2.1%	123	6.7%	24	1.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,953</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>103,638</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,830</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,782</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



**Figure 3.7 - Need for Day Use Facilities**

## Camping

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

Camping facilities are available throughout New York State except within New York City and they are fairly limited on Long Island. Because travel is an important component of this activities, campers in New York City and Long Island are willing to travel to the more remote areas of the state.

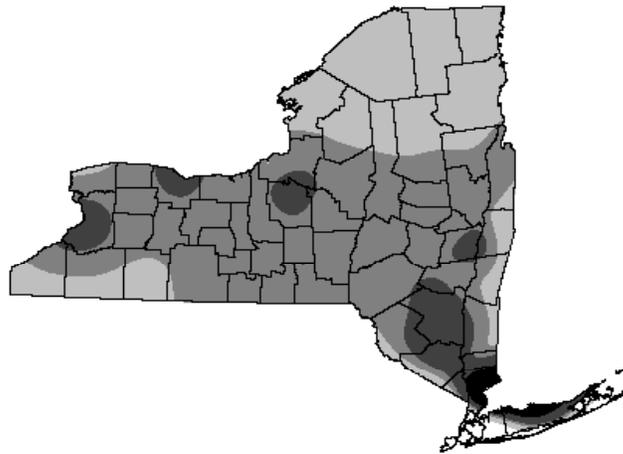
Based on the projections for this report, camping in New York State is expected to decline slightly, the number of campers decreasing 1.24% and the number of camping-nights decreasing 2.02%.

**Table 3.12 - Camping Facilities by Operator**

Operator	Places with Camping		# of Campsites (est.)		Places with Cabins		# of Cabins (est.)		Places with Group Camps	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
State	180	6.7%	15,934	14.3%	29	6.3%	810	22.8%	21	2.7%
County	68	2.5%	1,853	1.7%	4	0.9%	39	1.1%	14	1.8%
City/Village	20	0.7%	559	0.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.4%
Town	50	1.9%	1,466	1.3%	1	0.2%	1	0.0%	5	0.6%
Federal	6	0.2%	43	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.3%
School District	3	0.1%	10	0.0%	15	3.2%	0	0.0%	2	0.3%
Non-Profit	265	9.9%	1,220	1.1%	0	0.0%	138	3.9%	214	27.7%
Private	148	5.5%	1,072	1.0%	21	4.5%	155	4.4%	108	14.0%
Commercial	1936	72.3%	88,948	80.1%	394	84.9%	2404	67.8%	404	52.3%
Total	2676	100.0%	111,105	100.0%	464	100.0%	3547	100.0%	773	100.0%

**Table 3.13 - Camping Facilities by State Park Region**

Region	Places with Camping		# of Campsites (est.)		Places with Cabins		# of Cabins (est.)		Places with Group Camps	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Niagara	100	3.7%	6,583	5.9%	10	2.2%	66	1.9%	31	4.0%
Allegheny	161	6.0%	8,639	7.8%	17	3.7%	557	15.7%	27	3.5%
Genesee	123	4.6%	8,344	7.5%	9	1.9%	119	3.4%	36	4.7%
Finger Lakes	235	8.8%	19,902	17.9%	22	4.7%	185	5.2%	67	8.7%
Central	348	13.0%	15,241	13.7%	40	8.6%	453	12.8%	82	10.6%
Forest Preserve	424	15.8%	18,162	16.3%	100	21.6%	1532	43.2%	103	13.3%
Taconic	140	5.2%	2,803	2.5%	6	1.3%	111	3.1%	77	10.0%
Palisades	368	13.8%	9,206	8.3%	47	10.1%	112	3.2%	199	25.7%
Long Island	129	4.8%	1,846	1.7%	7	1.5%	7	0.2%	34	4.4%
Thousand Islands	397	14.8%	10,824	9.7%	161	34.7%	292	8.2%	62	8.0%
Saratoga-Capital District	251	9.4%	9,555	8.6%	45	9.7%	113	3.2%	55	7.1%
New York City	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2676</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>111,105</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3547</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



**Figure 3.8 - Need for Camping Facilities**

## Local Winter Activities

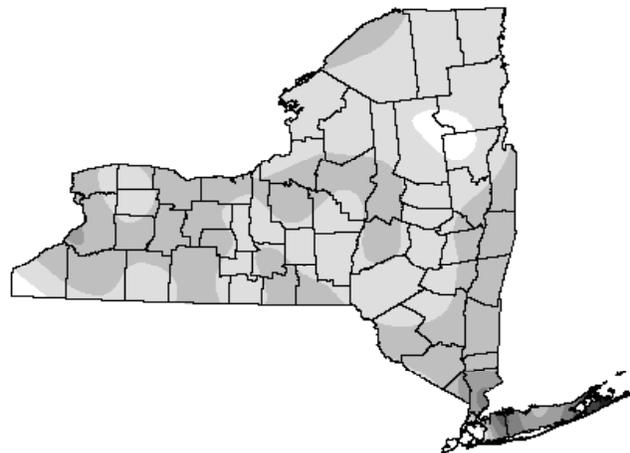
For a number of reasons, the shorter season and school attendance, to mention two, total participation in winter sports is generally lower than summer activities. This category includes a number of outdoor winter activities, e.g. ice skating, sledding, snowboarding, etc. It does not include snowmobiling or downhill skiing as these two activities require considerably more of an investment by their participants in both equipment expenses and travel time.

**Table 3.14 - Skiing and Ice Skating Facilities by Operator**

Operator	Places with Ski Areas		Lifts (#)		Places with Ice Skating	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
State	17	7.4%	8	4.1%	64	9.0%
County	10	4.4%	3	1.5%	54	7.6%
City/Village	20	8.7%	1	0.5%	229	32.3%
Town	22	9.6%	10	5.2%	211	29.8%
Federal	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
School District	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	19	2.7%
Non-Profit	4	1.7%	2	1.0%	17	2.4%
Private	16	7.0%	9	4.6%	18	2.5%
Commercial	140	61.1%	161	83.0%	97	13.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 3.15 - Skiing and Ice Skating Facilities by State Park Region**

Region	Places with Ski Areas		Lifts (#)		Places with Ice Skating	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Niagara	11	4.8%	7	6.9%	49	6.9%
Allegany	12	5.2%	8	7.9%	13	1.8%
Genesee	9	3.9%	2	2.0%	44	6.2%
Finger Lakes	8	3.5%	5	5.0%	35	4.9%
Central	39	17.0%	23	22.8%	121	17.1%
Forest Preserve	38	16.6%	20	19.8%	42	5.9%
Taconic	16	7.0%	6	5.9%	78	11.0%
Palisades	35	15.3%	12	11.9%	60	8.5%
Long Island	6	2.6%	1	1.0%	80	11.3%
Thousand Islands	18	7.9%	9	8.9%	49	6.9%
Saratoga-Capital District	27	11.8%	8	7.9%	91	12.8%
New York City	10	4.4%	0	0.0%	47	6.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



**Figure 3.9 - Need for Local Winter Facilities**

## Trail Activities:

### Hiking

Hiking is an activity enjoyed by many people at different levels of difficulty. As an activity, Hiking range from a short, informal walk at a nature center to a multi-day trek through the wilderness including backpacking. Involvement in hiking is predicted to be fairly flat over the projection period with a very slight decrease in number of participants offset by an increase in the number of days of hiking per participant. More information on this and other trail activities is available in the section Chapter 3 Trails and Greenways.

### Bicycling

Bicycling is one of America's major outdoor recreation and transportation activities. While this document is more focused on the recreational aspect of bicycling, it should be noted that the transportation component will likely grow in importance as the cost of gasoline and concerns over environmental issues increase in the future. Projections based on the 2004 General Public Recreation Survey indicate both the number of participants and bicycle days/year will increase about 3% by 2025.

Because bicycling is an important mode of transportation, and because even much of the recreational bicycling takes place on public roads, an important component of improving this activity in increased safety. This can be accomplished in a number of ways including the use of helmets, traffic law education and the construction or designation of separate lanes for bicyclists.

### Cross-Country Skiing / Snowshoeing

Over 1 million New Yorkers participate in this activity at least once a year, generating over 4 million activity days. Both the number of participants and

activity days are expected to increase between now and 2025, although the potential effects of global warming have not been taken into account in these projections.

### Equestrian

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

back riding, the 7<sup>th</sup> highest non-winter activity mentioned.

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

The projections for this activity indicate that between 2005 and 2025 there will be a modest increase of about 1.77% in the number of participants. However, a small decrease in the

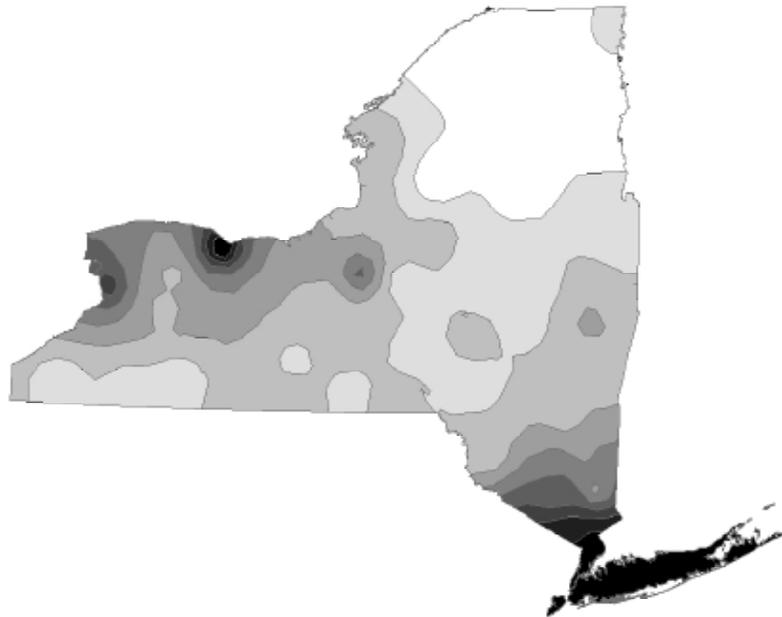


Figure 3.10 - Need for Equestrian Facilities

Results from the 2004 General Public Recreation Survey indicated that over 5% of the state's population had participated in this activity at least once during the previous 12 months. The average number of days per participant was 22, with those under 20 years old riding more than 30 days/year and senior citizens about 10. Additionally, when respondents to this survey were asked "What 2 activities would you most like to participate in, but can't for any reason?", 4.3% listed horse-

number of activity days per participant will result in the number of equestrian activity days remaining flat for this period. Nonetheless, there are areas of the state for which these participants need additional trails and other facilities.

### ATV/Off-Road Vehicles

Based on analysis of the 2005 General Public Recreation Survey, participation in ATV/ORV has increased since the previous SCORP. In 1998, approximately 5% of the respondents

## Trends, Issues and Needs

to the Recreation Survey indicated that they had participated in this activity. Among the 1998 group, the median level of participation was 5 days per year. By 2005, the percentage of ATV/ORV participants increased to 6.2% and the median number of days/year for participants had increased to 10.

Analyzing the results of the survey, various predictive variables can be quantified as to the extent that they influence participation in this recreational activity. One of the strongest predictors for ATV/ORV use is the type of community in which the respondent lives. The survey asked people to describe their community as 'inner city', 'urban', suburban or rural. Those living in rural areas were much more likely to be ATV/OVRers (16% vs. 1.2% for inner city residents). A similar finding was made for frequency of participation (15.0 days vs. 1.8 days).

Similarly, age is also a strong influence in the decision to participate in this activity. A higher percentage of youths participate than other age groups and they also participate more days per year. Similar findings regarding the effects of age and location on participation were noted in a study by the U.S. Forest service. This survey noted a higher overall rate of participation in these activities, but the activities were more broadly defined.

Using the findings of the survey in conjunction with US Census data to determine the extent of this activity in New York State, it appears that approximately 1.03 million people participated. This represents about 6.2% of the population between the ages of 12 and 85.

In January 2006, a report issued by Camoin Associates, Tug Hill Region ATV Economic Impact Study, estimated, based ATV sales data from 1996 to 2005 that statewide there were 320,000 ATVs operating in New York State. The sales data was provided by a number of industry sources. This figure seems

high in comparison to DMV registration numbers.

There is limited access to public lands for this activity. Currently, access to state lands by the general public is limited to some forest access roads on DEC administered lands. Additional access for the mobility impaired is available on a permit basis for hunting purposes. Most of the trails are on private lands, which may or may not be limited to use by ORV club members.

The future of ATV use in New York State is difficult to predict. At the time of this writing, gasoline prices have been fluctuating widely, but the overall trend has been an increase relative to income. Further, as upstate rural communities lag well behind the nation, and even the rest of New York in population growth and the average age of the population continues to increase, the demographics favorable to ATV usage are declining. (Applying parameters from the 2005 recreation survey to population predictions for 2025 indicates a decrease in this activity of about 3.5%.) On the other hand, the population trends have been in place for years and the number of registered ATVs has dramatically increased at the same time.

**Table 3.16 - ATV Revenues**

Fiscal Year	ATV Revenues Collected by DMV
2002-03	\$1,526,939
2003-04	\$933,066
2004-05	\$1,716,959
2005-06	\$1,340,434
2006-07	\$1,027,487

*Source: NYS Department of Motor Vehicles*

## Snowmobiling

Snowmobiling is an important part of the economy in many remote New York communities. A recent report (2003) indicated that spending attributable to snowmobiling to be in excess of \$800 million. This figure includes expenditures not only on equipment, but insurance, maintenance, gasoline and travel.

However, in recent years the number of snowmobiles registered in New York State has decreased from approximately 166,000 in 2002-03 to 130,000 in 2006-07. The current projections in this report are that snowmobiling will continue to decrease by about 5% both in number of participants and activity days by 2025. Rising gasoline costs along with changing demographics may explain this decrease. Snowmobiling could become more popular should the industry continue to become more "green" in terms of noise and pollution abatement and fuel efficiency.

## Other Activities

### Fishing

New Yorkers can choose from a variety of fishing experiences. Salt water fishing, both surf casting and deep water fishing are popular throughout Long Island and New York City. Because of the abundant sources of water throughout New York, freshwater fishing is also popular. In the winter, ice fishing is popular in many areas.

### Tennis

Participation in tennis continues to be tied to household income despite the relatively low start-up cost for this sport. Individuals living in a household where the income is greater than \$75,000 are about two and one-quarter times as likely to play tennis as those with household income less than \$50,000. Further, among those who participate, the rate of participation,

measured in days per year is about double for the highest income group.

Although tennis declined in popularity for many years, it now is projected to increase, albeit at a rate slightly below that of the general population. By 2025, the number of New Yorkers enjoying this sport is expected to increase about 1.01% and the number of Tennis activity-days will increase about 1.29%.

Table 3.17 - ATV\* Registrations\*\* by County 2002 - 2006

COUNTY	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Albany	2,414	2,246	2,014	1,913	1,530
Allegany	1,182	1,165	1,032	1,004	795
Bronx	313	251	201	178	120
Broome	1,779	1,644	1,456	1,438	1,161
Cattaraugus	2,050	1,822	1,520	1,400	1,071
Cayuga	1,431	1,338	1,161	1,073	873
Chautauqua	1,774	1,722	1,505	1,572	1,332
Chemung	1,125	1,079	962	964	780
Chenango	1,108	1,067	968	1,017	835
Clinton	2,951	3,005	2,903	3,015	2,475
Columbia	881	802	673	672	561
Cortland	955	940	865	801	613
Delaware	1,791	1,792	1,614	1,510	1,262
Dutchess	3,801	3,523	3,106	2,807	2,288
Erie	8,509	8,170	7,176	6,460	4,562
Essex	1,572	1,609	1,494	1,480	1,205
Franklin	2,961	3,019	2,886	2,963	2,699
Fulton	2,024	1,965	1,841	1,825	1,414
Genesee	1,564	1,482	1,254	1,242	991
Greene	1,291	1,258	1,107	1,015	822
Hamilton	312	310	292	284	239
Herkimer	2,081	2,103	2,036	1,974	1,487
Jefferson	5,919	5,759	5,071	4,948	4,004
Kings	523	461	435	441	341
Lewis	3,156	3,505	3,348	3,610	3,164
Livingston	1,225	1,172	1,040	987	771
Madison	1,407	1,420	1,269	1,274	1,026
Monroe	4,066	3,931	3,516	3,258	2,470
Montgomery	1,148	1,141	1,067	1,104	880
Nassau	3,733	3,237	2,878	2,394	2,055
New York	233	170	141	144	108
Niagara	4,255	4,243	3,846	3,702	2,591
Oneida	3,956	4,058	3,844	4,199	3,465
Onondaga	3,627	3,404	3,049	2,927	2,262
Ontario	2,024	1,943	1,738	1,642	1,339
Orange	4,826	4,629	4,041	3,645	2,783
Orleans	1,139	1,148	1,043	1,071	851
Oswego	4,716	4,601	4,197	4,010	3,404
Otsego	1,627	1,626	1,486	1,393	1,043
Putnam	1,378	1,239	1,100	907	647
Queens	1,397	1,216	1,083	1,013	791
Rensselaer	2,359	2,107	1,880	1,746	1,336
Richmond	650	570	473	423	351
Rockland	880	862	763	636	470
Saratoga	4,254	3,831	3,367	3,090	6,642
Schenectady	1,542	1,392	1,165	1,031	2,665
Schoharie	1,141	1,143	1,065	1,067	853
Schuylar	408	408	346	386	794
Seneca	549	567	495	513	359
St. Lawrence	7,544	7,847	7,445	7,456	456
Steuben	2,121	2,028	1,841	1,563	1,338
Suffolk	8,629	7,446	6,737	5,403	4,721
Sullivan	1,950	1,889	1,710	1,728	1,389
Tioga	1,055	998	887	757	573
Tompkins	740	710	664	558	484
Ulster	3,284	3,159	2,857	2,622	2,148
Warren	2,263	2,181	1,861	1,679	1,482
Washington	1,930	1,785	1,543	1,459	1,188
Wayne	2,675	2,635	2,316	2,219	1,717
Westchester	2,301	1,938	1,676	1,442	1,096
Wyoming	1,229	1,143	968	935	676
Yates	527	509	444	420	394
Out of State/Uncoded	990	809	719	644	498
Total	143,245	137,172	123,480	117,053	94,740

\*DMV defines ATVs as having 2 or more wheels; therefore, dirtbikes, trikes and quads are included in this data.

\*\*Does not include suspended, revoked or surrendered registrations.

Source: NYS Department of Motor Vehicles Data Services

*Trends, Issues and Needs*

## Golfing

Golfing is one of the few activities that seem to increase with age, although an increase in income over the same years of the lifetime may also be a contributing factor. With the aging of the baby boomers, this has been a

rapidly growing activity for many years. Now, however, with the youngest baby boomer turning 44, the number of golfers may not increase as rapidly as before. The projections generated from the 2004 General Public Recreation Survey indicate a small increase in golfers

(0.66%) and golfing-days (1.38%). Thus, golfing is increasing despite the advancing age of the population, but at a rate behind that of other activities that increase with age, e.g. visiting museums, walking.

**Table 3.18 - Golf Facilities by Operator**

Operator	Places with Regulation Golf		# of Holes		Places with Miniature Golf		Places with Driving Ranges	
State	17	1.9%	351	2.4%	1	0.5%	11	3.4%
County	25	2.7%	423	2.8%	7	3.4%	12	3.8%
City/Village	47	5.1%	774	5.2%	6	2.9%	12	3.8%
Town	34	3.7%	549	3.7%	2	1.0%	14	4.4%
Federal	3	0.3%	36	0.2%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%
School District	2	0.2%	36	0.2%	0	0.0%	2	0.6%
Non-Profit	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%
Private	297	32.4%	5175	34.7%	5	2.4%	46	14.4%
Commercial	493	53.7%	7567	50.7%	185	89.4%	221	69.3%
Total	918	100.0%	14911	100.0%	207	100.0%	319	100.0%

**Table 3.19 - Golf Facilities by State Park Region**

Region	Places with Regulation Golf		# of Holes		Places with Miniature Golf		Places with Driving Ranges	
Niagara	57	6.2%	936	6.3%	10	4.8%	20	6.3%
Allegany	36	3.9%	531	3.6%	7	3.4%	9	2.8%
Genesee	75	8.2%	1404	9.4%	20	9.7%	25	7.8%
Finger Lakes	78	8.5%	1249	8.4%	27	13.0%	29	9.1%
Central	170	18.5%	2538	17.0%	32	15.5%	48	15.0%
Forest Preserve	36	3.9%	459	3.1%	18	8.7%	7	2.2%
Taconic	95	10.3%	1629	10.9%	5	2.4%	18	5.6%
Palisades	75	8.2%	1089	7.3%	25	12.1%	41	12.9%
Long Island	130	14.2%	2502	16.8%	12	5.8%	36	11.3%
Thousand Islands	57	6.2%	819	5.5%	17	8.2%	22	6.9%
Saratoga-Capital District	87	9.5%	1386	9.3%	34	16.4%	60	18.8%
New York City	22	2.4%	369	2.5%	0	0.0%	4	1.3%
Total	918	100.0%	14911	100.0%	207	100.0%	319	100.0%

## Boating

New York State has abundant water resources and most areas of the state provide numerous facilities for this activity.

**Table 3.20 - Boating Facilities by Operator**

Operator	Cartop Launches	Boat Ramps (#)	Places with Docks or Anchorages	# of Docks or Moorings	Boat Rental
State	189	342	73	3,377	77
County	12	86	12	1,303	36
City/Village	19	143	42	4,322	28
Town	10	230	55	6,807	25
Federal	0	2	0	0	0
School District	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Profit	5	44	4	35	34
Private	9	312	177	12,314	56
Commercial	144	1,272	1,279	98,261	1,026
Total	388	2,431	1,642	126,419	1,282

**Table 3.21 - Boating Facilities by State Park Region**

Region	Cartop Launches	Boat Ramps (#)	Places with Docks or Anchorages	# of Docks or Moorings	Places with Boat Rental
Niagara	5	179	59	6,846	40
Allegany	15	86	25	1,835	53
Genesee	18	90	57	3,562	49
Finger Lakes	40	208	125	7,624	97
Central	91	228	112	10,250	133
Forest Preserve	66	250	85	2,131	204
Taconic	14	126	92	8,576	38
Palisades	24	153	64	6,311	109
Long Island	12	487	562	47,876	295
Thousand Islands	68	322	228	11,709	141
Saratoga-Capital District	34	155	84	3,760	84
New York City	1	146	149	15,939	39
Total	388	2,431	1,642	126,419	1282

## Downhill Skiing

As with snowmobiling, this activity is an important component of the local economy for certain areas within New York State. Skiing is a commercially viable operation and the private sector provides most of New York's facilities. Between 2005 and 2025, the number of downhill skiers is expected to decrease by 2.35% although the number of activity-days for downhill skiing should remain almost the same.

# Impediments to recreation participation

Respondents to the 2004 General Public Outdoor Recreation Survey were asked what prevents them from participating in more outdoor recreation. They were presented with the following choices: work/school takes too much time; financial limitations; preference for indoor activities; physical (health) limitations; few facilities available in their area; and nothing, I participate as often as I like. Their responses, grouped by the age of the person answering the question, are shown in the graph below and may total to more than 100% because of multiple responses.

As might be expected, for all except those old enough to be retired, time is the most limiting factor. For the elderly, health issues replace time as the most mentioned restriction on their ability to recreate outdoors. One of the results shown above, that may have long term implications for outdoor recreation providers, is the preference among the youngest group, those under 20, for indoor recreation. This group showed a higher preference for indoor recreation than any of the other age categories, whether or not this is the beginning of a long term trend for those who have grown up being entertained by

electronic video or just a statistical anomaly remains to be seen.

Additionally, as a measure of wanting to participate in recreation, the people surveyed were also asked to mention up to 2 activities in which they would like to participate but couldn't for any reason. Over 45% of those surveyed mentioned at least one activity. The most frequently mentioned activity was boating at 10.9%, followed by swimming (9.1%) and camping (8.0%). Among the winter activities, the most mentioned activity was downhill skiing (5.3%).

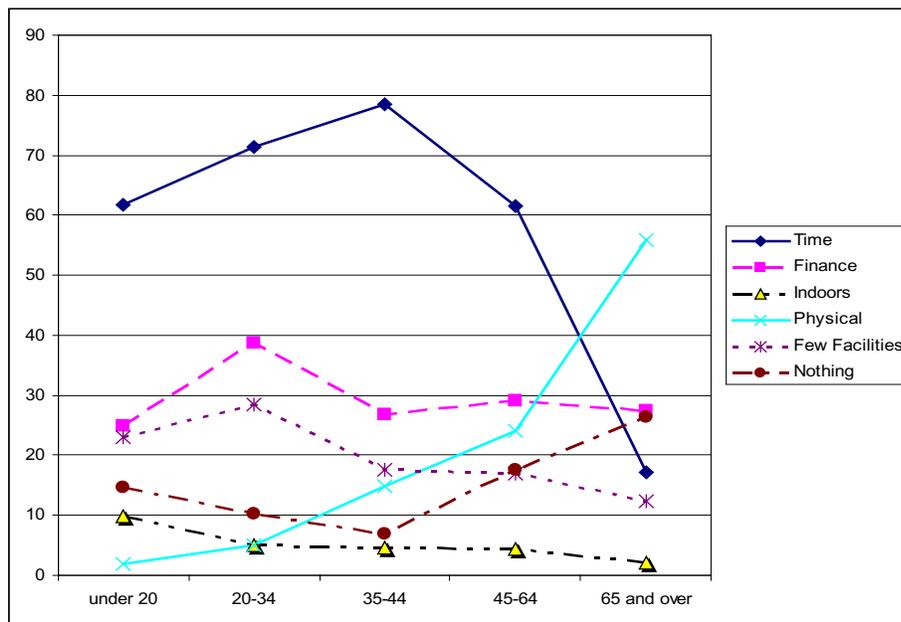


Figure 3.11 - Impediments to Recreation Participation

# Recreation Need

Recreation need considers the supply of recreation facilities and the level of participation (demand) in estimating how this level of participation will change, both geographically and quantitatively in the future. The "Relative Index of Needs" translates this need by county into a numerical scale, +10 the highest level of need and +1 the least. Five is considered the statewide average in the current year (2005). In all cases, there is a future need for all activities but the relative level will be different among activities and counties.

One of the factors used in calculating the Relative Index of Needs is the current and projected population of New York State by age and county. These figures are available from estimates developed by Cornell University together with the U.S. Census Bureau. The Relative Index of Needs also takes into account the fact that people travel for recreation by using available information on the location of parks and other recreation facilities. Comparing the number of future recreationists at the destination counties with the availability of present facilities helps to project the future needs for both new and rehabilitated facilities.

As mentioned above, the relative index of needs depends on a number of input variables for which reliable data must exist. If the input variables for the calculations cannot be determined with a reasonable degree of accuracy, the outputs of the equations will not be accurate. For some activities, not enough participants responded to the 2004 General Public Recreation Survey. For other activities, the data on the supply side, that is location and quantity of recreation facilities, were inadequate. Another possible data shortfall could be a lack of information on willingness to travel to participate in an activity. For

these reasons, relative index of need figures were unfortunately not computed for certain activities, e.g. surfing, ATV riding, and birding, although these were included in the 2004 General Public Recreation Survey.

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

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

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

## *Abbreviations used in the Relative Index of Need Table*

- Park* – Relaxing in the park, picnicking, playground use, other generic day use.
- Swim* – Outdoor swimming, either pool, lake, ocean or other.
- Bike* – Non-motorized use of bicycles whether on trails, established paths, off-road or on highways for recreational purposes.
- Golf* – Golfing on either regulation 18 or 9-hole courses as well as par 3 and pitch and putt courses.
- Walk* – Walking/Jogging on paths and trails. Walking for pleasure, generally requiring less equipment than hiking.
- Tenn* – Outdoor Tennis on any type of surface.
- Cort* – Court Games, includes basketball, handball and similar sports.
- Fild* – Field Games, includes baseball, football, soccer and other similar sports.
- Equine* - horseback riding
- Hist* – Visiting historic sites, museums, etc.
- Camp* – Camping including tent, RV camping and backpacking.
- Hike* – Hiking, usually along established trails and for greater distances than what is considered in the walking for pleasure category.
- Boat* – Boating including canoeing, sailing, motor boating, rowe boating.
- Fish* – Fishing, Salt and Fresh Water fishing from either shore or a boat, but not ice fishing..
- LocW* – Miscellaneous local winter activities: Ice Skating, Sledding, Hockey
- Xski* – Cross country skiing and snowshoeing
- Dski* – Downhill skiing
- SnoM* – Snowmobiling

Table 3.22 - Relative Index of Needs

Index of Needs	Park	Swim	Bike	Golf	Walk	Tenn	Cort	Fild	Equine
Albany	3	5	6	5	6	4	3	4	6
Allegany	4	4	3	4	2	3	4	6	4
Bronx	8	7	10	6	10	6	7	9	10
Broome	3	5	5	5	8	4	3	4	5
Cattaraugus	3	4	3	4	2	3	4	4	4
Cayuga	3	4	4	4	3	4	3	3	5
Chautauqua	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	4
Chemung	3	5	4	4	4	3	3	4	5
Chenango	3	4	3	4	2	3	3	4	4
Clinton	2	3	4	4	3	4	4	3	4
Columbia	3	4	4	4	2	3	4	4	5
Cortland	3	4	4	4	3	3	4	5	5
Delaware	3	4	4	4	2	3	3	4	4
Dutchess	4	5	6	5	5	4	5	5	6
Erie	3	7	7	6	7	4	3	3	8
Essex	3	3	3	4	2	3	4	4	3
Franklin	4	4	3	4	2	3	4	5	3
Fulton	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	4
Genesee	3	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	5
Greene	3	4	4	4	3	2	3	4	5
Hamilton	1	3	3	3	1	1	2	2	3
Herkimer	3	4	3	4	3	3	3	4	4
Jefferson	3	4	3	4	3	3	3	4	5
Kings	10	7	10	7	10	6	7	10	10
Lewis	3	3	3	4	1	4	4	4	3
Livingston	5	5	4	4	3	4	4	7	6
Madison	3	4	4	4	3	3	3	4	4
Monroe	9	8	7	5	7	6	5	8	10
Montgomery	3	4	4	4	3	3	3	4	4
Nassau	7	6	9	6	7	5	7	6	10
New York	10	7	10	6	10	6	7	10	10
Niagara	3	6	5	5	6	4	4	4	7
Oneida	3	5	4	4	4	4	3	4	5
Onondaga	4	6	5	5	6	4	3	4	7
Ontario	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	5	6
Orange	5	7	7	5	6	4	4	6	7
Orleans	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	5	6
Oswego	3	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	5
Otsego	3	4	3	4	2	4	4	4	5
Putnam	5	5	6	5	5	5	4	6	6
Queens	10	8	10	6	10	6	7	10	10
Rensselaer	3	5	5	5	4	4	3	4	5
Richmond	10	7	10	6	10	6	5	10	10
Rockland	5	6	8	5	7	6	4	4	9
St. Lawrence	3	4	3	4	2	3	4	5	3
Saratoga	3	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	5
Schenectady	4	5	5	5	6	4	3	5	5
Schoharie	3	4	3	4	2	4	4	4	4
Schuyler	2	4	3	4	2	3	4	3	4
Seneca	2	4	3	4	3	4	3	3	5
Steuben	3	4	3	4	2	3	4	5	5
Suffolk	6	5	8	6	6	7	5	5	10
Sullivan	3	4	4	4	3	3	4	5	5
Tioga	3	4	3	4	2	4	3	4	4
Tompkins	3	5	4	4	3	4	4	4	5
Ulster	4	5	5	5	4	4	4	5	5
Warren	3	3	4	4	3	3	4	4	4
Washington	5	4	3	4	2	4	4	6	4
Wayne	4	6	4	4	3	4	4	5	6
Westchester	7	7	9	6	8	10	5	5	10
Wyoming	2	4	3	4	2	3	4	3	5
Yates	3	4	3	4	2	4	4	4	5

Table 3.22 (Continued) - Relative Index of Needs

Index of Needs	Hist	Camp	Hike	Boat	Fish	LocW	Xski	Dski	SnoM
Albany	4	6	6	7	6	4	6	5	5
Allegany	3	4	4	6	5	5	4	4	5
Bronx	8	10	10	6	6	10	10	10	10
Broome	4	5	6	7	5	3	6	5	5
Cattaraugus	3	4	4	5	4	6	4	4	5
Cayuga	3	5	6	4	5	3	6	5	4
Chautauqua	4	4	5	4	4	4	5	4	4
Chemung	3	5	5	6	5	4	5	5	4
Chenango	3	5	4	5	5	5	4	4	5
Clinton	3	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	5
Columbia	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Cortland	3	5	5	5	5	4	5	4	5
Delaware	3	5	4	5	4	3	4	5	5
Dutchess	5	6	7	6	6	4	7	6	6
Erie	3	6	10	6	7	4	10	6	6
Essex	3	4	3	3	4	3	3	4	5
Franklin	3	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	5
Fulton	3	5	4	4	4	3	4	5	4
Genesee	3	5	6	5	5	3	6	4	4
Greene	3	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5
Hamilton	2	4	3	3	4	2	3	4	4
Herkimer	3	5	4	5	5	6	4	4	5
Jefferson	3	4	5	3	4	4	5	4	5
Kings	10	10	10	6	6	9	10	10	10
Lewis	3	4	3	3	4	4	3	4	4
Livingston	3	5	5	6	5	7	6	4	5
Madison	3	5	5	4	5	3	5	4	4
Monroe	9	6	9	7	7	5	10	5	5
Montgomery	3	5	5	5	5	3	5	5	5
Nassau	6	10	10	5	6	5	10	9	10
New York	9	10	10	6	6	10	10	10	10
Niagara	3	5	9	5	5	5	9	5	5
Oneida	4	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5
Onondaga	4	6	8	6	6	4	8	5	5
Ontario	4	5	6	5	5	4	6	4	5
Orange	5	7	7	7	6	4	7	6	6
Orleans	3	5	6	4	5	4	6	4	4
Oswego	4	5	5	4	5	4	5	5	4
Otsego	3	5	4	5	5	5	4	5	5
Putnam	5	6	7	5	5	7	7	6	5
Queens	10	10	10	6	6	8	10	10	10
Rensselaer	4	5	6	6	5	4	5	5	5
Richmond	9	10	10	7	7	8	10	10	10
Rockland	5	7	9	5	6	6	9	8	6
St. Lawrence	3	4	3	4	4	6	3	4	6
Saratoga	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Schenectady	4	5	6	6	5	3	6	5	5
Schoharie	3	5	4	5	4	4	4	4	5
Schuyler	3	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	5
Seneca	3	5	5	4	5	3	5	4	4
Steuben	3	5	4	6	5	7	4	4	5
Suffolk	5	8	9	5	5	7	10	8	8
Sullivan	4	5	5	4	4	4	5	5	6
Tioga	3	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	4
Tompkins	3	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5
Ulster	4	6	5	5	5	3	6	5	5
Warren	3	5	4	4	4	5	4	4	5
Washington	4	5	4	4	5	6	4	4	5
Wayne	4	5	6	5	5	4	6	5	4
Westchester	8	8	10	6	7	6	10	8	7
Wyoming	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5
Yates	3	5	5	4	4	5	5	4	5

