

Appendix A: The State of the State Outdoor Recreation System

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

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

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

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

State Park System

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

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

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

Water Access/Water Recreation

New York has abundant resources for water-based recreation. Boating, fishing and swimming are popular activities for New Yorkers. As a result, there is a high demand amongst existing facilities and services which create a need for more public access to the State's waters. With 3.5 million acres of lakes and ponds, 70 thousand miles of rivers and streams, 10 thousand miles of lake and marine shorelines, wetlands and canals all of which constitute 14% of the total surface area of the State. New York has approximately 460,000 registered powerboats in 2012 and ranks 7th in the nation for registered powerboat vessels. High numbers of boater registrations has a positive effect on the state, regional and local economy through job creation. Statewide, recreational boaters generated \$1.8 billion towards the economy and 18,700 jobs. (Sea Grant, 2003)

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

Water Based Resources

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

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

identified as needed, although beaches were not mentioned as often. Beaches may not be feasible in many of the areas surveyed because of physical constraints. (OPRHP General Public Survey, 2004)

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

State Lands and Forests

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

Forest Preserve

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

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

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

The policy framework provided by the APSLMP is resource-capacity driven, rather than user-demand driven, with protection of the Park's outstanding natural resources the underlying mandate governing New York State's provision of recreational opportunities on the State-owned lands and waters in the Adirondacks. This is reflective not only of the statewide importance of these resources, but also of their national and international significance.

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

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

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

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

State Nature and Historical Preserve

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

Wildlife Management Areas

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

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

Money used to acquire lands included in the WMA system has been a combination of state and federal funding. The Conservation Fund (begun in 1925) was the first dependable source

followed by two federal programs in the 1930s: 1) the Federal Resettlement Administration bought marginal and worn-out farmland and later donated it to the state for wildlife management purposes, and 2) the Pittman-Robertson Act, still in effect today, places an excise tax on guns and ammunition to fund restoration and management efforts for wildlife, including purchase of habitat. In addition, several New York State Bond Acts (1960, 1972 and 1986) also helped expand the WMA system.

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

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

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

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

State Forests

State Forest is a generic term used to describe the nearly 780,000 acres of DEC administered land located outside the Forest Preserve and under the direction of the Division of Lands and Forests in DEC. "State Forests" generally include lands classified as Reforestation Areas, Unique Areas and Multiple Use Areas. There are approximately 480 State Forest areas, ranging in size from less than 100 acres to over 9,000 acres. The State Reforestation Law of 1929 and the Hewitt Amendment of 1931 set forth legislation authorizing DEC to acquire land for Reforestation Areas, which make up approximately 85% of lands classified as State Forests. These lands are to be forever devoted to "reforestation and the establishment and maintenance thereon of forests

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

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

Wetlands

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

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

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

Freshwater Wetlands are those areas of land and water that support a preponderance of hydrophytic vegetation that is at a competitive advantage because of the presence of wetlands hydrology or hydric soils. Freshwater wetlands commonly include marshes, swamps, bogs and fens.

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

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

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

In New York, protection of wetland is a priority.

Values of Wetlands

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

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

filters through the wetland. Chemical processes in the soil also immobilize chemicals and heavy metals. Water leaving a wetland is frequently cleaner than water entering the wetland. Wetlands also protect fresh groundwater supplies in coastal areas by preventing saltwater intrusion.

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

open space because they are multi-beneficial and are often the only undeveloped areas along crowded river fronts and coastal regions or in urbanized areas.

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

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

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

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

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

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

State Agencies

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

wetlands are afforded the protections available under law. The Attorney General's Office also advocates for wetlands protection in consultation with federal, state and local agencies, and by advancing progressive positions in various legislative and administrative forums.

- New York State Department of Transportation (DOT): Affects wetlands through design and implementation of highway construction and maintenance. DOT has an environmental benefits initiative wherein they undertake positive environmental projects in conjunction with ongoing highway construction and maintenance projects. They have constructed, restored, and provided access to wetlands as part of their award-winning environmental benefit projects.
- New York State Office of General Services (OGS): Administers much of the State's surplus lands and all lands under water not explicitly deeded to private entities.
- New York State Canal Corporation: owns, operates and maintains the New York State Canal System; and, implements the Canal Recreationway Plan, including leading state efforts to develop the Canalway Trail.

Federal Agencies

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

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

Local Government

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

- planning departments
- tax assessors
- zoning boards and zoning boards of appeals
- soil and water conservation districts
- county cooperative extension
- environmental management councils
- town conservation advisory commissions (or boards)

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

Other Stakeholders

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

Protection Strategies

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

Acquisition

Acquisition can include a wide variety of protection strategies. It most frequently is associated with purchase of all rights and title to the land — full fee title acquisition. It also can include acquisition of only some of the rights to the land, usually the right to develop the land, which

leaves the property in its undeveloped, natural state. Acquisition also includes leases, conservation easements, donations, bargain sales, and transfers of development rights. It is the variety of means by which to guarantee protection or control of all or some rights to the use of the land.

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

Regulation

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

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

Planning

Planning is the proactive process by which to set a vision for a desired future state and to prepare strategies for achieving that future. It analyzes needs, sets goals and establishes ways for meeting those needs. It is based on both the past and present, but identifies the desired future state. Coordinated, continuous planning should lead to better decision-making.

To be most effective, wetlands protection should be integrated into other land use protection efforts, and not addressed separately. DEC has integrated wetlands into other agency plans, such

as the OSP and the Great Lakes Plan, and into other state agency plans, such as this SCORP and the Coastal Resources Plan.

Restoration, Creation and Management

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

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

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

Management includes:

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

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

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

Incentives and Disincentives

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

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

Research and Inventories

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

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

Education, Outreach and Technical Assistance

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

Most mechanisms are interconnected by many common threads, and do not operate independently. For example, when we acquire wetlands, we must then manage them. Education is important to get support and involvement for other mechanisms. Technical assistance provides support to landowners to manage their own wetlands. Inventory data, available

through a geographic information system, can be used by local governments to plan for wetlands protection. This interdependency will be evident in the discussions of the mechanisms.

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

Effectiveness of Wetlands Protection Mechanisms

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

Existing Wetland Resources: Inventories

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

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

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

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

- Coastal fresh marsh — the upper tidal limits of riverine systems. This category accounts for about 5 percent of the vegetated tidal wetlands in the State.
- Intertidal marsh — the area between average high and low tidal elevations. It includes about 60percent of the vegetated wetlands.

- High marsh — the uppermost tidal wetland zone. It includes about 30 percent of the vegetated wetlands.
- Formerly connected — areas where tidal flow has been restricted by either human or natural causes. It includes about 5 percent of vegetated wetlands.

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

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

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

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

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

Historic and Contemporary Losses: Statewide Trends

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

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

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

There were seven causes of change identified in the study: agriculture, urbanization, aggregate mining, linear development, beaver activity, modified hydrology (such as increased runoff), and plant succession. Agriculture resulted in a loss of an estimated 11,000 acres (50% of all losses) but reversion of ag fields resulted in a gain of 29,000 acres (76% of all gains) as farmland, drained decades ago, was abandoned and reverted back to wetland. This resulted in a net gain from reverting farm fields no longer in active agriculture of approximately 18,000 acres statewide. Approximately 83% of the gains and 37% of the losses from agriculture occurred in the Lake Plains. The Appalachian Highlands lost more acreage to agriculture but had only minor gains, resulting in a net loss to agriculture of about 2,000 acres.

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

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

This study did not attribute significant gains in wetlands acreage to beaver — only a small, and statistically insignificant 100-200 acres. However, beaver caused a change in cover type of almost

8,000 acres, as their damming activities flooded shrub/scrub and forested wetlands, changing them to open water and emergent vegetation.

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

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

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

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

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

From 1924 to 1974, 780 acres of marsh islands were lost due to direct dredging and filling (which were unregulated activities up to 1974) and 510 acres were lost (approximately 10 acres per year) due to other reasons. Since 1974, the study shows that the rate of loss of intertidal marsh islands

is accelerating. Between 1974 and 1994, 526 acres of marsh islands were lost at an average rate of 26 acres per year. Between 1994 and 1999, 220 acres were lost at an average rate of 44 acres per year. The vegetated intertidal marsh is being converted to nonvegetated subtidal lands.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fish and Wildlife

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

Wildlife Resources

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

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

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

Current Resources

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

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

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

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

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

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

Program Goals

The mission of DEC's Wildlife program is to provide the people of New York with the opportunity to enjoy all the benefits of the wildlife of the State, now and in the future. This mission is embodied in five broad goals: (1) to assure that populations of all wildlife are of appropriate size to meet all the demands placed on them; (2) to assure the public desire for information is met and to obtain public input into management decisions; (3) to provide sustainable uses of wildlife for an informed public; (4) to minimize the damage caused by wildlife and wildlife users; and, (5) to foster and maintain an organization that efficiently achieves these goals.

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

Discussion

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

From 1996 through 2001 DEC's BOW set about conducting a comprehensive wildlife management program that provides the people of New York the opportunity to enjoy all the benefits of the wildlife of the State. They accomplished this task through scientifically sound

management that incorporated the desires of the public and the biological needs of wildlife with the goal of maintaining sustainable wildlife populations now and in the future.

Fisheries

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

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

Canal Corporation

Canal Recreationway and Canalway Trail System

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

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

- preserve the best of the past;

- enhance recreational opportunities; and,
- foster appropriate and sustainable economic development.

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

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

Completion of the end-to-end Canalway Trail is another major element of the Canal Revitalization effort. The Canalway Trail, which parallels the entire New York State Canal System, will be the longest multiple use trail in the United States. More than 180 miles of trail have been completed since the Canal Corporation began the program in 1995. Approximately 300 miles of trail now exist, primarily along the Erie Canal corridor. The Canalway Trail parallels the Erie, Champlain, Oswego and Cayuga-Seneca canals, creating the spine of a statewide network of trails. Major existing segments are located in the Capital District from Albany to Rotterdam Junction, between Amsterdam and Little Falls, between Rome and Syracuse in the Old Erie Canal State Park and between Lyons and Lockport. Other shorter segments exist along the Erie, Champlain and Oswego Canals.

The 360-mile Erie Canalway Trail from Buffalo to Albany is over 75% completed. The Canalway Trail will link to other important state greenway and trail systems, including the Hudson River Valley Greenway Trail System and the Genesee Valley Greenway Trail, helping to create a network of trails spanning the State. The primary funding source for Canalway Trail development has been the Federal Transportation Enhancements program through ISTEA, TEA 21 and SAFETEA-LU with matching funds provided by the Canal Corporation. Other state agency and municipal partners have also developed portions of the trail.

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

Office of General Services (OGS)

OGS operates under the Public Lands Law to administer state-owned land, including uplands and all ungranted lands under or formerly under the waters of New York State. The Agency issues licenses, permits, leases, easements and occasionally grants to underwater lands; disposes of uplands determined to be surplus to the needs of the State; and, provides transfers of jurisdiction for state agencies and local agencies for certain specific purposes (including recreational uses) subject to special acts of the State legislature. The latter provision is related to Article 3, Section 34 of the Public Lands Law whereby OGS facilitates the transfer of jurisdiction of state lands to county or local governments for listed purposes such as park, recreation and

playground areas. These transfers are subject to reversion to the State should these uses no longer be pursued.

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

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

Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA)

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

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

Others

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

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

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

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

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

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

§ 3.09 General functions, powers and duties.

The office by and through the commissioner, shall:

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

the functions, powers and duties of the office, where the designation of a state agent is required under federal law or regulation, regardless of whether the project, program or activity is undertaken by the office or another person.

§ 3.15 Statewide park and recreation plan.

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

Title C - Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation**Article 13 - (13.01 - 13.30) General Provisions*****§ 13.23 Land and water conservation fund; state agent.***

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

in full for all expenditures advanced by the state which have not theretofore been reimbursed by the federal government. If such municipality shall fail to repay the state within one year after notice of such disapproval or disallowance, the state comptroller shall cause to be withheld from state assistance to which such municipality would otherwise be entitled, an amount sufficient to reimburse the state in full, and shall credit the same to the capital construction fund in repayment of such advance.

(c) In the event that any appropriations are made to the office or the department of environmental conservation from the capital construction fund for the payment in the first instance by the state of the federal share of the cost of a project, the state comptroller shall be authorized to receive from the federal government an amount of money equal to the amounts of money expended by the state from such appropriations made for such first instance payments and to deposit the same to the credit of the capital construction fund so that the state shall be reimbursed for the full amount of any and all such first instance payments from such appropriations.

4. Allocation of monies. The monies allocated to the state pursuant to such federal act, during each federal fiscal year, shall be apportioned by the commissioner of parks, recreation and historic preservation, with the approval of the director of the budget, between the state and its political subdivisions as the need may appear, provided that the projects of the political subdivisions qualify for federal assistance pursuant to such federal act and any rules and regulations which may be adopted by the commissioner.

Article 19 - (19.01 - 19.11) Historic Sites

§ 19.03 Powers, functions and duties; commissioner.

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

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

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

Appendix C: Wildlife as a Recreation Resource

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NR – National Register of Historic Places

NHL – National Historic Landmark

UCP – NYS Urban Cultural Park

Appendix E: State Nature and Historical Preserves

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

Appendix F: Statewide Programs

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

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

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

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

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

Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

NYS Snowmobile Program

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

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

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

Heritage Programs

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

New York State Designated Heritage Areas and Corridors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Boating Programs

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

Sports and Athletics

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

Department of Environmental Conservation

Wild and Scenic Rivers Program

National Legislation

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

Nationwide River Inventory (NRI)

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

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

State Legislation

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

Water Access/Water Recreation

Great Lakes

New York State borders two Great Lakes. Approximately 40% of New York's lands are within the Great Lakes watershed and more than 20% of its population resides within the basin. Recreation and tourism continue to be a major contributor to the economy of the Great Lakes region. As responses from the urban areas of Buffalo and Rochester demonstrate, increasing demand for swimming, boating and

fishing opportunities are placing more pressure on management agencies to “clean up”, maintain water levels, protect wildlife habitat areas, restore fish and wildlife populations, and provide more public access for improved public uses of the Lakes and their resources. Recreational use of the Great Lakes waters is often listed as an impaired use. With the anticipated expansion of recreational interests, greater demands will be placed upon existing facilities and resources in the Great Lakes region, many of which are not in sufficient supply or condition to satisfy these increasing needs.

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

Council of Great Lakes Governors

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

The Great Lakes Commission

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

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) was established by the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries between Canada and the United States in 1955. The Commission has two major responsibilities: (a.) to develop coordinated programs of research on the Great Lakes, and, on the basis of the findings, to recommend measures which will permit the maximum sustained productivity of stocks of fish of common concern; and (b.) to formulate and implement a program to eradicate or minimize sea lamprey populations in the Great Lakes. <http://www.glfc.org/>

New York State’s Great Lakes Basin Advisory Council

The Great Lakes Basin Advisory Council (Council) was established by statute (ECL Section 21-0917) in 1988. The Council was formed to assist the State in its effort to protect the environmental, social and

economic health of the Great Lakes Region. The Council functions as a link between state and local governments, private sector businesses, academic community and the public.

(<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/25585.html>)

Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs)

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

Remedial Action Plans

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

Great Lakes Action Agenda

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

Finger Lakes

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

In an effort to foster cooperation on waterbody management and better guide efforts aimed at protecting and improving the water quality in the Finger Lakes, our office has encouraged communities to develop a planning process that is focused on watersheds and not political boundaries. Attention has centered on the local development and implementation of watershed management plans for Cayuga Lake, Conesus Lake, and Canandaigua Lake. Because the watershed plans must establish a consensus among state and local government on future actions needed to protect water quality, the completion of each plan involved an extensive outreach and education process. Currently, the collaborative effort concentrates on implementation, which is being overseen by a partnership comprised of the local governments within each watershed, state agencies, and advocacy organizations involved in lake protection.

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

Hudson River

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

Hudson River Valley Greenway

In 1991 the Hudson River Valley Greenway was created in part to establish a network of multi-use trails along both sides of the Hudson River. Today the Greenway is working to create a system of trails from the northern borders Saratoga and Washington counties to Manhattan. The Hudson River Greenway Trail System consists of two main components: a land trail and a water trail for paddling and boating. A major route included in the land trail is Bike Route 9, a North-South on-road bicycling trail. As of January 2014 the Greenway Trail System consists of 368 miles of Land Trails (including 288 miles of riverside trails), 147 miles of Bike Trail and a 256 mile National Water Trail.

The Hudson River Valley Greenway's mission is to continue and advance the state's commitment to the preservation, enhancement and development of the world-renowned scenic, natural, historic, cultural and recreational resources of the Hudson River Valley while continuing to emphasize economic development activities and remaining consistent with the tradition of municipal home rule.

For more information on the Greenway Trail System please visit:

<http://www.hudsongreenway.ny.gov/Trailsandscenicbyways/TrailSystem.aspx>

The Hudson River Estuary Program

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

Marine Coast

New York State has over 2,000 miles of marine coastline and one million plus acres of marine surface waters. The marine district, which includes New York City, Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester Counties, is

home to 10 million people or 60% of our State's population. Development pressures have been progressing at such a rapid rate that significant remaining access to the waterfront is being lost. Programs such as the Open Space Plan and the DOS's Coastal Management Program (<http://www.dos.ny.gov/communitieswaterfronts/>) , provide methods and funding sources to provide access and to protect and preserve diminishing, recreational coastal resources.

Marine Recreational Fishing/Artificial Reef Program

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

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

Water Trails and Blueways

A Water Trail is defined by North American Water Trails and the Department of the Interior as a recreational waterway on a river, lake, or ocean between specific points, containing access points and day use and camping sites for the boating public and supported by broad-based community partnerships. Water trails provide both conservation and recreational opportunities. A Blueway is defined by *America's Great Outdoors* as a "designated community-scale portion of river recognized as a destination for fishing, boating, wildlife watching, and other recreation, which should get special attention for restoration and access."

In New York State the development of individual water trails began in the early 1990's and there are currently nearly 1,900 miles of operational water trails in New York, with more under development.

New York State Water Trail System

Water Trails are both a very old and a very new concept in long distance recreational trails. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has been managing New York's first water trail, the Adirondack Canoe Routes (600+ miles), since the late 1800's. Modern water trails are a more recently recognized trail type, first gaining national prominence in the early 1990's. A modern water trail is defined as a recreational waterway on a river, lake, or ocean between specific points, containing access points and day use and camping sites for the boating public and supported by broad-based community partnerships. Water trails provide both conservation and recreational opportunities. New York currently has nearly 1,900 miles of operational water trails, 1,750 miles of which are interconnected. These water trails are operated by a mixture of governmental and non-governmental entities. New York is home to two of the first nine National Water Trails designated by the U.S. Department of Interior, the Hudson River Greenway Water Trail (256 miles) and the Bronx River Water Trail (8 miles). New York shares one international and three interstate water trails: 1. crossing into Quebec, the Northern Forest Canoe Trail (147 miles in New York) runs from the Adirondacks to Maine; 2. the Lake Champlain Paddlers' Trail (120 miles) from Whitehall to the Canadian border, and; 3. the Delaware River Water Trail (75 miles in New York) running from Hancock, NY to Trenton, NJ.

Other water trails in New York include the NYS Canal System (524 miles) consisting of the Erie, Champlain, Oswego and Cayuga-Seneca Canals, the New York City Water Trail (160 square miles), the

Chenango River Water Trail (20 miles), and the Black Creek Water Trail (4 miles). Water Trails are under development on the Susquehanna River which begins in Cooperstown and ends in Chesapeake Bay, a number of Finger Lakes, the St. Lawrence River, Lake Ontario, Lake George, and along coastal Long Island.

Invasive Species

Invasive Species Council

The Invasive Species Council (Council) is a statutory body that was created in 2008 by Title 17, Section 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL). The Council was created to coordinate among multiple State entities and partners in addressing the environmental and economic threats of invasive species. The legislation defines invasive species as "a species that is: (a) non-native to the ecosystem under consideration; and (b) whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health." <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6989.html>

Environmental Justice

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

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

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

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

Department of State

Office of Planning and Development

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

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

Department of Transportation

Bike and Pedestrian Program

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

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

Transportation Enhancement Program

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

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

Scenic Byways Program

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

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

Canal Corporation

The New York State Canal Corporation, a subsidiary corporation of the New York State Thruway Authority, is responsible for the operation, maintenance and promotion of the New York Canal System,

a navigable, 524-mile inland waterway that spans upstate New York and connects the Hudson River with Lake Champlain, Lake Ontario, Cayuga Lake, Seneca Lake, and Lake Erie via the Niagara River.

The Canal System includes four historic canals: the Erie, Champlain, Oswego and Cayuga-Seneca; canalized natural waterways, including sections of the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers; five large lakes (Oneida, Onondaga, Cross, Cayuga and Seneca); short Canal sections at Ithaca and Watkins Glen; various feeder reservoirs, regional canals and rivers not accessible by boat from the Canal; and Canal terminals on Lake Champlain. The Canal System passes through 25 counties and nearly 200 villages, hamlets and towns rich in history and culture.

The Erie Canalway Trail is a multi-use trail, designed to accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, and cross-country skiers. More than three-quarters of the 365-mile Erie Canalway Trail from Buffalo to Albany is now completed.

First opened nearly two centuries ago, the Erie Canal played a singular and vital role in the history of New York and the United States, opening a young nation's western frontier to commerce and transforming communities along the canal in New York into important mercantile and industrial centers.

The Canal is a magnet for tourism, which in turns generates hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity across upstate New York. Commercial traffic on the Canal declined in past decades but has rebounded in recent years. Water resources from the Canal system are also used for public water supplies, industrial uses, research and development, agriculture, and hydroelectric power generation.

The Canal Corporation has transformed the New York Canal System into a world class recreationway and commercial waterway, with clustered development that fosters recreation, tourism and economic development, while preserving the natural and historical environment of the Canal System and its adjacent communities.

For more information visit: <http://www.canals.ny.gov>

Department of Health

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

Health

Recreation resources provide an important opportunity for people to be physically active, which can lead to significant improvements in health. Being physically active on a regular basis can contribute to a decrease in the risk of numerous debilitating diseases and conditions, including heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, some forms of cancer, osteoporosis, obesity, depression, arthritis, and possibly Alzheimer's disease. In fact, obesity has now reached epidemic proportions in New York State and

across the nation. According to the Department of Health, obesity is now the second leading cause of preventable death in NYS and will soon overtake tobacco use as the leading cause of death in the state.

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

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

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

Water Quality and Safety

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

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

Office for the Aging

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

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Harbors of Refuge

A number of harbors of refuge along the shores of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario were identified by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE). These lakes are often subject to sudden squalls and high winds creating waves and wakes in excess of 10 feet. Harbor of refuge is a term that refers to a harbor that provides services specifically to accommodate transit craft rather than as a home port for local craft (OPRHP, 1980). Initially, the COE recommended that harbors of refuge occur every 30 miles. It was determined, however, for smaller craft navigating the Great Lakes that shorter intervals were more

appropriate. Harbors of refuge have been established at Barcelona, Dunkirk, Cattaraugus Creek, Sturgeon Point and Buffalo Harbors on Lake Erie and Wilson-Tuscarora State Park, Olcott Harbor, Golden Hill State Park, Oak Orchard Marine Park, Braddock Bay, Irondequoit Bay State Park, Port Bay, Little Sodus Bay, Mexico Point State Park, Port Ontario, Henderson Harbor and Sackets Harbor on Lake Ontario.

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

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

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

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Lake Champlain Basin Program

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

Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act (BEACH Act)

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

National Park Service

National Heritage Areas and Corridors

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

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

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) System

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

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

Sea Grant

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

U.S. Geological Survey

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

<http://nas.er.usgs.gov/default.aspx>

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

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

Statewide Programs

Accessibility

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

Universal Access Program

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

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

Access Pass

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

Golden Park Program

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

Empire Passport

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

Appendix G: CFA Selection Criteria

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

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

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

II. Resource Impact (up to 25 points)

For Parks Projects:

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

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

For Historic Preservation Projects:

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

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

For Heritage Area Projects:

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

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

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

For Acquisition Projects:

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

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

III. Planning Initiatives (up to 10 points)

For Parks Projects:

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

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

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

For Historic Preservation and Heritage Area Projects:

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

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

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

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

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

For Acquisition Projects:

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

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

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

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

IV. Reasonableness of Cost (0-20)

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

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

A. Budget

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

B. Readiness

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

C. Feasibility

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

V. OPRHP Commissioner Priorities (0-10)

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

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

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

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

VII. Statewide Assessment "Commissioner Points" (0-10)

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

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

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

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

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

TOTAL (0-100)

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

Award points if the proposed project is located in a Hudson River Valley Greenway Compact Community, (see http://www.hudsongreenway.ny.gov/Planning/Greenway_Compact.aspx
<http://www.hudsongreenway.ny.gov/AbouttheGreenway/GreenwayAreaandMap.aspx> -click on the link at the bottom of the page for the map) and application documents that the project is consistent with the Greenway criteria of natural and cultural resource protection, regional planning, economic development, heritage and environmental education, and/or public access to the Hudson River.