

Open Project Selection Process (OPSP)

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) receives State funds each year for park projects in localities. In the last 5 years, over \$35 Million have been provided to local parks. It is felt that the most effective use of LWCF funding is for State Park projects. These parks serve all segments of the population, including residents that have received State funds for local park acquisition and development.

The first set of criteria for the OPSP are those that determine OPRHP's capital plan. In order to be selected, a proposed project must accomplish the following:

Does the project address a health and safety issue?

Will it address deficiencies in ADA accessibility?

Does it address critical infrastructure needs?

Will improve energy efficiency?

Will it provide a return on investment?

Once the capital plan is established, the agency looks at which projects would be most appropriate as an LWCF project. That means each project is assessed as to how it meets the goals of SCORP. The highest scoring projects are funded, based on the following criteria and 100 point scale:

Continue to Improve, Repair, and Expand Outdoor Recreation Facilities to Attract Visitors (20 points)

Provide improved outdoor recreation opportunities to communities with a greater need for such facilities or are otherwise underserved (10 points)

Reconnect Children and Adults with Nature and Recreation by Improving Access to Outdoor Recreation Opportunities (10 points)

Increase and Deepen the Visitor Experience by Reinventing and Redesigning Our Parks and Historic Sites (10 points)

Continue to develop a comprehensive, interconnected recreation-way, water trails, greenway and blueway trail system (10 points)

Continue to Protect Natural Connections Between Parks and Open Space (10 points)

Continue Efforts to Restore, Conserve and Protect the Biodiversity of State Lands (10 points)

Engage Park Visitors through Programming at Parks and Historic Sites (10 points)

Build a 21st century green and sustainable park system: fix and green the aging infrastructure of our parks and historic sites and open new facilities (10 points)