



Chapter 1 - Introduction

Parkland and open space are two of New York State's most valuable nonrenewable resources that enhance the quality of life. These important places have a long history dating back to Niagara Falls State Park, the "Oldest State Park" in the country and Central Park in New York City. Recognizing the value of the parks and open space, this system of protected areas continues to expand to over 6,000 public areas comprising over 4 million acres.

Federal, state and local governments as stewards of these resources are faced with a challenging situation of maintaining and revitalizing an aging system while looking to the future to protect critical open space areas and addressing the needs of the citizens and the environment. These resources can no longer be viewed as islands but as systems that need to be connected to benefit both people and wildlife. The benefits derived from these efforts are far reaching – enhanced quality of life, increased tourism, improved health, protected ecosystems, and sustainability of our environment. Parks and open spaces are truly "important places" and must be protected.

These protected areas are the result of a long history supported by various funding sources including bond acts, the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The parkland conversion process associated with parks funded through LWCF and the parkland alienation applicable to all municipal parklands afford long term protection of these special places. It is important that these mechanisms are maintained for the benefit of future generations.

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is prepared periodically by the New

York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) to provide statewide policy direction and to fulfill the agency's recreation and preservation mandate.

The SCORP process has evolved well beyond its original purpose of satisfying eligibility requirements for continued funding under the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The 2009 SCORP will serve as a status report and as an overall guidance document for recreation resource preservation, planning and development through 2013. It is the State's premier assessment and policy statement to the executive and legislative branches of state government, other units of government, recreation and preservation interest groups, and the general public on the state of the State's Parks. Planners, researchers, administrators, legislators, educators, special interest groups, the general public and private sector entrepreneurs utilize the SCORP document as a basic information source particularly for recreational issues, policies, priorities and for supply and demand forecast data. However, it is the ongoing planning process and its related products, which gives the SCORP its greatest meaning.

This document is also used to guide the allocation of state and federal funds for recreation and open space projects. The policies, needs assessment, programs and initiatives listed throughout SCORP are translated into criteria for evaluating projects in an objective manner. This document provides guidance for the allocation of municipal and not-for-profit funds to local areas and facilities with the greatest needs.

Currently, OPRHP and DEC are responsible for the bulk of outdoor recreation and conservation in the State. OPRHP administers about 330,000 acres of land incorporating 178 state parks,

35 historic sites, 67 marine facilities and boat launch sites, 20 parkways, over 5,000 structures, 77 developed beaches, 53 swimming pools, 29 golf courses, over 800 cabins and rental houses, 8,355 campsites, and over 1,350 miles of trail, as well as several outdoor education centers, museums, and nature centers and the Empire State Games. DEC administers nearly 4 million acres of land (including 3 million acres of Forest Preserve, over 700,000 acres of State Forest, and over 190,000 acres of Wildlife Management Areas), about 662,000 acres of conservation easements, 52 campgrounds, several day-use areas, 12 fish hatcheries, 1,280 miles of easements for public fishing rights, over 400 boat launch and fishing access sites, two Submerged Heritage preserves, the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center, and about 2,800 miles of trail, as well as several environmental education centers and summer camps.

The SCORP expands the OPRHP's mission statement and guiding principles to a statewide focus (Figure 1). The ideals within the mission statement and guiding principles are applicable to all public and private recreation providers as well as the protectors and managers of our natural, cultural and recreation resources. We share in the mandate to be responsible stewards of these resources.

Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Mission Statement and Guiding Principles

Mission Statement

The mission of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation 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.

Guiding Principles

- A Commitment to Leadership. We recognize the preeminence of the New York State Park and Historic Site System. We are committed to excellence, innovation, professionalism and to forging partnerships. We are committed to seeking the means by which operational and maintenance needs are met as recreational and cultural opportunities are enhanced for our patrons. To meet that challenge, we are committed to pursuing compatible revenue initiatives as we continue our commitment to protect resources.
- A Commitment to People. We are committed to serving and protecting the public to the best of our ability, with courtesy and respect. We are committed to our employees and volunteers, encouraging teamwork, self-improvement and mutual support.
- A Commitment to Service. We are committed to equal access and outreach to all segments of our society, recognizing individual needs and interests. We are committed to safety, security, creativity and accountability in providing our programs and services.
- A Commitment to Preservation. State Parks and Historic Sites are unique and irreplaceable public assets. We are committed to wise acquisition, planning and where compatible, development of recreational facilities; timely and professional care and maintenance; and a responsibility to future generations in whose trust we manage resources. We are committed to providing encouragement to all agencies and individuals to identify, evaluate and protect recreational, natural, historic and cultural resources.

Revised
July 16, 1997

Figure 1 - OPRHP Mission Statement



Buttermilk Falls State Park , Tompkins County

The Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) mission is taken from Section 1-0101 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law (Figure 2). DEC is charged with protecting the quality of New York State's land, water and air, the character of its scenery, the health and diversity of its fish and wildlife populations and habitats. Additionally, DEC conserves both living and nonliving resources for appropriate use. This includes managing the forest preserve in the Adirondacks and Catskills, protecting wetlands, rivers, lakes and salt water embayments, and serving as stewards of the State's plant and animal species. Saving and managing open space is a key part of this mission. In doing this, however, DEC bases its approach not just on the number of citizens who wish to participate in outdoor recreation activities, but also on the value of the resources themselves to present and future generations.



Blue Mountain Fire Tower, Hamilton County

Department of Environmental Conservation Mission Statement and Responsibilities

Mission

The mission of the Department is to:

"...conserve, improve and protect its natural resources and environment, and control water, land and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well being."

Responsibilities

The Department of Environmental Conservation is responsible for administration and enforcement of the Environmental Conservation Law. The Department's major responsibilities as assigned by the Environmental Conservation Law are:

- Regulate the disposal, transport and treatment of hazardous and toxic wastes in an environmentally sound manner;
- Manage the state program for oil and chemical spills;
- Provide for the abatement of water, land and air pollution, including pesticides;
- Monitor environmental conditions and test for contaminants;
- Encourage recycling, recovery and reuse of all solid waste to conserve resources and reduce waste;
- Administer fish and wildlife laws, carry out sound fish and wildlife management practices, and conduct fish and wildlife research;
- Manage New York's marine and coastal resources;
- Conduct sound forestry management practices on state lands, provide assistance to private forest landowners and manage fire prevention and control efforts;
- Manage the Adirondack and Catskill forest preserves and recreational facilities, including campsites and the Belleayre Mountain ski center;
- Protect tidal and freshwater wetlands and flood plains;
- Promote the wise use of water resources;
- Administer the wild, scenic and recreational rivers program;
- Regulate mining, including reclamation of mined lands, extraction of oil and gas, and underground storage of natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas;
- Inform the public about environmental conservation principles and encourage their participation in environmental affairs.

Figure 2 - DEC Mission Statement

Planning Process

Principles

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

The three principles are:

- Planning is a Continuous Process
- Planning must be Comprehensive
- Planning must be a Participatory and Coordinated Process

Process

The proper development of recreation and open space plans requires adherence to a fundamental planning process — inventory, analysis and forecasting, plan formulation, and plan implementation— supported by program goals, actions and accomplishments. A projection to the year 2025 is provided in the identification of recreation needs. Programs and statewide initiatives have a 5-year horizon; the plan must be constantly reexamined in light of changing conditions and new information. Planning, therefore, is a continuous, open-ended process. The plan provides the overall concept and policy framework for program and facility development. The action program identifies the implementation devices and strategies necessary to effectuate the plan.

Public Participation

The goals, objectives, policies, actions, and program priorities ultimately expressed in SCORP begin to be shaped early in the planning process through the identification of the changing needs of New York's people. To insure the plan is an accurate reflection of both current and projected recreational needs, the State has sought input from citizens, state and local governmental officials, and interest groups.

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

- Implemented a General Citizen Survey
- Implemented a Park Professional Survey
- Implemented a Trail Maintainers Survey
- Formulated an interagency Working Group
- Coordinated with user groups

Additional input was obtained through the public review process for the Draft Plan. Comments have been considered and, where appropriate, included in the final Plan. The Plan will be available for review on OPRHP's web site.

The participation of the public by no means ends the fulfillment of the above activities. Citizens will continue to be asked, periodically, what their recreation preferences are and their opinions on recreational issues and delivery of services. It is a major purpose of the SCORP to accurately anticipate the public's needs; and, in doing so, to lay the groundwork necessary to maximize the public benefit of the dollars spent for recreation and open space. It is further a purpose of SCORP to assure that the natural resources that comprise the State Park System are properly conserved and managed.

Chapter 2 -Vision and Policies

Vision for Recreation in New York State

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

Policies and Strategies

The direction for recreation in New York State is guided by ten statewide policies of which seven have been in place since the last SCORP and are still considered relevant. These policies provide direction and support for the protection and management of natural, cultural and recreational resources. The last two are considered supportive. The policies can be grouped into the four major initiative areas that respond to the current issues impacting the State’s natural, cultural and recreational resources and that are consistent with OPRHP priorities. The policies will provide a strong, statewide structure to support specific actions and administrative and legislative decisions. Action strategies that support the policies are identified in the SCORP Technical Report.

Revitalizing our Parks and Historic Sites

- Improve recreation and historic site operation, maintenance and resource management practices.
- Improve and expand water-oriented recreation opportunities.
- Apply research techniques and management practices to improve and expand parks, trails and other open spaces.

Natural Resource Stewardship and Interpretation

- Preserve and protect natural and cultural resources.
- Support compatible recreation and interpretive programs.

Creating Connections beyond the Parks

- Develop comprehensive, interconnected recreationway, greenway, blueway and heritage trail systems.
- Protect natural connections between parks and open space areas.
- Improve access to opportunities for regular physical activity that is in close proximity to where people live, work and/or go to school.
- Improve cooperation and coordination between all levels of government and the private sector in providing recreational opportunities and in enhancing natural and cultural resource stewardship.

Sustainability

- Employ ecosystem-based management to ensure healthy, productive and resilient ecosystems which deliver the resources people want and need.
- Improve and expand the statewide commitment toward environmental sustainability in all parks, recreation and historic sites and support facilities.



Cherry Plains State Park, Rensselaer County

Chapter 3 - Trends, Issues and Needs

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

Population Trends

New York State is the third most populous state in the United States with a population of 18.9 million in 2000 and a projected population of 19.2 million in 2025. The population level will remain fairly level through the year 2025.

Aging

The baby boom generation (those born from 1946 to 1964) will transition from being the most elderly part of the workforce to retirement. By 2025, the youngest baby boomer will be 61 years old. For recreation providers, this means a trend away from activities typically associated with youth: team

sports, court games and other high physical activities and a growth of other activities such as golf, relaxing in the park, walking, and other passive activities. Although New York's population is increasing slightly over the projected period, the number of senior citizens is increasing dramatically.

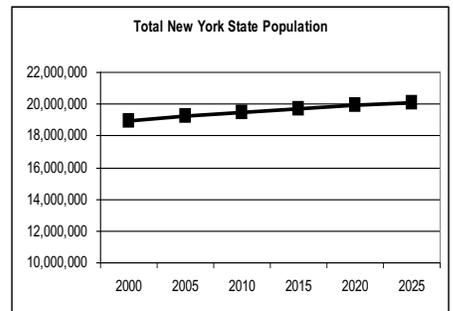
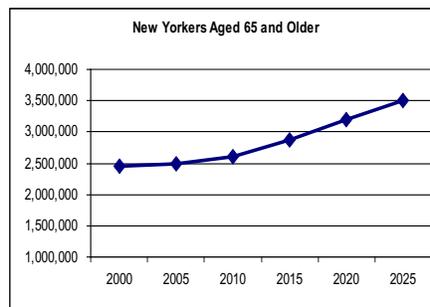


Figure 4 - New York State's Aging Population

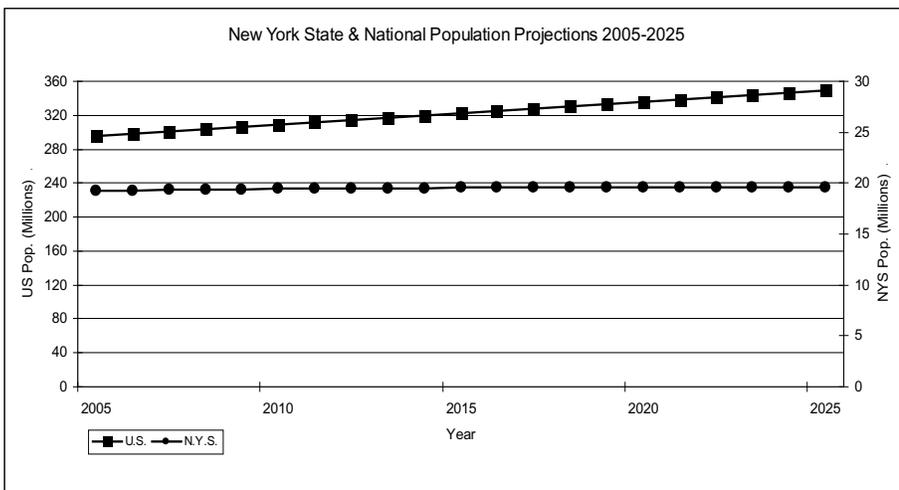


Figure 3 - NY vs. US Population Growth

Youth

While there has been a focus on research devoted to meeting the recreation needs of senior citizens because of the aging of the population, there is also a need to improve the quality and quantity of recreational experiences of younger New Yorkers as well.

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

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

Urban Areas

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

Universal Accessibility

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

Composition of the Population:

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

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

Leisure Time:

Recent research has shown a decrease in the number of hours devoted to work over the past generation.

However, it has been noted that passive, indoor activities such as watching television have increased at an even greater rate, thus decreasing the availability of the increased leisure time for outdoor activities. It has also been noted that the time devoted to outdoor recreation has increasingly been occurring during peak hours causing increasing pressure on limited resources.

Social Conditions:

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

Energy:

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

Climate Change:

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

Where the public stands on recreation and conservation issues:

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

Table 1 - Issues Regarding Recreation in New York State

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

Recreation Supply

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

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

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

Trends, Issues and Needs

Table 2 - Recreation Facilities in New York State by OPRHP Region

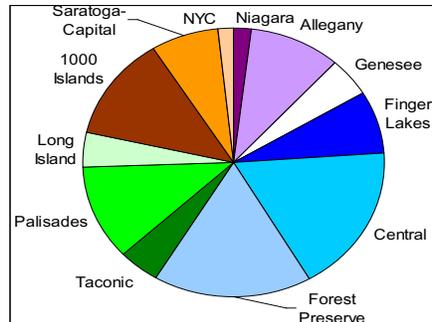
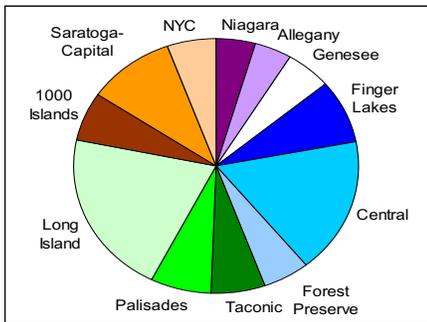
The table to the right includes only sites presently on the Outdoor Recreation Inventory. Note that not all sites reported acreage. The state acreage figure in the chart below does not include 2.7 million acres in the Forest Preserve within the Adirondack and Catskill Parks.

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

Recreation Demand

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

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



Number of sites by Region

Acreage of Sites by Region

Figure 5 - Number and Acreage of Sites by Region

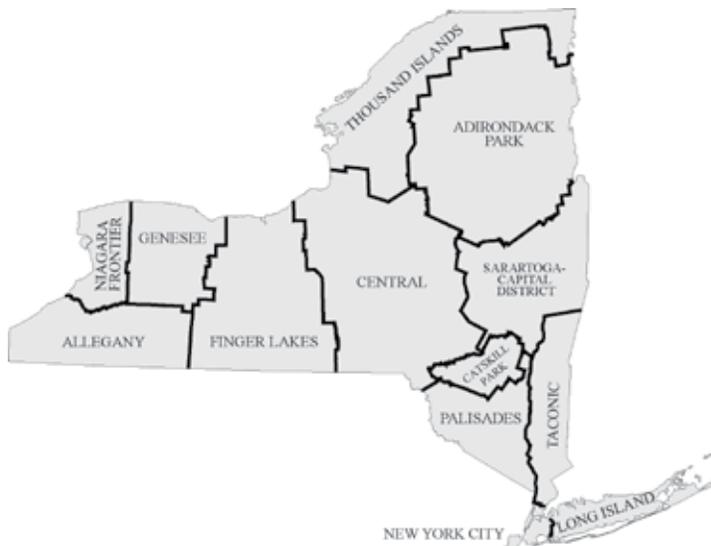


Figure 6 - OPRHP State Park Regions

Table 3 - Participation Rate Changes

Activity	2005 Number of Participants	2025 Number of Participants	2005 Activity Days	2025 Activity Days	% change Participants	% change Activity Days
Relaxing in the Park	12,495,807	12,994,075	104,170,358	109,449,437	3.99%	5.07%
Swimming	7,193,165	7,201,111	60,966,850	60,309,198	0.11%	-1.08%
Biking	5,148,247	5,304,582	51,482,470	53,047,831	3.04%	3.04%
Golfing	2,031,215	2,044,693	22,215,328	22,521,577	0.66%	1.38%
Walking/ Jogging	10,259,380	10,704,563	347,294,417	366,896,973	4.34%	5.64%
Tennis	1,734,461	1,751,914	8,140,674	8,245,728	1.01%	1.29%
Court Games	3,947,521	3,943,761	36,507,669	36,759,810	-0.10%	0.69%
Field Games	3,015,000	2,969,291	33,723,802	33,582,420	-1.52%	-0.42%
Visiting Museums/ Historic Sites	9,279,275	9,766,268	54,959,437	58,611,800	5.25%	6.65%
Camping	4,314,756	4,261,150	24,156,268	23,667,935	-1.24%	-2.02%
Hunting	1,003,858	1,027,296	7,702,896	7,790,958	2.33%	1.14%
Hiking/ Backpacking	3,084,106	3,080,203	20,821,392	21,068,539	-0.13%	1.19%
Boating	4,296,624	4,327,552	24,665,177	24,618,653	0.72%	-0.19%
Fishing	2,917,010	2,883,353	16,763,916	16,470,258	-1.15%	-1.75%
Local Winter	4,956,576	4,954,269	19,386,352	19,164,445	-0.05%	-1.14%
X Country Skiing	1,084,119	1,105,715	4,456,481	4,531,456	1.99%	1.68%
Downhill Skiing	1,252,905	1,223,477	6,400,664	6,366,777	-2.35%	-0.53%
Snowmobiling	762,384	722,935	2,109,036	2,003,940	-5.17%	-4.98%

In 2005, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation collected data from approximately 2,300 individuals on participation in outdoor activities and attitudes toward environmental and recreational issues. As part of the General Public Recreation Survey, New Yorkers were asked what recreation facilities they felt were needed within 30 minutes of their home. Similarly, also in 2005, park professionals and local government officials were asked about the need for recreation facilities in their community. The results, while similar, did show some differences:

Table 4 - Recreational Facilities Needed

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

Recreation Need

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Abbreviations used in the Relative Index of Need Table

- Park* – Relaxing in the park, picnicking, playground use, other generic day use.
- Swim* – Outdoor swimming, either pool, lake, ocean or other
- Bike* – Non-motorized use of bicycles on trails, paths, off-road or highways for recreational purposes.
- Golf* – Golfing on either regulation 18 or 9 hole courses, par 3 and pitch and put courses.
- Walk* – Walking/Jogging on paths and trails. Walking for pleasure, generally requiring less equipment than hiking.
- Tenn* – Outdoor tennis on any type of surface.
- Cort* – Court Games, includes basketball, handball and similar sports.
- Fild* – Field Games, includes baseball, football, soccer and other similar sports.
- Equine* – Horseback riding
- Hist* – Visiting historic sites, museums, etc.
- Camp* – Camping including tent, RV camping and backpacking.
- Hike* – Hiking, usually along established trails for greater distances than what is considered in the walking for pleasure category.
- Boat* – Boating including canoeing, sailing, motorboating, rowboating.
- Fish* – Fishing, Salt and Fresh Water fishing from either shore or a boat.
- LocW* – Miscellaneous local winter activities: Ice Skating, Sledding, Hockey
- Xski* – Cross country skiing and snowshoeing
- Dski* – Downhill skiing
- SnoM* – Snowmobiling

Table 5 - Relative Index of Need (10-high; 5-statewide average; 1-low)

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

Trends, Issues and Needs

Table 5 - Relative Index of Need (10-high; 5-statewide average; 1-low)

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

The data presented in the previous table can also be presented using a map, shading areas of greater need for recreational facilities darker and averaging the data spatially between the counties. As an example, the map shown below has done this using a weighted average of the relative index of needs for relaxing in the park, swimming and bicycling:

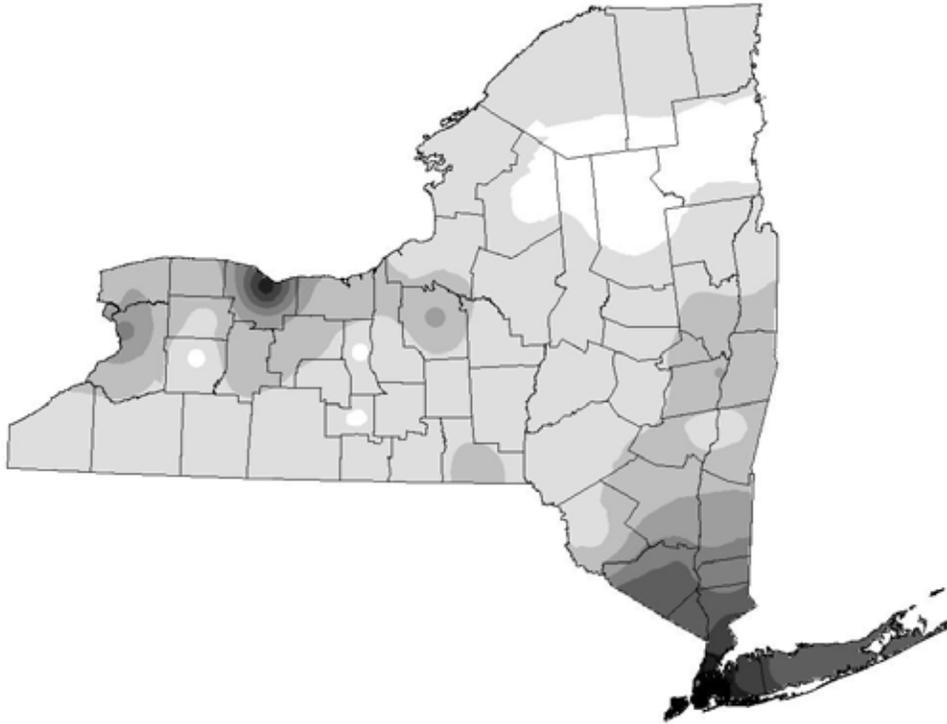


Figure 7 - Relative Index of Need Map

