

Chapter 1: Introduction

Planning and Environmental Review

Planning

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) planning process adheres to three basic principles:

- **Planning is a continuing process:** Assumptions for the classification and management of park resources must be constantly re-evaluated in light of new information, changing needs and priorities, and resource character.
- **Planning must be comprehensive:** The information base, and pertinent additional research, should support the planning process and should encompass relevant social, economic and physical factors relating to the management and operation of the park and its resources.
- **Planning must be coordinated and provide for public participation:** Cooperation among appropriate governmental organizations, the public at large, special interest groups and the private sector is not only desirable but necessary.

Environmental Review

The environmental review of proposed master plans for state park facilities is conducted in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). OPRHP fully integrates the planning and environmental review processes. This document serves as both the Master Plan and the Environmental Impact Statement for Hallock State Park.

To ensure that master plans conserve and protect coastal and watershed ecosystems of the State of New York, OPRHP has embraced the principles of ecosystem-based management (EBM). The principles of EBM are included and represented within the master plans. These principles are: to start with a place based focus, base management decisions on the best available science, provide measurable objectives to direct and evaluate performance, use adaptive management to respond to new knowledge and changing conditions, recognize interconnections within and among ecosystems, and involve stakeholders to incorporate local knowledge. An EBM approach to management ensures that decisions are made holistically, focusing not on a single species or resource, but considering all parts of the ecosystems, including humans.

Sustainability

Sustainability is a philosophy on how to improve, operate and maintain State Parks and Historic Sites, while at the same time, minimizing or reducing the impacts of State Parks and Historic Sites have on the natural environment and ensuring future generations are able to enjoy and use these resources.

Sustainability looks at the whole rather than the individual parts to maximize energy efficiency and minimize environmental impact; reduce use of fossil fuels; reduce or eliminate hazardous substances; protect biodiversity and ecosystems; and use resources carefully, respectfully and efficiently to meet current needs without compromising the needs of other living creatures and the use of those resources by future generations.

OPRHP is committed to reducing its impact on the environment and to becoming more carbon neutral by adopting more sustainable practices in park development, improvement, operation and

maintenance. Sustainable practices and alternatives were incorporated and considered in the planning process and are incorporated throughout this Master Plan.

Introduction to the Park

Establishment of the Park

Hallock State Park Preserve was created in 2006 through the acquisition of 220 acres from the KeySpan Corporation with the assistance of the Trust for Public Land.

Previous Planning Efforts

Plans to develop the site as an industrial harbor were developed in the 1960s and plans to develop a nuclear facility were drafted in the 1970s. Archeological investigations were conducted at the site during the 1970s related to the aforementioned development proposals. However, no formal plans for recreation and natural resource protection have been prepared for the park up until this point in time.

What has prompted the preparation of this report?

Hallock State Park Preserve is a new park that requires direction for its long term protection, management and development. The plan will assure that the recreational, educational and cultural proposals and opportunities are compatible with the natural and cultural resources.