

III. Vision and Goals

In 1998, OPRHP acquired over 3,200 acres of land that more than tripled the size of Moreau Lake State Park. Now, Moreau Lake State Park is the largest park in the Saratoga-Capital District Region. To help guide development, management and operation of the now 4,100+ acre park, a vision statement and primary goals have been developed. The "Vision Statement" was developed using the resource information from the "Environmental Setting" chapter, public scoping meetings, and advisory committee suggestions. The vision statement and subsequent goals are designed to be consistent with OPRHP's Mission Statement, the statewide recreation policies and program goals outlined in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), and other federal, state and local programs and plans.

Mission Statement and Guiding Principles of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

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 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

Vision Statement

Moreau Lake State Park will be a place for the residents and non-residents of New York State to visit and enjoy and appreciate the natural, cultural and physical resources and the recreational opportunities that the park offers.

Overall Goal for the Park

To achieve a balance between the recreational use, protection and interpretation of the biological, physical and cultural resources of the park.

Natural Resource Goals

Overall Goal: To identify, protect and interpret the natural resources within and associated with the park.

- Design and locate recreational facilities to assure that they do not exceed the parkland's capacity to withstand use.
- Protect, manage and maintain areas important as habitat for rare, threatened, endangered or protected plant and animal species and community types.
- Identify areas with environmental sensitivity, such as wetlands, and direct intensive development away from such areas.
- Maintain, restore and/or enhance the natural environment, where appropriate, to improve the quality of natural resources and support biodiversity of plant and animal species.
- Develop interpretive programs that focus on the plants, animals and natural communities of the park.
- Encourage the propagation of species of plant and animals considered native and indigenous to the area.
- Control the impacts of invasive species on the biodiversity of plants and animals.
- Protect and maintain the quality of water resources both on and associated with the park.

Recreation Goals

Overall Goal: Provide day use and overnight facilities that are compatible with the park's natural and cultural resources.

- Provide year-round facilities and programs for the public.
- Implement programs and facilities that are consistent with regional and local needs and demands as identified in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, and other federal, state, and local plans and programs.

- Develop programs to interpret the natural, cultural and physical resources and educate the public of their importance.
- Design facilities to be compatible with the character of the park and its resources.

Cultural Resource Goals

Overall Goal: Identify, protect, preserve and interpret sites and areas significant to the history, archaeology and culture of the local community, region, state and nation.

- Identify and protect archaeologically sensitive areas.
- Minimize or avoid disturbances within archaeologically sensitive areas.
- Preserve and interpret cultural resources.
- Develop programs and activities which interpret the history and culture of the area and the park.

Scenic Resource Goals

Overall Goal: Protect the scenic quality of the park and its viewshed.

- Design and locate all activities, structures and infrastructure to minimize impacts and to fit into the park's setting.
- Provide and maintain vistas to the Hudson River, Moreau Lake, and other scenic features, using topography or existing clearings whenever possible.

Access Goals

Overall Goal: Provide appropriate access to the park and its recreational, cultural and natural resources.

- Provide and maintain access to the Park and associated recreation facilities.
- Provide access to natural/passive recreation areas.
- Provide access to trail systems.
- Improve access to developed areas.
- Provide and develop access to water resources.
- Provide access to park resources for persons with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG).

Education and Interpretation Goals

Overall Goal: Provide opportunities for education and interpretation of the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the park.

- Design interpretive programs that focus on the park's natural, cultural and recreation resources.

- Provide interpretive programs designed for the general public and for organized groups.
- Design programs that are compatible with the protection of park resources.
- Provide a year-round interpretive program.
- Develop an outreach program designed for local schools and other organizations.
- Develop partnerships with other providers that can offer interpretive programs designed for the park visitors and groups.

Operation and Maintenance Goals

Overall Goal: Operate and maintain the park in a safe and clean manner that protects the natural and cultural resources of the park.

- Develop a set of design, maintenance and operation guidelines
- Develop partnerships for maintenance and operation of the park facilities.
- Identify specific approaches to address resource protection within the operation and maintenance programs.
- Enhance revenue generation opportunities.

Communication and Partnership Goals

Overall Goal: Develop partnerships with organizations, federal, state and local agencies, not-for-profit organizations and the private sector.

- Coordinate with Niagara Mohawk and Erie Boulevard Power/Reliant Energy (and their successors) in the management of the lands owned by these firms and managed by OPRHP under management agreements.
- Coordinate with local and state agencies in the management of the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the park.
- Coordinate and cooperate with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in the management of lands under their jurisdiction as covered by the Memorandum of Understanding between OPRHP and DEC.
- Ensure that the development of facilities and programs consider the plans and policies of other state and federal agencies.
- Provide opportunities for input regarding park management and development from the public.

Inventory, Monitoring and Research Goals

Overall Goal: Encourage scientific research into the natural and cultural resources of the park.

- Provide a coordinated approach to inventory, monitoring and research that facilitates data exchange.
- Conduct and encourage research by individuals, interest groups and institutions.
- Develop and implement a monitoring program that measures changes within the park.
- Promote research that complements the other goals for the park.
- Assure that all monitoring and research programs are compatible with the protection of park resources.

