



**Final Master Plan
&
Final Environmental
Impact Statement**



Robert H. Treman State Park

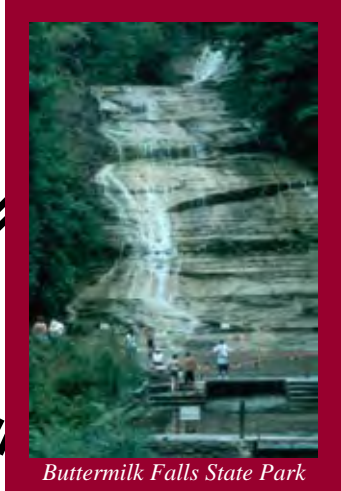
The Pathway



Linking



State Parks



Buttermilk Falls State Park



*Allan H. Treman State
Marine Park*



Taughannock Falls State Park



David A. Paterson
Governor

Carol Ash
Commissioner

July 2008

Acknowledgements

The Black Diamond Trail Final Master Plan/Environmental Impact Statement is a product of many years of collaborative work. The version of the multi-use, multi-purpose trail presented in the following document encompasses three decades of effort and talent from State Parks staff and community leaders and planners in the City of Ithaca, Town of Ithaca and Tompkins County. The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) would like to acknowledge and thank the contributors to the project, many of whom are now enjoying their retirement years.

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*Final Master Plan/
Final Environmental Impact Statement
For
Black Diamond Trail*

Town of Ithaca, City of Ithaca, Town of Ulysses



Tompkins County, New York State

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Questions and Answers About This Final Master Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement

WHAT IS THE ACTION?

The action is the adoption and implementation of a Master Plan for the Black Diamond Trail.

WHO IS PROPOSING TO DO THIS?

The Commissioner of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is proposing the action.

WHY WAS THIS REPORT WRITTEN?

This Final Master Plan/Environmental Impact Statement was written to provide direction to OPRHP staff on the development, operation and maintenance of the Black Diamond Trail. Making the plan publicly available gives the opportunity for individuals, organizations and other government agencies to participate in the development of the Black Diamond Trail.

HOW MUCH OPPORTUNITY HAS THERE BEEN FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION?

The trail project has been the subject of three public information and scoping meetings to gather information, concerns and issues surrounding the development and management of the multi-use, multi-purpose trail. Meetings were also held with special interest groups and adjacent property owners to refine specific issues to help guide trail development options. The project also has been discussed during several other planning initiatives completed or underway in Tompkins County, New York.

The draft master plan was released for public review on November 21, 2007. Two public workshops and hearings on the draft plan were held on December 5 and 6, 2007, offering the public an opportunity to provide oral and written comments on the proposed trail project. The comment period was extended to January 15, 2008, in recognition that the plan was released in the midst of the 2007 holiday season.

HOW SHOULD THIS REPORT BE REVIEWED?

The report can be read from cover to cover or one may concentrate on particular areas of interest. Refer to the Table of Contents to locate topic-specific information.

WHAT HAS THE COMMISSIONER DECIDED?

Commissioner Ash has decided that a Master Plan/Environmental Impact Statement is necessary to guide the development and management of the Black Diamond Trail. At this time, the Commissioner also has

decided that the final plan be made available for public consideration. She has not made any decision regarding the adoption of the Master Plan/Environmental Impact Statement.

HOW CAN SOMEONE COMMENT ON THE PLAN?

People who wish to comment on this plan may write or call:

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WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The Final Master Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement is subject to a 10-day review period for agencies and the public to consider this document. Commissioner Ash then issues a statement of findings, which describes the Action being taken and description of the basis for her decision.