

INFORMATION PACKET for  
DRAFT MASTER PLAN and  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**  
Green Lakes State Park  
July 7, 2009  
7:00 PM  
Pine Grove Middle School



David A. Paterson  
Governor

Carol Ash  
Commissioner

Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

## **Agenda for Public Information Meeting**

1. Introductions and Welcoming Remarks
2. Overview and Timeline of the Planning Process
3. Overview of the Park
4. Public Input
5. Next Steps

## **Introduction**

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) has developed new Priority Themes and Initiatives that will help guide the agency's activities. These new priorities are Revitalizing our Parks and Historic Sites, Natural Resource Stewardship and Interpretation, Creating Connections and Sustainability. The master plan for Green Lakes State Park is part of an accelerated planning initiative that will advance these themes, and determine the best course of action to preserve and utilize park resources for this and future generations.

Green Lakes State Park is the Central NY State Park Region's premier park, offering year-round recreational opportunities in a unique natural setting. The Park's outstanding feature is its two glacial lakes surrounded by upland forest. Both Round and Green Lakes are meromictic lakes, which mean that there is no fall and spring mixing of surface and bottom waters. Another special feature of the park is an 18-hole golf course designed by Robert Trent Jones, where visitors can snowshoe in winter, and there are 10 miles of trails that cross-country skiers can use. Camping is a popular activity at the park in its 137-site campground and cabin area. Day uses such as picnicking and swimming are centralized around the beach on Green Lake. Green Lakes State Park is host to more than 800,000 visitors annually.

The purpose of this public information meeting is to actively invite public participation and involvement into the planning process. Public participation will help OPRHP in identifying issues, concerns and alternatives as well as determining the depth to which each of the topics is explored within the Draft Master Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). It is important to provide public input opportunities now and throughout the planning process to encourage identification of the compelling issues to be addressed within this planning effort.

This information packet and the public information meeting are intended to provide the public with a concise overview of the Park, the setting, the resources and the issues identified to this point. Additionally the meeting is designed to provide an opportunity for public input at an early stage in the master planning process.

Additional information can be obtained from OPRHP at:

Robert Hiltbrand, Regional Director  
Central Region  
Clark Reservation  
6105 E Seneca Turnpike  
Jamesville, NY 13078  
(315) 492-1756

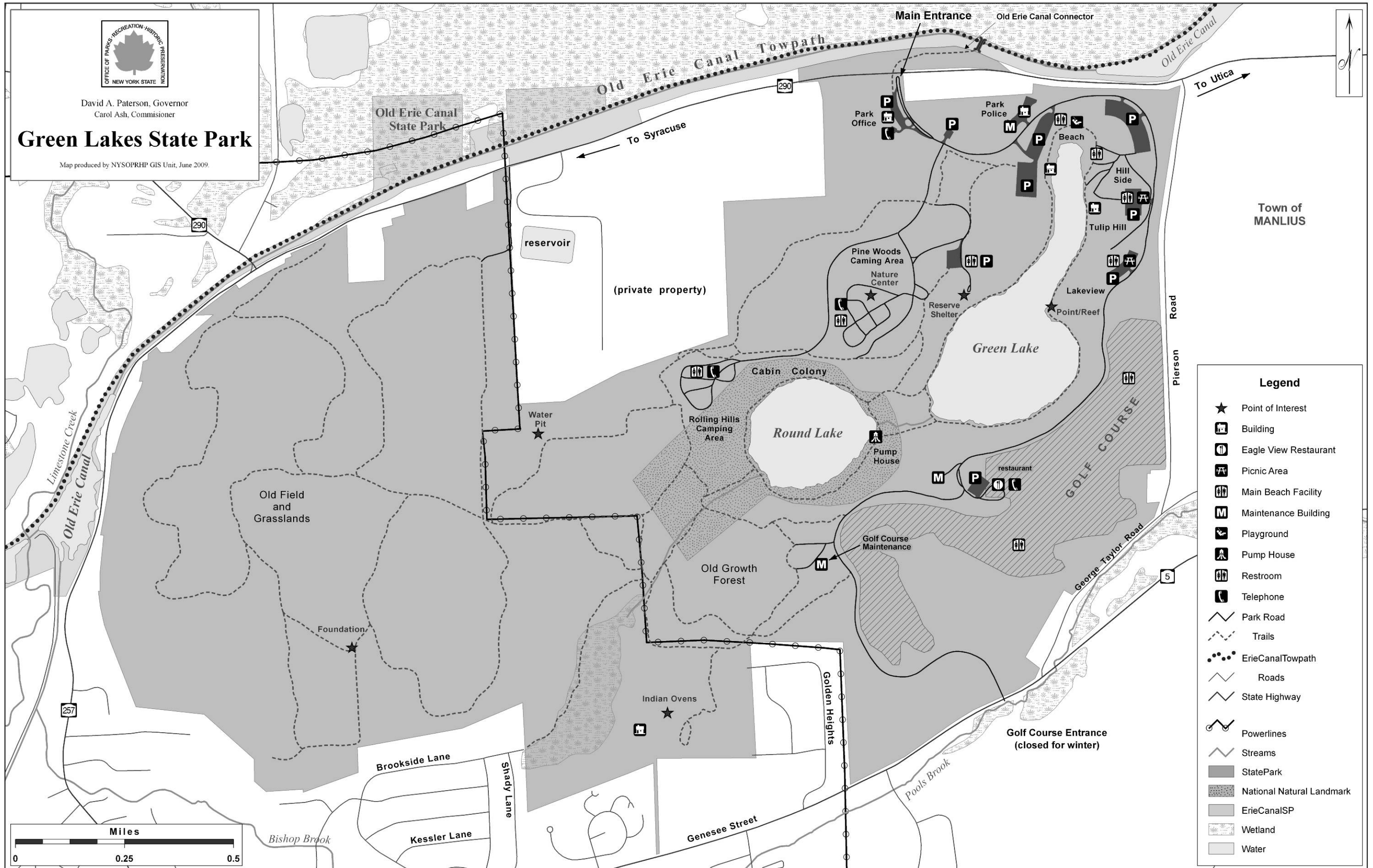
Mark Hohengasser, Park Planner  
Planning Bureau  
Agency Building 1  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12238  
(518) 486-2909



David A. Paterson, Governor  
Carol Ash, Commissioner

# Green Lakes State Park

Map produced by NYSOPRHP GIS Unit, June 2009.





## **Overview**

Green Lakes State Park offers a multitude of recreational opportunities in a unique natural setting. Activities such as golfing, swimming, picnicking, camping, hiking, and biking are all available to more than 800,000 visitors annually. The park contains two meromictic lakes, Green Lake and Round Lake. Round Lake and its surrounding old-growth forest has been designated as a National Natural Landmark.

## **Timeline**

- 1792 – The “Military Tract” was surveyed and divided into lots to compensate soldiers of the Revolutionary War.
- 1817 – Lands surrounding Round and Green Lakes were settled by David Collin III and later divided among his 6 children.
- 1800s – Small passenger steamboats would bring people from Syracuse and Fayetteville to Green Lakes Landing via the Fayetteville Feeder Canal and the Erie Canal. Facilities for picnicking, boating and dancing were made available on Green Lake through private initiatives.
- Late 1800s – The area is known to naturalists and hikers as one of the most outstanding features of the United States.
- 1928 – The State of NY purchases 500 acres surrounding and including Round and Green Lakes.
- 1930s – The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) had a camp in the park and built the cabins that are used today.
- 1942 – During World War II the park was the site of a German prisoner of war camp.
- 1975 – The State of NY acquires an additional 188 acres at the southern boundary to preserve the drainage basin of Round Lake.

The State continued to acquire lands and add them to the Park to protect and buffer the Lakes and recreational resources from increasing development pressures. Green Lakes State Park has nearly doubled in size over the past 15 years to its current 1,955 acres.

## **Proposed Master Plan Timeline**

Public Information Meeting – *July 7, 2009*

Comments Due – *August 7, 2009*

Draft Plan/DEIS – *July 2010*

Hearing – *August 2010*

Final Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) – *November 2010*

Findings and Adoption – *December 2010*

## **Environmental Setting**

The park is located in the Central NY State Parks Region, in the Onondaga County town of Fayetteville. The park is bordered to the north by Route 290 and Old Erie Canal State Park. The western border is Route 257 and the eastern boundary lies parallel to Pierson Road. The Southern boundary is a jagged line that abuts the village of Fayetteville and Route 5.

### **Demographics of Users**

Green Lakes State Park attracts more than 800,000 visitors annually. The majority of these visitors come from within Onondaga County (51%) and 40% come from elsewhere in New York State. The remaining 9% come from outside the state. The average annual household income of park patrons is \$50,000 and most have some college level education. The average day use visitor stays for almost 4 hours and the average camping visit is about 7 ½ days. Typical visitors are families with school aged children. Average group size is 3 – 4 people.

### **Environmental Resources**

Green Lakes State Park is a maximum of 1,400 ft above sea level. The rolling hills are covered with moderately deep, to deep fine-textured loam soils. The bedrock is primarily limestone.

The Park contains nine distinct community types, two of which are considered to be significant natural communities. These are the meromictic lakes (Green and Round Lakes) and the maple-basswood rich mesic forest which includes a patch of old-growth forest. The remainder of the park consists of additional forested, shrublands, old field communities and developed landscapes. There is one wetland area within the park to the south and west of Round Lake and is associated with the lake's outlet.

The park supports a number of common mammal species such as fox, squirrel, and raccoon. The signs of a large white-tail deer population are evident throughout the park.

The primary natural feature of the park is Green and Round Lakes. These lakes are remnant plunge basins formed as glaciers receded from the area and are surrounded by the high walls of the surrounding gorge. The gorge walls protect the lakes from wind action. This, along with the depth of the lakes and chemical composition of the water prevent keep the waters in the lakes from undergoing vertical mixing. Hence, the lakes are said to be meromictic. Green Lake is 195 feet deep and Round Lake is 180 feet deep. The lakes have no known indigenous species of fish. The lakes have a type of algae that grow on the bottom of the lakes that give them their green hue. Gastropods (snails and slugs) are known to exist in the lakes along with crustaceans and insects.

### **Scenic Resources**

As mentioned earlier, Green Lakes State Park is the Central NY Park Region's premier park. The establishment of the park was focused on the unique lakes within the park. The topography of the park provides opportunities to view these lakes in a number of ways. The open landscape of the west end of the park provides yet another aspect to the scenic quality of the park. The maples of the park provide a variety of fall colors for viewing. Nestled up against growing communities Green Lakes State Park provides opportunities to view natural communities up close within the park from trails and recreation areas and from a distance outside the park from surrounding roads and communities.

### **Current Recreation Uses**

Green Lakes State Park has three major activity zones—golf, camping and day use. These uses are well established and take places around the primary natural features of Green and Round Lakes. The park offers one 18-hole golf course that is located to the

south of Green and Round Lakes on a hill that provides views of the lakes. The golf area includes a clubhouse with a restaurant and a practice putting green. The day use area is located at the north east end of Green Lake and has a picnic area with pavilions and rental areas, a boat rental, concessions, fishing, bird watching and swimming area. The camping area is located on the higher ground of the north side of Green and Round Lakes and boasts 137 campsites including more than 40 sites with electric service, and 7 cabins. There are approximately 15 miles of trails throughout the park offering year-round uses including; hiking, biking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The most popular trails encircle the lakes.

### **Infrastructure**

*Utilities* - Electric service is provided by National Grid via over head lines to the Park.

*Water Supply* – The Park is on the municipal water supply

*Waste water/Sewerage* – The Park uses on-site septic systems for the camping, day use and golf areas.

### **Preliminary List of Potential Topics for Master Plan to Consider**

- Lake Access, Health and Watershed Protection
- Invasive species
- Camping
- Trail system
- Education and interpretation opportunities
- Historic Resources
- Connectivity to other public lands
- Scenic Vistas
- Security
- Public Health
- Research
- Habitat restoration and management
- Rehabilitation of existing structures
- Recreational activities

## **Next Steps**

The issues, concerns and alternatives identified at the public information meeting and through written comments will be summarized and made available. The Draft Master Plan/DEIS will address these issues. Further opportunities for public input may take place during the preparation of the Draft Master Plan/DEIS. Public review of this document will include a public hearing and public comment/review period. Comments made during this time will be considered in the preparation of the Final Master Plan/FEIS. After the issuance of the final plan and a public consideration period, a findings statement will be issued along with the Commissioner's decision regarding adoption of the plan.

**Comments are due by August 7, 2009**

Written comments may be sent to:

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Agency Building One  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12238  
GreenLakes.Plan@oprhp.state.ny.us