

Chapter 7 – Statewide Programs

New York State provides a variety of recreation experiences, ranging from the playgrounds of New York City to the wilderness areas of the Adirondacks. This is a dynamic system comprised of “people”, “resources”, and “recreation”. Each element has an influence on the other two. For instance, the composition of the population will impact the need for recreation, the quality of the resource will determine the availability of recreation opportunities and the type and extent of recreation can affect resource quality and the quality of life for people. As such, the improved water quality of a lake or river, will provide recreational opportunities, that will influence where people, live, work and play. Therefore, recreation and open space opportunities and resources are both influenced by, and a factor to be considered, within various agency programs and initiatives.

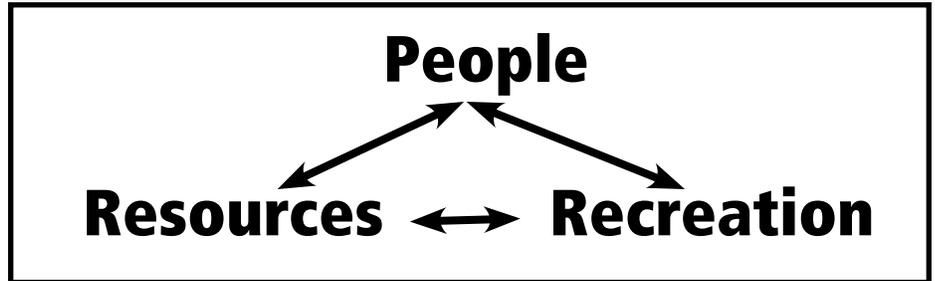


Figure 13 - Recreational Relationship

New York State’s vast number of lakes, oceanfront, rivers and streams provide recreation resources that continue to be major destination locations. Participation in water related activities is often constrained by limited public access and unsuitable water quality. The State has initiated many programs to help improve water quality and increase access to the major water bodies such as the Great Lakes, Hudson

River, Long Island Sound, the Peconic and Hudson River Estuaries, and Lake Champlain. The quality of life in these areas has improved and recreational opportunities increased resulting in an overall economic benefit to the communities.

Associated with land and water resources are the wildlife and fisheries resources that enhance and provide recreational opportunities. Wildlife focuses on both game and nongame species and is less location-specific when compared to other recreation resources; as a result, stewardship of wildlife crosses geographic and political boundaries. Fisheries management is similar to wildlife except it is more location-specific and closely associated with water quality and access.

In addition to the land and water resources, cultural resources help define the character of the State and our past. New York has a rich and diverse array of cultural resources and it is becoming more important to relate several historic sites together, whether through a trail or corridor. These heritage corridors are able to tell a more complete and valuable story of past events and honor the history of the State.

Recreation and open space play a vital role in maintaining the mental and physical health of our citizens as well as supporting the economy of the



Hamlin Beach State Park, Monroe County

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State. This is apparent by the level of participation in recreation activities and sporting events. There is also an increasing awareness of the needs of all the populations. Facilities that are accessible to the disabled person are no longer the exception but are integrated within the design of new and rehabilitated facilities.

This chapter will explore the various agency programs and initiatives that have an impact on or are impacted by the quality of the recreational and open space resources or experiences they provide. This will include programs traditionally associated with recreation and others that may not be readily apparent.

The following chart identifies federal and state agencies and their involvement with six broad program areas. In various cases, there is overlap among agency programs that are guided by an interagency task force within a resource area. As such, the program is identified by the primary administering agency or may be applicable statewide.

Table 6 - State Agency Involvement in Recreation

Agency	Planning	Land/ Natural Resource Management	Cultural Resources	Recreational Resources	Programs	Grants
OPRHP	x	x	x	x	x	x
DEC	x	x	x	x	x	x
DOS	x					x
DOT		x		x		x
Canals	x	x	x	x	x	
Museum			x		x	x
ORDA				x	x	
DOH					x	x
OFA					x	
Army Corps	x	x			x	x
EPA	x				x	x
NPS	x	x	x	x	x	x
NOAA	x				x	x

Planning – The Agency develops and/or coordinates recreation plans for its own facilities or provides technical assistance in planning to other agencies, local governments, organizations or individuals.

Land/Natural Resource Management – The agency owns and actively manages land and natural resources for a recreation or open space purpose.

Cultural Resources – The agency is responsible for procuring, preserving and interpreting cultural resources.

Recreational Resources – The agency is responsible for operating or maintaining recreational facilities.

Programs – The agency coordinates and oversees programs that influence or impact recreation opportunities, activities or facilities.

Grants – The agency administers grant programs that support, enhance or directly relate to recreation, natural, and cultural resources.

Snowmobile Program (OPRHP)

The New York State Snowmobile Program was legislated in response to the public's demand for places to ride snowmobiles. The planning, development, maintenance and administration of the program are funded from the snowmobile registration fees collected annually. The fees are deposited into a Special Revenue Account, exclusively used to support snowmobiling in New York State. Financial support is provided to local government entities for Snowmobile Trail Grants, Law Enforcement training, Safety Education, Special Event Permits, Accident Reporting, Publications, Grooming Education, Trail Liability Insurance and Signage Guidelines. Revenues from the trail program have increased from approximately \$179,000 (late 1980s) to more than \$6 million (2005). Revenue projections for 2008 are \$4.2 million. The majority of this revenue is returned to local areas as grants-in-aid for snowmobile trail development/maintenance, trail insurance, and law enforcement. OPRHP coordinates closely with

the New York Statewide Snowmobile Association (NYSSA) in providing snowmobiling opportunities and maintaining the 11,000 miles of State funded trails.

Heritage Areas and Corridors (OPRHP)

There are nineteen state designated Heritage Areas. The system is the oldest, and one of the largest, statewide heritage systems in the country. Interest continues for inclusion of other areas within the Heritage Area System. The system has grown from the initial thirteen Urban Cultural Parks, encompassing twenty-seven communities, to nineteen Heritage Areas in 2007, encompassing over four hundred municipalities (Figure 13).

A Heritage Area includes the historic, natural and cultural resources and activities that tell the story of a region's past and provide an identity for the present and future. The resources of a heritage area - main streets, neighborhoods, public building, parks, factories, landscapes – tell the story of how an

area developed and why it is unique. The activities of a heritage area – festivals, special events, and regular community life – reflect what was and is important in citizens' everyday lives. Together these resources and activities create a "sense of place" and make a heritage area a special place to live and visit. The term heritage corridor is used to describe a heritage area that is organized around and focused on one linear resource such as a river, canal, or coastline.

The cornerstone of the Heritage Areas Program is a state, local and private sector partnership focused around four program goals: preservation of natural and historic resources; recreational use of these resources; education about local and regional heritage; and, economic revitalization through public and private investment.

In these partnerships, the State provides technical assistance, financial incentives through matching grants, and a heightened level of coordination among state agencies through the New York State Heritage Areas Advisory Council. Each Heritage Area retains complete management and operation of its program, projects, and facilities using various management mechanisms established at the local level.

Many of the heritage areas have visitor centers that provide a community meeting place and point of pride for residents, and provide orientation and motivation for visitors to go out and experience other points of interest in the community. Some of these visitor facilities are modest shared facilities, a few are quite elaborate. All feature interpretative themes that each heritage area has chosen for itself are based on its own unique history. These themes provide a consistent image and identity and are the basis for interpretive programs and events.



Figure 14 - New York State Heritage Areas System

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These interpretive themes also provide a "brand" to market and promote the Heritage Areas. Heritage (cultural) tourism plays an important role in the Heritage Areas Program as well as a component of today's tourism economy. These themes generate interest from visitors, encourage them to stay longer, help them remember a destination, return at a future date, and spend tourist dollars.

National Heritage Areas and Corridors (NPS)

National heritage areas and corridors represent a relatively new, but growing, approach to conserving America's rich culture and history. The first national heritage corridor was designated by Congress in 1984. Today there are thirty-seven heritage areas or corridors around the country. Three of the most recently designated areas are located within New York State — the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area (designated in 1996), the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor (designated in 2000) and the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (designated in 2006).

All national heritage areas and corridors must complete a management plan that sets forth its goals, objectives, programs and management entity. This plan is approved by the Secretary of the Interior, and requires local input, review and approvals prior to completion. The role of the National Park Service, depending on the enabling legislation, may include providing technical, planning, and staff assistance, funding, and review and approval of the management plan.

Hudson and Champlain Quadricentennial and Fulton Bicentennial

2009 will be a watershed year, marking the 400th anniversary of Hudson and Champlain's voyages along the river and lake that bear their names and the 200th anniversary of Fulton's successful steamboat voyage and establishment of steam commerce on the Hudson River. Hudson's and Champlain's voyages laid the groundwork for Dutch settlement of the Hudson Valley and French settlement of the Champlain Valley and Canada. Nearly 200 years later, Fulton's journey would strengthen the region's ties to the world, while heralding a new era of innovation which distinguishes the Northeast to this day.

A Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commission (HFCQC) was formed to engage the public as well as civic, education, environmental, cultural and heritage organizations to develop and support related plans and activities in commemorating the events. The success of the Quadricentennial commemoration relies on a coordinated effort among the members of the Commission, federal partners, state agencies, and local governments, private corporations, non-profit corporations, similar commissions such as the Lake Champlain Quadricentennial Commission and the Quebec 400th, international partners and the citizens of New York State.

Boating Safety Programs (OPRHP)

With the number of boaters increasing, there is a need to continue boater safety, education and enforcement programs to ensure the enjoyment of all boaters on New York State waters. OPRHP is the designated agency responsible for ensuring the coordination of the State's boating safety and enforcement programs.

The Marine Services Bureau is chiefly responsible for the Agency's many boating safety initiatives as it also serves as the Office of the State Boating Law Administrator. As such, Marine Services offers an educational program for young boaters and recently implemented the new mandatory education program for personal watercraft operators. Each year nearly 20,000 individuals take the program which, in many cases, is offered free of charge. The course consists of an 8-hour nationally recognized program of instruction, which includes a proctored examination.

Marine Services also fulfills a number of other diverse safety initiatives including public vessel safety and operator licensing; specialized training for the marine law enforcement community; the issuance of marine regatta and floating object permits on the State's interior waters; and the State's Hull Identification Program.

Marine Services has a number of public information brochures, informational stickers and other such promotions, like the loaner personal flotation device program, which is directed at making recreational boating safer within the Empire State.

Empire State Games (OPRHP)

The Empire State Games began in 1978. The games are a form of competitive sports and are based on the Olympic model with preliminary qualifiers available at three levels. The scholastic division is designed for young people who are still in high school. The open division is for athletes generally of college age. Masters competition is available for age groups ranging from 24 to 85. Approximately 40,000 athletes compete yearly in preliminary competitions which are held in six regions statewide. Finalists enter a week long contest held at a chosen city in the state. Syracuse, Buffalo, Ithaca, Albany, Rochester, Long Island, Binghamton, both Mohawk and the Hudson Valley, and Westchester County have been chosen as sites in past years. While OPRHP provides professional management, organization and direction, much of the conduct of the Empire State Games is in the hands of thousands of volunteers, including coaches, officials and a medical team. Six thousand finalists compete in 28 sports ranging from archery to wrestling each summer; and 1,400 athletes participate in 11 winter events, including Nordic skiing, ski jumping and bobsledding. Twenty-two Empire State Winter Games athletes represented the United States at the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino. Two dozen more Games athletes were part of the US team at the Summer Olympics in Athens. The main goal of this program is to provide opportunities for New Yorkers whose recreational focus is competitive sports.



2007 Summer Games, Medal Presentation Ceremony

Empire State Senior Games

The Empire State Senior Games is a program of fitness and sports competition for New Yorkers 50 years of age and older. The games are one of the largest of its kind in the country and serve as New York State's qualifying event for the U.S. National Senior Sports Classic. This six-day long program offers more than 40 competitive, recreational and drop-in activities, for which awards are given. Instructional clinics, exhibits of relevant information and social activities are also included. Competition is mixed with fun and friendship, providing something for people of all interests and abilities. The goal of this program is to encourage fitness and recreation participation for older New Yorkers.

Empire State Games for the Physically Challenged

The Empire State Games for the Physically Challenged is a program of fitness and sports competition for physically challenged youngsters. The games serve to promote confidence and encourage participation in adapted sports by individuals 5-21 years of age, who have cerebral palsy or spinal cord injuries, who are blind, deaf or amputees, or "les autres." The goal of this program is to provide opportunities for athletic competition and to encourage participation in fitness workshops for young people with physical disabilities throughout the State of New York.

Accessibility (Statewide)

The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires public agencies to employ specific guidelines which ensure that buildings, facilities, programs and vehicles as addressed by the ADA are accessible in terms of architecture and design, transportation and communication to individuals with disabilities. A federal agency known as the Access Board has issued the ADAAG for this purpose. The Department of Justice Rule provides authority to these guidelines.

The Access Board has proposed guidelines to expand ADAAG to cover outdoor developed facilities managed by the federal government including: trails, campgrounds, picnic areas and beaches. The proposed ADAAG are available through the access board website at www.access-board.gov.

Universal Access Program

Since 2001, the DEC has coordinated efforts to provide access to programs through the efforts of Access Coordinators in each regional office and a Statewide Coordinator for Access Issues located in the Department's central office. Their role is to assess the level of accessibility to programs and services, identify barriers, develop solutions to improve access, provide technical assistance and in-service training and provide outreach and education to promote our accessible areas.

The goal of the UAP is to develop a comprehensive approach to maximize accessibility to programs and services while ensuring consistency with the other legal mandates of conservation

and protection of the resources we manage.

Looking beyond the legal minimum requirements for providing access for persons with disabilities, the UAP has promoted the employment of Universal Design principles for new construction. Universal Design enables use by everyone rather than a portion of the population. This inclusive approach makes sense from a planning perspective as it includes not only people with disabilities, but families, seniors, people with temporary or invisible disabilities and the people that they recreate with.

Access Pass

An Access Pass program provides free use of parks, historic sites, and recreational facilities operated by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Qualified persons with permanent disabilities can obtain a pass for free use of facilities operated by these offices, for which there is normally a charge such as for parking, camping, green fees and swimming. The pass, however, is not valid at any facility within a park operated by a private concern

under contract to the State, or for a waiver of fees such as those for seasonal marina dockage, for a group camp, for reservations of a picnic shelter, for performing arts programs, for campsites/cabin amenities, for consumables, or for fees related to campsites/cabin reservations and registrations.

Golden Park Program

A Golden Park Program provides free vehicle access to state parks and arboretums, fee reduction to state historic sites and fee reduction for state-operated swimming, golf, tennis and boat rental for resident 62 years of age or older on any weekday (except holidays).

Empire Passport

The Empire Passport provides unlimited day use vehicle entry to most of New York's State parks and recreational facilities for a one time purchase price. The Passport can be used from April 1 to March 31 of the following year and provides access to most of the 178 state parks, 55 Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) forest preserve areas, as well as to boat launch sites, arboretums and park preserves. A second passport for the same household

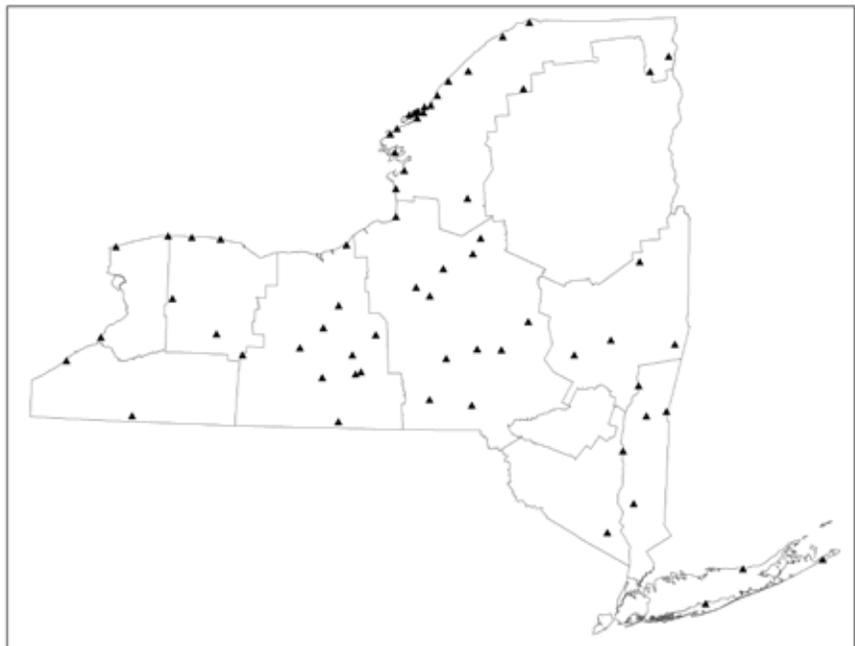


Figure 15 - OPRHP Camping Facilities

can be purchased at a reduced rate, which may be used on a second vehicle, boat or motorcycle.

Wetlands (DEC)

It is estimated that New York has 2.4 million acres of freshwater wetlands and about 25,000 acres of vegetated tidal wetlands. They encompass about eight percent of the land of New York. Wetland types include marshes; hardwood, coniferous and shrub swamps, wet meadows; bogs and fens; coastal marshes; and wetland open water. While it is estimated that the State has lost over half of its wetlands since colonization to such activities as draining, dredging, filling, and polluting, it is estimated that the State had a net gain of an estimated 15,500 acres of freshwater wetlands between the mid-1980s and the mid-1990s. In addition, there are 25,000 acres of vegetated tidal wetlands in the marine district. The acreage is classified as follows:

- Coastal fresh marsh — the upper tidal limits of riverine systems. This category accounts for 4.8 percent of the vegetated tidal wetlands in the State.
- Intertidal marsh — the area between average high and low tidal elevations. It includes 60.8 percent of the vegetated wetlands.
- High marsh — the uppermost tidal wetland zone. It includes 31.6 percent of the vegetated wetlands.
- Formerly connected — areas where tidal flow has been restricted by either human or natural causes. It includes 4.8 percent of vegetated wetlands.

New York recognizes that wetlands provide a multitude of functions and benefits for the people of the State and has developed a multifaceted program to protect and manage that resource.

New York considers wetlands a priority resource, and articulates that concern in statute. The State has comprehensive wetland conservation programs and works with federal and local governmental agencies and with other nongovernmental partners to better protect wetlands.

Through a suite of programs from acquisition and regulation to restoration and education, the State has successfully protected its wetlands resources and will continue to be a leader in preserving, protecting, and conserving the wealth of its wetlands resources.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Program

National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program (NPS)

In 1968 the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was passed by Congress in an effort to create a national system of protected rivers. The program has been successful at preserving a large number of the nation's premier rivers. New York State only has one river designated as part of the National system, that river is the Delaware (Upper) River. The Delaware (Upper) was designated in 1978 as a Wild and Scenic River for the portion between Hancock, NY and Sparrow Bush, NY; the designation is listed as both scenic (23.1 miles) and as recreational (50.3 miles).

The protection of the Delaware River through the Wild and Scenic River program has allowed the river to remain a productive source of drinking water for 17 million people as well as maintaining a natural recreational resource for visitors.

State Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Program (DEC)

New York State has a number of rivers with significant natural, scenic, historic, ecological and recreational values. The NYS Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System was enacted in 1972 to preserve, protect, and enhance these unique rivers and their immediate environs in a free flowing condition and in a natural state. There were 14 initial rivers (segments) designated as part of the NYS Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers system; these were located within the Adirondack Park boundaries. After the legislation was first passed, additional river segments were designated.

The legislation designates three classes of rivers: wild, scenic, and recreational. Currently, 66 rivers, encompassing over 1200 miles, have been designated as wild, scenic or recreational rivers in New York State

Great Lakes

New York State borders two Great Lakes. Lake Erie and Lake Ontario have more than 1,500 miles of shoreline with nearly half of that along New York State's border (Great Lakes Regional Waterways Management Forum, undated). Approximately 40% of New York's lands are within the Great Lakes watershed and more than 20% of its population resides within the basin. Recreation and tourism continue to be a major contributor to the economy of the Great Lakes region. As responses from the urban areas of Buffalo and Rochester demonstrate, increasing demand for swimming, boating and fishing opportunities are placing more pressure on management agencies to "clean up", maintain water levels, protect wildlife habitat areas, restore fish and wildlife populations, and provide more public access for improved public uses of the Lakes and their resources.

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Recreational use of the Great Lakes waters is often listed as an impaired use. With the anticipated expansion of recreational interests, greater demands will be placed upon existing facilities and resources in the Great Lakes region, many of which are not in sufficient supply or condition to satisfy these increasing needs.

The following organizations and programs recognize the importance of the Great Lakes to the economic vitality of New York State and the role of recreational use and water access as part of the regional economy. OPRHP and DEC work with and participate in these programs to ensure public recreation and access issues to the Great Lakes are addressed.

The Great Lakes Commission (DEC)

The Great Lakes Commission (Commission) is a binational agency that promotes the orderly, integrated and comprehensive development, use and conservation of the water and related natural resources of the Great Lakes Basin and the St. Lawrence River. The Commission has been applying the principles of sustainability to the development, use and conservation of the natural resources of the Great Lakes Basin and St. Lawrence River. The Commission addresses a range of issues involving environmental protection, resource management, transportation and economic development. The Commission's vision for the basin is to have a strong and growing economy, a healthy environment, and a high quality of life for all citizens. To accomplish their vision, the Commission adheres to three supporting principles: 1) information sharing among the membership and the entire Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Community; 2) policy research, development and coordination on issues of regional interest; and, 3) advocacy of those positions on which members agree.

New York State's Great Lakes Basin Advisory Council (DEC)

The Great Lakes Basin Advisory Council (Council) assists the State in its effort to protect the environmental, social and economic health of the Great Lakes Region. The Council functions as a link between state and local governments, private sector businesses, academic community and the public.

The Council consists of 19 members who advise the Governor, State Legislature and the DEC Commissioner on matters relating to the State's role in regional, federal and international activities and programs aimed at protecting the quality and quantity of water in the Great Lakes. Domestic, municipal, industrial and agricultural water supplies; navigation; hydroelectric power and energy production; recreation; fish and wildlife habitat; and a balanced ecosystem are all vital to the future environmental, social and economic health of the Great Lakes Region.

Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs) (DEC)

The development of Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs) stem from the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement originally signed by the United States and Canada in 1972 and amended in 1978 and 1987. In the 1987 amendment, the two governments agreed to develop Lakewide Management Plans that will "restore and maintain the chemical, biological and physical integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes Basin" (Great Lakes Information Network, 2001) The LaMPs are intended to (1) identify critical pollutants that affect beneficial uses of the waters of the Great Lakes and (2) promote ecosystem-based management approaches to restoring the basin's integrity.

Remedial Action Plans (DEC)

As part of the binational Great Lakes Program, six areas of concern were identified within New York as required by the 1987 amendment to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (International Joint Commission, 1994). "Areas of Concern" are areas where beneficial uses of the lands, shores, and water are impaired due to water quality issues and do not meet the objectives of the Water Quality Agreement. The six areas identified in New York are the Buffalo River, the Niagara River, the Rochester Embayment, the Oswego River, Eighteenmile Creek in Niagara County and the St. Lawrence River at Massena, NY (U.S. EPA, 2007).

The ultimate goal of the Remedial Action Plans is to have all areas "de-listed". In New York State, only the Oswego River AOC has achieved the goal, being the first of the U.S. AOC to be delisted in July 2006. The remaining five areas are in various stages of the process. After completing environmental review under the NY State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR), DEC included all six RAPs as part of the State's Water Quality Management Plan (DEC, 1998).

New York State 25-Year Plan for the Great Lakes (DEC)

An important objective specified in the 25-Year Plan for the Great Lakes (25-Year Plan), prepared in 1992, is to increase opportunities for the public to gain access to the Great Lakes Coastal areas (DEC, 1992).

DEC is in the process of evaluating the State's progress in implementing the 25-Year Plan and developing an action plan for the next five years of the plan's implementation. This action plan will identify short-term activities recommended within the 25-Year Plan

that have not yet been accomplished and identify new priorities that have been identified since the creation of the 25-Year Plan.

The Hudson River Estuary Program (DEC)

The Hudson River Estuary Program is a regional partnership designed to protect, conserve, restore and enhance the estuary, associated shorelands as well as related upland resources. DEC serves as manager of the program in collaboration with OPRHP, DOS, OGS, DOT, the Metro-North Railroad, the Hudson River Greenway, the Hudson River Foundation, Cornell University, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPP), Soil and Water Conservation Districts and a citizen advisory committee along with municipal governments (DEC, 2007).

The long-range goals for the Estuary Program are outlined in the *Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda 2005-2009*. For each goal, interim targets have been set in quantitative terms, wherever possible, with specific dates for achievement. The *Action Agenda* undergoes revision every four years. The current edition of the Estuary *Action Agenda* is available from DEC's website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov>

Encouraging people to get to the river and enhancing recreational opportunities have been a major goal of the Estuary Program. In 1999, the Estuary Program initiated a grants program to provide opportunities for implementing *Action Agenda* goals at the local level. Grants are available to municipalities and not-for-profits in five categories, including access to the Hudson River estuary for recreation. To date, more than 300 grants, totaling nearly \$10

million have been awarded to these local efforts. (DEC, 2007).

Marine Recreational Fishing/ Artificial Reef Program (DEC)

DEC's Bureau of Marine Resources is responsible for the management of living marine resources and their habitats within the Marine and Coastal District of New York State. The Finfish and Crustaceans Unit monitors and develops management recommendations for the principal finfish and crustacean species of the State including; striped bass, shad, sturgeon, weakfish, winter flounder, scup and many others. The management efforts strive to provide a healthy and stable marine fish population and maintain the habitat for these species for marine recreational and commercial fishing interests (DEC, 2007).

Recreational marine fishing access is developed on State properties or in cooperation with local municipalities. Program activities include property acquisition, construction of new access facilities such as fishing piers and boat ramps on existing properties, and rehabilitation or improvement of existing facilities (DEC, 2007).

The Artificial Reef Program strives to optimize the marine recreational fishing opportunities in the State. Artificial reefs may be designed and advocated to serve a dual purpose of habitat improvements and shoreline protection along the Long Island Shoreline. This program is important to the State's recreational future because of the

popularity of fishing as a recreational activity.

Wildlife Resources (DEC)

Recreation resources generally focus on land or water areas and discrete facilities or sites. Wildlife as a recreational resource is less location-specific. Their habitat and movement are independent of property boundaries. Wildlife is viewed more in terms of species and populations than in acreage or sites. In the United States, jurisdiction over wildlife does not correspond to ownership of real property, but is vested in the people of each state. DEC acts as the steward of the people's wildlife in New York State. For migratory species, the ultimate authority is the federal government, with DEC and analogous agencies in other states as major participants and cooperators.

The mission of DEC's Wildlife program is to provide the people of New York with the opportunity to enjoy all the benefits of the wildlife of the State, now and in the future. This mission is embodied in five broad goals: (1) to assure that populations of all wildlife are of appropriate size to meet all the demands placed on them; (2) to assure the public desire for information is met and to obtain public input into management decisions; (3) to provide sustainable uses of wildlife for an informed public; (4) to minimize the damage caused by wildlife and wildlife users; and, (5) to foster and maintain an organization that efficiently achieves these goals.

Recreation is one of the major aspects of DEC's wildlife program. Achievement of appropriate population sizes, meeting desires for uses and exchanging information with the public are the goals most closely related to recreation. It is inevitable that program

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objectives will reflect compromises among several goals.

Many people want to know that wildlife exists in its potential abundance and diversity. There are both direct and indirect recreational benefits derived from wildlife. Aside from hunting and observation opportunities, many people achieve satisfaction from the mere existence of various species, such as loons and bears in the Adirondacks, even though they may not have direct contact with them.

While engaging in such activities as camping, hiking, walking, skiing, etc., people often encounter wildlife and have the opportunity to observe many species. These incidental encounters often enhance the primary recreation experience. Recreationists often become accustomed to such encounters and eventually expect them. Observation of wildlife also has recreational value when it is a concomitant to every day living, working and traveling.

People observe and study wildlife for enjoyment. This activity includes both actively seeking opportunities and observing wildlife incidental to other activities. Therefore, an abundant and diverse wildlife population, including endangered, threatened and rare species, needs to be perpetuated and restored in order to serve wildlife recreation.

Hunters, trappers and other recreationists, current and future, should have the opportunity and resources to pursue wildlife interests. In some parts of the State, access to land is declining and/or is severely limited. In addition, political and legal challenges must be addressed.

To maximize social acceptability and public use of wildlife resources on private lands, wildlife recreationists need to develop and practice high standards of ethics, courtesy and safety. Training and educational programs to promote

understanding and skill development are a high priority.

Income levels, education levels, physical health, residence in urban/suburban/rural areas, background in wildlife activities are all factors influencing people's involvement with wildlife. Programs that provide opportunities to develop skills, participate in wildlife recreational activities, and involve potential users are needed to enhance public wildlife understanding and support for wildlife resource programs.

Fisheries (DEC)

The State's freshwater resources provide recreational fishing benefits to nearly one million licensed anglers that enjoy over 20 million fishing trips each year. Additionally, hundreds of thousands of young people, under age 16 are introduced to the State's outdoor-recreational opportunities through fishing activities without any licensing requirements. The State's 4 million acres of lakes and ponds and 70,000 miles of rivers and streams support abundant and diverse fish populations that offer a great range of recreational options. Trophy-size salmon, muskellunge and striped bass are available in Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River and the Hudson River respectively. Many waters across the State provide trout, walleye, bass and northern pike fishing of a quality that is notable nationwide, while excellent panfish stocks provide both sport and table fare to all levels of angling expertise. The State also offers quality experiences for all types of angling techniques and preferences. These include boat trolling for salmon, isolated pond fishing for native brook trout, wading for trout in 15,000 miles of stream and float or shore fishing for smallmouth bass in over 50,000 miles of warm-water streams and rivers. In addition, the State has thousands of lakes and ponds that offer many species

of game and panfish via ice fishing, shore fishing, rowboat, bass-boat and cabin cruiser access.

DEC's overall fisheries program mission is to maintain the quantity and quality of the State's fisheries resources and recreational benefits for future generations

Invasive Species (DEC)

A law enacted in 2007 created the New York State Invasive Species Council (ISC). The ISC will coordinate statewide efforts to control invasive species. The Council is co-chaired by DEC and the Department of Agriculture and Markets, and has seven other member agencies: DOT, OPRHP, Education, DOS, the Thruway Authority, the Canal Corporation and the Adirondack Park Agency. The law also established a multi-stakeholder Invasive Species Advisory Committee to represent a breadth of conservation, business, academia, and landowner interests.

A new Office of Invasive Species, housed in DEC, will bring together biologists and foresters to develop ways to combat the problem, and work with universities, other state agencies and non-profit organizations to support research and raise public awareness. This office will help the ISC create a plan by 2010 to control invasive plants, animals and insects that come into New York, and will provide support for the ISC. Among the other tasks for the new invasive species program are to:

- Establish a comprehensive education and outreach effort.
- Integrate databases and information clearinghouses.
- Establish an independent Center for Invasive Species Research.
- Fund efforts to clearly demonstrate the possibilities for successful invasive species management.

Funding will include supporting core functions of Partnerships for Invasive Species Management (PRISMs) formed or forming in the state to help combat invasive species. A diverse stakeholder base, including state agencies, resource managers, nongovernmental organizations, industry, resource users and others will comprise a PRISM.

Environmental Justice (DEC)

Promoting outdoor recreational opportunities is essential to the quality of life, health and enjoyment of New York's diverse communities. Unfortunately, many communities, especially minority and low-income communities and subsistence fishing communities, have inadequate access to these opportunities.

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. Environmental justice principles recognize that some communities, especially minority and low-income communities are disproportionately exposed to negative environmental impacts, have been historically absent from environmental decision-making affecting their community, and may not receive equitable benefits of environmental programs. Environmental justice efforts focus on improving the environment in these communities.

The Adirondack Park Agency (APA)

The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) is an independent, bipartisan state agency responsible for developing long-range park policy in a forum that balances statewide concerns and the interests of local governments in the Adirondack Park. It was created by New York State law in 1971. The legislation defined the makeup and functions of the APA and authorized the Agency to develop two plans for lands within the Adirondack Park. The Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan regulates land use and development activities on the approximately 3.2 million acres of privately owned lands in the Park. The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) sets forth guidelines and criteria for the DEC's management of the remaining 2.8 million acres of public lands.

APA also administers the State's Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act for private lands adjacent to designated rivers in the Park, and the State's Freshwater Wetlands Act within the Park.

APA operates two Visitor Interpretive Centers (VICs) at Paul Smiths, Franklin County and at Newcomb, Essex County. These Centers are the Agency's environmental education and traveler orientation centers.

Coastal Resources

New York's coast, the third longest in the nation, draws people to its shores. Over 15 million people, 85% of the

State's population, live and work along our coastal waters--an area that accounts for 12% of the state's land mass. By 2010, an additional 700,000 people will join them.

The natural areas along New York's coast provide great diversity of fish and wildlife habitats, estuaries and deep water trenches, bluffs, barrier islands, and other natural protective features. Enormous economic benefits are derived from the coast each year. New York's commercial fishing industry, ports and marinas, and coastal farming areas contribute billions annually to the state's economy. The competing demands on our coastal area resources continue to threaten the natural and economic viability of the coast. New York's coastal zone management program was established to conserve and properly use coastal resources by managing competing demands along the coast.

The Division of Coastal Resources in the Department of State (DOS) works in partnership with local governments, community-based organizations, and state and federal agencies to better manage coastal resources and advance revitalization of waterfront communities. Division programs address waterfront redevelopment; expansion of visual and physical public access to the water; coastal resource protection, including habitats, water quality, and historic and scenic resources; and provision for water dependent uses, including recreational boating, fishing, and swimming. State and federal agency permitting, funding, and direct actions must be consistent with these purposes.

Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (DOS)

Cities, towns, and villages along major coastal and inland waterways are encouraged to prepare a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

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(LWRP) in cooperation with DOS. A LWRP is a locally prepared, comprehensive land and water use plan for a community's natural, public, working waterfront, and developed waterfront resources. It provides a comprehensive framework within which critical waterfront issues can be addressed. In partnership with the Division of Coastal Resources, a municipality develops community consensus regarding the future of its waterfront and refines state coastal policies to reflect local conditions and circumstances. As part of the preparation of a LWRP, a community identifies long term uses for its waterfront and an implementation strategy, including enacting or amending appropriate local development controls. The LWRP serves to coordinate state and federal actions needed to achieve the community's goals for its waterfront.

Harbor Management Plans (HMPs) are prepared as components of LWRPs to improve management of their harbors. HMPs take a hard look at the resources, conflicts, congestion and competition for space in New York's harbors and balance the interests of all uses of harbor resources. These plans consider local and regional needs and address issues related to commercial shipping and fishing, dredging, recreational boating and fishing, natural resource protection, and other matters affecting harbors.

Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Grants (DOS)

DOS provides grants to waterfront municipalities for a variety of planning, design and construction projects to protect and revitalize waterfront resources. The grants serve as a source of funding for communities to implement projects identified in a LWRP, as well as a means of enlisting new communities, to develop LWRPs.

Blueway Trail Plans (DOS)

Blueway trails are small boat and paddling routes that combine recreation, tourism and environmental awareness and allow users to travel to and between designated stops along the way for rest, overnight stays and linkages to land-based attractions, including community centers, heritage trails and sites, greenways, historic resources, and scenic by-ways. The process for developing blueway trails relies on intermunicipal cooperation with a high degree of participation from the private sector. Blueway trails are marketed as a regional attraction.

Municipalities may apply for grant funding from the Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program to undertake the planning and physical development of blueway trails.

Regional Initiatives (DOS)

The Department of State has initiated a number of regional initiatives to better manage coastal resources for enhanced access, recreation and tourism-based economic development, waterfront revitalization and habitat protection. These initiatives include:

Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve

The Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve Act established the reserve, called for its protection and prudent management, and created a council charged with preparation of a comprehensive management plan for the reserve. The reserve includes five of Long Island's south shore estuarine bays and the adjacent upland areas draining to them, and stretches from the western boundary of the Town of Hempstead to the middle of the Town of Southampton. The reserve is home to about 1.5 million

people and is the anchor of the region's tourism, seafood, and recreation industries.

The reserve's comprehensive management plan calls for a series of implementation actions to address key issues identified in the plan, including: reducing non-point and point sources of pollution; increasing harvest levels of hard clams; protecting and restoring coastal habitats; preserving open space; improving understanding of the ecosystem; increasing public use and tourism; sustaining water-dependent businesses and maritime centers; and heightening public awareness of the estuary.

Long Island Sound Coastal Management Program

The Long Island Sound Coastal Management Program (CMP) encompasses 304 miles of shoreline in Westchester County, the Bronx, Queens, and Nassau and Suffolk counties, and nearly 1.5 million people. Regionally specific coastal policies were developed which reflect the unique environmental, economic, and social characteristics of the Sound shoreline.

The policies focus on protecting and expanding public access and visual access opportunities along the Sound shore, which are currently limited; encouraging revitalization of developed centers; protecting and restoring natural resources and open spaces, particularly those areas of regional importance; and encouraging water-dependent uses in centers of maritime activity.

Scenic Resources (DOS)

New York State has long recognized the importance of scenic resources. The interaction of man with the landscape has made New York's coast a visually exciting and valued place. Designation of Scenic Areas of Statewide

Significance by DOS provides additional protection for coastal landscapes that are recognized for their importance in the natural, cultural and historic significance to the State.

Six Scenic Areas of Statewide Significance have been designated along the Hudson River, covering more than 50% of its shoreline. Each scenic area encompasses unique, highly scenic landscapes which are accessible to the public and recognized for their scenic quality. The scenic areas include a fiord in the Hudson Highlands, an impressive collection of great estates along the Hudson River's midsection, the landscape where Hudson River School painters Thomas Cole and Frederic Church made their homes, and the pastoral landscape south of the Capital region.

Designation provides special protection to the landscapes. Narratives for each scenic area describe which landscape elements should be protected and the types of actions that could impair them. Federal and state agencies must avoid permitting, funding, or undertaking actions that would impair the landscape's scenic quality. In addition, municipalities can use their local land use authority to protect scenic resources, such as through a LWRP.

Coastal Habitats (DOS)

Many habitats that are vital to the survival of New York's coastal fish and wildlife resources exist along New York's 3,200 mile shoreline. To protect these important natural areas, DOS, in cooperation with DEC, has designated 245 Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitats (SCFWHs) across the State. The designations are designed to protect and offer guidance on management activities within the habitats with important natural resource values, including recreational fishing and other passive natural resource-related activities.

DOS works with other state and federal agencies, local governments, and concerned citizens to restore and

maintain significant coastal fish and wildlife habitats, primarily through projects funded through EPF LWRP grants.

Brownfield Opportunity Areas (DOS/DEC)

The Brownfield Opportunity Areas (BOA) Program provides communities with significant land use and redevelopment planning tools to revitalize areas affected by brownfields, abandoned or vacant properties. A "brownfield" or "brownfield site" is defined as any real property, the redevelopment or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a contaminant. The end product is a community driven revitalization plan and implementation strategy to return unproductive land back to use while simultaneously improving environmental quality and revitalizing the affected area. An objective is to enable communities to plan for the reuse and redevelopment of brownfields on an area-wide basis, as opposed to dealing with brownfields and other unproductive parcels on a site by site basis.

Oceans and Great Lakes (DOS)

The New York Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Act (Article 14 of the NYS ECL) was enacted in 2006 to establish policy and principles to guide management of the State's ocean and coastal ecosystems. The Act creates a New York Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Council made up of the nine agencies responsible for managing human activities. The Council is responsible for developing recommendations on how to integrate ecosystem-based management with the programs, institutions and activities which affect our ocean and coastal ecosystems. Ecosystem-based management is an adaptive approach to managing human activities to ensure the coexistence of healthy, fully functioning ecosystems and human communities.

Coastal and Inland Consistency (DOS)

The Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) requires that each Federal agency activity within or outside the coastal zone that affects any land or water use or natural resource of the coastal zone shall be carried out in a manner which is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of approved State management programs. Consistency review is the decision-making process through which proposed actions and activities are determined to be consistent or inconsistent with the coastal policies of the New York State Coastal Management Program or approved LWRPs. This process includes and affects federal agencies, the Department of State and its Division of Coastal Resources as the State's designated coastal management agency, other State agencies, and municipalities with approved LWRPs.

Watershed Management Plans (DOS)

A watershed management plan is a comprehensive plan to protect and restore specific waterbodies and their watersheds by identifying and prioritizing land uses and capital projects to reduce point and non-point source pollution, and protect or restore water quality, tributary corridors and aquatic habitats. Because watersheds generally include land within more than one municipal jurisdiction, watershed protection requires the preparation of cooperative, intermunicipal plans.

Watershed management is a key strategy in protecting and restoring New York's coastal waters and in revitalizing the communities within each watershed. Watershed management offers opportunities to improve stewardship of water related resources, such

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as by concentrating development where intensity is most appropriate, avoiding more sensitive areas, and instituting practices which reduce the impacts of existing pollution.

Division of Coastal Resources – Regional Initiative (DOS)

The Division of Coastal Resources is working in the Great Lakes region to revitalize communities with post-industrial legacies – by strengthening existing community centers, reclaiming brownfields, and expanding public access. The Division is working with 31 communities within the region through the LWRP process; 27 of those communities have an approved LWRP. Communities in the region continue to revitalize their waterfronts by implementing public access improvements - as described in their LWRPs - providing new public access points, trails, and visitor-interpretation centers.

The Department of State works with Lake Champlain communities to improve public access to the waterfront in order to enhance water-based recreation and tourism. An important component of waterfront revitalization efforts involves linking enhanced waterfront facilities to downtowns and Main Streets in order to strengthen the local economy. These initiatives have also promoted regional cooperation among the waterfront communities.

DOS is working with 38 communities in the Hudson River Estuary to prepare and implement LWRPs and other planning initiatives that guide the beneficial use, revitalization, and protection of their waterfront resources. As part of this effort, DOS has assisted 10 communities to advance redevelopment plans in urban areas with vacant and abandoned waterfronts.

DOS works with waterfront communities in the non-tidal portion of the Hudson River through the Inland Waterways program. DOS projects in the Upper Hudson River focus on enhancing waterfront access for recreation and creating sustainable, tourism-based economic and community development opportunities for the region.

The Division of Coastal Resources works with communities in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks through the Inland Waterways Program and grants from the Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program to promote community revitalization and resource protection. The Division helps communities prepare community-based plans and projects that enhance public access opportunities, promote water-based recreation, create a sustainable tourism-based economy, protecting and improving water quality, and guide growth to traditional community centers.

The DOS's Division of Coastal Resources has enjoyed an excellent partnership with local governments along the New York State Canal System for nearly twenty years through the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and the Canal Recreationway Committee. Along the 524-mile canal system, currently over 90 municipalities have completed, or are preparing, LWRPs with many being multi-jurisdictional efforts.

In 2001, the New York State Department of State's Division of Coastal Resources created the Lake George Watershed Conference to prepare a long term plan to protect the lake water quality. The Conference includes all nine municipalities and three counties around the lake, five state agencies, and nine nonprofit organizations involved in protecting the lake. The Conference is a positive organization for assuring that local governments, non-governmental organizations, and state agencies work in partnership to address

complex lake issues in a coordinated manner.

New York State has approximately 2,000 miles of marine coastline and one million plus acres of marine surface waters. The marine district, which includes New York City, Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester Counties, is home to 11 million people or 62% of our State's population. Development pressures have been progressing at such a rapid rate that significant remaining access to the waterfront is being lost. Programs such as the Open Space Plan and the DOS's Coastal Management Program, provide methods and funding sources to provide access and protect and preserve diminishing, recreational coastal resources.

Within the Long Island Marine District, New York State and its federal, regional and local partners continue to move forward to improve public access and recreation in Long Island's marine district through coordinated implementation of regional plans and programs. This has included the Long Island South Shore Bayway, Peconic Estuary Program and the Long Island Sound Stewardship Initiative.

The Waterfront Revitalization Program (WRP) is New York City's principal coastal zone management tool. The intensity of development in New York City, and the limited land area available made it critical to identify appropriate areas for water-dependent activities as well as natural areas needing protection. Towards this end, the WRP identifies both Significant Maritime and

Industrial Areas (SMIA) and Sensitive Natural Waterfront Areas (SNWA).

Bike and Pedestrian Program (DOT)

The New York State Bicycle and Pedestrian program was established in 1991, with the passage by Congress of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), which recognized the increasingly important role of bicycling and walking in creating a balanced, intermodal transportation system. Subsequent federal transportation bills including the 2001 Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFTEA-LU) have all reaffirmed the importance of promoting and facilitating the increased use of non-motorized transportation modes to the nation's and New York's overall health, economy and transportation choices.

It is the goal of the NYS DOT to continue to encourage bicycling and

walking as safe, healthy, efficient and cost effective modes of transportation. Towards this goal, the Department will continue to promote a seamless intermodal transportation network that will include expanded bicycle and pedestrian facilities which target both the transportation and recreational needs of the residents of New York State. This will be achieved through the routine inclusion of sidewalks, crossings, bicycle lanes and wide shoulder in most highway construction projects, and through such popular Federal programs as the Transportation Enhancements, Scenic Byways and the new Safe Routes to School which encourage residents of all ages and abilities to walk and bicycle and to be active and healthy. Between 2003 and 2007, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program has successfully implemented several major program initiatives. These accomplishments included:

- Signing of five new on-road bicycle routes across the State
- Mapping Initiative for State Bicycle Routes 11, 14, 19, 20 & 25
- Safe Routes to School
- Pedestrian Facility Design Training
- Complete Streets Movements

Some on-going initiatives which the NYS DOT Bicycle and Pedestrian program has continued to promote are:

- The Walk Our Children to School (WOCS) event.
- Traffic Calming

Transportation Enhancement Program (DOT)

The Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) was created in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Act of 1991 (ISTEA), and continued in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFTEA-LU).

Through the Transportation Enhancement Program, Congress provided innovative opportunities to improve the transportation system through the implementation of a specific list of activities intended to benefit the traveling public, increase transportation choices and access, enhance the built and natural environment, and provide a sense of place. Transportation enhancement activities offer communities funding opportunities to help expand transportation choices such as bicycle and pedestrian facilities, scenic routes, beautification and other investments that increase recreation, accessibility, and safety for everyone beyond traditional highway programs.

Parkways and Bikeways (DOT and OPRHP)

DOT maintains the 20 parkways administered by OPRHP. This includes the parkways on Long Island and paralleling



Hudson - Mohawk Bike-Hike Trail, Niskayuna, Schenectady County

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the Niagara River and Lake Ontario. Some of the parkway segments were never completed and now significant linear open spaces exist within urban and suburban areas. The parkways provide the opportunity to develop hiking, biking and equestrian trails such as along the Niagara, Wantagh and Bethpage Parkways. Bikeways are being planned for the Palisades, Bethpage, Ocean and Lake Ontario Parkways

Scenic Byways Program (DOT)

Since 1992, the New York State Scenic Byways Program, managed by the Department's Environmental Analysis Bureau has revitalized individual and community interest in the State's scenic, natural, recreational, cultural and historic resources. Since its inception, the Scenic Byways Program has facilitated partnerships among State agencies and local and county organizations, private citizens, business owners, and not-for-profit organizations. The Program fosters extensive public involvement and encourages local communities to manage these resources and to enhance tourism and recreation.

Canal Corporation (Canals)

The NYS Canal Corporation, a subsidiary corporation of the New York State Thruway Authority, is responsible for the operation, maintenance and promotion of four historic operating canals that span 524 miles across NYS.

The four canals that make up the NYS Canal System are:

- the Erie Canal
- the Oswego Canal
- the Champlain Canal and
- the Cayuga-Seneca Canal

The Canal System links the Hudson River, Lake Champlain, Lake Ontario, the Finger Lakes, and the Niagara River with communities rich in history and culture. The Canal Corporation is also responsible for implementing the Canal Recreationway Plan and leads the state-wide effort to develop the Canalway Trail.

Biodiversity Research Institute (NYS Museum)

By funding promising research projects, sponsoring conferences and seminar series, and undertaking and directing other initiatives, the New York State Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) advances information and research for the conservation of New York State's biodiversity. Through improving the understanding of our state's natural resources and the challenges to their existence, BRI seeks to collaborate with all residents of New York State in preserving this rich biodiversity for future generations.

BRI is a partnership among conservation and environmental groups and leaders from throughout the state. Its partners include the State Education Department; New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation; State University of New York; American Museum of Natural History; Audubon New York; New York Natural Heritage Program; and The

Nature Conservancy. BRI has served as a comprehensive source of information about the ecosystems, habitats, and all living organisms in New York State.

The Olympic Training Center and Ski Areas (ORDA)

Lake Placid was the home of the 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympics that left behind valuable winter sports facilities including ski jumps, skating ovals, alpine trails, bobsled and luge runs. Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) utilized these facilities along with other support facilities to develop an Olympic Training Center. From the training center, athletes have access to the Olympic Speed Skating Oval, the Olympic Jumping Complex, the Freestyle Aerial Complex, Whiteface Mountain's Olympic Downhill Ski trails, the Olympic Sports Complex at Mt. Van Hoevenberg, and the Olympic Ice Complex.

Since ORDA assumed authority of these facilities, Lake Placid has hosted more than 225 national and international competitions including 8 World Championships and 41 World Cups. It has also been the annual host to the Empire State Winter Games for nearly three decades. ORDA also maintains and makes periodic improvements to these facilities to keep America's only world class set of Winter Olympic facilities fully operational.

Health (DOH)

Recreation resources provide an important opportunity for people to be physically active, which can lead to significant improvements in health.

Being physically active on a regular basis can contribute to a decrease in the risk of numerous debilitating diseases and conditions, including heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, some forms of cancer, osteoporosis, obesity, depression, arthritis, and possibly Alzheimer's disease. In fact, being physically inactive (combined with poor eating habits) is the second underlying cause of death in this country (next to tobacco use), accounting for 14% of all deaths annually.

New York's efforts to increase and improve access to parks, trails and recreational facilities will significantly help address the obesity epidemic. Of particular importance are facilities that are in close proximity to where people live and work so that they can be used several times a week, for transportation (to/from school, work, errands) as well as for leisure. Additionally, priority should be given to developing neighborhood parks, trails, and other recreation facilities that serve low-income and rural populations.

New York State has over 3,000 bathing facilities including: bathing beaches on lakes, ponds, rivers and the ocean; swimming pools; and spray grounds. DOH is responsible for assuring that all public swimming facilities in the state are operated in a safe manner and that these facilities meet State and Federal standards for safe recreational use. All public bathing facilities in the state must be supervised by qualified lifeguards and meet state water quality and safety standards.

Office for the Aging (OFA)

The New York State Office for the Aging (OFA), through its network of 59 Area Agencies on Aging, has initiated and continues to manage a number of health promotion, disease prevention,

and recreation programs and services for active, healthy living for older adults across New York State that fit in with the SCORP.

Senior Health Check is a new initiative that is designed to encourage older New Yorkers, covered by Medicare, to make greater use of preventive screening benefits under the insurance coverage. In addition, the OFA is encouraging Area Agencies on Aging to develop and implement evidenced-based prevention and chronic disease self-management programs to improve health status and quality of life.

Area Agencies on Aging use congregate meal sites, home delivered meals programs, multipurpose senior centers, and other appropriate sites to delivery health promotion and disease prevention services, thereby allowing them to integrate such services with the nutrition program. Priority is given to areas which are medically underserved and where there are a large number of older individuals in greatest economic and social need. All Area Agencies on Aging provide medications management screening and education.

The term "Senior Center" refers to a community facility through which a broad range of programs and services are provided to older adults. Included among these programs and services are recreation and education activities, and health promotion activities.

Activities also are organized and scheduled through the Area Agency on Aging or its sub contractors which involve older persons in courses, workshops and other learning activities and satisfying use of free time.

Services and activities that foster good health, increase awareness and understanding of healthy lifestyles and promote physical and mental health. These include but are not limited to: exercise classes; walking groups; stress

education workshops; administration of influenza and other vaccines; promotion of early detection of various health problems through education and/or testing, and; activities to promote successful management of medications, such as group workshops or one-on-one consultations with a health professional.

Harbors of Refuge (COE)

A number of harbors of refuge along the shores of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario were identified by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE). These lakes are often subject to sudden squalls and high winds creating waves and wakes in excess of 10 feet. Harbor of refuge is a term that refers to a harbor that provides services specifically to accommodate transit craft rather than as a home port for local craft (OPRHP, 1980). Initially, the COE recommended that harbors of refuge occur every 30 miles. It was determined, however, for smaller craft navigating the Great Lakes that shorter intervals were more appropriate. Harbors of refuge have been established at Barcelona, Dunkirk, Cattaraugus Creek, Sturgeon Point and Buffalo Harbors on Lake Erie and Wilson-Tuscarora State Park, Olcott Harbor, Golden Hill State Park, Oak Orchard Marine Park, Braddock Bay, Irondequoit Bay State Park, Port Bay, Little Sodus Bay, Mexico Point State Park, Port Ontario, Henderson Harbor and Sackets Harbor on Lake Ontario.

Hydroelectric Power Projects (FERC)

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Throughout the State, many rivers are being used by various power generating companies to produce hydroelectric power. These facilities are regulated and must obtain an operating license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Many of the facilities within the State are undergoing a re-licensing process to ensure power generating companies continue operating. One aspect of this process is to provide recreation facilities and access, to and in the vicinity of the power facility. Public access to the waters and portage around the structures is an important element of the project. Other recreational facilities that may be considered are picnic areas, campgrounds, and scenic overlooks. Some facilities may even provide an interpretive visitor center explaining their generating plant to the general public.

It is important to insure that these power facilities include recreation facilities within their boundaries. Power companies may create new facilities on their property or enter into agreements with the state or local governments to create new or improve existing facilities.

Lake Champlain Basin Program (EPA)

The Lake Champlain Basin stretches from the peaks of the Adirondacks in New York to the Green Mountains of Vermont and north into Quebec, Canada. The Basin is a unique and historically significant natural resource that attracts thousands of residents and visitors each year to participate in diverse recreational opportunities. Increased use, competing and conflicting uses, and development continues to pressure the Lake's natural and recreational resource.

The Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP), established in 1990, was charged with developing a long-term, cooperative management plan and program to protect and enhance the lake and its drainage basin for future generations to enjoy. The program is a partnership with the states of New York and Vermont, the Province of Quebec, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), other federal and local government agencies and many local groups both public and private. (LCBP, 2003)

The management plan, "Opportunities for Action" was first produced in 1996 and was revised in 2003. Although Lake Champlain is a vital lake with many assets, there are several serious environmental problems that demand action.

American Heritage River Initiative (EPA)

Created in 1997, the American Heritage Rivers Initiative (AHRI) has three major objectives: natural resource

and environmental protection, economic revitalization, and historic and cultural preservation. The program is designed to make federal funding and technical expertise available to the State and local governments to reclaim the health, heritage and economic viability of river communities (U.S. EPA, 2007).

The Hudson River was nominated in 1998, as an American Heritage River. The 315 miles of river, from its source in Lake Tear of the Clouds to the Verrazano Narrows, and the 19 counties surrounding its shores are included in the Heritage River Area.

Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act (EPA)

The Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act (BEACH Act) was enacted in 2000 to improve water quality testing at beaches and help beach managers better inform the public when there are water quality



Cumberland Bay State Park, Clinton County

problems. DOH has received grants from EPA to administer this program, and the BEACH grant money is provided to County Health Departments and OPRHP to implement monitoring and public notification programs for beaches along the Atlantic Coast, Long Island Sound and Lakes Erie and Ontario.

National Estuarine Research Reserve (NOAA)

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System is a network of protected areas established for long-term research, education and stewardship. This partnership program between NOAA

and the coastal states protects more than one million acres of estuarine land and water, which provides essential habitat for wildlife; offers educational opportunities for students, teachers and the public; and serves as living laboratories for scientists.

In New York State, the Hudson River Reserve is a network of four coastal wetlands located along 100 miles of the Hudson River Estuary. These units are Stockport Flats, Tivoli Bay, Iona Island and Piermont Marsh. The reserve's headquarters is at Norrie Point Environmental Center within Mills-Norrie State Park in Staatsburg, Dutchess County, and is located directly on the Hudson River.

Sea Grant (NOAA)

Sea Grant is a nationwide network (administered through NOAA), of university-based programs that work with coastal communities. New York Sea Grant Extension is a state- and federally-funded program providing science-based information to people making and influencing decisions for the wise development, management and use of our coastal resources. Extension specialists work with a variety of audiences throughout Long Island, Manhattan, and New York's Hudson Valley, and along the shores of Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Champlain, the St. Lawrence River and the Niagara River on a variety of coastal issues, including maintaining recreational and marine fisheries, preparing for and responding to coastal hazards and water level changes, responding to the spread and impacts of aquatic nuisance species, providing educational resources, and protecting, enhancing and restoring coastal habitats.



Hudson River Islands State Park, Columbia County

Statewide Programs

Chapter 8 - The State Outdoor Recreation System

The State of the State Outdoor Recreation System

The “heart and soul” of the State’s outdoor recreation system is not the facilities or activities but its natural and cultural resources. Care and stewardship of these resources must be maintained and fostered. If these resources are lost so is the quality of the recreational experience which is the system’s primary attribute. The public will not come to swim at our lakes and ocean, or hike the trails if the environmental quality of the resources is impaired.

The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the Department of Environmental Conservation are the two primary state agencies that manage land resources and provide recreational opportunities. The Canal Corporation, Department of Transportation and Office of General Services are also land managers.

State Park System

OPRHP administers over 330,000 acres of land that incorporates 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, cottages

and rental houses, 8,566 campsites, and over 1,350 miles of trail, as well as several outdoor education centers, museums, and nature centers and the Empire State Games. Nearly 80% of the park system is in natural areas with a wide range of geological features, ecological habitats and species of plants and animals. This includes the waterfall at Niagara Falls, the Genesee River gorge called the “Grand Canyon of the East” at Letchworth, extensive forested areas of Allegany and Sterling Forest State Parks, the gorges of the Finger Lakes parks, islands in the St. Lawrence and Hudson Rivers, cliffs at Minnewaska, and the beaches of Long Island.

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) manages 53 day use and campsite facilities within the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves. Unlike a state park, these facilities are within a larger unit management area.

DEC manages over 4 million acres. This includes 3 million acres in the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserve, 776,000 acres of reforestation and multiple use areas, 190,000 acres in wildlife management areas and 662,000 acres in conservation easements.

The Adirondack Park, established by statute in 1892, is unique among parks within the nation in that it encompasses both state and private lands. Originally established at 2,800,000 acres, the park is now less than 6 million acres. Approximately 2.7 million acres are in state ownership most all of which is classified as Forest Preserve. Unique to the Adirondack Park is the Adirondack Park Agency that controls land use on state and private lands.



Figure 16 - New York State Parks and Historic Sites

The State Outdoor Recreation System

The Catskill Park was similarly established, by statute in 1904 with 576,126 acres. Like the Adirondack Park, it includes both public and private lands. The size of this park has been enlarged to 705,500 acres. Approximately 300,000 acres are in state ownership and classified as Forest Preserve.

Like the Forest Preserve the State Nature and Historical Preserve also has constitutional protection that is authorized by Section 4 of Article 14 of the State constitution. It provides for the designation of state lands, outside the Forest Preserve counties, that have exceptional beauty, wilderness character, or geological, ecological or historical significance to the State Nature and Historical Preserve. Currently there are 11 properties dedicated to the State Nature and Historical Preserve.

DEC manages more than 85 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) containing more than 190,000 acres - including 124,000 acres of upland and 53,000 acres of wetland for the production and use of wildlife. The WMA program is part of a long term effort to establish permanent access to lands in New York State for the protection and promotion of its fish and wildlife resources. WMAs provide unique areas for the public to interact with a wide variety of wildlife species that provide good opportunities for hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, cross-country skiing, bird watching, and enjoying nature.

State Forests

State Forest is a generic term used to describe the nearly 776,000 acres of DEC administered land located outside the Forest Preserve. There are approximately 480 State Forest areas, ranging in size from less than 100 acres to over 9,000 acres. The demand for recreational use of State Forests has greatly increased in recent years. Recreational activities are now a major component of State Forest Unit Management Plans

and include diverse pursuits such as snowmobiling, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, hang gliding, picnicking, cross-country skiing, bird watching and hiking. The archer, the dog sledder, the rock climber and the orienteering enthusiast also claim the need for a place to enjoy their sport.

NYS Department of Transportation (DOT)

The road, rail and water transportation systems within the State play an important role in protecting open space and providing recreational opportunities. By their very nature a transportation route is a linear system that connects various points of interests. Their layout has significant impacts on land use and development patterns, on the conservation of open space, and on access to the outdoors for recreational activities as well as being a recreational facility within itself.

DOT administers the road and rail systems and, the Canal Corporation, the canal system. In addition, DOT is responsible for the State's Bicycle/Pedestrian Program, Scenic Byways and the TEA-21 grant program.

Canal Corporation

Canal Recreationway and Canalway Trail System

Significant progress has been made over the last decade to develop the New York State Canal Recreationway, which spans the 524-mile New York State Canal System, consisting of the

legendary Erie, Champlain, Oswego and Cayuga-Seneca Canals. The New York State Canal Corporation, a subsidiary of the New York State Thruway Authority, operates, maintains and promotes the system and has spear-headed the canal revitalization effort throughout New York State.

Canal Harbors were developed at seven canal gateways and other strategic locations. In addition, nearly 100 Canal Ports have been constructed or are currently under improvement at Canal Locks and waterfronts along the system. Improved visitor services and amenities are now available at 60 locations with plans underway locally to complete the remaining 36 sites.

In 2006, the Erie Canal Greenway Grant Program awarded over \$8.9 million in grant funding to local projects designed to enhance tourism and economic development along the Canal System and further capitalize on this historic national resource for the benefit of local communities.

Completion of the end-to-end Canalway Trail is another major element of the Canal Revitalization effort. The Canalway Trail, which parallels the entire New York State Canal System, will be the longest multiple use trail in the United States. More than 170 miles of trail have been completed since the Canal Corporation began the program in 1995. A total of 280 miles of trail now exist, primarily along the Erie Canal corridor. The Canalway trail parallels the Erie, Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga-Seneca canals, creating the spine of a statewide network of trails.

The Canal Corporation has also begun research and planning for the development of the New York State Canalway Water Trail, a coordinated water-based "trail" with boat launches and landing sites, along with campsites located on the shores of the Canal System. The Canal Corporation has developed an informational brochure and

has begun an inventory of existing and potential sites for future improvement and enhancement.

Office of General Services (OGS)

OGS administers state-owned land, including uplands and all ungranted lands under or formerly under the waters of New York State. The Agency issues licenses, permits, leases, easements and occasionally grants to underwater lands; disposes of uplands determined to be surplus to the needs of the State; and, provides transfers of jurisdiction for state agencies and local agencies for certain specific purposes (including recreational uses) subject to special acts of the State legislature.

Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA)

The facilities and venues that ORDA manages and maintains are not just for elite winter athletes. They're also a winter vacationer's paradise. ORDA manages and operates ski centers at Whiteface and Gore Mountains, the bobsled track, luge track and a number of skating facilities that are open to the public.

Others

There are various other state agencies that manage open space and/or provide recreation programs. The Health Department encourages recreation activities to improve the health of

the citizens of New York. The New York State Museum provides interpretive facilities, programs and kiosks. The Office for the Aging and Office of Children and Family Services also provide programs.

Enhancing and Revitalizing the State Outdoor Recreation System

New York has one of the nation's oldest and largest outdoor recreation systems but also one that has been expanding. Within the last fifteen years more than one million acres has been acquired. This has resulted in increase in stewardship responsibilities to manage these new natural, recreational and cultural resources. The basic infrastructure for many of the facilities has exceeded its life expectancy and needs to be rehabilitated, upgraded or in some cases adaptively reused. Of equal or greater concern is the stewardship of the natural resources and their role in protecting habitats, reducing the impacts of global warming and improving the quality of life.

State Parks

The State Parks System is comprised of 178 Parks and 35 Historic Sites, marine facilities, trails and parkways. The system serves more than 55 million visitors annually. Niagara Falls State Park's annual attendance of 7.8 million visitors is greater than that of the Grand Canyon and Yosemite National Parks combined. More than six million people visit Jones Beach State Park which is twice the number that visits

Yellowstone. The system is also the oldest state system in the nation with Niagara Falls established in 1885 and Washington's Headquarters in 1850. The system continues to grow. Over the past 15 years, the size of the Park System expanded from 184 sites in 1992 to 213, and added 29 new facilities. The land resource under the stewardship of the agency has grown from 257,000 acres in 1992 to 326,000 acres, an increase of 27%.

The guidance provided in the mission of OPRHP to provide safe and enjoyable recreational and interpretive opportunities and be responsible stewards of the natural, historic and cultural resources, provides the basis for the assessment of the condition of the Park System. As such, the assessment is defined within four categories:

Health and Safety

There are a number of health and safety issues facing the State Park System. Drinking water systems need to be upgraded or replaced, aging sewage treatment systems have exceeded their useful life, various dams on the state's high hazard list do not meet modern dam safety standards, and bridges have been flagged as potential hazards. In addition, outdated electrical systems and underground petroleum storage tanks need to be removed and landfills that, although inactive for many years, were never closed to DEC standards need to be addressed.

Rehabilitation of Existing Facilities

This category is by far of greatest concern, comprised of approximately 65% of OPRHP's total identified capital needs; it encompasses the capital rehabilitation of existing infrastructure in the Parks and Historic Sites including: replacing facilities that have long exceeded their practical and operational effectiveness and are in various stages of disrepair. This includes roofs, heating and plumbing systems, contact stations, campgrounds, boat launches, picnic

The State Outdoor Recreation System

shelters, recreation fields, pools, swimming areas, visitor centers, bathrooms, roads, parking areas, hiking trails, and maintenance centers. There is also a significant backlog of repair and maintenance needs for historic buildings and structures at the Historic Sites, as well as energy efficiency investments in aging buildings.

New Facility Development

As identified above, the park system has increased by 29 facilities over the past 15 years. Many of these new parks consist of a sign, a car pull-off and a minimum level of recreational opportunities. Investments are needed to create entrance areas, parking areas, restrooms, trail systems and picnic areas and other compatible recreation facilities to make these new acquisitions available to the public. However, the need to expand recreation opportunities is not just restricted to new parks but also includes existing facilities. Many of the existing parks either have outdated or no master plans. Through the planning process, new recreation and interpretive opportunities may be proposed that require support facilities.

Natural Resource Stewardship

The State Park's natural resources – plant, wildlife, and ecosystems – face varied threats, such as pollution of lakes and rivers, impaired wetlands, invasive species, soil erosion, global warming, and sea level rise. There is a need to restore habitats and ecosystems to assure that natural resources in the State Park system remain "unimpaired for future generations."

Capital Needs

To address the health and safety, rehabilitation, new development and natural resource stewardship needs a significant capital investment is required. The capital expenditures for

State Parks in 1992 were \$60 million. The capital expenditures in 2007 from all sources were \$40 million. Adjusted for inflation, the existing capital budget is in essence 50% less than in 1992.

The backlog of urgent capital needs in New York's State Parks and Historic Sites is estimated to be \$650 million. The \$40 million available only scratches the surface. A comprehensive plan to revitalize New York's State Parks and Historic Sites is needed. This comprehensive plan includes the following components:

- A multi-year plan should be developed to address the large backlog of capital projects which has grown over several decades. It will require a sustained effort to provide a multi-year, dependable commitment of funds.

- The federal government must be a partner in this effort. Federal funding for State Park projects has all but disappeared. The current allocation from the State's primary source of parks funding, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, is only \$1.4 million. Federal support for LWCF and other federal programs needs to increase.
- Although New York State will be the primary source of capital funds, increased efforts are needed to raise private contributions from private individuals, foundations, Friends Groups, and corporate sector.
- Approval of the \$100 million for the rehabilitation and revitalization of the State Park System recommended in Governor's budget.

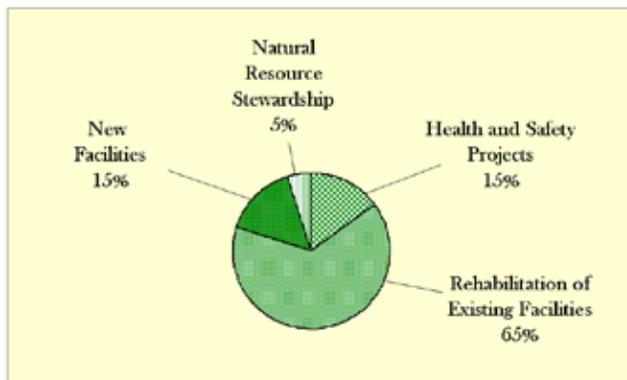


Figure 17 - Breakdown of \$650 million – State Parks and Historic Sites Capital Needs

The State Outdoor Recreation System

Parking areas for horse riding enthusiasts include a stabling area, track area and even primitive camping sites for their use. These areas are reached from the public forest access road system.

The smaller seasonal-use-only roads are often developed as a result of a timber sale. While the sale is in progress, these "haul" roads provide the timber harvester with the means to enter and extract forest products from the sale area. Once the sale is completed, the roads are usually removed from motorized use and become available for hiking, mountain biking, skiing and snowmobiling.

Trailways

A survey conducted in 1991 identified 2,081 miles of single and multi-purpose trails. These trails range in use from hiking, cross-country skiing and horseback riding to mountain biking, running, snowshoeing, snowmobiling and nature walks.

Hiking is permitted on most of the trailways. These may range from a

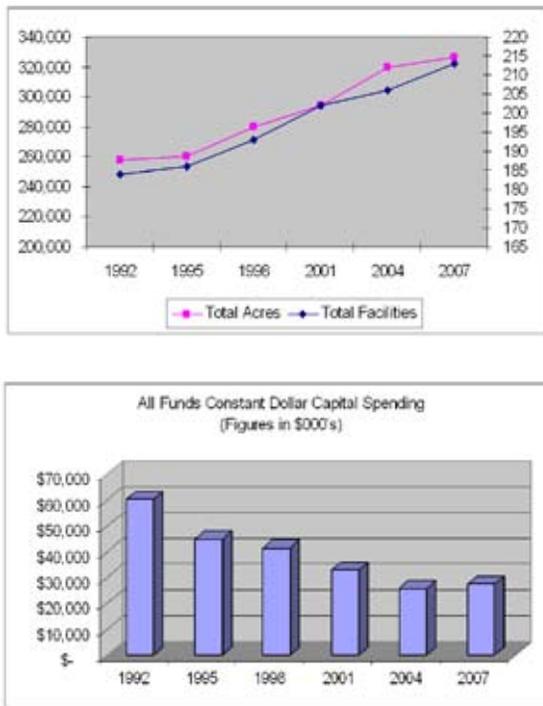


Figure 18 - OPRHP System Expansion vs. Capital Budget

DEC Lands and Forests

DEC manages nearly 4 million acres of Forest Preserve, State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas and other lands throughout the state. Within these lands, DEC maintains roads, campgrounds, day use areas, environmental education centers, fish hatcheries, ski resorts and other support facilities.

Public Forest Access Roads

There are over 600 miles of all-weather roads maintained on State Forests. These roads, along with other seasonal-use-only roads, provide the primary access system to the lands for recreationists. The roads are constructed to standards that will provide reasonably safe travel and to keep maintenance costs to a minimum. Turnoff, parking areas and cul-de-sacs provide space for the recreationists to leave their vehicles while enjoying the forests.



Equestrian Facilities at Otter Creek State Forest, Lewis County

The State Outdoor Recreation System

hiking experience of a mile or less on a nature/interpretive trail to the extended Finger Lakes Trail and the Long Path systems.

Equestrian trails are located in many of DEC's regions. The large system at Brookfield, Madison County has its counterpart at the Otter Creek system in Lewis County. These two and others are also used for snowmobiling during the winter months and receive intensive use for both pursuits. While 370 miles of trail are specifically signed for snowmobiling, this activity is not currently restricted on State Forests to trails and consequently uses more State land than is commonly recognized. Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing are other winter sports that make use of State Forest trail systems. Over four hundred miles of trail are designated for these uses and have become very popular with enthusiasts of these sports.

Currently, ATV use is not permitted. Future development of dedicated off-road ATV trails on State Forests is expected to be unlikely due to environmental and public safety concerns, limited enforcement capabilities, and lack of legislative funding.

Belleayre Ski Center

DEC administers the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center located in Highmount, New York in the Catskill Forest Preserve. Since 1949 this modern ski area has offered full service downhill and cross-country skiing. The center serves an average of 103,000 skiers per year. The facilities, which include 33 downhill slopes and trails, 4 cross-country trails and 8 passenger lifts and tows, generate about \$2 million in revenue annually.

Belleayre Mountain Day-Use Area, located in the vicinity of the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center, was opened to the public in July of 1993.

Campgrounds and Day Use Areas

Many programs and services are offered to the public at DEC administered recreation facilities. These facilities are located in the Forest Preserve, either in the Adirondack or Catskill Parks.

Campgrounds and day use areas afford the public opportunities for day and resident camping and for other activities within the Forest Preserve setting. There are a total of 52 campgrounds within the Adirondack and Catskill Parks and 8 campgrounds offer structured interpretive/activity programs.

Interpretive and Activity programs have been offered within the Forest Preserve, on and off, since 1935. In 1996, the current program was revamped and a set of goals were established for the program. They are:

- To provide educational and recreational opportunities, for the enjoyment of campers, that are compatible with the Forest Preserve.

- To heighten awareness, appreciation and understanding of the environment.
- To foster proper recreational use of the Forest Preserve and its facilities.
- To promote understanding of the Department and its programs (DEC 2007).

Beginning in 1997, the new program was launched at seven DEC campgrounds. The Junior Naturalist Program and Adventure Discovery packs were incorporated into the regular interpreter Activity Program. In addition the Interpreter Activity Program staff began visiting other area campgrounds to conduct activities. The Junior Naturalist Program, in particular, is very successful and other state agencies, such as OPRHP, have adapted the program to suit their facilities.

Since the initiation of the new program, the program has served 23,156 participants in 1997, 32,228 in 1998, and 26,519 in 1999. High visitor satisfaction and demand prompted the expansion of the program to an eighth campground in the year 2000.



Figure 19 - DEC Campgrounds

Participation for 2000 was 31,130 attendees.

Over the past four years, improvements and changes have been made regularly. The program will continue to expand through its outreach efforts and upgrade its presentations to use the most current technology. The balance of recreation and interpretation in DEC's camper programs gives the public an increased sense of the natural world while fostering an appreciation for the resources of the Forest Preserve (DEC, 2007).

Capital Needs

For the period 2007-2012 DEC's capital plan proposes a total of \$86 million to be invested in recreation facilities administered by DEC within the Forest Preserve and other State lands. Resource projects planned for the next five years include: \$18 million in rehabilitation and replacement of fish hatcheries and hatchery equipment; \$14 million in infrastructure renovation, modernization of computerized fishing licensing systems, and fisheries research vessels; and \$4.4 million

habitat restoration. Recreation related capital projects planned for other State lands during 2007-2012 include: \$11 million in expansion of Belleayre Ski Center Base Lodge; \$2.5 million in development of Phase 2 Schroon Manor Campground; \$5 million in construction of fishing pier and access at Wildwood State Park; and \$9.4 million in rehabilitation and modernization of boat launches, fishing piers, and access points across the state.

Table 7 - Detail of DEC's 5-Year Recreation Capital Investment Plan

Expenditure Description	Total Expenditures FY 2007 - 2012
Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources	
Hatcheries – Rehabilitation of Infrastructure and Replacement of Hatchery Equipment	\$18,000,000
Fishing Access - Develop New Boat Launches, Fishing Piers and Angler Parking	\$8,700,000 [\$5,000,000 for Fishing Pier at Wildwood State Park]
Fishing Access - Rehabilitate and Modernize Boat Launches, Fishing Piers and Fishing Access Points	\$9,400,000
Habitat Restoration	\$4,400,000
Infrastructure Renovation or Replacement of Facilities, Computerized Licensing Systems and Fisheries Research Vessels	\$14,000,000
Federal Clean Vessel Act - Boat Sanitary Waste Pump-out Grants	\$2,500,000
Rehab & Infrastructure in State Forest and Forest Preserve	
Major Department Facilities Reconstruction	\$7,500,000
Total	\$64,500,000
Recreation and Ski Center	
Recreation	
Schroon Manor Campground Development – Phase 2	\$2,500,000
Campground Road Rehabilitation	\$1,500,000
Modernization of Existing Facilities	\$1,000,000
Shower Buildings	\$2,000,000
Water/Sewer	\$1,000,000
Belleayre Ski Center	
New Maintenance Center	\$2,500,000
Base Lodge Expansion	\$11,000,000
Total Recreation and Ski Center	\$21,500,000

Canal Corporation

5-Year Capital Plan

The NYS Canal Corporation is playing a leading role in the development of the end-to-end Canalway Trail along the four branches of the New York State Canal System. Over 170 miles of trail have been constructed since the Canal Corporation began the program in 1995, resulting in 280 miles of completed trail. The Canalway Trail parallels the Erie, Champlain, Oswego and Cayuga-Seneca canals, creating the spine of a statewide network of trails.

Erie Canalway Trail

The recent emphasis of the Canalway Trail Program has been to complete the 371-mile Erie Canalway Trail from Buffalo to Albany. Nearly three-quarters of the Erie Canalway Trail is complete. Federal TEP funds have been allocated to two Erie Canalway trail projects but matching funds are needed to progress the projects. New York State Transportation Bond Act funding is in place to develop 16 miles of new and rehabilitated trail over the next five years. (See Table 8)

Bid documents are being developed for the following Erie Canalway Trail projects, but funding for actual construction has not been identified: (See Table 8a)

Champlain Canalway Trail

Currently, 7 miles of trail are complete along the proposed Champlain Canalway Trail. Upon completion from Albany to Whitehall, it is expected that this trail will total 58 miles. Funding is in place to complete a portion of the remaining trail, as follows: (See Table 9)

Table 8 - Capital Plan for the Erie Canalway Trail

Segment	Letting year	Length	Cost	Source
Little Falls to Ilion	TBD	8 miles	\$6.3 M	TEP
Canastota to Rome	TBD	20 miles	\$2.2 M	TEP/CC
Pittsford to Fairport	2010	10 miles	\$3.0 M	Bond Act
City of Rome	2010	6 miles	\$2.5 M	Bond Act

Table 8a - Capital Needs for the Erie Canalway Trail

Segment	Length	Estimated Cost
Newark to Clyde	15 miles	\$3.5 M
Utica to Schuyler	6 miles	\$4.5 M
Schenectady	2 miles	\$1.5 M
Lockport to Amherst	6 miles	\$4.4 M

Table 9 - Capital Plan for the Champlain Canalway Trail

	Letting Year	Length	Estimated Cost	Source
Fort Edward to Fort Ann	2011	12 miles	\$5.0 M	2005 Rebuild and Renew Transportation Bond Act

Several locally generated projects will add approximately three additional miles of Champlain Canalway Trail over the next two years.

Cayuga-Seneca Canalway Trail

The Cayuga-Seneca Canalway Trail is proposed from Geneva to Montezuma and is expected to total approximately 18 miles. Seneca County and the Cayuga-Seneca Regional Canalway Trail group are working to complete an 8-mile segment between Geneva and Seneca Falls. Negotiation are taking place with New York State Electric and Gas for use of an abandoned rail line adjacent to the Canal that will accommodate the trail. An EPF grant is being used for survey and preliminary design and additional grants are being sought.

A plan exists to complete the remaining 10 miles of the Cayuga-Seneca Canalway Trail from Seneca Falls to Montezuma but no funding has been identified for design and construction.

Oswego Canalway Trail

The Oswego Canalway Trail is proposed to extend from Syracuse to Oswego for 38 miles along the Oswego Canal. Approximately two miles of trail have been completed in the City of Oswego.

Resource Planning for the State Outdoor Recreation System

In response to the stewardship needs for state lands and the condition of the existing facilities, there is a need to provide sound planning. Plans establish an overarching vision for each park, site and management area, clarify appropriate public use and recreation activities, define capital facility development and investment needs, and identify natural and historic resource stewardship and interpretation opportunities.

Planning Process

Over the years, the planning processes that are utilized by OPRHP and DEC have evolved to protect and manage the natural, cultural and recreational resources and recreational demands. Statewide plans such as SCORP, the Open Space Conservation Plan, Statewide Trails Plan, and Statewide Snowmobile Plan provide the broad framework. Regional and site specific plans guide the development and management of the natural, cultural and recreational resources. This is accomplished through master plans, resource management plans, trail plans and interim management guides by OPRHP and land master plans and unit management plans by DEC.

Land Classification System

The land classification system has been a component of OPRHP's planning process and SCORP since its development in 1974 and is constantly being updated as new information is developed. The current system utilizes natural and cultural resources characteristics, land uses, levels of improvements, physical capacity and other management related data to identify appropriate activities and classifications for lands administered by OPRHP and DEC.

The system provides six major classification categories. These are: Park and Land Resources, Water Access, Historic Resources, Linear Systems, Underwater Sites, and Environmental Education Facilities. Within these categories, there are 23 subcategories by which the parks and sites are classified.

OPRHP Master Planning

The master planning process establishes specific long-term direction and implementation strategies for individual parks and historic sites and groups of parks. Many of the existing plans were prepared several decades ago prior to the current requirements for public participation, environmental review and stewardship awareness. The need for master plans has been identified in past SCORPs, and the Open Space Conservation Plan. Increasing the pace of planning efforts has also been a long-recognized need.

OPRHP Interim Management Guides

The need and importance to have a master plan for each park and historic site is recognized. In order to accomplish this, considerable staff, financial resources and time are required. Due to funding limitations, many parks and historic sites continue to function with an outdated plan or without a master plan. Therefore, in many instances, management guides, which are less costly and time-consuming, are utilized. These guides provide policy and stewardship direction, a preliminary assessment of the natural, cultural and recreational resources and an identification of issues and concerns.

OPRHP Trail and Resource Management Plans

In addition to the comprehensive Statewide Trails Plan, individual trail plans are developed for a specific park or site, geographic area or system of trails. Such plans focus on trail locations, development, operations, maintenance, roles and responsibilities and partnerships with trail organizations and other interested parties.

Resource Management Plans are developed in response to specific natural resource issues. These may range from the control of invasive species and nuisance wildlife to the protection and management of threatened or endangered species.

DEC Unit Management Plans

The key element to future recreational activity and for all management policies and procedures on DEC land units is the Unit Management Plan

The State Outdoor Recreation System

(UMP). The 472 State Forests have been grouped, where feasible, into 165 State Land units based on proximity to one another, similarity in treatment or management needs, and shared characteristics. Similarly, the Forest Preserve Lands in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks have been organized into 51 Adirondack planning units and 21 Catskill planning units. Where possible and practical, land units also encompass other land-use classifications, such as Wildlife Management Areas and Conservation Easements. Using these criteria, the planning units have been classified and more than 40 UMPs have been completed. Approximately 35 unit management plans are in various stages of development.

DEC State Forest/ Wildlife Management Area Unit Management Planning

DEC revised its long-range management procedures through the development of the State Forest Master Plan in 1988 and the State Forest Unit Management Handbook in 1989. These documents set guidelines and policies for the management of DEC lands outside the Forest Preserve. The Division of Lands and Forests has identified 165 separate management units, totaling 892,297 acres. This list includes State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, Unique Areas, Multiple Use Areas, some detached parcels of Forest Preserve and other land classifications. Plans are to be developed for ten-year time periods with a five-year interval for review and possible update. Public involvement in the development and review of these plans is an integral part of the process.

DEC Resource Management Planning

Since 1995, the State has acquired over 500,000 acres in conservation easements that will be managed by DEC. As recreational rights were

purchased on many of these easements, DEC is required to write plans that will address development and management of facilities to support the recreational opportunities. Similar to Unit Management Plans (UMPs) for State Forest lands, Recreation Management Plans (RMPs) for conservation easements will need to be developed through a public process, in addition to being reviewed and approved by the private landowner.

Planning Strategy

Given that planning is a critical prerequisite to sound public use, infrastructure development, and natural resource stewardship decision-making, OPRHP has made planning a priority for the next five years. OPRHP is committed to meeting a goal of completing 25 master plans and 25 other plans within 5 years.

DEC is receiving increased pressure to provide more recreational opportunities in more varieties than ever before. Recreation technology has responded to the increased level of leisure time that many New Yorkers enjoy by creating new and improved ways to spend that time. Adding this demand to the already large demand, in the more traditional activities such as hiking, camping and snowmobiling, creates tremendous pressure on State Forest lands. The impact of more intensive use of trails and recreational facilities is manifested in their present condition. DEC is committed to preserving these areas for the public's use and enjoyment, to restore the trails on State Forest lands, where appropriate, to usable and safe conditions, to responsibly expand the recreational opportunity that the State Forest resource represents and to begin development of recreational facilities on certain International Paper/Lyme Timber Conservation Easements that offer significant public recreational opportunities.